



# THE IAFSM CURRENT

Illinois Association for  
Floodplain and Stormwater Management

Fall 2014 Newsletter

## Helping America Become “Rain Ready”

-Ryan Kilpatrick, Center for Neighborhood Technology

The Center for Neighborhood Technology (CNT), a Chicago-based nonprofit with expertise in water management and urban flooding, just launched a new resource to help individuals, businesses, and communities find solutions to the problem of too much or too little water. CNT’s Rain Ready initiative offers a suite of policies and practices to help residents, communities, and states plan for weather events associated with global climate change.

Anchored around the website rainready.org, Rain Ready helps Americans, and their municipal and state leaders, approach the challenges of flooding, water shortage, and/or water pollution in customized and cost-effective ways.

“Through our years of research and advocacy on water management issues, we realized that there was something of a disconnect between information and action,” said Harriet Festing, Water Program Director at CNT. “Rain Ready seeks to close that gap by making it easier for homeowners, businesses, and government leaders to create Rain Ready plans.”

Rain Ready was developed by CNT with the support of the City of Chicago. “There are many actions that residents can take to address the challenges of stormwater,” said City of Chicago Chief Sustainability Officer Karen Weigert. “Rain Ready, building off of the Chicago Sustainable Backyards program, will be a one-stop-shop of solutions that will strengthen homes and neighborhoods.”

The Rain Ready website features videos and how-to factsheets that show rain readiness in action.

“Rain Ready provides much needed training and information to help families and businesses prepare for the unexpected,” said Ed Woods, Director of Community Development for State Farm Insurance Companies. “Damage from surface water can cause severe economic loss for everyone involved. I applaud the Center for Neighborhood Technology for their hard work in helping families, towns and cities better understand water mitigation strategies.”

“The user-friendly tools and resources Rain Ready is bringing to individuals and government at all levels to improve our communities is an important addition to the discussion of effective water management policies,” said Kirk Parker, Head of the Great Lakes Territory for Farmers Insurance. “The helpful insights offered by Rain Ready can greatly improve efforts to mitigate destructive urban flooding and aid in the more effective use of our valuable water resources.”

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“America is getting warmer and wetter, and cities are beginning to recognize the need to prepare for unpredictable weather,” said Scott Bernstein, President of CNT. “And they need to do it in a way that doesn’t break the bank, for themselves or their residents. Our Rain Ready initiative builds on our integrated approach to water management and can help municipalities and property owners alike find cost-effective, scalable solutions.”

Communities are also looking to states for help. Although each differs in weather, geography, urban development, and population, states can draw from a broad set of actions to help communities protect themselves now and reduce risks in the future.

“Illinois has suffered severe flooding over the past several years and people across the state have lost possessions, property and peace of mind due to flooding. As extreme weather events become more common due to climate change, we need to focus on protecting Illinois residents from natural disasters such as flooding,” said Governor Pat Quinn. “We’ve worked hard to add green infrastructure projects to the Illinois Clean Water Initiative so that Illinois communities can better manage and prepare for stormwater issues while also protecting the environment. The Center for Neighborhood Technology’s ‘Rain Ready’ initiative continues this trend of building a more resilient Illinois by curbing flooding while providing support for residents and business-owners.”





## No More Tiny Images! FEMA Improves their Map Service Center

No more tiny images! FEMA has designed their Map Service Center, which is a major improvement in usability. Visit the new MSC at <https://msc.fema.gov/portal>. Improvements include:

- Free products – All products and services are now completely online and free of charge, reducing both costs to the public and costs to FEMA associated with processing payments, shipping physical media, and maintaining parallel systems for paying and fee-exempt customers.
- Quick and easy downloads – An enhanced map search makes it possible for the public to find and download their flood map, and any revisions or amendments to it, in a matter of seconds.
- Everything in one place – An integrated product search allows users to locate every flood hazard product available for their area of interest in just a few clicks.
- Free subscriptions – Free customized email subscriptions make it possible for floodplain managers, location officials, and others to know immediately when new information comes out for their community.
- Direct-data service – Products-as-a-service enables users to access hosted flood hazard information without ever having to navigate through the actual site, thanks to a standardized product URL format.
- Enhanced help features – Tailored help text and responses to Frequently Asked Questions quickly guide first-time and novice users of the site to the information they need.



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## From The Chair: Set To Symposium

~Loren Wobig, P.E., CFM, IDNR-OWR

**Symposium**\noun\sim-po-ze-em: a formal meeting at which experts discuss a particular topic. In ancient Greece it is *symposion* and also means “to drink together” or have a drinking party. IAFSM is holding a symposium in partnership with the ASFPM Foundation in February 2015 – the topic discussion kind, not the drinking party kind – sorry.

Out of several state chapter applicants, IAFSM has been selected by the ASFPM Foundation to host a State Flood Risk Symposium. The IAFSM symposium will be on “urban” (primarily non-riverine) flooding. The symposium is not a mini state conference. As suggested by the definition, the intent of the Illinois Flood Risk Symposium is to invite approximately 100 experts who are knowledgeable in various fields of urban flooding, both locally and nationally, to facilitate discussion on 3 or 4 aspects of urban flooding. The goal of the symposium is to formulate recommendations, priorities, and directions for improving policies and programs related to urban flooding in Illinois and the nation. The symposium will be led by experienced ASFPM Foundation facilitators. Details related to venue, agenda, invitation listings, volunteer support, and symposium registration are being developed by IAFSM leaders.

Hosting the Flood Risk Symposium in Illinois in 2015 will continue the forward momentum to address urban flooding and measures to identify and reduce flood risks highlighted in the recent Urban Flood Awareness Act (SB2966), sponsored by Senator Steans and Representative Cassidy, and passed this past May by the Illinois General Assembly. This legislation tasks the Department of Natural Resources, with support from multiple state and local agencies, with providing a report to the Illinois General Assembly by June 30, 2015 and therefore provides a direct link to Illinois lawmakers on the topics of urban flooding, green infrastructure, and jurisdictional stormwater boundary issues. Potential topics for discussion during the symposium could include identification and mapping of urban flood risk, technologies needed to assess and prevent urban flooding, proper assessment of urban flood damages, and other potential topics. The IAFSM Board of Directors believes the IAFSM Urban Flood Risk Symposium will be of great value to local officials and floodplain managers as we expand our urban flood risk awareness and discuss strategies to reduce urban flood damages.



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## Vendor and Product Information

IAFSM is providing the following list of vendors and products as information that may be useful to members. The vendors listed below all supported IAFSM by participating in our 2014 Annual Conference as vendors / exhibitors, and elected to provide their product information in this article. IAFSM thanks these vendors for their support, but this list is not an endorsement or recommendation. Please contact each vendor individually for more information.

Kuert Supply Center (South Bend, Indiana), is pleased to feature the Xeripave® Super Pervious Paver at the 2015 IAFSM Annual Conference. Xeripave is an ecological product that fits in with today's green LID initiative. It provides the aesthetic and functional value to any hardscape / storm water management project, while simultaneously working in an environmentally friendly way to prevent stormwater runoff. Please visit our booth at this year's conference or log onto: [www.xeripave.com](http://www.xeripave.com)

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## Vendors and Exhibitors Wanted for 2015 Annual IAFSM Conference

The IAFSM Annual Conference will be Thursday and Friday, March 12-13, 2015 at the Bloomington-Normal Marriott Hotel & Conference Center. (Note the change in days, from our typical Weds/Thurs to the 2015 Thurs/Fri dates!)

IAFSM invites vendors and others to exhibit at the 2015 Annual Conference. Register early to obtain extra benefits! On or before February 7, the fee for exhibitors this year is \$750. Between February 7-21, the fee is \$850. Register as an exhibitor before January 5 and receive recognition (free advertisement, really!) in the Conference Announcement, which will go out in January.

Additionally, vendors who choose to exhibit at the conference will receive a new benefit: a description of their product in the fall newsletter. The fall newsletter is published approximately six months after the spring conference, which provides vendor exposure to our membership twice each year.

To view a copy of the Call for Speakers, please visit our website at [http://www.illinoisfloods.org/15\\_conference.html](http://www.illinoisfloods.org/15_conference.html). Contact Sarah Harbaugh with questions at [iafsm@illinoisfloods.org](mailto:iafsm@illinoisfloods.org).

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## Don't be a Slacker! Call for Annual Conference Speakers – Deadline is 10/13

The IAFSM Annual Conference will be Thursday and Friday, March 12-13, 2015 at the Bloomington-Normal Marriott Hotel & Conference Center. (Note the change in days, from our typical Weds/Thurs to the 2015 Thurs/Fri dates!)

IAFSM invites speakers from municipal, public and private sectors to present information on floodplain and stormwater management topics. Once again, IAFSM intends for the 2015 Annual Conference to provide more focused/in-depth education and training in the principle committee disciplines of IAFSM including Floodplain Management, Stormwater Management, Mitigation, Wetlands, CRS, and Legislation. To that end, a portion of the 2015 Conference Breakout Sessions will be dedicated to specific core topics developed by IAFSM Technical Committees potentially based on presentation abstracts submitted by the membership. For example, the Stormwater Committee might dedicate an entire session to training or issues on a specific kind of BMP measure. Remaining Conference Breakout Sessions will still be dedicated to topics completely based on presentation abstracts submitted by the membership as part of this call for speakers.

The deadline is 5pm on Monday, October 13, which is earlier than previous deadlines. This is a firm deadline and straggling is not encouraged. To view a copy of the Call for Speakers, please visit our website at [http://www.illinoisfloods.org/15\\_conference.html](http://www.illinoisfloods.org/15_conference.html). Email abstracts or questions to Lillian Prince at [lbp.iafsm@gmail.com](mailto:lbp.iafsm@gmail.com).



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## New ISO/CRS Specialist for Illinois

ISO is pleased to announce Lou Ann Patellaro as the new ISO/CRS Specialist who will be taking over the territory vacated by Scott Cofoid's promotion. She will be handling Illinois, Wisconsin and Minnesota. Lou Ann officially began with ISO in July. Although she has been living in Florida the past many years, she has relocated to Burbank, IL, her childhood home.

Lou Ann holds a Bachelor's Degree in Urban and Regional Planning from Florida Atlantic University and an Associates in Liberal Arts from Broward College. Lou Ann also holds the Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) designation. She has further training through FEMA. She has most recently worked for Calvin Giordano & Associates in Ft. Lauderdale, in their Government Services Division. Lou Ann had a long career with the City of Dania Beach, FL in the Community Development Department.

Please welcome Lou Ann to our CRS team and she transitions into her new duties. Lou Ann can be reached at [LPatellaro@iso.com](mailto:LPatellaro@iso.com) or (708) 224-1247.

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## IAFSM Project Awards Competition

IAFSM is pleased to announce that we will be launching a Project Awards Competition in the coming months. This competition will recognize excellence in stormwater management across the state of Illinois. Entries will be accepted in the following five categories:

1. Flood Reduction
2. Water Quality and Best Management Practices
3. Stormwater Master Planning
4. Public Education and Outreach
5. Innovation

A call for entries will be forthcoming, so we encourage you to start thinking about projects you have recently designed or constructed that you may want to submit for consideration. For additional information, contact Shauna Urlacher at [surlacher@smithlasalle.com](mailto:surlacher@smithlasalle.com).



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## CEC Education & Training Opportunities

Looking for training opportunities? The following opportunities are coming up in the next few months. If you are looking for credits, be sure to review the material and confirm they meet the appropriate requirements.

### IAFSM

No IAFSM training events are planned at this time, but see our website at [www.illinoisfloods.org](http://www.illinoisfloods.org) for updates later this fall.

### Additional Training Opportunities:

- EMI provides a wide range of training opportunities and upcoming training includes Floodplain Management in Disaster Operations (E162) November 20, and January 15; Hazus-MH for Floodplain Managers (E176), November 10-13, and Managing Floodplain Development through the NFIP, (E273) March 9-12.
  - EMI courses are free for local and state government employees. Learn more at the EMI website.
  - <http://training.fema.gov/EMI/>

Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM),

**National Mitigation and Floodproofing Workshop**, October 27-30, Broomfield, CO

### Webinars/ Online:

- STARR/FEMA, [atkinsglobalna@webex.com](mailto:atkinsglobalna@webex.com) and search by title, free-registration required
  - Introduction to CRS: October 21
  - CRS Webinar Series: Developing Outreach Projects, October 22
  - CRS Webinar Series: Preparing for Verification Visit, November 18
  - CRS Webinar Series: Flood Warning and Response, November 19
  - CRS Webinar Series: Introduction to CRS, December 16
  - CRS Webinar Series: Developing a PPI, CIP, and using FloodSmart, December 17
- Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM),
  - **National Mitigation and Floodproofing Workshop**, October 27-30, Broomfield, CO
  - **Finding that Base Flood Elevation** (webinar) October 10
  - **Ethics in Floodplain Management** (webinar) October 15
  - **Intro to Social Media for Floodplain Management**, (webinar) October 23  
<http://www.floods.org/n-calendar/calendar.asp?>



## **Important Stuff We Tell You in Every Newsletter...**

### **Save the Dates! 2015 Conference on THURSDAY AND FRIDAY**

The 2015 Annual Conference will return to Bloomington-Normal and be held THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, March 12-13, 2015, at the Marriott Bloomington-Normal Hotel and Conference Center. This is a departure from our typical Wednesday and Thursday conference, so please mark your calendar and plan accordingly.

### **Wanted: Newsletter Ideas and Articles**

IAFSM members, this is YOUR newsletter! Email Jennifer Maercklein, editor, at [jmaercklein@v3co.com](mailto:jmaercklein@v3co.com) if there are topics that you'd like us to cover. You don't need to write the article - we just want your ideas! If you're gifted with a pen and would like to provide content, we welcome your written contributions as well.

### **Get Involved with IAFSM!**

IAFSM Committee Chairs welcome your help and involvement. See the list of chairs on the last page of this newsletter, or visit the committee webpage to learn more about volunteer opportunities. <http://www.illinoisfloods.org/committees.html>

### **Borrow our Water Table**

IAFSM has two Watershed Tabletop Models available for all members to check out (free of charge) and bring to Public Works Open Houses, Scout meetings, 4-H meetings, school classrooms, etc. This offers a great opportunity to educate about the dangers and impact of unplanned development and human activity in the floodplain. IAFSM keeps one in Springfield and the other in northeast Illinois. Contact Sarah at [IAFSM@illinoisfloods.org](mailto:IAFSM@illinoisfloods.org) to make arrangements.

### **Next Board Meeting**

The next IAFSM Board Meeting will be held on November 19, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. at the Village of Lisle Police Station, 5040 Lincoln Avenue (Route 53). We will be planning our conference at this important meeting. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend Board meetings. See you there!

### **Jobmart**

Visit our Jobmart at <http://www.illinoisfloods.org/jobmart.html> Jobmart is a free service to members of IAFSM. If you would like to post a position, send complete information to [IAFSM@sbcglobal.net](mailto:IAFSM@sbcglobal.net).

### **2014 - 2015 CFM Exam Schedule**

To view 2014 and 2015 exam dates and register, visit [www.illinoisfloods.org/certification.html](http://www.illinoisfloods.org/certification.html).



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Floodplain and Stormwater Management

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*Fall 2014 Newsletter*

The IAFSM Newsletter is published quarterly for members of the Illinois Association for Floodplain and Stormwater Management. Information and opinions contained herein do not necessarily reflect the views of all members. Items for publication and other editorial matters should be directed to the editor at [jmaercklein@v3co.com](mailto:jmaercklein@v3co.com).

## IAFSM OFFICERS and COMMITTEE CHAIRS

### CHAIR

Loren Wobig, P.E., CFM  
IDNR/Office of Water Resources  
[Loren.wobig@illinois.gov](mailto:Loren.wobig@illinois.gov)

### VICE CHAIR

Lillian Prince, P.E., CFM  
[LBP.iafsm@gmail.com](mailto:LBP.iafsm@gmail.com)

### CONFERENCE

Lillian Prince, P.E., CFM  
[LBP.iafsm@gmail.com](mailto:LBP.iafsm@gmail.com)

### NOMINATIONS & ELECTIONS and AWARDS

Vacant

### CERTIFICATION

Matt Wahl, CFM  
Peoria County  
[mwahl@peoriacounty.org](mailto:mwahl@peoriacounty.org)

### COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM

Mary Lou Kalsted, P.E., CFM  
[mkalsted@comcast.net](mailto:mkalsted@comcast.net)

### TREASURER

Glenn Heistand, P.E., CFM  
Illinois State Water Survey  
[heistand@illinois.edu](mailto:heistand@illinois.edu)

### SECRETARY

Erik Gil, P.E., CFM  
Christopher B. Burke Eng., Ltd.  
[egil@cbbel.com](mailto:egil@cbbel.com)

### EDUCATION OUTREACH

Diane Bouckaert, P.E., CFM  
Manhard Consulting Ltd  
[dbouckaert@manhard.com](mailto:dbouckaert@manhard.com)

### FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT

Mike Sutfin, CFM  
City of Ottawa  
[buildingandzoning@cityofottawa.org](mailto:buildingandzoning@cityofottawa.org)

### INTER-ORGANIZATIONAL

Amanda Flegel, P.E., CFM  
Illinois State Water Survey  
[aflegel@illinois.edu](mailto:aflegel@illinois.edu)

### LEGISLATIVE

Kay Whitlock, P.E., D.WRE  
Christopher B. Burke Eng., Ltd.  
[kwhitlock@cbbel.com](mailto:kwhitlock@cbbel.com)

### MITIGATION

Brian Eber, CFM  
IDNR/Office of Water Resources  
[Brian.Eber@illinois.gov](mailto:Brian.Eber@illinois.gov)

### PAST CHAIR

Michael Cothard, P.E., CFM  
Christopher B. Burke Eng., Ltd.  
[mcothard@cbbel.com](mailto:mcothard@cbbel.com)

### EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Sarah Harbaugh  
[IAFSM@illinoisfloods.org](mailto:IAFSM@illinoisfloods.org)

### NEWSLETTER

Jennifer Maercklein, P.E., CFM  
V3 Companies of Illinois  
[jmaercklein@v3co.com](mailto:jmaercklein@v3co.com)

### STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

Shauna Urlacher, P.E., CFM  
Smith LaSalle  
[surlacher@smithlasalle.com](mailto:surlacher@smithlasalle.com)

### WETLANDS

Tom Kehoe  
Christopher B. Burke Eng., Ltd.  
[tkehoe@cbbel.com](mailto:tkehoe@cbbel.com)

### YOUTH OUTREACH

Brian Chaille  
Illinois State Water Survey  
[bchaille@illinois.edu](mailto:bchaille@illinois.edu)

## ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION FOR FLOODPLAIN AND STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

35W749 Bluff Drive, St. Charles, Illinois 60175

[IAFSM@IllinoisFloods.org](mailto:IAFSM@IllinoisFloods.org) Phone: 630-443-8145 Fax: 630-443-8198

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