



# Flood Zone

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[www.arkansasfloods.org](http://www.arkansasfloods.org)

December 2020

## From the Chair



“It’s like déjà vu all over again” (Yogi Berra), or “Third time’s a charm”. Hopefully, either one of those than “Three strikes you’re out!!” As I move into the Chair position for the third time since 2010, I look forward to working with this great organization that is dedicated to “good floodplain management.” I appreciate the hard work of the Board this past year, and Jay Whisker’s leadership through the unprecedented trials of the COVID experience. Hopefully, 2021 and on will be a return to more familiar days.

Despite the challenges, setbacks, cancellations, and otherwise difficult decisions of 2020, we’ve succeeded in keeping things together, and in some cases made significant achievements. Just think of the number of times in the past ten years when you considered participating in a webinar, and passed on the opportunity for any number of reasons. Maybe one of the biggest reasons was that the virtual world was just something else to figure out and it seemed far too impersonal. Well, we figured out how to have some very successful virtual meetings these past ten months after being hit with the COVID pandemic. Our Spring Workshop and Fall Conference each year have traditionally provided times for us to enjoy visiting together in person (networking) and sitting together to enjoy presentations (training). We succeeded quite well this year with the educational part in the virtual environment. It was reassuring, even comforting, to see familiar names and faces of those who were also submitting to the virtual training option. Even though we were unable to meet in person, we enjoyed a feeling of togetherness in the virtual meetings that helped to remind us of our common interest to reduce the impacts of flooding in the Great State of Arkansas. Special thanks to Whit Montague for making the virtual a reality.

Thanks to each of you for continuing your membership in the Arkansas Floodplain Management Association, Inc. (AFMA). Congratulations to those new CFMs, and to those who have achieved 5-, 10-, 15-, and now 20-year milestones as a CFM. Stay tuned to our website for news and information about our upcoming Spring Workshop.

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and may God bless each of you in 2021.

Sincerely,  
Richard Penn, PE, CFM  
Chair, AFMA, Inc.



# Flood Zone

## Highlights from 2020

What a year! While 2020 brought on a series of new challenges, AFMA had a busy year with TADD sign presentations and transitioning to hosting virtual training and events.

### Turn Around Don't Drown Signs

Unfortunately Turn Around Don't Drown (TADD) Sign presentations were put on hold in March; however, AFMA and the National Weather Service Little Rock were able to deliver TADD Signs to two communities in Arkansas. TADD signs were presented to representatives of the City of Centerton and to Garland County in early 2020. For those communities that submitted requests for TADD signs, we still have your requests, and we are restarting our TADD sign presentations during the first part of 2021.

Pictured: (L to R) Nicole McGavock, NWS Tulsa; Tabitha Clarke, NWS Little Rock; Lee Beshoner, 2019 AFMA Past Chair; Bill Edwards, Mayor of Centerton; Alan Pugh, AFMA Northwest Regional Representative; Rick Hudson, Centerton Public Works Director; and Lorene Burns Centerton Planning Director and AFMA Treasurer



**Know your Flood Risk!**

- Do you live near a river or stream?
- Are you at risk for flash flooding?
- Is your property protected by a levee?

Take action now to better understand your flood risk!

Arkansas Flood Safety Awareness Week  
March 16 – 20, 2020

### Flood Safety Awareness Week

Arkansas Flood Safety Awareness Week was held March 16th – 20th. Through the week-long social media campaign, AFMA, Inc., The National Weather Service, The Arkansas Division of Emergency Management, and the Arkansas Natural Resources Division, worked to increase public awareness in flood preparation and provide education materials to individuals on how they can take action now.

### 2020 Virtual Fall Conference

One of the many challenges faced by organizations this year was how to hold training and conferences in a virtual format. AFMA held its first ever virtual conference with the 2020 Fall Conference September 29th – 30th. With over 100 attendees, AFMA offered two days of virtual training covering topics including presentations on levees, an update from the AR Levee Task Force, improving infrastructure in the floodplain, stormwater utility considerations, and mitigation grant funding opportunities. Thank you for your patience as we made the transition to a virtual event. Thank you to all the presenters for working with us on adjusting your presentations and answering questions in a virtual format. We couldn't have had a successful fall conference without you! While we are hopeful that 2021 will bring the opportunity to meet in person, we are ready to offer more virtual training options throughout the year if needed.

Arkansas Floodplain Management Association, Inc.

2020 Fall Conference

*The Road to Resiliency  
24 Years of Service*



# Flood Zone

## Going Virtual - Training in 2020 and Beyond

by

Tamara Jenkins, CFM, Northeast Region Representative, AFMA, Inc.

During these uncertain times most, if not all Continuing Education Credit (CEC) training opportunities have been made available online. FEMA Region 6 along with the Arkansas Natural Resources Division and AFMA have worked diligently to provide you with Virtual Brown Bag monthly webinars, online active Incident Command System courses and 1-hour virtual workshops tailored to meet your Accreditation CEC hours for CFM's, Floodplain Administrators, Emergency Managers, CRS Coordinators and other local stakeholders.



Some of the training opportunities offered over the past year include:

- ❖ No-Rise Certification: The Why, When and How;
- ❖ Elevation Certificates: What Are They & How to Review for Common Mistakes;
- ❖ Maintaining your Maps: Letters of Map Change & Revisions to the Maps;
- ❖ FEMA Floodmapping Changes for Insurance Agents; and
- ❖ Determining BFE: Detailed Studies & Approximate A Zones;



FEMA Region 6 has scheduled the following webinars in 2021:

- ❖ Newest Tools for Communicate Risk Locally;
- ❖ Using Base Level Engineering: Ideas for Floodplain Managers;
- ❖ Community Planning with Base Level Engineering;
- ❖ The Estimated BFE Viewer – What's New

Stay up to date on the upcoming Floodplain Accreditation workshops, FEMA Region 6 Virtual Brown Bag webinars and other training opportunities by visiting [Arkansas Natural Resources Division](#) website. Don't forget to follow AFMA on Facebook and Twitter to get updates on these training opportunities and more!



# Flood Zone

## Summary from ASFPM's 44<sup>th</sup> Annual National Conference

by

Natalie Rogers, PE, CFM  
Vice Chair, AFMA, Inc.



As with all conferences in 2020, the National Conference, originally scheduled to be held in Fort Worth, TX, transitioned to a virtual format. Through the hard work of many people behind the scenes, ASFPM held a three-day event that included daily plenary sessions and 54 concurrent sessions for a total of more than 150 presentations. While it wasn't the same as attending in person, ASFPM held a successful virtual conference. Throughout the week, participants were able to visit with vendors, sponsors and other participants in virtual exhibit halls, and interact with presenters during Question and Answer sessions. Some of the highlights this year were:

- ❖ Updates to the National Flood Insurance Program;
- ❖ Flood Insurance Rating (Risk Rating 2.0);
- ❖ Base Level Engineering updates;
- ❖ Many excellent presentations on Risk Communication and Mitigation; and
- ❖ Some excellent panel discussions on managing flood risk and the benefits of flood mitigation at a local level.

This coming year (2021), the National Conference is planned to be held in Raleigh, NC. We will keep you updated on any changes to the conference, including if there is a transition to a virtual format. If you have specific questions, I encourage you to contact an AFMA Board Member or Regional Representative for more details.

As an accredited chapter, AFMA participates in normal ASFPM activities by attending monthly State Chapter meetings and scheduled Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM®) Program meetings. During the chapter meetings, members from other State Chapters from across the country share their experiences on navigating the transition to virtual learning, floodplain management, and engaging their membership during these uncertain times. In the CFM® Program meetings and calls, the overall wellbeing of the CFM® program continues to be at the forefront. To date, AFMA has been working hard to continue providing the Certified Floodplain Managers in Arkansas with the best opportunities possible, and we have continued to maintain our status with ASFPM with regards to our membership and CFM program. There continues to be an ongoing discussion about the CFM exam and its movement to a digital environment, Accredited Chapters, and overall membership participation.



# Flood Zone

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!

**Spring AFMA Workshop**  
April 22 - 23, 2021  
Hotel Hot Springs  
Hot Springs, AR



**Fall AFMA Conference**  
September 26-29, 2021  
Best Western Inn of the Ozarks  
Eureka Springs, AR



## ASFPM's 45<sup>th</sup> Annual National Conference



Save these dates now!!  
**May 9 – 13, 2021**

### [2021 ASFPM Annual National Conference](#) [“Floodplain Management from Appalachia to the Atlantic”](#)

Flood-risk professionals from all over the world attend ASFPM's annual floodplain management conference. Our 45th conference will be held **May 9 -13, 2021** at the **Raleigh Convention Center** in North Carolina. Join 1,000+ other attendees to network with local, state, regional, tribal and federal officials, industry leaders, consultants and a wide variety of subject matter experts from diverse fields who will present on our theme, **“Floodplain Management from Appalachia to the Atlantic.”**

The conference is conducted by **ASFPM**, the world's leading voice for sound floodplain management, with 19,000+ practitioners, 10,000 CFMs, 37 chapters and 77 corporate and agency partners.



# Flood Zone

## HONORS AND AWARDS

With the completion of the 2020 Fall Conference, we at AFMA wanted to take the following section to congratulate and honor our members receiving awards. Those receiving awards are as follows:

### **New CFMs**

- **Nathan Alderson**
- **Lorene Burns**
- **Danny Carder**
- **Riley Colton**
- **James Davis**
- **Kapil Dhital**
- **Mylissa Griggs**
- **Katherine Hollingshead**
- **Jennifer Reid**
- **David Stowers**
- **Brad Thomas**
- **Gregory Trout**
- **Bradley Wihebrink**
- **Holly Wren**

### **Members celebrating Certified Floodplain Management Milestones**

#### **5 Years**

- **Jack Branscum**
- **Nathan Crouch**
- **Richard Stone**
- **Bob Ramsey**
- **Pam Wright**
- **Trevor Timberlake**
- **Shawn Maxey**
- **Kathryn McCoy**
- **Tim Clark**

#### **10 Years**

- **Shelia Bellott**
- **Karen Blevins**
- **Robert Bradley**
- **Ryan Castor**
- **Don Oliver**
- **Dirk Sutterfield**
- **Tina Cole**
- **Jim Cagle**
- **Blake Jorgensen**



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## 15 Years

- Jackie Baker
- Gail Mainard
- Denny McPhate
- Daran Robertson
- David Vondran

## 20 Years

- Charles Atkinson
- Conrad Battreal
- Thomas Black
- Jim Narey (Deceased)



Pictured: (L to R) Richard Penn (AFMA Chair) and Whit Montague (State NFIP Coordinator).

## In Memoriam

We would like to take moment to honor those we lost during 2020.

David Moore, retired Craighead County Emergency Manager. David served as the Craighead County Emergency Manager for 20 years before retiring in 2019.

Jim Narey, City of Maumelle Planning and Zoning Director. Jim played a large role in floodplain management for the City of Maumelle and AFMA, where he served as Chairman multiple times. Jim was also one of the first group to be certified in Arkansas as a Certified Floodplain Manager in the year 2000.



# Flood Zone

## **Community Award Winner (Population 10,000)**

City of Clarksville

Clarksville officials were recognized for their efforts in pursuing the replacement of older, floodprone structures within the city and replacing them with elevated structures that could potentially reduce the loss of life and flood damages. They are also working to utilize their levees and floodplain areas as green spaces and incorporate a new trail system. Lastly, they are in the early stages of levee improvements with the goal achieving levee accreditation



## **Special Recognition Award**

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Little Rock District  
Hydraulics and Technical Services Branch

A special recognition award was presented to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Little Rock District Hydraulics and Technical Services Branch for their extraordinary efforts during the 2019 Arkansas River Flood. Team members spent countless hours predicting the flood levels during the event and communicating that information to the public with the coordination of multiple agencies. The division also coordinated with the many branch offices and divisions to limit the flood extents by utilizing the flood control systems along the Arkansas River. We thank them for outstanding efforts and continued work throughout Arkansas.



Pictured: (L to R) Nathaniel Keen and Richard Penn (AFMA Chair).



# Flood Zone

## **Floodplain Manager of the Year**

Mr. Lee Beshoner, PE, CFM

Lee Beshoner was awarded the Floodplain Manager of the Year award for his many accomplishments throughout his career and his many years of service to AFMA, Inc. Lee has held many AFMA, Inc. board positions, including Chairman from 2016 – 2018. During his time on the board, he worked to obtain high quality speakers and planned multiple AFMA workshops and seminars. He has also represented AFMA at both the regional and national level by attending CAP, ASFPM, and State Chapter Meetings. We are proud to present him with this award for his dedication to floodplain management and work with AFMA, Inc.



Pictured: (L to R) Jay Whisker (AFMA Past Chairman) and Lee Beshoner



## 2020 – 2022 AFMA, INC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

We are pleased to announce our 2020 – 2022 AFMA, Inc. Board of Directors and Regional Representatives. As always, we encourage our members to reach out to the Board of Directors or their Regional Representatives with any questions, concerns, or big ideas.

- Executive Director – Conrad Battreal, PE, CFM - [executive.director@arkansasfloods.org](mailto:executive.director@arkansasfloods.org)
- Chairman – Richard Penn, PE, CFM - [chairman@arkansasfloods.org](mailto:chairman@arkansasfloods.org)
- Vice Chair – Natalie Rogers, PE, CFM - [vice.chairman@arkansasfloods.org](mailto:vice.chairman@arkansasfloods.org)
- Treasurer – Lorene Burns, CFM - [treasurer@arkansasfloods.org](mailto:treasurer@arkansasfloods.org)
- Secretary – Karen Knebel, CFM - [secretary@arkansasfloods.org](mailto:secretary@arkansasfloods.org)
- Past Chairman – Jay Whisker, PE, CFM - [past.chairman@arkansasfloods.org](mailto:past.chairman@arkansasfloods.org)
- CFM Coordinator – Whit Montague, CFM - [pdcc@arkansasfloods.org](mailto:pdcc@arkansasfloods.org)
  
- Central Representative – Kathryn McCoy, PE, CFM - [central.representative@arkansasfloods.org](mailto:central.representative@arkansasfloods.org)
- Northwest Representative – Alan Pugh, PE, CFM - [northwest.representative@arkansasfloods.org](mailto:northwest.representative@arkansasfloods.org)
- Northeast Representative – Tamara Jenkins, CFM - [northeast.representative@arkansasfloods.org](mailto:northeast.representative@arkansasfloods.org)
- Southeast Representative – Bill Ruck, PE, PLS, CFM - [southeast.representative@arkansasfloods.org](mailto:southeast.representative@arkansasfloods.org)
- Southwest Representative – Denny McPhate, CFM - [southwest.representative@arkansasfloods.org](mailto:southwest.representative@arkansasfloods.org)



Pictured: (L to R) Jay Whisker (AFMA Past Chairman), Lorene Burns (AFMA Treasurer), Tamara Jenkins (NE Regional Representative), Karen Knebel (AFMA Secretary), Denny McPhate (SW Regional Representative)



# Flood Zone

**THANK YOU**

Thank you for your continued membership and support of AFMA. Through your support, AFMA is able to continue its mission of promoting a common interest in flood damage abatement, enhancing cooperation and exchanging information among various organizations and agencies to encourage appropriate and effective approaches to managing the State's floodplains and to educate the public about floodplain management. We are looking forward to an exciting 2021 and hope to see you all soon!