

# The Open Channel

Winter 2013 Vol. 24 / Issue 1



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## 2012 Annual Conference Recap



Photos by David Mallory & John Pflaum

*By Shea Thomas, PE, CASFM Conference Program Chair*

Greetings CASFM members! The conference theme this year was “Respecting Water”—and that will be the last time I mention it in this article because as far as I can tell it was never referred to throughout the entire conference. You may be wondering, as I was after the conference, why didn’t the theme have something to do with relationships? That’s a great question. The answer is, because we always come up with the theme before coming up with the program for the year. So, at the risk of being accused of trying to change everything, I’m going to propose that next year we wait until after the program is determined to come up with a conference theme.



Regardless of my issues with the theme, can you tell I had a great time at the conference? (Note to self: Do not pose like your six year old son when you’re surrounded by professionals.)

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CASFM Project Award Finalists 2012

Photos by David Mallory



Canal Importation Ponds and Outfall project award team

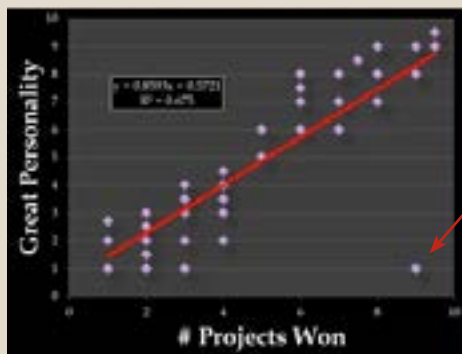


South Platte and Lower Lakewood Gulch project award team



Confluence Park Circa 1974 and 2010

I really enjoyed the featured speakers this year. John Burke's "Request for Personality" presentation was best summed up by Michael Brown: "I've never seen a Dilbert presenting to a bunch of Dilberts!" John's point that technical ability is not the only factor when it comes to winning a job, and that personality matters just as much might have been tough for some in the audience to hear. But I'm thinking if you didn't like the message, then you were probably his main target audience. Since you're (mostly) all engineers, I know this graph of John's explained his talk much better than I could ever put into words:



Do you know this guy?  
Slide prepared by John Burke.

Before the conference, our keynote speaker Michael Brown came up to me and asked if he had permission to talk about our group's mission statement. My answer: "Um, we have a mission statement?" I'm not sure that was the best first impression I could have made. I, however, was impressed with his keynote speech and the way he was able to make us, as an organization, question ourselves a bit. Why don't we have a government affairs committee? What is our responsibility for reaching out to the public? He was able to continue John's thesis of building relationships, providing advice like "In your personal and professional lives you will face a crisis, and your relationships will get you through it".

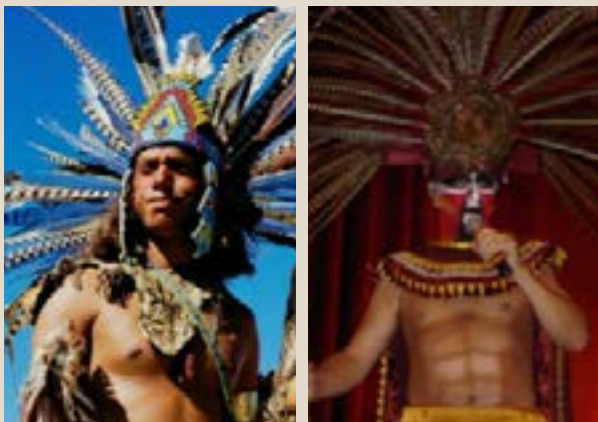
The technical presentations were some of the best I've seen at a CASFM conference. A huge thanks to all of you who took the time out of your busy schedules to prepare and share your experiences with the rest of the group. I had multiple people tell me something similar to the following. They used to go to the conference every year but hadn't attended in the recent past because they felt they weren't getting anything out of it. But they came this year and were really impressed with the quality of the technical presentations. Nice work everyone! We could not have this conference without the membership contributing these vital presentations. Keep that in mind—Call for Presentations for the 2013 conference is right around the corner! (Assuming those Mayans were wrong, of course).

I guess if I would have changed the theme to "Relationships", I would have had to also add a conference tag line: "Make S@!# Happen!" Jeff Shoemaker left us with that gem after displaying how he's been making...stuff happen over the last 40 years in Denver. Following in the footsteps of his father, Jeff and the Foundation have been instrumental in reclaiming the South Platte River and Cherry Creek through metro Denver and transforming these degraded resources from dumping grounds into incredible amenities appreciated by residents and visitors alike.

There were four projects up for the grand award this year, which is so coincidental because there were also four projects submitted! (Fair warning to all—

this number will most likely be held to 3 in future conferences). Judging by the title I never would have guessed the Canal Importation Ponds and Outfall Design project had a chance of winning, but that's why we have the presentations—to showcase beautiful and unique characteristics of a flood control, water quality and habitat-providing construction project. Nicely done Ayres Associates, Anderson Consulting Engineers and City of Fort Collins! Honorable mention goes out to the Lykins Gulch Stream Restoration Project team, the South Platte River and Lower Lakewood Gulch Improvement Project team and the West Corridor Fastracks Project team.

I guess if I were going to change the theme and add a tag line, I'd also have to include a conference mascot. And yes, that mascot would have makeup, a killer six pack and a couple turkeys sitting on its head. The World's Oldest Living Aztec made a rare appearance at the awards dinner on Thursday night, sharing some of the world's oldest jokes. Strange how hundreds of years haven't made them any funnier, isn't it? But thanks to the WOLA, I am able to pitch this public service announcement: Remember kids, eat your vegetables and get plenty of exercise—time is not your friend:



*Aztec Warrior Circa 1518    Aztec Warrior 2012*

An unusual thing that happened at the awards dinner this year was the announcement of a new CASFM scholarship funded by a generous CASFM member that wishes to remain anonymous. Thanks to this generous person, a scholarship in the amount of \$4,000 will be made available every year to a child of a CASFM member. What an amazing way to give back to an organization that, according to the donor, has been instrumental in his/her life. Another unusual matter at the conference this year was an effort by ICON Engineering and the Colorado Department of Emergency Management to solicit donations to support expansion of the CoCoRaHS rain gauge network in the recent wildfire burn areas. Just during the two days of the conference, CASFM members donated \$3,080!

The entertainment this year (other than the WOLA, of course), was simply

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*Photos by David Mallory*



*West Corridor Fastracks project award team*



*Lykins Gulch Stream Restoration project award team*



*Morgan McDermott and David Bennetts present the \$20,000 CASFM Family Scholarship from an anonymous donor*

a night of hanging out at The Tugboat, a local pub, with a local band playing in the background. Thanks to the band, the foosball and pool tables, and the assortment of inexpensive beer on tap, a good time was had by all. I did hear a couple complaints about the noise level, but considering it's a bar with a live band I'm not sure there was much that could have been changed. Perhaps next year we'll forego the band and provide more drink tickets instead. We're always open to suggestions!

Finally, I can't talk about the conference without thanking the 24 sponsors and vendors, with a special thanks to our platinum sponsor ICON Engineering. Without these folks, our "networking" hours would be much less...social. And I can't even imagine what we'd be eating for lunch!

I hope to see you all again next year—same place, two weeks earlier!



*One of many vendor booths at the Conference located in the hallways between presentation rooms*



*Dusty Robinson of Ayres Associates presenting at the 2012 Conference.*



*David Bennetts is not intimidated by the world's oldest living Aztec.*



*Jaclyn Michaelsen and Brian Varrella share a laugh after the Thursday night awards dinner*



*Photos by David Mallory*

## A Word From the Chair

# Greetings CASFM Members,



Let me begin by wishing you all a Happy New Year! It's hard to believe another year has come and gone, but it has. I would like to start by acknowledging the outgoing officers and regional representatives for their service to CASFM in the last few years. Deb Ohlinger is our outgoing Treasurer, and has served CASFM for two years in that capacity. We also had changes in three Regional Representative Positions. The outgoing Regional Representatives are Betsy Suerth for the Northwest Region, Robert Krehbiel for the Metro Region, and Michael Augenstein for the Southeast Region. Many thanks to all of you for your service to CASFM; this organization runs on folks like you willing to give of your time.

Before we move ahead to 2013, I would like to take a brief look back at our progress this past year. In my last newsletter article, I discussed a few goals that we had set for CASFM in 2012 and I would like to update you on our progress to date. Probably the most visible place to start is with our new logo. This wasn't a goal we set initially, but something that came up during the year. The old logo had served us well for over 25 years, but it was definitely time for an update. Janae Newman with Olsson Associates developed a number of options for us to consider. Based on input received at several general membership meetings, the final logo was decided upon. I would like to thank Janae for helping us in the development our new logo, it looks great!

One goal we had for 2012 was to expand training opportunities for CASFM members outside of the annual conference. Feedback received indicated it was difficult for some members to attend the training opportunities and earn Continuing Educational Credits (CECs) needed to maintain their Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) credentials. In an effort to address this issue, CASFM provided the opportunity to take the CFM exam outside of the conference. Last May,

the CFM review class and exam were offered at the Urban Drainage and Flood Control District (UDFCD) office, a central Denver location. Fifteen folks took the review class and thirteen took the exam, most of them CASFM members. Based on the positive comments received, we are considering providing the exam outside of the conference in 2013. A possible option is to hold the class/exam on the West Slope, once a final location has been determined, we will disseminate the information.

In addition to providing a second CFM in 2012, we have worked on providing several other ways to get your CECs outside of the annual conference; including, having existing conferences and field trips certified by the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFP) for CECs. The UDFCD annual conference has been certified by ASFP for six CECs. Over three hundred attend this seminar each year, many of them CASFM members, allowing them to earn credits at a conference they already attend. CASFM's Annual Water Quality Field Trip has been certified for four CECs and we have implemented a quarterly Lunch-n-Learn training opportunity in the Denver area good for one CEC. As additional training opportunities are developed in the coming year, they will be announced via our email notification system and posted to the website.

As we look forward into the New Year, we have set a few new goals. One long-standing goal was to obtain a 501(c)(3) designation to make CASFM a public charity. I am pleased to announce that we were notified in January 2013 that we received this designation from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS)! This will be retroactively effective from September 15, 2011; the date of our original application. Brian Murphy, our current Treasurer, will be working with an accountant to review our books back to September 2011 to see if we can realize

any savings from past events. This is an important step for our new Family Scholarship, and all contributions to the organization point forward can be donated tax free!

Several other goals have been planned for the coming year. We are in the process of developing position guidelines as well as a handbook for CASFM Officers, Committee Chairs, and Regional Representatives. This will help provide a starting place and outline some basic expectations for new officers and regional representatives. In addition, we would like to evaluate our committee structures, including responsibilities and goals. Some committees are very active, and some are less active. It's worth a discussion to make sure we are serving the needs of the membership in the best way possible. We would also like to convert all of our current and historic records into electronic form and store them in a central location. They currently reside in several locations and some are stored in boxes under

people's desks. This conversion will not only help us protect our records but also make the information more accessible to the general membership.

One other item of note for the coming year is CASFM has been asked to assist in planning AS-FPM's Arid Regions Conference. This conference will be held in Scottsdale, Arizona from October 15th – October 18th, 2013. This is a great conference that focuses on issues and concerns for our region. In addition, we have our annual CASFM Conference to look forward to September 10th – 13th, in Steamboat Springs, CO. Based on the success of last year's conference, I know we are all looking forward to the next one!

All of the items outlined for the coming year will be discussed at our General Membership Meetings held every other month. In an effort to make them more accessible to all, a conference call option for most, if not all, of the meetings will be made available. If you are not able to attend a meeting in per-

son, please call-in to participate. Details will be sent out via email and posted to the website prior to each meeting and will include conference call instructions. Our next General Membership meeting takes place on March 14, 2013 at the CH2M Hill office. I would encourage everyone to get involved in CASFM; it's a great way to network with your peers.

I would like to offer a final note of thanks to the newsletter editor, Brian Varrella, our newsletter creative design artist, Emmett Jordan of Jordan Designs, and all those who contributed to this issue. Finding time to get articles written and put into a newsletter during this busy time of year takes real commitment.

Thanks to all of you for your efforts.



Sincerely,

*David Bennetto*  
**CASFM Chair**



*Nature's water storage at Copper Mountain, photo by Brian Varrella*



### Community Rating System Committee Report

*By Monica Bortolini, PE, CFM*

The CASFM Community Rating System (CRS) Committee is currently coordinating with numerous agencies to determine the best way to publicly use dam break inundation maps developed for Emergency Action Plans (EAPs). EAPs provide pertinent dam information and include the protocol to follow during a dam failure scenario. The CRS Committee is coordinating with the Colorado Office of the

State Engineer, representatives of federal agencies, the Insurance Services Office (ISO) and other members of the CRS community in order to determine if inundation maps can be shared to notify at-risk populations within the inundation area. Notification of this risk is a crucial part of the new public outreach criteria contained in the "soon to be adopted" updated Coordinator's Manual for the FEMA National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) CRS.

Currently, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) specifically defines both EAPs and the inundation maps as sensitive but unclassified For Official Use Only (FOUO) information. By definition, FOUO information cannot be shared with the general public. Ed Krisor, Attorney at Law on behalf of Southeast Metro Stormwater Authority (SEMSWA) and the Urban Drainage and Flood Control District (UDFCD), is coordinating with David Gutierrez, Chief of the Division of Safety of Dams for the State of California, on this apparent conflict within DHS Departments. Mr. Gutierrez is meeting separately with both DHS and the National Dam Safety Review Board to set up a committee to write a report that outlines the advantages and disadvantages of sharing specific information about dams with the public. Mr. Gutierrez will be looking for members for the committee with all points of view. The second phase of Mr. Gutierrez's plan to address this issue will be to develop a policy regarding what can and cannot be shared with the public based upon the first report. He anticipates that a committee will be formed and be active during the Spring of 2013. The CASFM CRS Committee will continue to support and track these efforts so that CASFM members and Colorado's CRS communities can understand and comply with the resulting requirements of Department of Homeland Security (DHS), other federal agencies and the Colorado Office of the State Engineer.



### Floodplain Committee Report

*By Kallie Bauer, PE, CFM*

The Floodplain Committee offered the Certified Floodplain Manager refresher course and exam two times this year. It was offered once in the Spring in the Metro Region and again in September at the 2012 CASFM Annual Conference in Steamboat Springs. Both review courses were well received and the pass rate was 88%; well above the national average. We have discussed offering the refresher course

and the exam at other locations around the state in years to come. Please let the Floodplain Committee know if that would be of interest to you.

Floodplain Committee members also started a social media exploratory subcommittee to investigate the utility of mixed media for CASFM members. The subcommittee convened in August 2012 with 3 primary goals, including; (1), to utilize membership expertise to reach out to our public in a way that is relevant and compelling, (2), to create further alignment between ASFPM committee efforts and CASFM committee efforts, and (3), to develop an action plan with Board and membership input in 2013. Since the exploratory effort was announced at the 2012 CASFM Annual Conference, the Floodplain Committee has created a YouTube site discoverable as "CASFM Colorado" with clips from presentations at our conference. We also have a LinkedIn group with 149 members representing more than 20% of our total CASFM membership. Join us on LinkedIn through the link on the CASFM website, and look for new postings, trainings, resources and activity from this subcommittee in 2013.

If you have any suggestions on topics you would like to see the Floodplain Committee address, please contact me at [kallie.bauer@mbakercorp.com](mailto:kallie.bauer@mbakercorp.com).



## Membership Committee Report

By Kevin Gingery, PE, CFM

CASFM Membership at the end of 2012 included 680 active members across a diverse field of professionals in the public and private sector. The 2013 Membership Form is currently posted on the CASFM website ([www.casfm.org](http://www.casfm.org)) under the "Membership Form" tab.

The membership document can be filled out on-screen and e-mailed anytime this calendar year or hard copy completed and mailed. Any questions, comments, suggestions, or updates can be directed to me at [kevin.gingery@cityofloveland.org](mailto:kevin.gingery@cityofloveland.org)



## Outreach Committee

By Ken Cecil, PE, CFM

Outreach Committee activity has been relatively quiet during the last eight months of 2012. I am looking forward to reversing that trend in 2013. During the first quarter of 2012, we contacted the Colorado Municipal League (CML) executive leadership to discuss various strategies for promoting CASFM's message and expanding membership. CML was unfortunately unresponsive and we elected not to present at the 2012 Annual CML Conference. This activity was an event our Committee staffed at CMP the previous two years. The Outreach Committee will continue to track CML members for future opportunities.

We will diversify our Committee outreach efforts in 2013 to introduce CASFM to those who are not aware of our organization's beneficial mission. If you know of individuals or communities that are looking for more information about CASFM, please have them contact me at [kcecil@j3engineering.net](mailto:kcecil@j3engineering.net) and I will be happy to provide additional information or make presentations as necessary.





## Scholarship Committee Report

By Morgan McDermott, PE, CFM

The request for scholarship applications met with great success this past Fall. The CASFM Scholarship Committee has recently awarded the 2012-2013 CASFM/UWRI Scholarship and the CASFM- Ben Urbonas Scholarship. Each scholarship awards \$2,500 to the selected student for the following school year.

In 2012 we had six applicants for the CASFM/ UWRI scholarship, which is awarded to an undergraduate student in the field of Civil Engineering. After reading through the essays and interviewing the top two candidates, the committee awarded the scholarship to Jack Danneberg, a Civil Engineering student at Colorado State University.

We interviewed two, well-qualified applicants for the CASFM-Ben Urbonas Scholarship, which is awarded to a graduate-level student studying in a field related to the goals of CASFM. The committee decided to award the scholarship to Henok (Henny) Debesu who is obtaining his Masters of Science in Civil Engineering at the University of Colorado- Denver while working at Muller Engineering. As is custom, Henny was invited to attend the 2013 CASFM Annual Conference in September. He will take full advantage of the opportunity to introduce himself to the membership and present his graduate study focus at our conference in Steamboat Springs.

In addition to the two annual scholarships that CASFM awards, a third scholarship will be awarded in 2013. We are pleased to introduce the CASFM Family Scholarship. An anonymous member of the organization donated \$20,000 to fund a \$4,000 annual scholarship for a period of 5 years. It is the member's vision to create an endowment fund that could potentially support the scholarship beyond the initial five year period. This scholarship is intended for children of CASFM members, so the Committee encourages members to keep an eye out for future announcements regarding the CASFM Family Scholarship.

To volunteer with the Scholarship Committee, or to receive information on scholarships offered by CASFM, please contact me at [mmcdermott@iconeng.com](mailto:mmcdermott@iconeng.com).



## Stormwater Quality Committee Report

Holly Piza, PE

The CASFM Annual Stormwater Quality Field Trip this past June 2012 included a tour of several constructed wetland ponds in Denver and Loveland. This allowed attendees from the Metro Region and Northeast Region to join the group. The bus from Denver to Loveland was full with approximately 50 attendees. Stops included Barnum Park, High Plains Environmental Center, Wernimont Ponds, as well as smaller installations in Loveland. The stop at the High Plains Environmental Center included a visit to their native plant and wetland propagation facility. For more information, you can obtain the full agenda as well as detailed information on the sites at the 2012 Stormwater Quality Field Trip Page at [http://www.casfm.org/stormwater\\_committee/2012\\_Field\\_Trip/2012\\_field\\_trip.htm](http://www.casfm.org/stormwater_committee/2012_Field_Trip/2012_field_trip.htm).

Save the date for the next field trip; Wednesday, June 12, 2013. The theme for the Stormwater Quality field trip in 2013 will be filtration BMPs. We are currently looking for sites to include. If you worked on or know of a rain garden or sand filter that might provide a meaningful stop on the 2013 tour please contact me at [hpiza@udfcd.org](mailto:hpiza@udfcd.org).



High Park Fire as seen from south Fort Collins, June 2012. Photo by Brian Varrella



## Training Committee Report

By Chris Carlson, PE, CFM

The CASFM Training Committee works to help facilitate training opportunities for the membership. The benefits of continuing education and training are certainly significant. It becomes even more important for the many Certified Floodplain Managers (CFMs) within the organization who are required to receive ongoing training. We shifted gears in 2011 to begin focusing on short, inexpensive workshops

while simultaneously helping to promote the more in depth training courses provided by the Urban Watersheds Research Institute (UWRI). UWRI's course schedule can be found at [www.urbanwatersheds.org](http://www.urbanwatersheds.org).

One of the new approaches we are testing this year includes the quarterly Lunch-n-Learns hosted at the Urban Drainage and Flood Control District. The sessions cost \$10 for CASFM members and \$30 for non-members and included lunch—an incredible value! Here's a short summary of the sessions already held in 2012:

- » Submittal Guidelines for Digital Letters of Map Change (DLOMC). David Mallory and Terry Fead (UDFCD) provided this education opportunity about digital submittals, their benefits, and procedures.
- » UD-Inlet. Ken MacKenzie and Holly Piza from UDFCD presented the newly updated inlet design spreadsheet, UD-Inlet. The presentation provided a hands-on overview of the freeware and its use to analyze and design stormwater inlets.
- » The Engineer's Key Role in Clean Water Act Section 404 Compliance. Mary Powell of ERO presented on this very well received topic. The training focused on preparing for an agency pre-application meeting, developing alternatives, identifying the "least environmentally damaging practicable alternative," preparing supporting materials for a Section 404 submittal, and others.
- » Engineering for Fish – Fish Passage. This session is a new one that was held on January 16, 2013, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Doug Laiho and Ashley Ficke of GEI Consultants provided this unique training. They covered both the engineering and biological elements of configuring physical facilities to assist fish movement. Through the use of case studies, they discussed the swimming characteristics of target fish, configuring a structure to optimize fish passage, and exploring the unique characteristics of shallow open channel flow.

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In addition to the Lunch-n-Learns, we are currently coordinating with Colorado State University (CSU) to provide a Barstool Series training and presentation on their recent research evaluating levee embankment overtopping from ocean storm surges. As part of their research, CSU faculty designed and built the nation's only wave simulator at the Engineering Research Center and Hydraulics Lab. It is fascinating research with some surprising results! Stay tuned for more information in the near future and check the CASFM Northeast Region report for further details and a link to a YouTube video of this research.

Please feel free to contact me at [Chris.Carlson@cityofloveland.org](mailto:Chris.Carlson@cityofloveland.org) if you have any input or questions about these or other training opportunities, or to collaborate on a CASFM training in 2013.



## Website Committee Report

By Stuart Gardner, PE

Most CASFM members receive regular association e-mails, but there are still a few that do not. There are several possible reasons for this: incorrect e-mail addresses and spam filters are common obstructions. The easiest way to correct a faulty e-mail address is to check the address we have on file for you (search for yourself at [casfm.org](http://casfm.org)), and if it's bad, just send the correct address to our Membership Chair, Kevin Gingery. His e-mail is on the website as well. Correcting your spam filters to allow e-mails through can be more difficult. Sometimes you can take care of it yourself, but often you will need the help of your technology department or helpdesk. The home page at [casfm.org](http://casfm.org) contains a link at the bottom that will take you to a page with CASFM e-mail archives. That page has a link with directions that can help you set your spam filters that should let e-mails get through.

This is really important, because e-mail is the primary way CASFM communicates with its members. If you're not receiving association e-mails, you may be missing out on valuable networking opportunities, classes, field trips and other things that may prove important to you. With just a little bit of effort you can keep yourself in the loop.

Also—keep checking the website. Important events and detailed information are provided all the time, plus, we're getting more Job Postings as well.

## Metro Region

By Robert Krehbiel, PE and Danny Elsner, PE, CFM, CPSWQ



Krehbiel

The CASFM Metro Region splurged and held five socials in 2012. We had great participation and rotated to different locations around the region. These socials have been popular and provide an excellent networking opportunity to members.

Here is a summary of 2012 Metro Region activities:

» **January 12, 2012:** Dr. James Guo prepared a fun and fascinating presentation on Ancient Water Management in China. The social was held at the Empress Seafood Restaurant in Denver. 10 different dishes of fabulous food were provided and our social appetizers became a full dinner for everyone...and we stayed on budget!

- » **March 1, 2012:** Saeed Farahmandi and Bruce Uhernik, with the City & County of Denver hold the new record for a social attendance at over 65 members! The presentation showcased Impacts from the July 7, 2011 Rainstorm and described people's responses to the flooding. The social was held at Chad's Restaurant in Lakewood.
- » **May 15, 2012:** Troy Thompson of ERC presented on the South Platte River Habitat

Restoration efforts downstream of Chatfield dam at Champps in Littleton. The restoration will be focused on trout habitat and ecological enhancement techniques to protect the natural characteristics of the park corridor.

- » **September 5, 2012:** Dave Bennetts and Barb Chongtoua, Urban Drainage and Flood Control District, along with Kent Barringer, Terry Martin and Daniel Lowen of ICON Engineering presented Babi Yar Park Drainageway Improvement Project in southeast Denver. Denver's Babi Yar Park is a living memorial to the thousands of Jewish citizens murdered between 1941 and 1943 at the Babi Yar ravine on the outskirts of Kiev in Eastern Europe. The site is a place for memorial gatherings, walking, biking, educational tours and quiet remembrance. The field visit included a tour of the uniquely designed drainageway project that integrates the memorial. Approximately 50 people attended both the field trip and social event afterward at the Summit Steakhouse.



Photo by Paul Brokering

- » **November 7, 2012:** Craig Coronato from Wenk Associates, Inc., was supported by McLaughlin Whitewater Design Group to discuss the Confluence Park improvements in downtown Denver. The current master planning effort includes a bike network, concert venue, picnic and playground opportunities, and premier kayaking course along the South Platte River. The presentation and social was at the Fado Irish Pub just in the shadows of Coors Field. About 30 people attended the social.
- » **Upcoming events:** A social will be held February 5, 2013 at the Irish Snug in Denver. Chris Sturm of the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) will present an overview of their agency's Watershed Restoration Program. There will be three more local socials planned for the year. We are also looking at a couple of joint social opportunities along the Front Range with the Northeast and South-east Regions.

We always welcome new speakers! (This is no joke!) If you have a topic of interest to the group, we would appreciate a presentation at a Metro social. Contact Danny Elsner to arrange a social at [delsner@sehinc.com](mailto:delsner@sehinc.com).

Respecting water at Copper Mountain, photo by Brian Varella.

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Photo by Brian Varrella

### Northeast Region Report

By Mark Kempton, PE, CFM



A Northeast Region social will be held February 6, 2013 in the Old Town Fort Collins area. A presentation will precede the social, and the topic will be Colorado State University's (CSU's) unique testing of wave overtopping of levees for the Army Corps of Engineers. The presentation by Dr. Chris Thornton, Director of the CSU Engineering Research Center (ERC) will share CSU's wave simulation research for large flood events and hurricanes and how they impact levees similar to those damaged by Hurricane Katrina in 2005 near New Orleans, LA. A brief YouTube video of CSU's research can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=my91PUMr6Og>. A separate tour of the ERC is also planned for Spring 2013.

### Northwest Region Report

By Betsy Suerth, CFM

The CASFM Northwest Region sponsored the Leach Creek Flood Control Dam Construction tour. On September 14, 2012, nineteen people gathered at the City of Grand Junction (the City) for a tour of the Leach Creek Flood Control Dam while it was under construction. Bret Guillory from the City hosted the tour and gave an informative overview of the project and an in-depth tour of the site and its challenges and successes.



The project is being accomplished through a partnership between the City, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Grand Junction Regional Airport Authority and the Colorado Army National Guard (the Guard) serving as the construction contractor. The role of the Guard has posed unique challenges for the City as the project is viewed as a training opportunity for the Guard.



### Southeast Region Report

By Keith Curtis, PE, CFM

A southeast Region social is being planned for the spring of 2013. Location is still up in the air but Phantom Canyon and Bristol Brewing Company have been mentioned. A presentation will precede the social. Potential presentation topics include Hayman fire restoration efforts in the area west of Colorado Creek. A separate joint field trip to

the Hayman site to be hosted by Metro and SE is also in the works.

We anxiously await the preliminary Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRMs) for El Paso County which are due out for review in September of 2013. We are also currently developing a public access web tool for citizens to be able to view their parcel and structure location with a floodplain overlay based on our GIS digitized floodplain layers.



*Cutthroat Trout on the Yampa River near Steamboat Springs.*

For a complete list of CASFM events, please visit the calendar on our website at <http://www.casfm.org>.

Other 2013 events that may be of interest to CASFM members include the following:

**American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)  
Environmental & Water Resources Institute  
(EWRI): 2013 Water Congress**

Cincinnati, OH

May 19-23

<http://content.asce.org/conferences/ewri2013/index.html>

**Association of State Floodplain Managers  
(ASFPM): 2013 National Conference**

Hartford, CT

June 9-14, 2013

<http://floods.org/index.asp?menuID=223&firstlevelmenuID=181&siteID=1>

**Natural Hazard Mitigation Association  
(NHMA): 2013 International Hazard Mitigation Practitioners Symposium**

Broomfield, CO

July 16-17

[http://nhma.info/uploads/news/Save\\_the\\_Date\\_notice.pdf](http://nhma.info/uploads/news/Save_the_Date_notice.pdf)

**Colorado Association of State Floodplain Managers (CASFM): 2013 Annual Conference**

Steamboat Springs, CO

September 10-13, 2013

[http://www.casfm.org/annual\\_conference/2013/annual\\_conf.htm](http://www.casfm.org/annual_conference/2013/annual_conf.htm)

**American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)  
143rd Annual Civil Engineering Conference**

Charlotte, NC

October 10-12, 2013

<http://www.asce.org/Conferences/ASCE-143rd-Annual-Civil-Engineering-Conference/>

**Association of State Floodplain Managers  
(ASFPM): 13th Triennial ASFPM Arid Regions Conference**

Scottsdale, AZ

October 15-18, 2013

<http://www.azfma.org>



# The Open Channel

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I would like to thank those who contributed to this edition of Open Channel. Please send any newsletter comments and suggestions to [BVarrella@fcgov.com](mailto:BVarrella@fcgov.com).

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