

*It is with great pleasure that the Georgia Association of Floodplain Management bestows its first ever Outstanding Floodplain Manager Award to:*

**Mr. Reza Aral – DeKalb County Flood Management Supervisor  
Outstanding Floodplain Manager Award**

Mr. Reza Aral, Flood Management Supervisor for DeKalb County, Georgia, joined DeKalb County as a transportation engineer in November 2004 and transferred to the Stormwater Section as Flood Management Coordinator in 2005. Mr. Aral is a graduate of Southern Polytechnic University with an Associate degree in Math & Science and a Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering. Prior to his service with DeKalb County, Mr. Aral worked for Georgia State Department of Transportation in Roads & Airport Design for 7 years, and served as a Regional Representative and Erosion Control Specialist with the Georgia State Soil & Water Conservation Commission for 5 years. Mr. Aral has helped to grow and strengthen DeKalb County's proactive floodplain management program in his past two years of service. During Mr. Aral's tenure, the County has embarked upon an extensive multi-year contract to re-map the County's floodplains, and he has worked with FEMA and GEMA to secure mitigation funding for the County in the amount of over \$19 million in the last few years.

Under Mr. Aral's coordination, DeKalb County recently reduced its CRS Class from 8 to 7, resulting in an increased discount for County NFIP Policy holders (now at 15%). Mr. Aral is currently assessing ways the County can improve their program to reduce their class to 6, resulting in an additional 5% discount.

DeKalb County has an active public involvement program that strives to better inform the community about flood hazards and why the County's floodplains should be protected. Mr. Aral always makes himself available to the community to answer questions and help explain the details of the County's flood management program. Mr. Aral also serves the in organizing, publicizing, and hosting public meetings to inform the community about ongoing projects, mitigation activities, and other programs. Mr. Aral himself is always available at these meetings to talk to the community and to help understand their problems and answer their questions.

*From the nominating documents:*

“Mr. Aral has provided great service to DeKalb County and its citizens. He always takes the time to listen to the concerns of the community, and to explain County and FEMA regulations, procedures, and programs in a manner that is clear and understandable. He is always friendly and approachable.”

*It is with great pleasure that the Georgia Association of Floodplain Management bestows its first ever Distinguished Service Award to:*

**Mr. Carl H. Barkalow**

*From the nominating documents:*

“During Carl’s tenure as Chair of GAFM he displayed a selfless dedication to promoting and expanding recognition of GAFM as an organization of the highest quality. I doubt there is a member who would not agree that Carl’s participation in the organization has been critical to the success, recognition and growth it enjoys today.”

“Walter Lippmann once wrote “The final test of a leader is that he leaves behind him in other men, the conviction and the will to carry on.” Carl H. Barkalow met that barometer in his leadership...”

“This individual has been a professional as well as a personal inspiration to me. His willingness to do “whatever it takes to get the job done right” speaks well of his outstanding professionalism and his impeccable personal integrity. This gentleman isn’t afraid to roll up his sleeves and get in there with both hands to get the job done and it is that kind of “go to it” attitude that has helped GAFM grow and flourish over the past two years. He has lead GAFM by example, not by authority, and we have been blessed to have him in a role of leadership within our organization.”