



The B.F.E.*

* Base Flood Elevation

OKLAHOMA FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Volume 8

Summer 2006

Number 3

OFMA's 16th Annual Conference

The summer is here, the heat is on, and members of the Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association are gearing up for this year's 16th Annual Conference. Now viewed as the essential event of the year for Floodplain Administrators from around the State, this year's conference, entitled *Building a New Era of Floodplain Management*, will be held at the Oklahoma Center for Continuing Education on the grounds of the University of Oklahoma's Main Campus in Norman, Oklahoma.



Following such a successful event last year at scenic Quartz Mountain, OFMA Board members elected a more centralized, urban setting for this year's conference. The Annual Conference was last held in the Oklahoma City area in 2003. From there, the conference was held at Western Hills Lodge near Wagoner in 2004 and at Quartz Mountain Resort near Lone Wolf in 2005.

This year's Annual Conference will kick-off Sunday, September 17th with the annual OFMA Golf Tournament and the pre-conference Board Meeting. If you haven't participated in the annual tournament, be sure and sign up this year. Past participants are always enthusiastically returning.

On Monday, *Building a New Era of Floodplain Management* formally begins with a 'First Timers' meeting where Officers, Regional Representatives and Committee Chairs will be on hand to meet with and provide a sense of comradery to new OFMA members. Providing a sense of belonging to members has become a central theme since the conception of the OFMA Membership Committee.

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Oklahoma's Heat Wave and Drought Continue

What is worse? The Heat or the Drought? Oklahoma, along with the rest of the nation is struggling to keep its population safe and cool during these exhaustingly hot summer months. Already, more than 150 people in the United States have died as a direct result of heat including at least 10 in Oklahoma. In fact, data from the Oklahoma Mesonet's more than 115 stations across the State show 100-degree temperatures have occurred a reported 1,130 times through July 24. Unfortunately, history reveals a larger percentage of 100-degree days occur after July 24, which means there are more extreme temperatures to come. Grandfield and Tipton, both in southwest Oklahoma's Tillman County, have reached 100-degrees or hotter 25 and 23 days respectively. So far 6 communities have hit 109 degrees to tie for the State's highest record temperature this summer.

But not only is the heat making headlines, the current drought is beginning to truly reveal itself. Data from the Oklahoma Mesonet and from the Oklahoma Climatological Survey archives indicate that the state is undergoing drought on multiple timescales. In recent months, the drought took on two faces: a short-term event, with a timescale of months, that is worst in the western half of the

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The Opening Plenary Session will begin at 9:30 a.m. Monday morning and will include early nominations for Tuesday's election of officers. OWRB representatives will also discuss what is new at the State Level regarding Floodplain Management. During the provided lunch, Nancy Wade will discuss the upcoming Membership Drive and Mickey Douglas will discuss Oklahoma's Tribal Governments. Following lunch, three separate break-out sessions, each a half hour in length will be available from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. Along side the breakout sessions will be Floodplain 101, where Floodplain Administrators can gain first hand knowledge of their responsibilities and duties or brush up on NFIP basics. One of the Monday break-out sessions include a walking tour, which will be repeated from 1-1:30 p.m. and 2-2:30 p.m. The campus tour will highlight the previous reconstruction of a large storm sewer pipe starting at the Student Union building. The pipe, which was put in place to mitigate localized flooding at the Student Union, winds through campus past Oklahoma Memorial Stadium and Owen Field to its outfall at Duck Pond. Other Monday break-out sessions topics will include the Flood Mitigation Assistance Program, Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program, Repetitive Flood Claims Program and Case Studies for each topic including a discussion of smart development in hazardous areas.

Monday evening will be the Vendor's Social held at the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History from 6 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. The museum was renovated in May of 2000 and contains a fascinating and unique collection of natural and cultural history pertaining to Oklahoma. Entertainment for the event will be the sensational jazz group Shortt Dogg. A Hospitality Suite will be available after the Vendor Social at the Sooner Hotel.

Tuesday begins early for some participants. Hydrology 101 will be available as an Early Bird Session from 7 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. for participants interested in hydrology concepts and software basics. The Plenary Session will begin at 8:30 a.m. and will focus on what is new at the Federal level. FEMA, NFIP and Map Modernization and its effects on LOMR's and PMR's will all be discussed. A Panel Discussion detailing DFIRMs will follow the 10 a.m. break and 10:30 a.m. presentation on the Mapping Information Platform utilized in the DFIRM map production process. At 11 a.m., speeches from candidates and additional nominations for OFMA Officers will be heard. The OFMA Business Luncheon will be held from noon to 2 p.m. where the Board election of the 2006-07 Officers will be held.

Beginning at 2:30 p.m. the break-out sessions will continue. One session will include the continuation of Floodplain 101 from Monday. The other three sessions will include topics on Stormwater Review of Development plans, Public Outreach, the NFIP after Katrina, Input Parameters for HEC Models and 3 USDA papers on Dams and Spillway Capacities.

Tuesday evening, the Exhibits Hall will be open for viewing and the Awards Banquet will be held. This years Awards Banquet will feature entertainment from the Cimarron Circuit Company Opera. Award Nominations can still be made, so if you know someone who should be recognized as a leader of floodplain management in our State, make sure and participate by getting your nomination form downloaded from the OFMA website and turned in.

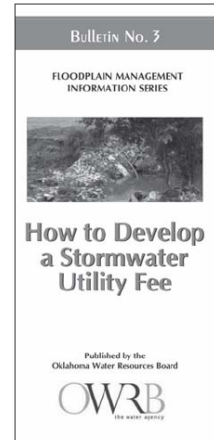
Wednesday morning will again feature an Early Bird Session. Hydraulics 101 will compliment Tuesdays session by giving those participating a well-rounded instruction on software and conceptual aspects of hydraulics. Wednesdays Closing Plenary Session will start at 10 a.m. and will include a presentation on an Award Winning Project, which will be followed by a Panel Discussion and the Passing of the Gavel. Door Prizes will be drawn following the Passing of the Gavel.

For those wishing to learn more on HEC-RAS, including fundamentals of open channel hydraulics, assessments of bridge, culvert and levee impacts and basics of the software, a half-day training event will be held following the Conference on Wednesday afternoon. The training will cost an additional \$100 to cover the technology expenses for the room and must be included with the Conference registration. The HEC-RAS training will be concurrent with the CFM Exam following the conference, so those wishing to take the CFM exam will not be able to attend the HEC-RAS course.

Everyone attending the entire conference including Floodplain Managers who are CFM's will be eligible to receive 12 CEC's to help maintain their State required certification. If you or your company are interested in being a conference sponsor or have a display in the exhibit hall, download an exhibitor reservation form with dates and booth set up times at the OFMA website: www.okflood.org.

Improving Drainage through Channel Maintenance

Guthrie citizens and officials are fed up with dirty creeks, streams, and floodways. Concerns about one particular creek surfaced last summer when brush, garbage, and other large debris created a major impediment to the flood-carrying capacity of both the stream channel of Snake Creek, an important drainage outlet for area homeowners and businesses, and the surrounding floodplain. In some locations, Snake Creek was found to be almost totally blocked, causing its waters to occasionally spill over into adjacent areas. Alerted to the problem, city leaders have commissioned a large-scale channel restoration project, which is about halfway complete. "When we entered the stream channel, we not only found a good deal of both dead and live vegetation, we discovered a virtual junkyard containing hot water tanks, tires, refrigerators, bathtubs, grocery carts, and a host of other discarded items," says Darryl Hughes, Director of Municipal Services. "Snake Creek is somewhat isolated," he adds, "making it easy for illegal dumping to occur. But in the future, the city's commitment to increased monitoring and enforcement will all but eliminate this unsightly and potentially hazardous problem." Hughes and his staff have also rediscovered "lost" sanitary sewer manholes and have since inspected the area's sewer system to identify much-needed improvements in how Guthrie, a participant in the National Flood Insurance Program, handles runoff from storm events. Historically, the community has experienced frequent flooding problems. Local officials have received valuable assistance from the OWRB in establishing a channel maintenance program. "We strongly encourage other Oklahoma communities to follow Guthrie's example and provide required attention to maintaining the natural benefits of creeks, streams and channels," says the OWRB's Planning and Management Division Chief, Mike Mathis, who also serves as State NFIP Coordinator. He reminds local floodplain administrators that a stormwater utility fee can provide invaluable financial assistance to communities in offsetting costs associated with annual channel maintenance. Contact the OWRB at (405) 530-8800 for a free copy of the informational bulletin, "How to Develop a Stormwater Utility Fee."



- Oklahoma Water News (Bimonthly Newsletter of the Oklahoma Water Resources Board)
June 2006

FEMA Prepares for the 2006 Hurricane Season



Hurricane season 2006 is here and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and its Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) have taken strides to increase the nation's preparedness for catastrophic events and smaller-scale disasters.

New and improved disaster response plans include enhanced communication and hi-tech systems for tracking relief supplies. Included in those hi-tech systems are 20,000 global-positioning units to help monitor and track tractor-trailers carrying relief supplies. "When they leave our warehouses, we'll know where they are, and we can tell the state very clearly what location they're in

and when they're going to arrive at their location," FEMA chief David Paulison said.

"One of our biggest concerns was the evacuation plans in the state of Louisiana," Paulison said. He said FEMA has worked with parishes, the emergency managers of the state and of New Orleans to create "solid evacuation plans. We've gone through those, we've rehearsed them, we're very comfortable that those are going to work," Paulison said.

He added that at one point, he and Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff "got on the bus, went to the evacuation site, went to the Convention Center, got registered and walked through that whole process to make sure it's in good shape."

Paulison acknowledged that logistics and communications were significant problems during Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath, which killed more than 1,500 people and caused an estimated \$100 billion in damage in Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama, when it slammed into the Gulf Coast in August. It is expected to go into the record books as the most expensive natural disaster in American history.

This year FEMA is working with the Louisiana National Guard to place communication equipment in each parish, Paulison said. "We will have satellite communications, we have thousands of handheld radios that we can pass out to first responders if we need to,

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OFMA Region 5: About the Region and the Representative

OFMA is proud of each of the Regional Representatives for the hard work each volunteer commits to. Without their dedication, OFMA would not be the successful association it is today. Each Representative works very hard to promote sound floodplain management within their region by keeping Floodplain Administrators updated with current events and program issues. They provide an important point of contact for floodplain managers in each region and are here to help each of you with any support they can. OFMA would like to thank Region 5 Representative Cindy Tubbs for providing some insight to her background and the goals she has set for the region.

Cindy Tubbs has been working with the City of Enid since 2002. She began her career there as an Administrative Assistant to the Code Office. Within nine months she was promoted to Permit Technician. She is now actively involved with reviewing, preparing and issuing permits for all construction activities as well as any activities performed in public right of ways and floodways. She also addresses questions concerning zoning, addresses and city codes including floodplain regulatory codes. She is often in contact with architects, engineers, property owners and contractors to make sure all code enforcement is recognized and followed.

Cindy became a CFM in 2004 and took over the OFMA Regional Representative position all in the same year. When it comes to stormwater, Cindy has other responsibilities besides regulatory concerns for activities in the floodplains. Cindy is also in charge of determining stormwater fees on residential, commercial and industrial developments as part of Enid's Stormwater Utility Fee Program. Cindy has played a large role in the development of the City's Hazard Mitigation Plan, which she says should be ready for adoption in 2007.



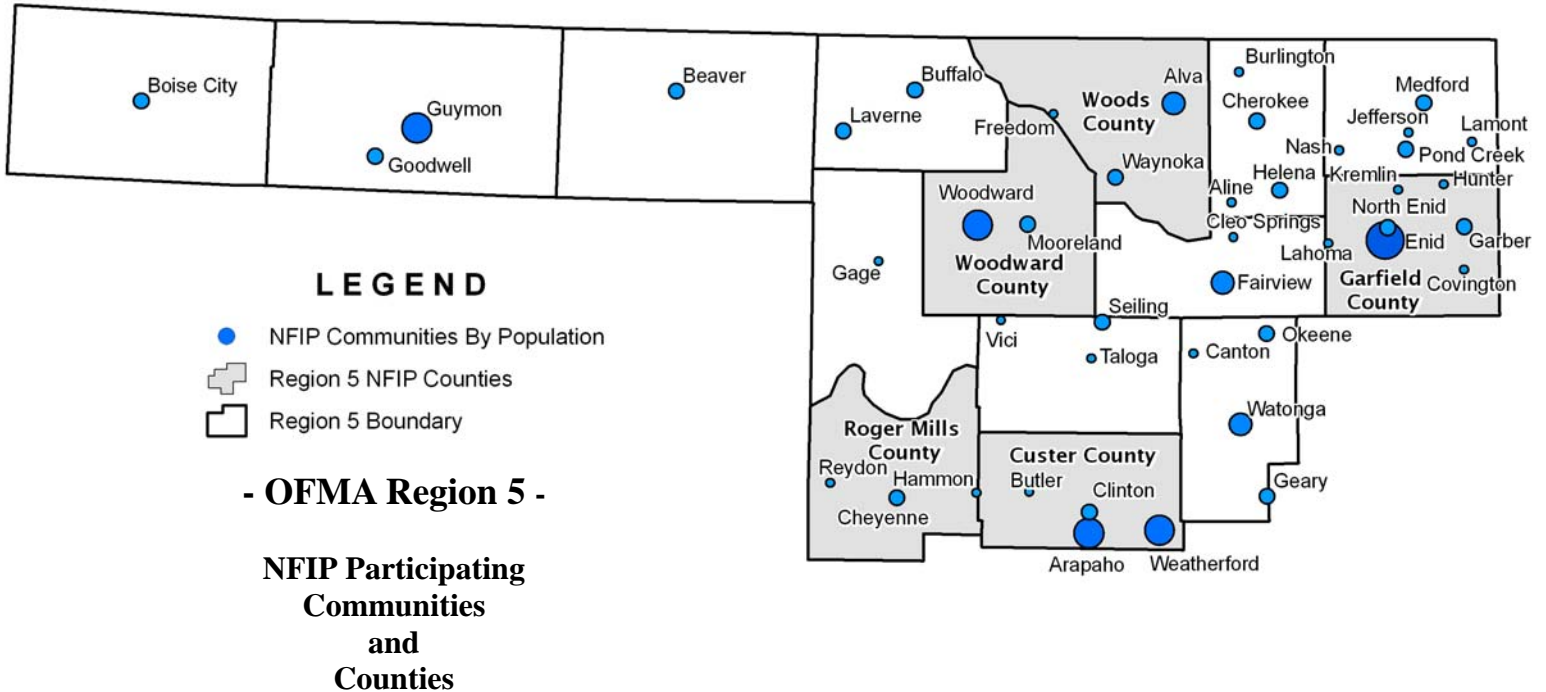
**OFMA Region V Representative
Cindy Tubbs, CFM.**

Cindy recently had a son, Brendon who is now five months old. She lives in Enid with her husband Quent and their new baby. She enjoys spending time at home with the family as well as fishing, hiking, reading and shopping. She graduated from Northern Oklahoma College in 1999 with a degree in Broadcast Journalism.

As the OFMA Region 5 Representative, Cindy has set goals of:

- 01) Travel to the different cities in my region to meet with city officials and visit with them about their floodplain regulations
- 02) Visit local radio stations and TV stations to do Public Service Announcements informing of flood insurance and the dangers of floods.

If you're a Floodplain Administrator in Region V, Cindy would like to hear from you! Thank you Cindy for all your hard work!



(Continued from page 3)

and also, we're going to have our satellite cell phones." Most important, he noted, was establishing a unified command post "where everybody is in the same room, planning out our strategies and our 12-hour blocks," Paulison said. "That did not happen last year, and I think that was one of the biggest breakdowns in communication."

FEMA has also multiplied the number of supplies, he said. For instance, while 160 truckloads of emergency food were available last year, this year 770 truckloads of MREs (meals ready to eat) are ready to move in. "During Hurricane Katrina, there were simply not enough supplies, and we had no ability to track them. We didn't know where our supplies were."

As for the levees, Paulison said, the Corps is "going to make sure the levees are as good as they were when we had Katrina last year," adding that work was still under way to rebuild floodgates. "Just because June 1st is here does not mean they're going to stop."

Some of the responsibility, however, falls on citizens in the path of the storm, he said. "Those people have to evacuate. They have to pay attention to the local emergency managers and evacuate when they're told to do so."

Among the new measures designed to strengthen FEMA's essential functions for more effective overall response are:

- Placement of a U.S. Department of Defense coordinating officer in each of FEMA's 10 regional offices for ongoing preparedness and response coordination
- Deployment of FEMA liaisons to local, as well as state, emergency operations centers
- Introduction of situational awareness teams
- Augmentation of survivable and interoperable communications capabilities
- Implementation of new systems to procure, track, deliver, and manage commodities
- Expansion of sheltering, registration, home inspection, and temporary housing capabilities and
- Strengthening and increasing of the size of the disaster workforce.

The Flood Insurance Reform and Modernization Act of 2006

Although Congress is currently on a 5 week recess from Washington, a major bill concerning the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is awaiting their attention. The Flood Insurance Reform and Modernization Act of 2006 has several notable provisions. The bill would provide the NFIP with funds to pay remaining valid claims from the 2005 Gulf Coast hurricanes and reform the program, which is currently in an unsustainable financial position. Without a change in law, the NFIP will be unable to pay all flood insurance claims promptly, and faced with a nonfunctional program, those policyholders who are not required to carry flood insurance may abandon it. Enacting the Flood Insurance Reform and Modernization Act of 2006 would improve the financial status of the NFIP and significantly increase the likelihood that the program could continue to offer insurance coverage and pay claims in a timely fashion. By providing funds to pay remaining claims from the 2005 Gulf Coast hurricanes and forgiving the debt incurred to pay previous claims from 2005, the bill would essentially return the NFIP to a financial condition similar to that which existed before Hurricane Katrina.

Enacting the bill would also strengthen the NFIP's financial position in the future. It would direct the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to impose rate increases of up to 15 percent per year on all policyholders so as to establish a reserve fund for the insurance program. That reserve fund would be available to pay insurance claims whenever it was needed. The bill also would require some policyholders that do not pay the full cost of their insurance coverage to gradually begin to do so. The bill would make purchase of flood insurance in "residual risk" areas behind levees and below dams mandatory once mapping of these areas is complete. An increase in Map Modernization funding from \$200 million to \$400 million for FY '07 through FY '12 could also be authorized to assist with this "residual risk" mapping.

Finally, it would require some policyholders to carry a larger deductible amount on their insurance policies, and it would end the current practice of offering new policies to some property owners at less than their expected cost. These requirements would increase the cost to policyholders and reduce the net cost of the program to the government. Over the next several years, those changes would improve the chances that the NFIP would have sufficient funds to pay future claims. In addition, the bill would require FEMA to participate in state-sponsored claims mediation programs and would direct the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to conduct multiple studies on the Agency.

OFMA's Training Cadre Allows Floodplain Management Workshops to go Local

The Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association established a training committee at the 2004 Strategic Planning Retreat. The committee, entitled The OFMA Training Cadre, is responsible for providing floodplain management training at a Regional level. The OFMA Training Cadre has completed the preparation of a new 2-hour "Basic Training for Floodplain Administrators" course that covers the basics of what a local floodplain administrator (FPA) should know to perform their job. This is intended to be a preparatory training presentation for the current 6-hour 101 Floodplain Management Workshop Training that OWRB presents. This workshop is primarily used for the accreditation of the FPA's under the Oklahoma State Statutes. Participants will receive 2 hours of Continuing Education Credits (CECs) for attending the presentation. Training Cadre member and Mitigation Chair OFMA member Bill Smith developed the short two-hour special workshop presentation to indoctrinate the local floodplain administrator in the basics of floodplain management administration and enforcement. The strategy the Training Cadre has proposed starts at the Regional Level. By contacting OFMA Regional Representatives, the Training Cadre hopes to identify communities or entire counties through their Representatives, who would participate and benefit from the two-hour training event. The times and locations are being coordinated by the OFMA five Regional Representatives which cover the entire State of Oklahoma. The training is free and by targeting each community within an entire county at one time, the Training Cadre workshop would help neighboring communities learn from each other. By bringing these communities together, each local Floodplain Administrators can build or strengthen their relationship with other area Floodplain Administrators. The result: networks like this can become a great building block and provide a stable ground for transitioning or enhancing floodplain management regulatory programs.

Regional 3 Representative Mickey Douglas has been working on the Pilot Project for the newly created workshop materials. He has been in touch with Bryan County and it's newly appointed Floodplain Administrator as well as the local Floodplain Administrators within the County. "We just need them to set a date and time when each of the communities can come together. We will bring the workshop to them for free. Our goal is to help educate each community on responsible Floodplain Management within a setting they are comfortable in, somewhere local to them" Douglas said. He also has mentioned if the idea of bringing the workshop to the community doesn't prove worthwhile, then maybe these workshops can be organized like the Floodplain 101 courses, where workshops are set up around the State for communities to attend.

If your county or community would like to invite the OFMA Training Cadre to present the new training material to your area Floodplain Administrators, please contact: Bill Smith, Chairman of the OFMA Mitigation Committee at 918-865-6977 or hisinc@hotmail.com. Bill Smith and the OFMA Training Cadre have worked very hard to create these new presentations and it would be very unfortunate to let such a valuable resource pass your community by.

Oklahoma Joins Network of Volunteer Weather Observers

On June 15, Oklahoma will join eleven other states in the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network (CoCoRaHS). CoCoRaHS is a grassroots volunteer network of backyard weather observers of all ages and backgrounds working together to measure and map precipitation (rain, hail and snow) in their local communities. The goal of CoCoRaHS is to provide a high quality rainfall observation network using low-cost measurement tools, education and training, and an interactive web-site. The best feature of this program is that anyone can participate. CoCoRaHS is a community-minded project where everyone can help – young, old, and in-between. The only requirement is an enthusiasm for watching and reporting weather. Observers are asked to take measurements of precipitation each time a rain, hail or snow storm crosses your area. The precipitation reports are recorded on the CoCoRaHS website (www.cocorahs.org). The data are then displayed and organized for many of our end users to analyze and apply to daily situations ranging from water resource analysis and severe storm warnings to neighbors comparing how much rain fell in their backyards.



CoCoRaHS is used by a wide variety of organizations and individuals. The National Weather Service, other meteorologists, hydrologists, emergency managers, city utilities (water supply, water conservation, storm water), insurance adjusters, USDA, engineers, mosquito control, ranchers and farmers, outdoor & recreation interests, teachers, students, and neighbors in the community are just some examples of those who visit the CoCoRaHS website and use the data. What does the program hope to accomplish? CoCoRaHS has several goals: 1) provide accurate high-quality precipitation data for our many end users on a timely basis; 2) increasing the density of precipitation data available throughout the country by encouraging volunteer weather observing; 3) encouraging citizens to have fun participating in meteorological science and heightening their awareness about weather; 4) providing enrichment activities in water and weather resources for teachers, educators and the community at large to name a few. CoCoRaHS has the opportunity to

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Question: An inquiring developer is intending to develop lots for resale to potential new home owners that want to build in a subdivision. One lot is completely in the floodplain and the other two are 3/4th's in the floodplain. All 3 lots are connected and the developer's intentions are to raise half the lots out of the floodplain by placing the fill dirt across all 3 lots. The developer is also considering the development of a pit pond located in the floodway. Will an engineering analysis be required to show no change in BFE elevations upstream or downstream?

Answer: First, floodway development, which includes any proposed development in a designated floodway, is required to be certified by a professional engineer to show no increase in the BFE, or if it would increase the BFE, the developer first has to get a Conditional Letter of Map Revision from FEMA (CFR 44, 65.12). As pointed out, if this is a subdivision in Zone A and they plan to develop 50 lots or develop 5 acres, then the developer has to show the BFE and floodplain boundary on the subdivision plat.

If the developer is going to bring in fill dirt and elevate the lots, it would be to their benefit to get the lots removed from the floodplain to begin with – by requiring a compaction certificate - 95% proctor test, and require the MT-1 and MT-2.

Web Sites

OFMA www.okflood.org
ASFPM www.floods.org
OWRB www.owrb.state.ok.us
FEMA www.fema.gov
OEM www.ok.gov/oem
Corps of Engineers (USACE)
www.swt.usace.army.mil
U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)
ok.water.usgs.gov
Advanced Study Institute
web.uccs.edu/geogenvs/natoasi
CLOMR/LOMR Forms:
www.fema.gov/fhm/frm_form.shtm
EPA NPDES Phase II site:
www.epa.gov/npdes/
SMRC Stormwater Mgr Resource Center:
www.stormwatercenter.net
FEMA Official NFIP Site:
www.floodsmart.gov
Link to: 44 CFR Ch. I (10-1-02 Edition)
http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/fr/waisidx_02/44cfrv1_02.html
Webmaster: Tinna Song-Wallis
stsong@cox.net

Calendar of Educational Opportunities

- **Floodplain 101**; Aug. 16; Oct. 5; Nov. 28; and Dec 12, 2006. OU Center for Continuing Education; 1704 Asp Ave. Norman, OK. Contact Rhonda Bowers (405) 530-8800; website www.owrb.state.ok.us
- **Managing Floodplain Development Through the NFIP**; Aug. 28—Sept. 1, 2006. Contact Rhonda Bowers (405) 530-8800; website www.owrb.state.ok.us
- **H2Oklahoma Festival**; Sept. 22, 2006; No Contact Info Available
- **Association of State Dam Safety Officials: Dam Safety '06**; Sept. 10-14, 2006. Seaport Hotel and Convention Center; Boston, Mass. Reservations at www.seaportboston.com
- **Arkansas Floodplain Management Association Fall Conference**; Sept. 24-27 2006. Embassy Suites, Hot Springs, AR. Contact: Michael.borengasser@arkansas.gov
- **Texas Floodplain Management Association Fall Conference**; Nov. 7-10, 2006. Inn of the Hills in Kerrville, TX.
- **Governor's Water Conference**; Nov. 13-14, 2006. Cox Business Services Convention Center; Oklahoma City, OK. Online Registration and Info: www.owrb.state.ok.us/news/news2/conferences.php
- **OFMA 16th Annual Conference**; September 18-20, 2006, University of Oklahoma Conference Center, Norman, OK. Contact: OFMA, P.O. Box 8101, Tulsa, OK 74101-8101; website: www.okflood.org.
- **ASFPM Annual Conference**; June 3-7, 2007; Norfolk, VA. www.floods.org
- **FEMA's Annual National Flood Conference**; TBA; Denver, Colorado.

OFMA General Store

Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association gifts are now available. The attractive OFMA articles are of the highest quality. You will be proud to wear and display them.

To Order: OFMA
 P.O. Box 8101
 Tulsa, OK 74101

Or call Carolyn Schultz (918) 669-4919



| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| OFMA Golf Shirt (S, M, L, X-L) | 35.00 |
| Briefcase | 25.00 |
| Baseball Cap (One size fits all) | 15.00 |
| Insulated Mug | 10.00 |
| Umbrella | 20.00 |
| Portfolio | 25.00 |
| Lapel Pin | 3.00 |
| CFM Lapel Pin | 5.00 |

Shipping and handling \$4.95 per order.

(Continued from page 1 - Heat Wave & Drought)

state; and a historically-severe long-term drought (timescale of seasons to years) in the east. Central and southwest Oklahoma lie in the intersection of both timescales.

The southeast has experienced drought or near-drought conditions since 2002, with a distinct intensification in the Spring 2005. Summer and fall 2005 brought a northward expansion of drought to fill the State's eastern third. Recent months have brought some relief to the region, but the underlying hydrologic issues still remain. Severe drought impacts then advanced westward during the subsequent winter. Precipitation in April eased immediate problems, but a warm, dry May has exacerbated long-term drought conditions in much of Oklahoma.

A general rule-of-thumb for drought impacts is "Longer is Deeper". In other words, the longer a drought lasts, the deeper its impacts are felt. Within weeks of onset, dry surface conditions can lead to enhanced fire danger, much like Oklahoma witnessed during the disastrous winter months of 2005-06. During these months, more than half a million acres were consumed by wildfire in six months. Shortly after enhanced wildfire danger, agricultural impacts are often seen.

Of course, the total impact of a drought on agriculture depends on its timing, and the 2005-06 drought could not have come at a worse time for Oklahoma's winter wheat crop. Dryness took hold in western Oklahoma by October, when young wheat germinates. By crop's end in early summer, an estimated two-thirds of the total yield was wiped out by Mother Nature. The summer harvest, estimated to be at 68 million bushels, should be the state's smallest since the 1950s.

When drought lasts beyond weeks and months and into timescales of seasons and years, drought impacts go subterranean, and major hydrologic problems can develop. As the rainfall deficits surpass a year in the west, and two years in the east, groundwater storage and reservoir storage has suffered. Lake Eufaula in the east and Lake Thunderbird in central Oklahoma sit at about 75% conservation capacity. In other words, a fourth of the intended storage of each lake is gone. In western Oklahoma Altus-Lugert Reservoir sits at an eye-popping 49% of capacity, which does not bode well for cotton growers in the region. Several counties and Rural Water Districts have begun implementing volunteer water rationing, before water reserves reach critical levels. Mixing low water reserves with potential wildfires could result in a devastating combination to rural and urban-fringe areas.

Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association

Vision

The Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association advocates the protection of the natural functions of the floodplain through education, training, and service to Oklahomans.

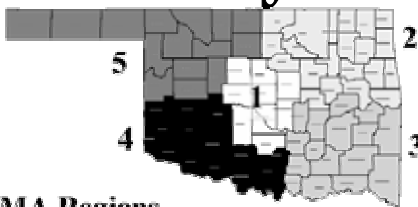
Mission

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

Saving lives from floods and reducing property loss from floods are paramount to us.

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 \$30.00 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

New Member: Renewal:
 Region (see map): 1 2 3 4 5
 Committees:
 ___ Mitigation
 ___ Mapping and Engineering
 ___ Education/Legislative
 ___ Certification
 ___ Conference

Dues Schedule:
 First-Year dues for joining OFMA are listed below. The fiscal year for membership starts October 1st and ends September 30th.

| | |
|--|----------|
| Full Membership | \$ 30.00 |
| Student Membership | 15.00 |
| Associate Membership | 20.00 |
| Agency Membership | 50.00 |
| (Plus \$10.00 per employee designated by the Agency) | |
| Corporate Sponsor | 100.00 |



Notes from the State NFIP Coordinator

Mike Mathis, Oklahoma Water Resources Board, NFIP State Coordinator

Dear OFMA Members:

To some, it may seem ironic to promote floodplain management in the current setting. As we know all too well, Oklahoma is now experiencing one of the most serious droughts in state history, and it will likely get worse before it gets better. The May-June edition of the OWRB's newsletter, *Oklahoma Water News* (available at www.owrb.state.ok.us), details the seriousness of this natural hazard and the many impacts it could have on the state's economy and the welfare of its citizens. I encourage all Oklahomans to practice wise water conservation, especially during these drought times.



Despite the drought, Oklahoma's floodplain managers and floodplain professionals still have an important job in front of them, which is to ensure that proposed development in our communities is accomplished in a responsible manner that prevents future flood damage. This task becomes increasingly difficult, especially for county floodplain administrators who may be under political pressure to ignore local floodplain regulations during drought episodes. Unfortunately, human nature is greatly influenced by recent events and when we no longer see the flood threat, our community leaders may forget the serious nature of flood events. It pains me to say that the more frequently we experience flood events the easier it is for floodplain officials to do their jobs. Apathy is our constant enemy. My challenge to you is continue to lead the charge, do your job, and become even more resolute about intelligent floodplain development during this dry period. Now is the time to get out there and perform that much-needed channel maintenance. Access to problem creeks and streams has never been better, so roll out your equipment and restore the flood carrying capacity so the next time we experience a significant rainfall event, hopefully soon, damage will be minimal or avoided entirely.

The OFMA Board—under the primary direction of Vice Chair Lauren Gilroy, OFMA's Conference Chair—is planning an outstanding Sixteenth Annual Conference, **“Building A New Era in Floodplain Management.”** Lauren and the Board have developed a fantastic agenda that will undoubtedly produce the best Conference yet in its 16-year history. Visit www.okflood.org and download the registration form and program agenda. Please register as soon as possible. I hope to see each of you there. Thanks again for your dedication to this at times unappreciated profession, but remember the OWRB and OFMA appreciate you and the work that you do every day to make Oklahoma a safer and more enjoyable place to live.

(Continued from page 7 - CoCoRaHS)

thrive in Oklahoma. With the vast amount of weather knowledge our citizens possess, CoCoRaHS is a natural fit for the state. Oklahoma weather is the reason that programs like CoCoRaHS exists. Oklahoma thunderstorms can form and dissipate so quickly, that they may never pass over a Mesonet site or an NWS observation station. CoCoRaHS will help to fill the rainfall observations gaps across the state so that every drop will be recorded. To sign up to become a CoCoRaHS observer, go to www.cocorahs.org and click on “Join CoCoRaHS” or contact: Andrew Reader CoCoRaHS State Coordinator 100 E. Boyd Suite 1210 Norman, OK 73019 areader@mesonet.org 405-325-3230



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