

The Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) Foundation serves as the catalyst for ASFPM, its chapters and members to advance projects, education and policy initiatives that promote reduced flood risk and resilient communities.

In 2023, the ASFPM Foundation notched its second consecutive year of a steady recovery from the challenges of the COVID pandemic. If 2022 was our reset year, 2023 was a time to reaffirm and expand the Foundation's commitment to creating a resilient future and supporting a new generation of floodplain management professionals who will help chart the course.

Together with ASFPM, the Foundation promotes robust floodplain and flood risk management policies; educates stakeholders about the growing challenges of more extreme flooding and the need for creative solutions; and invests in young leaders who will strengthen our profession and guide the future of flood risk management.

The dangers of climate disasters, including flooding, have never been greater: according to NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information, there were 28 weather and climate disasters in 2023, breaking the previous record of 22 in 2020. The \$92.9 billion price tag is likely to rise by several billion dollars when the mid-December 2023 storm and flooding event affecting states from Maine to Florida is factored in.

Our 2023 Annual Report highlights the Foundation's multi-pronged approach to furthering its mission *"To advance initiatives and projects that promote reduced flood risks and resilient communities."*

The Foundation's accomplishments are made possible by the generosity of individuals, ASFPM State Chapters, and companies that support us not only financially, but also with their time and talent. We are both touched and motivated by your support; it inspires us to do better and to do more.

Supporting the Education of Future Flood Risk Management Professionals



*Kacie Malone
2023-2025 FLS
Scholarship Recipient*

New Future Leaders Scholarship

In 2023, the Foundation took the exciting step of awarding a second Future Leaders Scholarship to help a student pursue her dream of a career in flood risk management.

At the National Conference in Raleigh, NC, in May, the Foundation announced its 2023-2025 FLS recipient, **Kacie Malone**, a junior environmental geoscience major at the University of Minnesota in the Twin Cities. Ms. Malone joined second year FLS recipient **Esme Nelson**, a senior, civil engineering major at Gonzaga University in Washington state.

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To help promote Giving Tuesday 2023, both women recorded inspirational videos about how the scholarship has changed their lives. Both said the FLS has opened academic and career doors through mentoring and networking opportunities and of course gave them the chance to attend the Raleigh conference.

Following her graduation from Gonzaga in May 2024, Ms. Nelson shared with the Foundation that she will join the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Fellows Program, Hydraulics Track, in Walla, Walla, WA. The Scholarship Committee and other Foundation leaders were inspired to learn Ms. Nelson will begin her career in public service and know her future is bright.



Following her graduation from Gonzaga University in May 2024, Ms. Nelson will join the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Fellows Program in Walla Walla, WA.

Student Paper Competition

In 2023, the Annual Student Paper Competition brought top tier college student finalists for a 13th year to the ASFPM National Conference in Raleigh. Started by the ASFPM Foundation in 2011, the Student Paper Competition engages the next generation of leaders in floodplain and stormwater management. Three finalists presented their original research and unique solutions and answered questions from the judges and audience members.

Emma Zehner of Yale University won first place for her paper, "Paying for Flood Mitigation at Industrial Sites: Review of Federal Funding and Local Solutions." Ms. Zehner's winning entry earned her a \$1,000 cash prize.

Rohan Singh Wilkho of Texas A&M took second place and a \$500 cash prize for his paper, "A GIS Tool for Assessing Community Susceptibility to Flash Flooding."

Third place plus a \$250 cash prize was awarded to **Hector Leopoldo Venegas Quinones** of the University of Arizona for his paper, "Creating Global Flow Maps Using Machine Learning and Free Remote Sensing Data: A Novel Approach and Application in Unmapped Areas."



Winners of ASFPM Foundation's 2023 Student Paper Competition
L-R: Rohan Singh Wilkho (2nd place), Emma Zehner (1st place), Hector Leopoldo Venegas Quinones (3rd place)

Supporting the Education of Future Flood Risk Management Professionals

RISE: Resilience. Innovation. Sustainability. Environment.

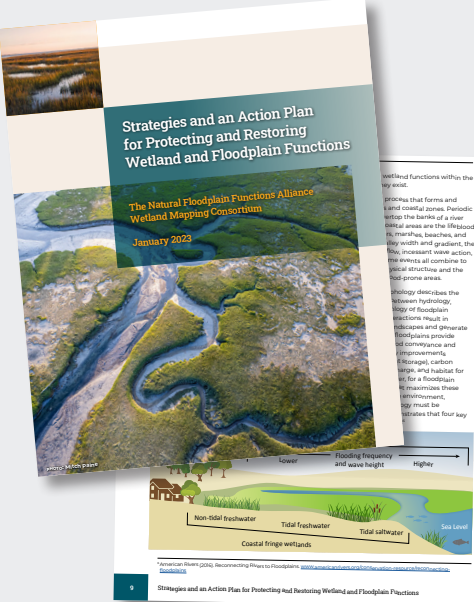
In 2023, the ASFPM Foundation continued its partnership with Earth Force to inspire future leaders and promote community resilience through support of the RISE Challenge. The RISE Challenge is part classroom learning, part competition, and part summit, focused on natural hazards and student-led learning. It engages students in the exploration of their communities to determine where they are vulnerable to natural disasters and tasks them with developing their own ideas for making their community more resilient. Through this initiative, we are developing engaged citizens by building their resilience toolbox when they are still young.

In a nutshell, the RISE Challenge creates a generation of citizens with the knowledge, skills, and motivation to improve community resilience to natural disasters. Open to students in grades 5-10, the RISE Challenge has engaged students in Colorado, Illinois, and Montana who work with educators and community members to address problems and develop solutions that will make their communities stronger, safer, and more prepared to deal with those hazards.

The teams of finalists presented their action story to judges at the RISE Summit. The ASFPM Foundation contributed \$15,000 toward the student team awards. The Foundation looks forward to continuing this partnership and expanding it to include support from more ASFPM State Chapters in addition to Illinois.

If any state chapters are interested in learning more, please contact Leib Kaminsky at development@earthforce.org.

For more information related to the RISE Challenge go to: asfpmfoundation.org/scholarships/rise-challenge-k-12



Restoring the Natural Resources and Function of Floodplains

The Natural Floodplain Functions Alliance (NFFA) and the Wetland Mapping Consortium (WMC) developed and hosted three workshops focused on identifying barriers and opportunities for formulating a new national strategy that would enable greater protection and restoration of floodplains, including the wetlands within them, and the beneficial functions they provide.

The final report compiles the findings of these workshops and provides an action plan to protect and restore wetland and floodplain functions in the United States.

This report can be found at the following link: asfpmfoundation.org/ace-images/Wetlands_and_Floodplain_Functions_FNL.pdf

Larry A. Larson Speaker Series: Creating Flood Resilient Communities

Named after the founding director of ASFPM, the intent of this series, which is organized by the Foundation, is to create opportunities for interaction among the nation’s leading experts on flood risk reduction policy. The series highlights community-based flood risk management, an area of policy and practice that was shaped and influenced by Larson’s life’s work.

The series has been paused since 2019 but resumed at the 2023 Virginia Floodplain Managers Association (VFMA) Annual Conference in Richmond. The theme of the November 14 event was: *"Floodplain Management and Economic Development – How to Address the Growth Paradigm."*

The lively panel discussion was moderated by Mary-Carson Stiff, Executive Director of Wetlands Watch, and featured local, state, national and academic experts who spoke about floodplain management, resilience planning, and climate adaptation policies in the face of more extreme storms.

The Foundation extends its thanks to VFMA for hosting the series and to corporate sponsors **Michael Baker International** and **Moffatt & Nichol** that helped underwrite it.



(Above) Matthew Langley, floodplain manager for Cedar Rapids, IA, talks about local recovery efforts following a 500-year flood.

Looking on are from left, Kate Vogel, Coastal Resilience Planner with MD Dept. of Natural Resources; Anna Weber, Senior Policy Analyst, Natural Resources Defense Council; and Thomas Ruppert, Esq., Asst. Provost for Coastal Resilience and Director of the VA Coastal Resilience Collaborative, College of William and Mary.

The event was moderated by Mary-Carson Stiff, Executive Director of Wetlands Watch.



Annual Fundraising Activities

It’s no secret: the ASFPM Foundation’s success is entirely dependent on its generous supporters, who embody the spirit of giving when they contribute their time, talent, and treasure to advance our mission. The Foundation flourishes because volunteers step forward and give their time, share their knowledge and experience, plan great programs and initiatives, and then make certain they are funded. The ASFPM Annual Conference is a great opportunity to both showcase the Foundation’s programs and raise money for initiatives in the upcoming fiscal year.

At the 2023 Raleigh conference, the Foundation sponsored a 50-50 cash raffle for the first time. Dozens of volunteer ticket sellers engaged hundreds of conference attendees for a raffle that raised more than \$4,000. Countless, enthusiastic individual supporters also dropped by the Foundation booth and donated on-the-spot. And of course state chapters and corporate sponsors gave generously as well, all in the spirit of supporting the Foundation’s many initiatives.

The *2023 Donor Appreciation Reception and Live Auction* at the Raleigh conference featured an awards ceremony honoring lifetime donors and State Chapters, followed by an entertaining and fast paced bidding contest for a variety of fun gifts. The auction raised \$11,700. The total raised by the Foundation at the 2023 Raleigh conference was \$65,921. Great thanks to all of the Foundation’s friends for their generosity.



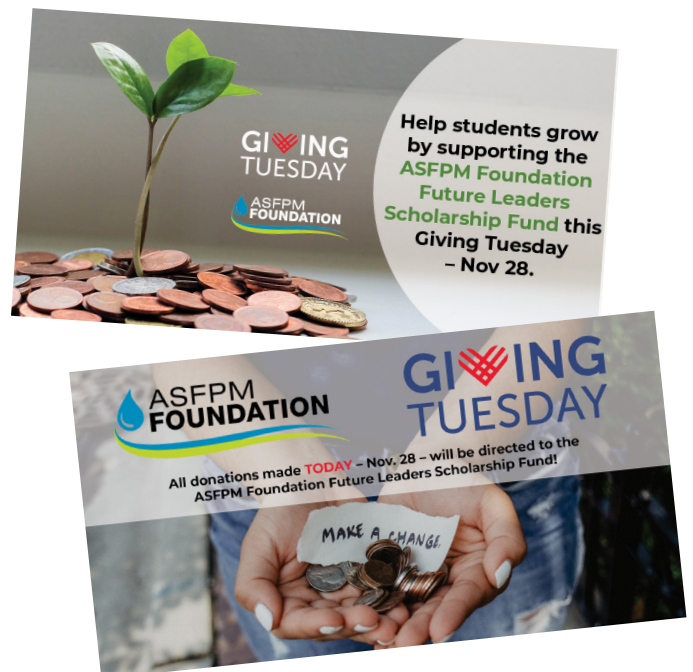
The ASFPM Foundation #GivingTuesday 2023 Campaign

Giving Tuesday 2023, which fell on November 28, was a rousing success! Along with a record number of individual contributions, ASFPM State Chapter support, plus a very generous anonymous donor, the Foundation secured eight corporate sponsorships to raise money for its Future Leaders Scholarship.

With its commitment beginning in 2023 to make two overlapping awards of up to \$20,000 per year for two years, the Foundation set a #GivingTuesday fundraising goal of \$40,000, and this year we exceeded it! We raised more than \$45,000 with the enthusiastic backing of donors who opened their hearts and their checkbooks.

Great thanks to #GivingTuesday 2023 corporate sponsors AtkinsRéalis, Michael Baker International, CDM Smith, Dewberry, Guidehouse, Jacobs, Moffatt & Nichol, and Stantec. The Foundation also extends its sincerest thanks to Dewberry, which has generously sponsored Giving Tuesday since 2018.

The Foundation is grateful for all donations and the investment supporters are making in up-and-coming leaders who will guide floodplain and flood risk management in the years ahead. These emerging leaders will ensure a bright and resilient future.





Special thanks to ASFPM Foundation Corporate Partners



It goes without saying that the floodplain management community owes a great deal of its success to the dedication and hard work of its corporate partners. They not only provide financial support, but also support their staff's contribution of time and energy to actively participate on Foundation Committees, conduct policy events, and plan and carry out special projects. The Foundation recognizes that without these important contributions of our corporate partners, we would not be as successful in accomplishing our mission.

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 Molly O'Toole & Associates
 NIYAM IT
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ASFPM Foundation 2023 Revenue and Expenses

Revenue: Total \$161,447



Expenses: Total \$79,031

