

THE LIGHTNING ROD

Fall 2014

The Official Newsletter of the Texas Floodplain Management Association

Volume 19, Issue 3

From the Desk of the Executive Director

Are You a Sponge or a Sprinkler?

In the August issue of the ASFPM *News and Views*, Larry Larson, P.E., CFM, Director Emeritus of ASFPM wrote an article in which he asked this very question – “Are You Sponge or a Sprinkler?” I know Larry will forgive me for plagiarizing his question, but it really struck home with me and I wanted to use it in the context of TFMA members.

In the early days, when people (locals) first came to TFMA, many were young, inexperienced and happy to have landed a job just out of school. But then, your boss comes in one day and says “Congratulations – you are now our (community/county) floodplain administrator.” Your first reaction – excitement, my boss respects my knowledge and trusts me to handle this new program. And then, panic! You start asking yourself - What the heck is a floodplain and how can I manage this important function of local government? Many like you, sought the answer by joining the Texas Floodplain Management Association. There, safe among friends and coworkers with like concerns and issues, you found a home, the TFMA family if you will. At that point, you became a “sponge!”

You started attending many of the numerous training events and seminars offered by TFMA and its partners (FEMA, TWDB, TxDOT, NWS, etc.) and if your budget permitted, you attended the Spring and Fall conferences offered by TFMA. Like the sponge you became, you soaked up so much knowledge, excelled in skills and expertise and went back home to practice our chosen profession of floodplain management. Then, you were offered a chance to gain even more professionalism and advance our profession by becoming a Nationally Accredited/Recognized Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM®) through TFMA’s CFM program. Soaking up even more knowledge in the infamous FEMA 4-day course and with some intense self-study, you braved the CFM® exam and after a little sweat and tears, you received your notice – Congratulations – you are now a CFM! Wow! But now what? Now is when you became a “Sprinkler”.

You become a sprinkler when you begin to spread your knowledge in your community, taking your local floodplain management program to a higher level. Making better and smarter decisions, you are ensuring that development in flood prone areas is safely done or even better, the floodplain is set aside for parks and open space rather than developed. You share your knowledge of the floodplain and the risks associated with flooding with your community, your neighbors and your family. TFMA’s Corporate Members also “turned on their sprinklers” by stepping up and becoming sponsors for our conferences and participating in the Spring Exhibit/Expo and Silent Auction.

Your contributions contribute greatly to the success of TFMA’s conferences and we are very appreciative of your commitment to TFMA and floodplain management in Texas.

At the Spring Conference in Irving, we experimented with utilizing a large convention center to house our conference. It was a fabulous place, but did pose a few challenges which we overcame. The most amazing thing our participants experienced was the fantastic TFMA Exhibit Hall. For the first time, our exhibit hall resembled something you would expect at large national conferences and our exhibitors responded with enthusiasm. No doubt, they will be back next year! Over 450 participants were treated to fantastic presentations and excellent workshops that offered our CFMs opportunities to become a “sponge” again and soak up those dreaded Continuing Education Credits (CEC) needed for your CFM renewal.

The Fall TFMA Technical Seminar was even more exciting, especially since we set a record for attendance – over 530 participated. One very special treat was the new look for our plenary sessions. Very professional and again, something you would expect on the national level. Lots of sponge activity at the numerous concurrent sessions and varied workshops but also some excellent “sprinkling” during the network socials when members reconnected and shared their experiences and expertise with old and new friends.

Now, before I close, let me answer the question I first posed to you – “Are You a Sponge or a Sprinkler?” Answer – You are both! God Bless the TFMA family!



Roy D. Sedwick, CFM
TFMA Executive Director

P.S. – if you would like to read Larry’s original article, click on the link below to the August Issue of ASFPM’s *News and Views*. You can find the article on page 21. While viewing the newsletter, check out the pretty lady, 4th from the left in the front row of the picture on page 9. Look familiar?

http://www.floods.org/ace-files/documentlibrary/News_Views/Aug_2014_News_Views.pdf



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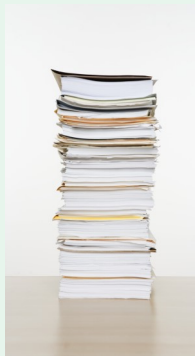
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The Lightning Rod

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TFMA1@att.net



**Deadline for
The Lightning Rod December-
Issue is November 14, 2014.**

Floodwater Under the Bridge

(Reprinted from a 1992 "The Lightning Rod" written by Roy Sedwick, CFM)

Each time I ask the question, "Are Texas Floodplain Administrators Certifiable?" A smile comes on my face. We must be slightly insane to choose Floodplain Management as our professional career. The hours are long, the pay is short and the work is stressful. But you know it is worth it all when the flood strikes and you see homes which you permitted spared damage and the countless number of lives you may have saved through an effective public awareness program.

Seriously, Floodplain Management has become a very important function of state and local government. In Texas, we are faced with more floods than just about any other state and most often, we lead the nation in annual flood related deaths. It is time to raise floodplain management to the professional level it so rightly deserves.

Your Texas Floodplain Management Association has moved to the forefront in an effort to accomplish this difficult task. During a recent conference call, the TFMA board of directors committed the association to a path of higher visibility and service to our membership. We are in the process of developing a strategic plan to incorporate new goals and objectives to take us through the 1990's. One of the primary goals will be the development of a formal training and education program coupled with a professional certification process.

For those of you who attended the 1991 TFMA Annual conference in San Angelo, you got a taste of things to come. Last year, we added a ½ day training session to our conference agenda with outstanding results. In response to demands for more training, the 1992 TFMA conference will feature a full day training session for local floodplain administrators.

Membership in the Texas Floodplain Management Association has continued to be strong despite our past lack of service. Our new direction for the 90's will be more service oriented to our membership. The Board of Directors has committed the association to several immediate actions:

1. Develop long range strategic plan.
2. Broaden scope of the Association to address other water concerns such as watershed and Stormwater management.
3. Develop formal training and education program.
4. Develop professional certification program.
5. Form strong working committees to address the issues facing FPA's.
6. Publish quarterly newspaper.
7. Conduct regional training sessions.
8. Become clearing house for technical publications and focal point for advances in field of floodplain management and hazard mitigation.
9. Develop an awards program to recognize Excellence in our Field.
10. Distribute certificates and other materials in a timely manner.
11. Increase coordination and cooperation between other professional associations and organizations.
12. Maintain TFMA State chapter status in Association of State Floodplain Managers.
13. Bring the National ASFPM Conference to Texas in 1995.
14. Increase and broaden the scope of our membership.

Currently, TFMA Membership stands at 229. With all the flooding occurring in Texas, interest should be high among the state's Floodplain Administrators. We have the opportunity to double our membership this year if everyone recognizes the potential benefits of belonging to a professional organization. If you feel you would benefit professionally from membership in TFMA, please fill out the enclosed form and return with your check as soon as possible. Remember, strength lies in numbers.

TFMA & TxDOT Training in Odessa

Three TFMA Regional Directors, Steven Nelson, Region 1, Sandra Hernandez, Region 3 and Lynn Lovell, Region 4 provided training on NFIP Requirements, Floodplain Mapping, NFIP Reform Legislation and much more in this one day workshop held in Odessa on September 11. Thirty-six attendees received up to 7 CECs for attending this all day class.

Many thanks to all who participated. Look for more training over these next Fall months ahead.



L to R: Steven Nelson, PE, CFM - Region 1, Sandra Hernandez, PE, CFM - Region 3 and Lynn Lovell, PE, CFM - Region 4



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- Stormwater Master Planning and CIP Ranking
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- Floodplain Management Assistance
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The theme of this year's workshop is "*Investing in Resiliency*".

Flooding is the nation's #1 hazard. Add to that a lot of infrastructure and development that is either at moderate or high risk of flooding. How do we mitigate against this flood risk? How do we make sure what is being developed now isn't at risk in the future.

The National Flood Mitigation and FloodProofing Workshop focuses on these questions and in the workshop you will learn tools and techniques that floodplain managers, emergency managers, property owners, and others can use to reduce flood risk. We will highlight the latest in mitigation and floodproofing techniques (elevation, acquisition wet and dry floodproofing, codes and regulations, easements, warning systems, etc.), products, success stories, funding programs and funding application processes and much more! **CFM attendees who participate in the entire workshop will receive 12 Core CECs.**

Are you a State Hazard Mitigation Officer (SHMO) staffer of a state mitigation program? You get your own day including an offering of the SHMO 101 course which will be taught by current SHMOs. Other attendees have the option to attend half-day training workshops. Finally, exhibitors will showcase the state-of-the-art in materials, services, equipment, accessories and techniques early in the week.

The early bird registration discount ends October 3rd, so register today!

For full workshop details please visit the workshop webpage:

<http://www.floods.org/index.asp?menuID=803>

Congratulations to our newest CFMs

Adrian Acosta, City of Midland
Sal Alonzo, El Paso County
Elaiza Alvarez, GGC Engineers, Inc.
Humberto Arenas, County of El Paso
Lidia Arias, El Paso County
Grisel Arizpe, El Paso Water Utilities
Melina Banielos, El Paso County
Oscar Camacho, El Paso Water Utilities
Olga Castro, City of El Paso
Gonzalo Cedillos, El Paso Water Utilities
Oscar Chavez, El Paso Water Utilities
Ross Chesak, City of El Paso
Jerry Cleveland, CenterPoint Energy, Houston
David Coffman, Freese & Nichols, Inc.
Chad Cormack, LAN, Inc.
Gisela Dagnino, El Paso Water Utilities
Darrell Edwards, CSA Design Group, El Paso
Adrian Frias, City of Odessa
Jesus Gardea, City of El Paso
Richard Gatewood, USACE, New Mexico
John Gerhart, Costello, Inc., Houston
Ramiro Gutierrez, R. Gutierrez Engineering Corporation
Clair Guzman, Freese & Nichols, Inc.
Fernando Hernandez, El Paso County
Amy Elizabeth Hiefner, Dannenbaum Engineering Corp.
Marcus Horner, SK Nelson Engineering, LLC
William Huff, Freese & Nichols, Inc.
Blake Irving, City of Conroe
Humberto Juarez, Parkhill, Smith & Cooper, El Paso
Brian King, Freese & Nichols, Inc.
Alexander Kingston, Parkhill, Smith & Cooper, Lubbock
Greg Kohnen, Harris County, Houston
Fabian Marquez, CEA Group, El Paso
John Middleton, City of Austin
Andrew Moore, Halff Associates
Noe Moya, City of El Paso
Thuan Nguyen, City of Austin
Maegan Nunley, Dannenbaum Engineering Corp.
Derrick O'Hara, Int'l. Boundary & Water Commission, El Paso
Adrian Ontiveros, CSA Design Group, El Paso
Kacey Cubine Paul, RPS Group
George Pinal, City of El Paso

Gilberto Saldana, El Paso County
Abe Salinas, LNV, Inc.
Exidio Sanchez, City of El Paso
David P. Smith, Walker Partners
Bryan Spina, LNV, Inc.
Shannon Steele, City of San Antonio
Shawn Sturhan, Harris County, Houston
Roberto Torres, Parkhill, Smith & Cooper, Lubbock
Rachael Hill Weissman, RPS Group
Andrew Weller, Pape-Dawson
Kristi Weston, City of Austin

To date, TFMA has certified 127 new CFMs. This is an amazing statistic and, one which is higher than the national average. TFMA ROCKS!!



NOT certified? Visit our website at www.tfma.org to find out more or call the TFMA Executive Office at 512-260-1366 and we'll get you started. What are you waiting for? Get CERTIFIED today.

A Big Thank you!

TFMA would like to thank Thompson & Associates for their donation toward the purchase of a Floodplain Model. For their contribution, Thompson & Associates will have their name on a bronze plaque permanently affixed to the outside of the Stormwater Model as it travels around the state.

If your company would like to make a donation toward the purchase of a model, please contact Markie Casebier, markiec@att.net or call 512-260-1366 at the TFMA office.

Steps for Adding your own CEC's to your TFMA profile:

1. Log in to your profile at www.tfma.org
2. Once logged in, click on "Edit Bio" (Under Information and Settings)
3. Scroll to the bottom of your Bio page, you will see the title "Additional Information." Here is where you will enter your CEC's.
4. Insert the amount of hours earned in the "CEC Value 2014" box (this is a number only field) – You will only be able to edit the current year.
5. Insert a short description of courses in the "CEC Courses 2014" Box. If listing more than one course, please list the hours beside each course.
Example: Floodplain Management 101 – 8 hours
TFMA Workshop A – 4 hours
6. When you are done entering your CEC courses, click on "Save Changes".
7. You should now see all of your CEC information on your profile!

Remember that you are responsible for entering your own CECs but you are still required to submit backup certificates, verification forms, etc. for what you've entered as ASFPM still requires TFMA to have "paper" copies of the backup material in your files.

If you have any questions or need assistance, contact Markie or Selina at the TFMA office at 512-260-1366 or via email at tfma1@att.net.

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Meet Region 6 Director, Joe Fernandez, CFM

What drew you to the floodplain field?

I was hired by the San Antonio River Authority Floodplain Management Department while the Bexar County FEMA DFIRM Project was ongoing. It opened a new door to my career by learning all about flooding, floodplains and management.

How long have you been working in this field?

I have been in the floodplain field for over 7 ½ years. And I still am learning more every day.

Tell us a little about your family.

I come from a family of 5. I have one of my own, the light of my life, my daughter. I had my daughter at a very young age. I raised my daughter on my own from the time she was 3 months old. I devoted all of my time to her to assure that she got the very best and especially my time. I am very proud of her. I am very fortunate to still have both of my parents too.



What is the strangest problem you have encountered as a floodplain manager?

I really can't say I just have one. I have seen many throughout my career.

What is your goal as regional director? How would you like to help TFMA grow?

There are many goals that I have outlined. My first goal is to bring as much training to my region, especially in the areas where it hasn't been. Second is to expand the number of CFM's in my region. Overall my goal at TFMA is to bring our association to national status as leaders in floodplain management and awareness.

If you could give a new floodplain manager one piece of advice, what would it be?

Strive to be the best and there is always a solution to everything.

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TFMA 2015 CFM Membership Renewals Are Upon You

Changed jobs? Have moved recently or your phone number and/or email address has changed? Haven't updated your information in a long time?

Well, that's been too long. It is that time of the year to not only renew your membership for 2015, it is also a good time to update your membership profile with any changes to you may have. Simply sign into your profile and click on the "Member Bio" and update your Information online.

If you have any questions or need assistance signing in, please contact the TFMA Executive Office at 512-260-1366 - we're here to help!

2014 TFMA Fall Technical Seminar—San Antonio

Floodplain managers from city, county, state and private sectors from around Texas gathered at the Hyatt Regency Riverwalk Hotel in San Antonio September 3 - 5 for the TFMA Fall Technical Seminar. Attendees networked, earned CECs and celebrated the family of the Floodplain profession. This conference had record attendance with over 530 registered attendees outgrowing our space but filled with adventure.

The conference started Wednesday for the Early Birds with workshops and field trips whereby attendees experienced the San Antonio Mission Reach via kayaks. On Thursday, the opening plenary session started with presentations on flood control enforcement, USACE Water Management System and attendees also heard a report from ASFPM's Dam Risk Reduction Project amongst other interesting presentations. Attendees were then treated to a hardy luncheon while they listened to an update on TFMA and heard about NFIP updates given by Tom Kustelski. In addition, attendees heard from our two corporate sponsors, Freese & Nichols and Halff Associates prior to breaking away for the popular concurrent sessions. Later that evening, attendees were treated to a Networking reception filled with plenty of eats and treats.

The conference ended on Friday with the closing Plenary Session. Many thanks to our sponsors and to you the attendee, for making this one of our best. However, don't miss out - TFMA's Spring Conference is in April in Dallas - what will you experience next?

TFMA in Pictures.....



The TFMA Floodplain Model and the North Texas Fair & Rodeo

Outreach at its best!

The 86th Annual North Texas State Fair and Rodeo was in Denton last month. The Denton County Public Works Department manned a booth for 3 days during this fair to give floodplain demonstrations using the TFMA Floodplain Model. Our theme this year was the “Turn Around, Don’t Drown” (TADD) campaign and the floodplain model was perfect for our theme. We were able to give hands-on demonstrations to hundreds of local kids (of all ages) and reinforce the Turn Around, Don’t Drown concept to children & parents who might not have otherwise gotten this message.

We made a few modifications of the model in order to make it more effective and applicable to the citizens of Denton County. Our minds went into overdrive analyzing the age range and cultural diversity of the public that have been visiting our booth each year. We understood this model could be



Left to right: Terri Crabtree, CFM, David Mollen, CFM, Gary Cook, CFM, Rosa Ramirez, Judy Hall

used for very technical information and calculations, but that wouldn’t relate to the crowd we see at the fair. We deal more with rural folks, ranchers, 4-H kids and of course the local city folks. We shopped around for some smaller cars that would be more to scale with the model than the ones that were included. After shopping at several retail stores, we finally settled on the little plastic cars from the Life Game. They were small and light and would wash down the river easily in a simulated flood.



Another modification that proved very effective was our low-water crossing. We took the ring from the middle of an ink pen and used it as a culvert. Then we attached it to a bridge made from Play-Do clay to make our “low-water crossing.” Right before the demonstration, we made a point to put a Life car on that bridge and let the children know that the person driving this car was trying to make it across the bridge. In nearly every instance, the car on the low-water crossing washed down the creek, and the kids would respond with “Whoa, the people in the car would have drowned.”

“Yes, they would have,” was always our response. Then we would hand each child a TFMA bag filled with TexAnna coloring books and other giveaways including their own TADD sticker. We took this opportunity to talk about the importance of turning

around where the water is over the road. You never know how much rain can cause a flash flood.

On several occasions, the kids would come back to our booth and bring their parents or other friends and ask us to show them the demonstration again and again. The kids really enjoyed the hands on approach of being able to pour the water in to make it rain & catch the car before it went down the storm drain as it washed off the low water crossing. (The adults also enjoyed making it rain!) We used the model’s hard case, covered for protection, for the really little kids to stand on to watch the demonstration.

Overall this was by far the best fair event in which we have ever participated and our citizen’s now have a better understanding of the TADD campaign. **CONGRATS to Denton County on reaching out to your community!**



Spring Conference 2015 Call for Abstracts



27th Annual TFMA Spring Conference Dallas, Texas April 14 – 17, 2015



Call for Abstracts

The Texas Floodplain Management Association is pleased to announce its “Call for Abstracts” for the 2015 Annual Spring Conference. The conference will be held at The Westin Park Central in Dallas. The conference begins on Tuesday, April 14 and ends on Friday, April 17.

ABSTRACTS

Abstracts will be used to develop the conference agenda including the plenary and concurrent sessions, and for workshops. Abstracts should be limited to one page (*Word format*) and include the presentation name, description, name(s) of presenter(s), and indicate how much time you would need (limit your presentation to 30 minutes please). Times allocated for plenary and concurrent session presentations typically range 30 minutes. Times allocated for workshops range from 4 hours (1/2 day) to 8 hours (full day).

Please note: For abstracts that have more than one author, indicate the name of who will actually be making the presentation and attending the conference for that purpose.

ABSTRACT SUBMITTAL DEADLINES

- ◆ **Workshops** - The deadline to submit abstracts to be considered for a workshop is **November 21, 2014**.
- ◆ **Plenary and Concurrent Sessions** - The deadline to submit abstracts to be considered for plenary or concurrent session presentations is **December 22, 2014**. Notification of the acceptance of your presentation will be sent by email on or before January 2, 2015.

WHERE TO SEND YOUR ABSTRACT

John A. Espinoza, PE, CFM
TFMA Conference Committee Chair **or**
tfmaconference@gmail.com
Phone: (210) 347-5330

Tim Raines, PE, CFM
U.S. Geological Survey
thraines@usgs.gov
(817) 263-9545, ext 201

Thank you for your interest in being a part of the TFMA 2015 Annual Spring Conference. Should you have any questions, please contact John, Tim or the TFMA Executive Office. We look forward to seeing you all in April in Dallas.



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TFMA has negotiated a special rate of \$125 for conference attendees. The block is available until March 31, 2015 or when the block is full, whichever comes first. The room block is not open yet, so keep an eye out on the TFMA website as more information becomes available and the room block is open. Once it does, the block will sell out fast.

Conference Registration opens January 2015



DALLAS 2015

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TFMA thanks all of the following companies for providing sponsorship support to the TFMA Fall Technical Seminar:

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Cost of Flooding Tool Puts Risk into Perspective

Simply telling homeowners that they are at risk for flooding often isn't enough to inspire them to purchase flood insurance to financially protect their most prized investment—their homes. The [Cost of Flooding Tool](#) available on [FloodSmart.gov](#) is a free resource to show residents the high cost of repairing a home and replacing its contents after a flood.

The average flood claim paid out by FEMA between 2008 and 2012 was more than \$42,000. And with over 20-percent of all NFIP flood claims coming from outside mapped high-risk flood zones, it is imperative to communicate the financial impact of a flood. This tool simulates different depths of flood water in a home and then calculates the estimated repair and replacement costs for standard household items and structural damage resulting from a flood.

When launching the tool, the user chooses from two home sizes and selects the depth of the flood—from 1 inch to 4 feet. The tool shows an animation of the flood and the estimated cost of total losses. Expected losses are broken down into an itemized list that includes appliances, furniture and cleaning costs. A 2-inch-deep flood in a 2,000 square foot home would cause an estimated \$21,000 in damage, while a 1-foot-deep flood in the same sized home would cause an estimated \$52,000 in damage.

At the end of the simulation, the user can enter a ZIP code, and the tool displays a list of nearby agents registered in the NFIP's free [Agent Referral Program](#). From there, users have the option either to call the agent or send the agent an email. Flood insurance is available to residents and business owners in both high and moderate- to low-risk areas. It is an important way to reduce the financial impact of flooding. In some cases, a Preferred Risk Policy can provide a low-cost option for homeowners with annual premiums starting as low as \$129 for both building and contents coverage.

The [Cost of Flooding Tool](#) is available for download through FloodSmart's [Community Resource](#) page. It can be embedded into a website easily.

FloodSmart encourages stakeholders such as floodplain managers, zoning officials, emergency management officers and others to use the Cost of Flooding tool. This tool, in addition to other [tools and resources](#) on [FloodSmart.gov](#), will assist in educating communities about flood risks and educating residents about the need to purchase policies that will help reduce the financial impact of flooding.

TFMA Wants to Honor You

Veterans Day is November 11, 2014. TFMA would like to recognize and salute all our Veterans in *The Lightning Rod*. If you have ever served in any branch of the military, please email the TFMA office at tfma1@att.net with your name, the years you served, branch in which you served and if possible, a picture of you in your military attire and finally a little bit about your years of service.

You may submit all your information to us including your picture, via email at tfma1@att.net or you can send it to the TFMA office at P.O. Box 1237, Cedar Park, TX 78630. If you send a picture to us, we'll promptly return it to you OR simply call the office so that we can provide you with instructions on how to email the picture to us. You can reach the TFMA office by calling us at 512-260-1366.

Thank you for your service and for taking the time to let us know. We are proud of each and every one of you. ***Deadline to submit: November 1st.***

An Interview with Region 4 Director, T. Lynn Lovell, PE, CFM

What drew you to the floodplain field?

My name, Lynn, is derived from early names related to “pools, water features, and lakes”, so I guess it has been my destiny to study floods and floodplains.

How long have you been working in this field?

Forty-six years. My first project was in 1968, working at the Corps of Engineers.

Tell us a little about your family.

I am married to Oleta Chisum Lovell, and we are celebrating our 50th Anniversary in 2015. We have three children and twelve grandchildren (one deceased). Our son, Ty Lovell, wife Rachel and children: Madeline, Samuel, Tomlyn and Lee (twins), and Ariel, live in Amarillo. Daughter, Lyndy and husband Connan Pinkston and three boys, Joshua, Joah, and Jonathan live in Honolulu. Lexi and her husband Dean Tubbs live in Fort Worth and have 3 children: Grace, Mia, and Caleb. All three of our kids graduated from Abilene Christian University, where Oleta received her degree. After she finished putting me through undergraduate and graduate degrees at Texas Tech, we moved to Fort Worth in 1968 and have been here ever since.

What is your goal as regional director?

When I was elected as TFMA Region 4 director I set out the goals of having “regional” TFMA meetings and possibly local TFMA chapters. In November 2009 we, along



with Than Nguyen, director of Region 10, hosted the first of eight regional (Regions 4 and 10) meetings.

Another goal was to develop a TFMA succession plan for the leadership of the organization that is still a goal. Another goal was to establish some “technical” Committees for TFMA, patterned after the ASFPM national program. This past year TFMA has established a Stormwater Committee and a Texas Floodplain Mapping Standards Committee. One critical goal I now have and need to work on is to engage and increase the floodplain administrators in Region 4 who are not active in TFMA, and are not CFMs.

If you could give a new floodplain manager one piece of advice, what would it be? Since I have not served in a public role as floodplain administrator, my advice to them comes from years of working with FPAs in small and large cities: 1) Get as much training as possible from as many sources as possible, including TFMA meetings, webinars, scheduled training opportunities, and online; 2) Attend as many TFMA sponsored meetings/events to attend technical presentations and workshops; 3) Do not be afraid to ask floodplain management questions, and use the TFMA Mentoring Program for some answers and advice; and 4) Get involved in TFMA on a task force, committee, or run for an office. That is probably more than one piece of advice.

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For more information on our flood protection services, please contact Dr. John Grounds at 713.953.522.

LJA is a full-service consulting engineering firm with offices in Houston, Austin, Galveston, Beaumont, San Antonio and The Woodlands.

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Upcoming Fall TFMA Training Schedule

Exciting Training Opportunities for TFMA in 2014! Listed below are the most current training classes and CFM opportunities. Check the TFMA calendar by [clicking here](#) or on the website for more information on all of these classes.

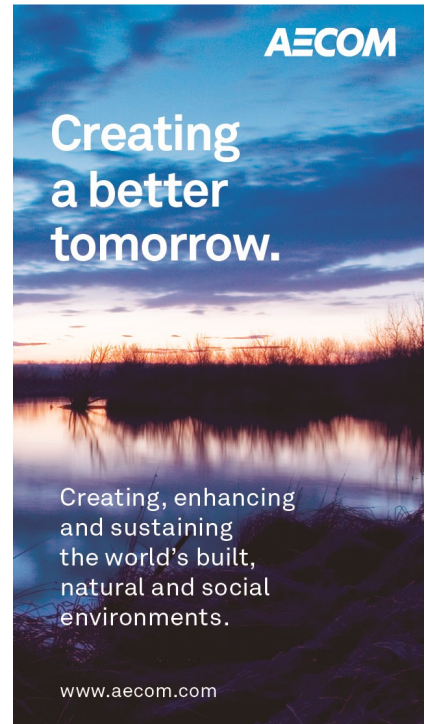
October 1, 2014 - Richardson
Floodplain Management 101 and CFM Exam
8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Halff Associates, Inc., Richardson Office

October 7, 2014 - Denton
TFMA/TWDB NFIP Refresher Course/Floodplain Mgt. Ethics
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Denton County Elections Administration

October 14 - Snyder
Local Floodplain Manager Roles & Responsibilities
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
City Council Chambers, Snyder

December 10 - Fort Worth
NFIP Refresher/Ethics in Floodplain Management
TxDOT Regional Training Center, Fort Worth
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Keep checking the website and don't miss out on earning your CECs for renewal EARLY!



Don't forget to visit the TFMA Career Center at www.tfma.org. You will be required to sign into your profile in order to access the career center. A valuable tool for Members Only!

Many Thanks to our Advertisers

TFMA thanks all the companies for advertising in *The Lightning Rod*.

Look for them throughout this issue and click on their ad to find out more about their services.

SOMETHING MISSING?

Don't see your company name? Then your company is not taking advantage of reaching over 2,000 members! Don't miss out on 2014. Advertise in the Winter issue of TFMA's *The Lightning Rod*. Call the TFMA Executive Office today at 512-260-1366 or visit the TFMA website at <http://www.tfma.org/?page=Newsletter>

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