



The B.F.E.*

* Base Flood Elevation

OKLAHOMA FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Volume 3

January 2001

Number 3

Floodplain Managers Attend NFIP Training at O.U.



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2001 "Managing Floodplain Development through the NFIP" Norman, OK

The Oklahoma Water Resources Board, FEMA, the Emergency Management Institute and the University of Oklahoma teamed up to provide the **Managing Floodplain Development through the NFIP** course to 35 Oklahoma Floodplain Managers.

The nationally-accredited, week-long basic floodplain management course is presented every January by the Oklahoma Water Resources Board at the University of Oklahoma. It is the same course that is conducted at the National Emergency Management Institute in Emmetsburg, MD.

Shorter one-day summaries of the course are given around the state to introduce new floodplain managers to the complex business of floodplain management, and to provide refresher courses to floodplain veterans. (See Calendar of Events for schedule and location of one-day classes.)

Floodplain management professionals attending the week-long course were: K. Michelle Barnett, URS Corp., Tulsa; Angyne Bean, Mannsville; Phillip Beauchamp, Altus; Byron Benham, Blackwell; Jeff Bigby, Broken Arrow; Gary Bishop, Chickasha; Robbie Bowles, Stevens County; Grady Cole, Prague; Deb-

(Continued on page 3)

Reflections on OFMA's First Ten Years

W. Kenneth Morris, CFM
State NFIP Coordinator

The Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association has come a long way since its establishment in 1990. OFMA's founders, leaders and members have made the Association the well respected organization that it is today. As an association, it is time for us all to reflect on where we have been and where we are going.

The Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association was founded by Carol Williams, a Tulsa flood victim and citizen leader, and Don Ellison of FEMA Region VI. These early leaders are now guiding the Association from a much higher place. We all owe Carol and Don a debt of gratitude for their foresight, dedication and leadership. We all aspire to live up to their examples of selfless dedication to making our communities, state and nation better, safer places to live and raise our families.

OFMA began with a basic set of Bylaws, a Constitution, and a one-page newsletter mailed quarterly to less than 30 members. Today the *B.F.E.* is a multi-page document, published monthly, and mailed to almost one thousand subscribers, including the Oklahoma State Legislature. The OFMA *B.F.E.* is widely recognized as being one of the most effective flood management newsletters in the country.

OFMA became a chapter member of the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) in 1994, which provided national guidance and association for OFMA's members. In 1997, Pat Hoggard, T.J. Davis and myself were instrumental in the design and estab-

lishment of OFMA's Certification Program, which led, in 1999, to obtaining national accreditation of OFMA's program from ASFPM. Today, with over 100 CFMs, OFMA leads the country in nationally-accredited Certified Floodplain Managers (CFM). Also in 1999, OFMA acquired non-profit status and assisted the Arkansas and New Mexico chapters in becoming nationally accredited.



Ken Morris - OWRB

A Strategic Plan was developed and adopted by OFMA in 2000 to provide policy direction over the next several years. The plan focuses on the need for education and training,

and particularly on teaching the importance of floodplains. Only through understanding the value and function of natural floodplains, and the hazards of floodplain urban development, will we be able to prevent future loss of life and property due to flooding.

Through OFMA's web site, the numerous training opportunities provided throughout the year, legislative activities, the *B.F.E.*, networking, and close working relationships with OFMA's partners—such as the Oklahoma Water Resources Board, FEMA, Corps of Engineers, Department of Civil Emergency Management, US Geological Survey—we can save lives and property.

As individual members and as an association, we need to ask ourselves, "What can we do to make our Association and programs better and more effective?"

Even though OFMA has had great success, there are still 163 NFIP Community Floodplain Administrators who are not members of OFMA, and less than one-third of local floodplain officials are Certified Floodplain Managers. Training of local floodplain officials is still totally voluntary, and only 12% of Oklahoma's floodplain buildings are protected by flood insurance. In addition, Oklahoma has 12 of FEMA's top 500 Repetitive Loss Properties nation wide. So a lot of work remains to be done. Your help is desperately needed to successfully meet these challenges.

Gilbert White Receives Presidential Award



On December 1, 2000, President Bill Clinton presented the nation's highest and most prestigious scientific award, "The National Medal of Science," to Dr. Gilbert White, the "Father of Floodplain Management." Dr. White was recognized for his outstanding scientific contributions to geography and environmental science, particularly his pioneering work in shaping national policies on floodplain management, water use, natural disasters, and environmental management.

Dr. White has been a key player addressing many of the world's most pressing environmental issues over the last 60 years. He is internationally recognized as having made significant contributions to the study of water systems in developing countries, global environmental change, international cooperation, nuclear winter, geography education, and the mitigation of natural hazards.

Dr. White has long been a good friend of ASFPM and OFMA. He richly deserves the nation's highest scientific award for his contributions.

OFMA and OEMA Plan Joint Annual Conference

Floodplain and Emergency Managers agree to form closer working relationships beginning with a plan for a Joint Annual Fall Conference for 2001.

Recognizing a need for better networking and a closer working relationship, the Boards of Directors for the Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association (OFMA) and the Oklahoma Emergency Managers Association (OEMA), have appointed a committee to plan a joint annual conference in September, 2001.

The Conference Planning Committee consists of Ron Flanagan and Gavin Brady for OFMA; Mike McCool and Roger Jolliff for

OFMA and OEMA; and Kary Cox and David Underwood for OEMA. Subject to approval by both boards, the OFMA/OEMA Fall Annual Conference will be held in Tulsa, Sept. 23-27, 2001 (See also Calendar of Events, Page 4).

Emergency Managers and Floodplain Managers will attend joint plenary sessions where topics of interest to both groups will be presented. Three concurrent session tracks will be scheduled, one for Emergency Managers,

one for Floodplain Managers, and one of interest to both groups. Mike McCool, Tulsa Metropolitan Emergency Manager and also an OFMA Member, said "We've needed to get both groups together for a long time. Now we're doing it. Now we need to get the rest of the nation to follow our lead." Over 300 members, vendors and participants are expected to attend the conference.

Governor Proclaims Flood Insurance and Flood Awareness Months

Governor Frank Keating has proclaimed March 2001 *Flood Insurance Month* and May 2001 *Flood Awareness Month*. The official proclamations were delivered February 1, 2001.

Governor Keating issued the proclamations at the request of Duane A. Smith, Executive Director, Oklahoma Water Resources Board, as part of the state's continuing effort to educate the public on how to avoid potential flood disasters, especially in the high probability spring period.

The *Flood Insurance Month Proclamation* stated that although many citizens are flood victims, most have no flood insurance protection, and that only 12% of all structures in the state's 100-year floodplain have flood insurance. Flood insurance is available to any citizen, renter or owner, living in a county or community that is a member of the National Flood Insurance Program. Because there is a 30-day mandatory wait-

ing period, there is a need to promote the timely purchase of flood insurance.

The *Flood Awareness Month Proclamation* for May 2001, reminds Oklahomans that flooding causes more than \$2 billion in property damages annually.



Governor Frank Keating

Most deaths due to flooding are caused by motorists driving into flood waters. Oklahoman's must be reminded of the various flood safety procedures required to protect their lives and livelihoods. During the month of May, Floodplain Managers should plan newspaper articles, radio interviews, school programs, and talks to civic groups about the dangers of flooding and the existence of the National Flood Insurance Program.

OFMA wishes to thank and congratulate OWRB Director Smith and Governor Keating for these important and timely official proclamations.

OFMA Mission

We encourage and support, with our partners, flood safe development and flood mitigation. We promote sound floodplain management practices, the natural and cultural benefits of the floodplain, and this profession through education and certification.

Saving lives from floods and reducing property loss from floods are paramount to OFMA and its members.

NFIP Training

(Continued from page 1)

bie Dollarhite, Lawton; Hank Elling, Lawton; Edward Fite III, Oklahoma Scenic Rivers; Richard Green, Tulsa; Diana Herrera, Houston, TX; William Jeffries, COE, Tulsa District; Andy Kincaid, Payne County; Rhonda Kouba, OWRB, OKC; Terry Lauritsen, Bartlesville; Fred Liebe, ODCM, OKC; Gary McCormick, Tulsa; Garrett Miller, Broken Arrow; Ken Morris, OWRB, OKC; Jennifer Nett, Dell City; Bill Nuttle, Shawnee; Gary M. Orr, Rogers County; Teresa Painter, Tulsa County; Mike Pattison, Osage County; David Phillips, OKC; Joseph R. Remondini, COE, Tulsa District; Donald Reynolds, Shawnee; Bill Robison, Tulsa; Joe Robinson, Rogers County; Allen G. Ryan, COE, Tulsa District; Larry Shelton, Chickasha; Nancy Shipley, GGEDA; Bob Tortorelli, USGS, OKC; Lonnie Ward, FEMA, Denton, TX; Sarah Willis, GGEDA; and Rowena Yeahquo, Piedmont.

OFMA Spring Training

OFMA's Spring Training 2001, *Floodplain Management into the 21st Century*, will be held at the University of Oklahoma Conference Center, March 7, 2001.

Three concurrent sessions will be presented this year:

1. Before the Flood
2. GIS - Geographic Information Systems
3. After the Flood

Registration begins at 8:00, and the first session will get under way at 9:00. Lunch will be served. The CFM exam will be offered for pre-qualified OFMA members. Cost of the training is \$35.00 and 4 CEC's will be awarded.

For more information contact: *W. Kenneth Morris, OWRB, (405) 530-8800; E-mail: wkmorris@owrb.state.ok.us* or visit OFMA's website: <http://www.okflood.org>

National Severe Weather Symposium

All Oklahoma Floodplain and Emergency Managers have an unprecedented opportunity to attend a national conference being held in Tulsa from March 31 to April 5, 2001. The University of Oklahoma's Severe Weather Center and other agencies will host a major Severe Weather Symposium at Tulsa's Civic Center. Floodplain and Emergency Managers should make plans to attend as many sessions as possible. The "B.F.E." will publish the conference agenda in the next issue.

For more information, contact *Cindy Ward, University of Oklahoma (405) 447-8418*.

Oklahoma Flood Forum

The Oklahoma Flood Forum—a one-day class on flood insurance for insurance and real estate agents, lenders, public officials, and floodplain managers—will be held at the Tulsa Civic Center on April 4, 2001.

Local Floodplain Managers and Floodplain Administrators should publicize the Flood Forum in their local media. This is one of the few opportunities that insurance and real estate agents have to get detailed information, geared to their industry, on flood insurance.

Only 12% of Oklahoma's floodplain buildings are protected with low-cost flood insurance.

For more information, contact *NFIP, (281) 829-6880*.

Calendar of Events

The Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association maintains a list of flood-related meetings, conferences, and training at www.okflood.org

- **Feb 21-23, 2001: Floodplain Management in Arid Regions**, Albuquerque, NM, Sheraton Old Town Hotel; ASFPM, NMFMA, AFMA, CFMA; Cost: \$220.00 Contact: *Les Bond, (505) 682-1359*
- **Mar 7, 2001: OFMA Spring Training**, OU Conference Center. Contact: *Carolyn Schultz (918) 669-4919*.
- **Mar 7-8, 2001: Storms & Floods 2001**, Annual Conference of the Illinois Association for Floodplain and Stormwater Management, Orlando Hills, IL. Cost \$125.00. Contact: *Mary Lou Wetmore, (708) 747-5273*.
- **Mar 31 - Apr 5, 2001: National Symposium on Mitigating Severe Weather Impacts: Design for Disaster Reduction**, Civic Center, Tulsa, OK. Sponsored by University of Oklahoma Severe Weather Center. Contact: *Cindy Ward, Univ. of OK. (405) 447-8418*.
- **Apr 4, 2001: Oklahoma Flood Forum**, Civic Center, Tulsa, OK. Specially designed for Real Estate Agents, Lenders, Insurance Agents, Public Officials. Contact: *NFIP, (281) 829-6880*.
- **May 8, 2001: OWRB Region 1 Floodplain Management Workshop**, Norman, OK. Contact: *OWRB, (405) 530-8800*.
- **May 10, 2001: OWRB Region 2 Floodplain Management Workshop**, Tulsa, OK. Contact: *OWRB, (405) 530-8800*.
- **May 20-23, 2001: Small Watershed Programs: Past, Present, and Future**, Seventh National Watershed Conference, Richmond, Virginia. Sponsored by the National Watershed Coalition. Contact: *John W. Peterson, National Watershed Coalition, 9304 Lundy Court, Burke, VA 22015-3431; (703) 455-6886; fax: (703) 455-6888; jwpeterson@erols.com*
- **May 22, 2001: OWRB Region 5 Floodplain Management Workshop**, Woodward, OK. Contact: *OWRB, (405) 530-8800*.
- **May 22-25, 2001: Expedition 2001 - Paths to the Future**, National Flood Conference, Minneapolis, MN. NFIP Contact: *Catherine King, (301) 918-1439*.
- **May 24, 2001: OWRB Region 4 Floodplain Management Workshop**, Lawton, OK. Contact: *OWRB, (405) 530-8800*.
- **May 31, 2001: OWRB Region 3 Floodplain Management Workshop**, McAlester, OK. Contact: *OWRB, (405) 530-8800*.
- **Jun 3-8, 2001: Twenty-Fifth Annual Conference of the Association of State Floodplain Managers**, Charlotte, North Carolina. Contact: *ASFPM Executive Office, 2809 Fish Hatchery Road, Ste. 204, Madison, WI 53713-3120; (608) 274-0123; fax: (608) 274-0696; asfpm@floods.org; http://www.floods.org*
- **Sep 23-27, 2001: Fall Annual Joint Conference, OFMA and Oklahoma Emergency Managers Association (OEMA)**, Southern Hills Hilton, Tulsa, OK. Cost: \$130.00. Contact: *OFMA, P.O. Box 8101, Tulsa, OK 74101-8101; http://www.okflood.org*

New OFMA Members

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(918) 456-8466

Teresa Painter

Plans Examiner
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(918) 596-5209

Ruth Walters

Associate Current Planner
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P.O. Box 10570
Midwest City, OK 73140-1570
(405) 739-1229

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P.O. Box 579
Sperry, OK 74073

Robert Wolfram
P.O. Box 338
Sand Springs, OK 74063

New Certified Floodplain Managers

Oklahoma has another fifteen nationally-accredited Certified Floodplain Managers, twelve of whom are new CFM's. These new nationally accredited CFM's took the two-hour comprehensive exam, consisting of 120 questions and a practical exercise, at the end of the week-long class given by OWRB, "*Managing the Floodplain through the NFIP.*"

K. Michelle Barnett, Tulsa

Jeff Bigby, Broken Arrow

Debbie Dollarhite, Lawton

Edward Fite III, Tahlequah

Richard Green, Tulsa

Terry Lauritsen, Bartlesville

Gary McCormick, Tulsa

Garrett Miller, Broken Ar-
row

Jennifer Nett, Dell City

Gary Orr, Claremore

Teresa Painter, Pawnee

Joe Remondini, Tulsa

Joe Robinson, Claremore

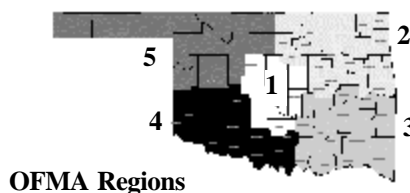
Bill Robison, Tulsa

Nancy Shipley, Big Cabin

An Invitation to Join OFMA

The Oklahoma Floodplain Managers

Association is a non-profit organization primarily dedicated to providing information and education to the public about reduction of loss of life and property due to flooding.



OFMA Regions

The best investment that \$20.00 can buy in the future of your state is a membership in the Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association.

OFMA Membership Application

Name: _____ Company/Organization: _____
 Title: _____ Address: _____
 Work Phone: _____ City/Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Fax: _____ E-Mail: _____

Detach and Mail To:

OFMA

P.O. Box 8101
Tulsa, OK 74101-8101

Category Affiliation(s): _____

New Member: ☐ Renewal: ☐

Region (see map): 1 2 3 4 5

Categories:

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| A. Mitigation | B. Floodplain Regulations |
| C. Flood Insurance | D. Mapping & Engineering |
| E. Flood Proofing | F. Stormwater Management |
| G. Research | |

Dues Schedule

First-Year dues are prorated depending on the quarter during which you join. Fiscal year is October 1 – September 30.

	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep
Full Membership	\$20.00	\$15.00	\$10.00	\$5.00
Student Membership	10.00	7.50	5.00	2.50
Associate Membership	15.00	11.25	7.50	3.75
Agency Membership	50.00	37.50	25.00	12.50
(Plus \$10.00 per employee designated by the Agency)				
Corporate Sponsor	100.00	75.00	50.00	25.00



OFMA to Form Working Committees

Anna Waggoner, CFM, OFMA 2000-2001 Chair, announced that OFMA is to create working committees responsible for major floodplain management policy areas. "If we want OFMA to become a stronger association, we will need more members to become involved and contribute. This will allow OFMA to speak with a stronger voice at the legislature and in Washington."

Committees include: Mitigation, Legislation, Flood Mapping, Exhibits, Awards, Flood Insurance, Conferences, and Education and Training.



OFMA Chair Anna Waggoner

tion and Training.

The Committees will meet Wednesday March 7, at the conclusion of the OFMA Spring Training Conference; April 4, at the conclusion of the Oklahoma Flood Forum; and September 24, at 9:00 am, at the OFMA/OEMA Fall Conference.

If you want to become more involved with OFMA, make a difference in floodplain management, serve on or chair a committee, contact Anna Waggoner at (580) 254-8515.

E-mail: annawwfire@pldi.net

News Floodplain Managers Can Use

Emergency Managers Accreditation

Following the lead of the nation's Floodplain Managers, more than a dozen organizations, including the National Emergency Managers Association and ASFP, have worked together to develop the Emergency Managers Accreditation Program (EMAP). The new program will be pilot tested in two states in 2001.

For more information about EMAP, Contact *Emily DeMers, Accreditation Coordinator, NEMA, c/o Council of State Governments, P.O. Box 11910, Lexington, KY 40578-1910; (859) 244-8210; <http://www.nemaweb.org>*

Source: Natural Hazards Observer 01/01

Web Sites

OFMA www.okflood.org

ASFP www.floods.org

OWRB www.state.ok.us/~owrb

FEMA www.fema.gov

Corps of Engineers

www.swt.usace.army.mil

EMI Independent Study

www.fema.gov/home/emi/ishome.htm

Advanced Study Institute

web.uccs.edu/geogenvs/natoasi

WebMaster: Hank Elling, P.E., CFM

Stafford Act Amendments Approved

Congress finally approved the "Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000", and President Clinton signed it into law as Public Law 106-390. Oklahoma Senator James Inhofe deserves congratulations for shepherding the bill through the Senate. Some of the key provisions are:

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) - Congress raised the HMGP amount from 15 percent to 20 percent of the total disaster cost. States must have an acceptable mitigation plan and document program effectiveness.

Project Impact - A pre-disaster mitigation program is authorized, but FEMA is required to submit an evaluation report within 18 months to document long-term measurable benefits.

Mitigation Planning - Seven percent (7%) of HMGP funds are to be available to states for mitigation planning.

Public Assistance (Section 406) -

- Reduces the federal share of assistance to public and non-profit facilities damaged more than once.
- Costs of repair, restoration, reconstruction or replacement may be based on cost estimates rather than actual costs incurred.
- Modifies how "large in lieu contributions" are allowed.

Source: ASFP's "The Insider," November 2000, by Rebecca Quinn, ASFP Legislative Officer.

For more information, visit the ASFP Website: <http://www.floods.org>

FEMA Issues Final Rule on NFIP Coverage

On October 12, 2000, FEMA announced changes to the insurance coverage and rates in its National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Primarily, the agency has changed the wording of its Standard Flood Insurance Policy to make it more understandable and restructured the policy to resemble a homeowner's policy.

The Final Rule, which can be found in the *Federal Register* (Vol. 65, No. 198, pp. 60758-60794), more clearly defines what constitutes a building as opposed to a structure. Among the many other changes, the NFIP will now cover sewer back-up if there is a general condition of flooding in the area, will pay \$1,000 each for labor and materials for mitigation activities (such as sandbagging and removing personal property from a home), and will allow renters to apply 10% of contents coverage to major appliances. Payments for lost collectibles and art have also been increased to \$2,500. The rule outlines the specific coverages and rates offered for all options under the NFIP.

Copies of the final rule can be found at any federal repository library or on-line at <http://www.access.gpo.gov>. More information about the NFIP can be found on-line at <http://www.fema.gov/nfip> or can be obtained from the FEMA Office of Public Affairs, 500 C Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20472; (202) 646-4600; fax: (202) 646-4086; e-mail: eipa@fema.gov

Source: Natural Hazards Observer 01/01

Profile: 2000-2001 OFMA Region IV Representative

Thomas Graham

Public Works, Davis

Thomas Graham is the 2000-2001 Region IV Representative and is a member of the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association.

Mr. Graham was born and raised in Oklahoma. After graduating from Enid High School in 1968, he served in the U.S. Air Force before joining the City of Davis Public Works Department. He is the City's Floodplain Administrator. Mr. Graham is married and has two children and two step-children. He is very proud of his six grandchildren and one step-granddaughter.

Mr. Graham has been employed by the City of Davis' Public Works Department for nine years. His primary duties include assisting in the operation of the Water and Wastewater Plants and helping with the repair and installation of new distribution lines. He also participates in the City's electrical and plumbing inspections. When not employed in these positions, he can be found working part-time with the Murray County Ambulance Service.



OFMA'S CORPORATE PARTNERS



Space for a Future Corporate Partner
If you are interested, please contact
Carolyn Schultz at (918) 669-4919

PBS&J

Donald Vogt

12101 Indian Creek Court
Beltsville, MD 20705
(301) 210-6800

URS

Carthal Cobb, PE

111 W. 5th St., Ste 720
Tulsa, OK 74103
(918) 582-2552 Fax: (918) 5821328
carthal_cobb@urscorp.com

Eveready Flood Control

7915 W. Grand Ave.
Elmwood Park, IL 60707
(773) 456-0222

Oklahoma Municipal League

201 N.E. 23rd Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73105-3199

Space for a Future Corporate Partner
If you are interested, please contact
Carolyn Schultz at (918) 669-4919

MESHEK & ASSOCIATES, INC.

Civil & Water Resource Engineering

JANET K. MESHEK, PE, CFM
Civil Engineer/Hydrologist

20 West 2nd Street - Suite 200
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Sand Springs, OK 74063

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January 2001

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Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association 2000-2001

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