

Rodney E. Emmer, 1944–2008



With great sadness we note the death of **Rodney Edwin Emmer** on August 3, 2008, at age 64 – geographer, floodplain manager, planner, ASFPM member, colleague, and friend.

Emmer was born and reared in New Orleans and, although well-traveled, always called Louisiana home. He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in geography at Louisiana State University. He served in the U.S. Army in Korea for two years and then, after receiving his Ph.D. in geography from Oregon State University, established himself in Baton Rouge and lived there the rest of his life. For almost 20 years he was a partner in Coastal Environments, Inc., and followed that with his own consulting business. Along the way he also held adjunct appointments at the University of New Orleans and at Louisiana State University, and for the last several years had been an associate professor for research at the

Louisiana Sea Grant Program. Rod had been an officer in the Louisiana groups of the American Planning Association and the American Water Resources Association. He was an early chair of the Louisiana Floodplain Management Association and its Executive Director since 1994. For ASFPM, he was national conference Program Chair in 1997 Little Rock and Local Host Team Coordinator in 2004 Biloxi, after which he was asked to serve as Chair of the ASFPM Standing Conference Committee.

Rod was the author of numerous reports, articles, and other material, and co-authored a graduate-level floodplain management course for the Emergency Management Institute. His able mind grasped the widest concepts of environmental quality, sustainability, coastal degradation, and public perception and how the various disciplines with which he regularly worked could apply themselves to those issues and problems. But he also had the savvy to know how such broad themes played – or did not play – with regular folks. Emmer's knowledge of and appreciation for Louisiana's land use, history, hazards, culture, coastal ecosystems, floodplains, politics, and food was legendary, deep, and always growing. He shared it all readily and lent his energy and good cheer to innumerable missions large and small, across Louisiana and elsewhere.

Neither the ASFPM nor Louisiana will be quite the same without him. Thoughts, memories, and photos may be sent to diane@floods.org in the ASFPM Executive Office. We'll share your reflections of Rod's impact on his peers, which his family will be able to monitor. There are also nice tributes on the Louisiana Sea Grant website <http://www.laseagrant.org/memory.htm> and the Arkansas Floodplain Management Association's website <http://www.arkansasfloods.org/newsletter/letters/emmer.html>.



Rod did not dwindle
off into the sunset;
he left his footprint
on our lives

Photos taken by Diane A.
Brown at the Beau Rivage
Hotel Marina, Biloxi, MS.
2004



MEMORIALS in Rod's name may be made to the [Gilbert White Memorial](#), his fellow geographer who Rod held in the highest esteem. A monument promoting flood hazard education is being constructed in Boulder, Colorado, to honor Gilbert's landmark work through the decades. Please make checks payable to **Community Foundation--GFW Memorial Fund**, and mail them to the ASFPM office at 2809 Fish Hatchery Road, Madison, WI, 53713, attn: Debbie Pond. Your donations are tax deductible since the Gilbert White Memorial Fund is a 501(c)(3) organization. Donations can also be made online (small fee applies) at www.commfund.org/giving/GilbertWhiteFund.html. For further information about the Gilbert F. White Memorial Fund, please contact Clancy Philipsborn at 303-884-8887. To learn more about Gilbert's legacy, please visit the website www.colorado.edu/hazards/gfw.