



ASSOCIATION OF STATE FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS, INC.

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Former NJ Spotlight Reporter Receives National Award for his Comprehensive National Flood Policy Coverage after Hurricane Sandy

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich.—Scott Gurian, former reporter with [NJ Spotlight](#), received national recognition for taking the time to really understand the complexities of national flood policy, and writing stories that the public could understand.

The [Association of State Floodplain Managers](#), the world's leading voice for sound floodplain management, science and policy, presented Gurian with its 2016 Media Award June 23 during its [national conference in Grand Rapids, Mich.](#) This award was established to acknowledge exemplary efforts on the part of communications media to increase information and/or awareness of flood issues with the general public.

Gurian covered the Hurricane Sandy recovery efforts in his area since the storm subsided, and kept a “spotlight” on local recovery issues such as re-opening flood claims and the struggle to reconcile rebuilding in a vulnerable environment.

He identified topics the public needed to know more about and highlighted them in articles called “explainers.” Some topics included putting Federal Emergency Management Agency maps into perspective, impacts of Biggert-Waters and the Community Rating System.

This brought the topics of flood impacts, flood insurance and future considerations from climate change into thousands of New Jersey living rooms, helping those impacted by the damage from Hurricane Sandy better understand the implications for future inaction.

One of his last pieces for NJ Spotlight was a list of 10 future impacts to New Jersey from climate change. The list included those we typically think of – coastal erosion and increased flooding – to topics the public might not have considered, including impacts to agriculture, wildlife, transportation and public health.

This July, our [media award winner will take seven weeks to drive 11,000 miles with his brother](#) through 19 countries, eight time zones and five mountain ranges in a “ridiculously small car” to raise money for charity.

“Every year I am impressed with what individuals, agencies and organizations are doing to promote floodplain management practices and policies that not only keep people and property safe but also

Dedicated to reducing flood risk and losses in the nation.

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preserve the natural functions of our floodplains for future generations,” ASFPM Executive Director Chad Berginnis said. “It’s an honor to recognize them for this incredible work, and hopefully it will inspire others as well.”

ASFPM, with offices in Madison, WI and Washington D.C., celebrates its 40th anniversary this year. The association has 36 chapters and more than 17,000 members worldwide. Its mission is to promote education, policies and activities that mitigate current and future losses, costs and human suffering caused by flooding, and to protect the natural and beneficial functions of floodplains—all without causing adverse impacts.

Photo caption: L-R ASFPM Executive Director Chad Berginnis, former NJ Spotlight reporter Scott Gurian and ASFPM Chair Ceil Strauss.

Contact ASFPM Public Information Officer Michele Mihalovich at michele@floods.org.

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