

News From and For the Washington GIS Community

WAURISA: The Washington State Chapter of URISA
 The Association for GIS Professionals
WWW.WAURISA.ORG

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THE SUMMIT

WAURISA President's Message

By: Stephen Beimborn, WAURISA President

As I write this column, I've been at the helm of WAURISA for just over half a year. With the holidays behind us and a fresh new year in front of us, I am in a reflective mood. And so I shall reflect on the what I've learned from the experience so far.

Running an all-volunteer, non-profit professional organization is quite different from my day job as an I.T. manager in local government. Unlike a city or county, the constituents we exist to serve, the GIS professionals in Washington State, are free to engage with us or to ignore us. We aim to be useful and relevant to them, but in the end, they are not stuck with us for vital services merely as result of their address. After all, there are other professional organizations in our state that they could join, other ways to build their professional networks, and a plethora of in-person

and on-line training options. As an organization, we must bring our A-game if we wish to thrive and to positively impact the profession.

Leading a non-profit Board of Directors requires a unique set of management and leadership skills. The members of the Board work their rear ends off, but they do not work for me. They work to serve our members and our profession. They do it for reasons important to them - to give back or pay forward, to exercise their leadership skills, or because they enjoy the camaraderie and sense of purpose. They certainly do not do it because it pays well! So, while I



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Washington State GIS Governance Teams Win Best of Washington IT Award

By: Brian Dirks, WATech Communications

(from [news release](#) posted on watech.wa.gov on Nov. 12)

Eight teams and two state employees received "Best of Washington" Awards for the use of innovative technologies to improve and more efficiently deliver public services.

Governor Jay Inslee delivered opening remarks to summit attendees, and was on hand to congratulate the award winners at a November 7, 2019 ceremony during the 20th annual Digital Government Summit in Olympia.

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may currently hold the reins in terms of setting the monthly agenda in the end I only get one of the nine votes in any matter. If I am not mindful to respect the opinions of each member, acknowledge their efforts, and contribute to a congenial atmosphere, I could very well find myself alone on the monthly Board meeting conference call.

Our committees are the life blood of WAURISA. I call in to as many of the monthly committee meetings as I can and, without fail, I find that the committee chair is prepared, the members on the call are engaged, they are numerous, they often include people who are not on the Board, and the plans being discussed are those they conceived themselves and that they are carrying out because they want to. Contrast this with the tasks or projects we are assigned at work. Not always, as GIS projects can be fascinating and fulfilling, but too often we wish certain tasks assigned to us did not need to be done, that someone else might do them, or that we had a bigger say in setting the goals or deciding the approach. For any volunteer committee to be successful, the members must have a sense that their ideas are valued, that their con-

tributions matter, and that the outcome is something to be proud of. Otherwise, committee members will do something else with their lunch hour and with their spare time and the relevance of the organization will fade.

Leading this organization is a pleasure and a privilege. I am not sure what part of it I enjoy the most - the wonderful group of people I am surrounded by, the successful programs we conduct, the knowledge we share that helps us face similar challenges and opportunities, the gratitude we receive for our efforts. I enjoy it all, I guess. Beyond that, I am developing and exercising skills that make me better at my day job.

Even though I launched this column by noting that being a manager at a place of employment and being the leader of a volunteer organization require different skills, in the end I must note (both because my bosses may read this and because it's true) that serving as President of WAURISA will help me excel in my professional career. Who wouldn't want to live in a city where the government employees treat you like you could pick up and leave town if you don't like the services you receive. Don't we all want to work for a boss who treats us like we work there because we want to, not because we need to? What would it be like, as an employee, to exclusively work on projects that you helped conceive, that are conducted in a manner you helped determine, with goals you had a hand in setting?

WAURISA events and programs do not conduct themselves. People just like you make them happen! If you want to contribute to our efforts, while working in the type of environment I've described here, we would love to hear from you. Please contact me or any Board member or committee chair at the addresses provided on our web site (www.waurisa.org) and let us know which of our committees or programs you are interested in.

Do you know what is missing from the Summit Newsletter? Your contribution!

We seek to publish a variety of viewpoints for news, trends and activities in the geospatial industry. Let us know what is influencing your work.

Contact us at summit@waurisa.org

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“Government is just as innovative as the private tech sector,” Inslee said. “We are a player at the table and our bright ideas are going to stick around and ultimately improve people’s lives.” “This is a great opportunity for IT professionals who work public service to be recognized for the truly innovative and valuable work they perform every day for Washington state,” said state CIO and Washington Technology Solutions Director Jim Weaver, who announced the award winners during the ceremony.

The state GIS Governance teams were one of the eight winners, recognized for their cross-agency efforts to improve delivery of services to all Washingtonians. The state GIS Governance teams include CIOs and GIS managers from over 30 state agencies. Thirteen of those agencies were represented at the award ceremony. The announcement of the award to the state GIS teams noted that they work diligently to develop best practices for sharing GIS services and implementing innovative IT solutions that improve the delivery of government services. One of their key accomplishments is establishing a single online platform (geo.wa.gov) to consolidate large geo-spatial datasets from many different sources to share with all state agencies and the citizens of Washington. This collaborative effort to curate and find opportunities to consolidate data has significantly improved the data available to the state agencies and the public. They truly are the “Best of Washington,” congratulations to this team.



The Washington State GIS Governance teams receive their award for cross-agency efforts to improve delivery of services to all Washingtonians. Tim Minter, Enterprise GIS Data Architect with Department of Social and Health Services and Joanne Markert, State GIS Coordinator with the Office of the Chief Information Officer, hold the award.

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**Deadline for Issue 52
February 21, 2020**

WAURISA Board Members Attend 2019 GIS-Pro Conference in New Orleans

By: Stephen Beimborn, Tami Faulkner, Maria Sevier, and Ian Von Essen

Editor's note: This article references URISA's membership unification initiative called "OneURISA." This initiative, which has evolved over the past several years, would significantly impact how the Washington Chapter of URISA (WAURISA) would operate. You can learn more about OneURISA here: <https://www.urisa.org/chapters/oneurisa>

URISA held the 57th edition of its annual conference in New Orleans this year, with nearly five hundred GIS Professionals in attendance. Four of those attendees at GIS-Pro 2019 were members of WAURISA's Board of Directors. Below, each of them offer their impressions of the event.

Stephen Beimborn, WAURISA President: As a first-time attendee at the conference of our parent organization, I was impressed by the end-to-end quality of the entire affair. To start things off, Ian Von Essen and I were welcomed at the Board meeting that preceded the event, where the thoughtfulness and dedication of each URISA Board member was evident, as was the ambitious breadth of programming URISA manages, to the benefit of our entire profession and the community at large.

The social events provided opportunities to meet new friends, previously unknown to me, but familiar because of the interests and the spirits we shared. My favorite of these was a pub crawl with a geocaching theme, which guided us to lesser-known establishments popular with the locals. I'm pretty sure my team lost the contest, but I'm not sure, and it didn't matter. I do know the Saints beat the Cowboys at football that night, which ensured our hosts were in a good mood.

Each of the sessions I attended was informative and provided ideas for sessions we might offer at our own conference. One takeaway for me was the realization that the programming we offer at our own Washington GIS Conference each May stacks up pretty well. That's a credit to the organizers of our conference, as well as to our profession, which is filled with exceptional talent from coast to coast.

Our main goal in attending GIS-Pro was to represent the interests of the members of WAURISA and, more broadly, the GIS professionals in Washington State. Of interest to the four of us in attendance from WAURISA, and to dozens of representatives from oth-



er state-level URISA chapters, was an initiative our parent organization is working to implement called OneURISA. The worthy goal of this the OneURISA initiative is to strengthen the relationship between the international organization and the members of state chapters by granting membership in URISA to any member of a state chapter, and vice versa. But the specific terms have given us pause. How will our chapter finances be affected? Would our tradition of electing our Board by vote of all attendees at our annual conference have to end? What other effects would this have on our ability to manage our chapter in a manner that has made us successful for many years?

The WAURISA Board was concerned enough about these changes that we decided to send four Board members to the event, in contrast to the one or two we typically send, so that we could engage fully in the discussions, try to influence the outcomes, and develop recommendations for what strategies our Chapter should employ.

Recognizing that many state chapters are hesitant to agree to the changes, URISA leaders organized several listening sessions at GIS-Pro. During those sessions, and in numerous hallway conversations, we traded perspectives and tried to find common ground. The four of us were also able to connect with chapter leaders from across North America to compare notes and discuss ideas that we could offer the URISA Board which, we all hoped, might lead to a mutually-beneficial resolution. People really show their best traits when they try to solve a complex problem, and the leadership skills of our counterparts were on full display. What a great group of people!

In the end, no lines were drawn in the sand by either party. Discussions regarding OneURISA will continue. I returned to Seattle full of respect for the ambition and capabilities of the
(Continued on page 7)

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URISA organization, inspired by what I learned from my peers, eager to visit New Orleans again (but next time, during the winter), and committed to working patiently to come to an agreement that helps URISA strengthen ties with GIS professionals in state chapters, while preserving WAURISA's ability to serve the entire GIS community in Washington.

Tami Faulkner, WAURISA Treasurer: I found the URISA Conference in New Orleans to be very interesting and well worth my attendance. I was particularly interested in and enjoyed (albeit somewhat uncomfortably) the presentation on elections, gerrymandering and the linkage between Civil War monuments and lynching given by our own Greg Babinski. It really shows GIS in action in things that impact people's daily lives!

I found the meetings regarding OneURISA illuminating. I really do think there are strong regional differences that lead to such dramatically different perceptions of URISA and the experience of being in a chapter of URISA. How these ideas (policies to be?) are applied to individual chapters and how they operate and interact with International URISA. I think our group's active participation is critical as these decisions are being made. It is very important for those who do not have strong local chapters to hear from those of us that do, so they might temper plans that would be detrimental to certain types of organizations.

Maria Sevier, WAURISA Board Member-at-Large: I feel very grateful to have had the opportunity to attend GIS Pro this year as a representative of the WA GIS community through WAURISA. My goals were to observe their conference format of events and organizational structure along with learning more about the specifics of OneURISA. As at any GIS conference I found it enlightening and exciting to learn from other professionals and to walk away inspired by the breadth of work that our colleagues are performing within our communities.

It was extremely insightful to attend OneURISA meetings and to hear in person the challenges and benefits with the OneURISA effort, how the URISA Board are feeling about the change and hear from other chapters which are both for and/or against this effort. It is clear that there are many voices lending to the discussion and that we are a passionate community which I hope will lend itself to finding a balanced solution. It helped me to have a much fuller understanding of the complexities of the situation and how it might impact our chapter and member base so that I can better represent our WA GIS community as we move forward with continued research and discussion with URISA.

I flew home with a list of great ideas and notes to share with our current Conference Coordinator and Conference Planning Committee and hope that our next event (May 18-21, 2020) will showcase a few of these gems.

Ian Von Essen, WAURISA Immediate Past President: As reported by my fellow board colleagues, I found the International URISA Conference in New Orleans to be very interesting and well worth my attendance. This was the sixth GIS Pro Conference I have attended over the last 30 years and I have found that International URISA has always done a good job of staying relevant and adapting to our ever-changing GIS industry.

Stephen Beimborn, our current WAURISA President, and I were welcomed to attend International URISA's pre-conference board meeting. I found attending that meeting very informative and Stephen and I were also granted the opportunity to speak about One-URISA from the Washington State perspective.

I found all the meetings during the week regarding OneURISA illuminating. And I am most proud that we had the opportunity to start a dialog directly with the International URISA Board and that we have been asked by both the past and current President of International URISA to provide a written list of our concerns and proposed solutions to address those concerns. I know that all of us on the WAURISA Board are committed to working to support all GIS professionals in our state, and with International URISA, all the while preserving our state chapter's ability to serve the entire GIS community in Washington.



When they weren't in meetings and sessions, the WAURISA crew took in the sights around New Orleans. Photos courtesy of Ian Von Essen.

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Government Helping Government GIS Recognition Award

By: Jen Radcliff, City of Tumwater

At the Washington State Joint Agency GIS Day event in Olympia on November 13, 2019, the inaugural Government Helping Government GIS Recognition Award was granted to Peter Keum.

Peter Keum has worked for King County Wastewater Treatment Division GIS for over 20 years. While he uses traditional GIS tools at the King County, he also pushes the boundaries by looking at open source technologies and encourages collaboration among all GIS users regardless of platform. He has been a leader in GIS by sharing his knowledge with others through workshops and webinars, mentoring students at UW, and being an active member of PS-QGIS and [CUGOS](#). Peter's commitment to helping others, explore and learn about geospatial technologies has made the Washington State GIS community a better place.

This is the first year for this award. Criteria for the award are that the individual works for a government organization (state, county, local, federal or tribal) who takes the time to assist another WA government agency. The time/work performed is not part of the person's normal job duties (meaning there is no additional compensation for completing the work and no requirement per se that they assist). The impetus for the award came out of WAURISA's Washington Local Government GIS Leaders ([WGGL](#)) interest group, along with support from the Washington Office of the Chief Information Officer.

"The idea is that government employees helping each other can

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Josh Greenberg (left) honors Peter Keum with the award

save money and time for the greater good and we wanted to support individuals who were doing this," said Josh Greenberg, WGGL Chair.

"An example could be a larger GIS office helping a small town

that doesn't have the resources to fully jump into GIS, or maybe someone has developed a great way to do something and they share this with other similar government agencies in the state."

Congratulations, Peter!

GIS Day Celebrations Across Washington State

Compiled by: Jen Radcliff, City of Tumwater

In 1987, the National Geographic Society established [Geographic Awareness](#) week to help young Americans better understand geo-spatial issues and recognize their role as global citizens. Riding on the success of the initiative, they next collaborated with the Association of American Geographers and Esri to launch [GIS Day](#) in 1999. Officially celebrated on the Wednesday of Geographic Awareness week (though events can take place any time of the year), GIS Day is about helping others learn about geography and how real-world applications of GIS help to make better decisions. Together Geographic Awareness week and GIS Day strive to encourage citizens young and old to think and learn about the significance of place and how we affect and are affected by it.

Many geospatially-focused agencies in Washington State take time each year to celebrate GIS Day by sharing demonstrations, open houses, presentations and discussions for staff and the public. Below is a summary of a selection of these events from November 2019. Let these examples inspire you to participate in GIS Day 2020!

City of Kent

Reported by Catherine Crook

The 3rd Annual City of Kent GIS Day had great attendance including the City of Kent's Mayor Dana Ralph along with the City's CAO, Derek Matheson. We presented two talks in Council Chambers titled, *Great Expectations: A Look into Kent's GIS over the Next Few Years* and *Using Shadow Analysis for Planning Purposes: Does the Building Fit?*. The GIS team also had two tables with various projects displayed, including: As-Builts—The Ongoing Saga, Signpost Inventory Project Using Collector App, Experience Historical Kent, and Cityworks Asset Management Implementation.

Western Washington University

Reported by Stefan Freelan

Western Washington University's Huxley College of the Environment featured presentations by two cartographers as part of their [Huxley Speaker Series](#). You can learn more about the presentations using the links below, and recordings will be available online soon.

<https://huxley.wvu.edu/speaker-series/bell>

<https://huxley.wvu.edu/events/story-salish-sea-map-wilson-library-map-collection>

US Forest Service Region 6

Reported by Whitney Vonada

The US Forest Service's Region 6 Data Resources Management department partnered with Clark College's Surveying and Geomatics program to host the first GIS Day at Clark College on November 15, 2019 from 11AM-2PM. The event featured lightning talks, a map gallery, an interactive demonstration room with activities such as geocaching, pictures with Smokey, cake, an earth cookie decorating station, and a raffle drawing. Speakers from the Forest Service, Clark County, and Portland Community College delivered 20 minute lightning talk presentations to students and the public about GIS and remote sensing related projects and tools. The event was very collaborative among local and Federal agencies and colleges, and was successful in showcasing GIS opportunities and capabilities to students and members of the public.

City of Tumwater

Reported by Jen Radcliff

The City of Tumwater held an open house in the Council Chambers to celebrate GIS Day on November 13. 43 visitors, including a few members of the public, browsed the maps available on our website, found out what we've been busy mapping this year, saw a mock-up of some applications that will be coming in the new year, and saw what we were able to do with a simple survey about favorite places in Tumwater. The most popular activity was our Plinko game, in which guests won GIS-themed prizes. There were also two "expertly" decorated cupcake cakes (chocolate was more popular than yellow).

City of Tacoma

Reported by Christina Chelf

On Friday November 15th, City of Tacoma celebrated GIS day with a series of short presentations ranging from the newest public web mapping application (tMap) to using Survey123 to monitor the installation of over 70,000 smart water meters around the city. Visitors checked into GIS Day using an ArcGIS

(Continued on page 12)

Photos of GIS Day Celebrations Across Washington State

Compiled by: Jen Radcliff, City of Tumwater



City of Kent, WA



City of Tumwater, WA



US Forest Service Region 6

TAKE YOUR WORK TO THE NEXT LEVEL: LEARN MORE DURING GIS DAY AT COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON NOVEMBER 15

GIS stands for Geographic Information Systems and is a framework for gathering, managing and analyzing data. It reveals deeper insights into this data - such as patterns, relationships and situations - helping you make smarter decisions.

| Unity through GIS | |
|-------------------|--|
| November 15, 2019 | |
| 9:30AM | Welcome and Key Note Speech Jennifer Ward, Planning & Development Services Christina Cheff, Information Technology Daniel Key, Information Technology |
| 10:00AM | Using LiDAR to Improve View Sensitive Areas Larynka, Planning & Development Services Christina Cheff, Information Technology |
| 10:30AM | What is a Map and Why is it Awesome? Christina Cheff, Information Technology |
| 11:00AM | What's New in the DART in 2019 Mike Mariani, Information Technology |
| 11:30AM | Prioritizing Streetlight Installation Through an Equity Lens Laini Sarr, Public Works |
| 12:00PM | Mapping to Manage our Urban Forest Amy Lewis, Environmental Services |
| 12:30PM | Demonstration by ESRI Scott Walker, ESRI TJ Abernethy, ESRI |
| 1:00PM | Collecting Riverine Habitat Data in the North Fork Snohomish River David Cogwell, Tacoma Power James Hartington, Tacoma Power |
| 1:30PM | Web 2.0+ Spatial Data Alison Heaton, Office of Equity and Human Rights |
| 2:00PM | Finding the 45° N LAMM Meter Survey Project Andy Simpson, Tacoma Water |
| 2:30PM | Survey 2019: 20th Anniversary 45th Meter Survey Project Keith Bardenhe, Tacoma Water Andy Simpson, Tacoma Water |
| 3:00PM | 2018 Orthophoto LiDAR Project Andy Simpson, Tacoma Water |
| 3:30PM | Collector App to Coordinate Changes Jessica Buckley, Neighborhood & Community Services Alex Galbreath, Neighborhood & Community Services |
| 4:00PM | Closing and Raffle Drawing |

At GIS Day, you'll learn how various departments across our organization have already successfully used GIS as a working tool for staff and, in



City of Tacoma, WA

Survey123 form that collected information about the location of their main office, current involvement with GIS, what people hoped to get out of the event and how many previous GIS days they had attended in the past. That information was displayed with an ArcGIS Operations Dashboard for all attendees to see. Around 100 people attended, and a good time was had by all.

Port of Tacoma

Reported by Tonya Kauhi

During a lunch-n-learn, the Port of Tacoma (Port) showcased examples of how the Port uses GIS to educate and engage the community. We offered a GIS Day quiz to staff, awarded prizes and enjoyed a candy bar and cake.



State of Washington

Reported by Brian Dirks, WA Tech Communications

Gov. Jay Inslee proclaimed Nov. 13 as GIS Day across Washington state. One event marking the day was a daylong conference in Olympia showcasing work in the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) field.

The Washington State Joint Agency GIS Day at the 1500 Jefferson Building is an annual forum to share GIS-based solutions that are transforming data management, customer service and decision making. In Washington state, GIS work is a collaborative effort between state agencies as well as local governments, with shared data available through the Washington [Geospatial Open Data Portal](#). There were over 120 attendees from all over western Washington including representatives from the cities of Bellingham and Seattle and from Skagit, Snohomish, King and Thurston counties among many other local partners.

The governor noted in his proclamation that GIS is increasingly important in connecting the state's people, regions, natural resources and systems and "plays a crucial role in managing, preserving and protecting public safety, natural resources, and fisheries while planning for our vibrant future."

Tonya Kauhi, the GIS Programs Manager for the Port of Tacoma, was the conference keynote speaker discussing connections with GIS, branding and always working to make a difference using GIS. WaTech Director and State CIO Jim Weaver made introductory remarks regarding the importance of GIS to our decision-making processes in Washington and encouraged all present to communicate the value of GIS with all parts of our organization, especially executive managers.

Other presentations included:

- Mapping Crash Locations for Decision Makers: This will explain how data from the 10,000 vehicle collisions that occur in Washington each month can be analyzed to improve traffic safety and prevent vehicle/pedestrian accidents.
- How and Why We Make the Round World Flat: A presentation on how cartographers are shifting from flat-earth representations of the earth on paper.
- Developing a Drone Program: Discusses lessons learned from the Forest Resources Division of the Department of Natural Resources.

Port of Tacoma, WA



State GIS Day Proclamation

Mapping For Good: Humanitarian OpenStreetMap

By: Dusty Pilkington, GIS Analyst CARMERA

Since its founding in 2013, Humanitarian Open Street Map (HOT) has allowed GIS users to put their mapping skills to work for worthy causes. Disaster risk reduction, poverty elimination, gender equity, public health, and clean energy all fall within HOT's purview. One of the organization's primary missions focuses on generating maps of areas in developing countries where no maps currently exist, allowing first responders and humanitarian workers to properly plan their work.

Most GIS professionals know the value of high-tech mapping. Public utilities, law enforcement, urban planners, and other public servants can rely on accurate maps to coordinate road and sewer maintenance, land development permitting, and a host of other valuable activities. Here in Washington, we take it for granted that GIS supported infrastructure will deliver our water, allow us to drive on well maintained roads, and guide first responders to our locations in the event of emergencies.

Project Highlight: Dar es Salaam Informal Settlement Mapping

Some parts of the world lack this level of infrastructure development. In Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, informal settlements spring up wherever space allows, without garbage or sanitation services. Residents face increased risk of disease as climate change threatens to flood the city. Drainage channels blocked with trash render flooding worse.

In response, the HOT team recruited a team of students to fan across the city, collecting GPS locations of critical buildings, drains, and other locations of interest. Later, the HOT team used phone apps to collect larger, more consistent datasets. The data have so far been used in flood response, allowing more efficient response coordination. Find more information on the Dar es Salaam project at <https://www.hotosm.org/updates/what-we-learned-from-mapping-african-megacity-dar-es-salaam/>.

How you can get involved

There are many projects HOT coordinates around the world. If you would like to become a volunteer, go to <https://www.hotosm.org/volunteer-opportunities/> to make an application, and find out if your skills and background fit HOT's needs. Alternatively, you can help to crowdsource by contributing data and validating data that already exist. You can go to <https://tasks.hotosm.org/> and click "Start Mapping."

Go to <https://www.giscorps.org/hot-projects/> to view an interactive map with the locations of past and present projects administered under the HOT team's direction. Once you have located a project that fits your interests and skill level, click on the HOT icon to bring up the Contribute page. If you do not already possess a HOT login, you will need to create one, which will link to an Open Street Map account. From there, find the project, and you are good to start mapping!



*A mapper collecting trash points along the river in Dar es Salaam.
Photo by Chris Morgan.*

“With our disaster mapping program, what we are trying to provide is a common operating picture for the first responders, aid organizations, governments and the affected people to make informed decisions. When all parties are working with the same information, the better situated the community is for quick and effective recovery.”

Russell Deffner—Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team

2019 WAURISA Fall Seminar Summary

By: Ian Von Essen, WAURISA Immediate Past President & Mike McGuire, WAURISA Vice President

Over thirty GIS professionals, students, and teachers gathered in Spokane for WAURISA's fourth annual Fall Seminar, held on October 29th and 30th on the Riverpoint campus of Eastern & Washington State Universities in Spokane, WA. The first day of this year's program included a series of technical workshops provided by Esri by TJ Abbenhaus and John Sharrard on Migration to ArcGIS Pro, ArcGIS Mobile Solutions and a brand-new product called ArcGIS Urban. In addition, Washington State's GIS Coordinator, Joanne Markert, provided an update on initiatives sponsored by Washington State's Geospatial Program Office. On Tuesday morning ESRI's TJ Abbenhaus and John Sharrard discussed the future direction of the ArcGIS platform and Mike McGuire, owner of Ascent GIS, provided an overview of the Federal Imagery LIDAR Programs as they relate to past, present, and future imagery activities within Washington State.



The annual Fall Seminars were introduced in 2016 to bring educational and networking opportunities to people in the GIS field who live east of the Cascade Range in Washington. The annual WAURISA Conference, typically held in May in a city along the Interstate 5 corridor, can draw three hundred or more people, but few of them



travel from east of the mountains. For the past four years, the Fall Seminars have helped to fill that void by providing similar content to Eastern Washington GIS professionals and teachers and they have been held at the University District in downtown Spokane.

And as a bonus, attendees can network with those who travel from Eastern Washington as well as those who travel from Northern Idaho.

I would like to thank the WAURISA Board for their support in putting this Fall Seminar on as well as Dr. Kerry Brooks of EWU for sponsoring our event so that it could be hosted at the WSU/EWU Riverpoint Campus. In addition, I would like to thank Esri staff for their excellent technical workshop presentations, the Washington State's Geospatial Program Office for their presentation and Ascent GIS for their registration support and welcoming refreshments. And most of all, I would like to thank those of you who took the time out of your own busy schedules to attend our event.



Top photo, Left to right: Allen Cousins, Avista Utilities, Ian Von Essen, WAURISA Immediate Past President, Mike McGuire, WAURISA Vice President, and Robert Cloward, Avista Utilities.

Center photo, on Stage: TJ Abbenhaus, Solutions Engineer ESRI

Bottom photo: Washington State's GIS Coordinator, Joanne Markert, Geospatial Program Office

A Recap of the 2019 North American Cartographic Information Society Conference

The North American Cartographic Information Society (NACIS) held their 2019 national conference in Tacoma in October. Several lucky WAURISA members had the chance to attend the conference. Below, WAURISA Secretary Christina Chelf and WAURISA Past-President Josh Greenberg share their conference impressions.

Christina Chelf:

What happens when you put hundreds of map nerds, artists and GIS people in the same place? Well you get the NACIS Conference. I had the pleasure of attending the 2019 NACIS conference in Tacoma Washington this fall. I hadn't been to this national conference before, and I anticipated a better-than-normal map gallery and talks similar to the WAURISA conference or Esri UC. I was not prepared for the level of nuance related to colors, fonts, themes and what I can only call a variety of passionate people with pet projects. Technology was rarely the emphasis of talks; instead speakers spoke zealously about topics like the history of the cartography of Mt. Everest, reinventing the famous London Underground map, and designing a trail map based on the "vibe" of a classic Field Notes notebook. Over and over, I was swept into the stories these cartographers told with their maps.

One particular compelling story was that of a congressional hearing regarding the Arctic Wildlife Refuge. The proponents of opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for oil and gas development kept showing a large map of Alaska and the relatively small footprint of the area as a way to emphasize the little impact this decision would have. It was easy for Congress to understand and believe this narrative. But Marty Schnure from the Wildlife Society/Maps for Good fought back by creating a beautiful bird's eye view of this area emphasizing the importance of this unique landscape to caribou rearing as well as the relatively large impact that the infrastructure would have extending beyond the main impact zone shown by people in favor of drilling. This map helped the U.S. House of Representa-

tives to vote to restore protections to the wildlife refuge (although the U.S. Senate still controls the fate of this bill).

Another story told of the Bidibidi refugee settlement in Uganda that was the makeshift home for a quarter million people fleeing South Sudan. However, this settlement was not on any of the typical maps like Google, Bing, or ESRI. Riley Champine and his team mapped the infrastructure and city using OpenStreetMap and used this cartography to make this city "real." The full page map in the National Geographic Magazine was compelling as it illustrated what life is like in these settlements.

I learned about international boundary disputes and the changes in the US territory maps since the beginning of our nation. I learned about a better way to redistrict congressional districts and how the design of public spaces can change how people flow through them. As I reflect, I cannot emphasize enough how pleasurable it was to put aside the hardware and software and listen to these stories about how maps are everything.

Josh Greenberg:

I consider myself a want-to-be cartographer. Yes I have a degree in Geography, and have been using GIS for about 30 years, but even at my best, my cartography skills are marginal. Having the

chance to attend the Annual NACIS is a treat and this was my third conference, and like the previous conferences, I left with a sense of I can do better. The attendees of NACIS are not just GIS practitioners, artists, and storytellers, but trail blazers in story telling with spatial information. They are taking what I would do in presenting data and running in a different direction. Often a direction I didn't even think was an option.

A great example of this can be seen in the presentation by RJ Andrews of Info We Trust (infowetrust.com/nacis19). To show the blooming pattern of flowers in a Virginia garden they created a wheel representing seasons and the actual flower bloom as the

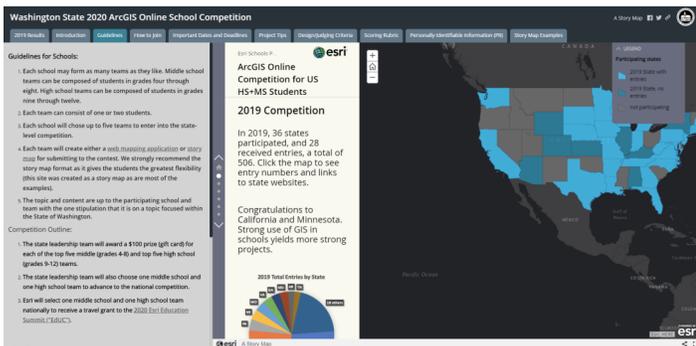
(Continued on page 16)

“Technology was rarely the emphasis of talks; instead speakers spoke zealously about topics like the history of the cartography of Mt. Everest, reinventing the famous London Underground map, and designing a trail map based on the “vibe” of a classic Field Notes notebook.”

-Christina Chelf

ArcGIS Online Competition For K-12 Students Is Still Open

Reminder! For the 2019-2020 school year, Washington State is again supporting a GIS competition for middle and high school students. The national competition, called the [ArcGIS Online mapping competition](#), is sponsored by Esri for U.S. middle school and high school students. The competition challenges students to do a research project about something within the boundaries of their state, and present results in a Story Map or web application.



The state competition website provides all the information needed to support a school in the contest

The contest is supported by a leadership team headed by members of the Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) and Office of the Chief Information Office (OCIO) and includes geospatial professionals from a variety of state and local government agencies as well as higher education.

For the 2019-2020 competition, the state leadership team will choose five top entries from each division (middle and high school) to receive a \$100 gift card. The leadership team will then choose one winner from each division who will advance to Esri's national competition. Esri will choose one national winner from each division who will be invited to attend Esri's Education Summit at the 2020 Esri User Conference in San Diego, California.

Please consider participating, or encouraging a school you are familiar with to participate! More information about the contest and the registration form can be found on the state competition [website](#) or via this [flyer](#) created by the Washington State Library. Questions can be emailed directly to the [state leadership team](#).

(NACIS Conference Recap; continued from page 15)

symbols. The animation this creates as it spins through the year is mesmerizing.

What about the art of making fake maps? Something many of us spend all our time trying to avoid, but David Nuttall makes it his specialty. The website (Artimaps.com) helps illustrate how his believable and beautiful maps actually don't represent any real location on earth. He talked about the thought process he uses to create these fictional places in map form.

I often feel lucky if I can devote a few hours of my day to actual cartographic work, and I imagine how nice it would be to spend more time. But hearing the story of Anton Thomas who spent 4 years painstakingly hand drawing his single map of North America ([www.antonthomasart.com](#)) made me think I better be careful what I wish for. Anton's beautiful characterizations capture the natural and built environment of the landscape in a fashion that is not often seen in the digital map era. These three dimensional drawings are a blend of cartography, art and whimsy.

For those of you that missed the chance to attend NACIS, not all is lost. The NACIS organization spent over \$20,000 to make the presentations available that can be found by following the link on their website [nacis.org](#). Maybe you too will be inspired to step outside your comfort zone the next time you need to tell your spatial story.



Washington Women in GIS and Technology

By: *Tonya Kauhi and Jen Radcliff*

Last fall the Washington Women in GIS & Technology (WWGT) group learned about ArcGIS Pro, the ArcGIS API for Python and had its first Social Hour in South Puget Sound. Maria Sevier (NW GIS Consulting) continued to pass along her ArcGIS Pro skills by providing a second training session on to the group. Maria provided some great tips and tricks and common workflows in ArcGIS Pro. Jaime Powell (Esri) demonstrated how easy it is to get started using the [ArcGIS API for Python](#). This was Jaime's third time teaching our group. Thank you, Maria and Jaime for your time and sharing this great information with the group. Videos of these training sessions will be posted to our [website](#) soon.

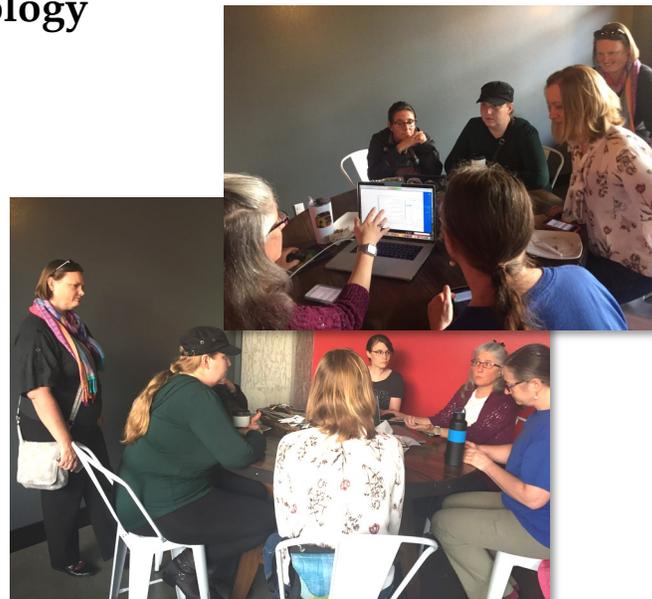
We also showed our South Sound members some love by having our very first Social Hour in Olympia. We had a great turnout and welcomed several new faces.

Speaking of our website, we have one! Thanks to Tonya Kauhi for putting it together and for maintaining it. The website contains information on upcoming events, resources such as slides and handouts from past meetings, our group posters, and links to other groups in the region.

Our last meeting was held January 15th in Tacoma. Each January we discuss what we would like to accomplish in the coming year. We propose topics and speakers to pursue, general locations to hold social events, and more. If you would like to have input into shaping WWGT for 2020, please let us know as soon as possible. Meeting information will be posted to our website soon.

The WWGT group was created for women working in GIS and technology to meet, network, brainstorm and learn from one another. The group includes GIS students and professionals across all skills levels and disciplines. We meet monthly around Puget Sound to network and share ideas, industry information, experience, and advice. The group is open to join, and we welcome new faces.

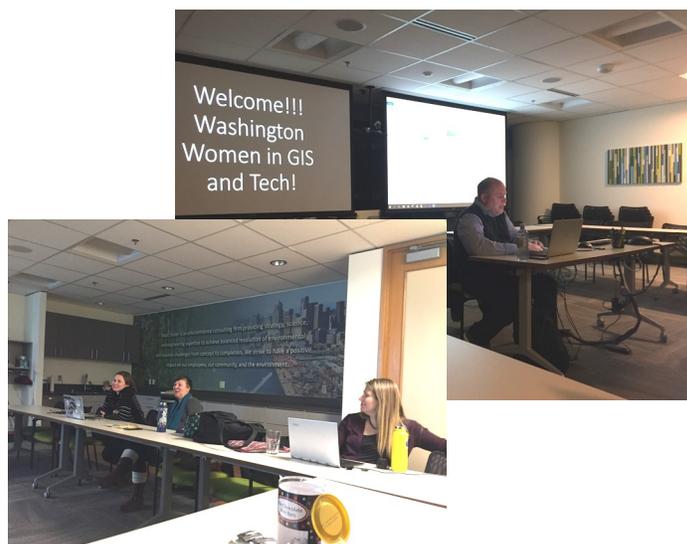
To view upcoming WWGT events refer to our website: <https://www.wawomeningis.com/>. For more information contact [Tonya Kauhi](#), or follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WashingtonWomeninGISandTechnology/> or LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/6527088/>



September 2019 meeting: Introduction to ArcGIS Pro



October 2019 Olympia Social



November 2019 meeting: Learning ArcGIS API for Python

Meet The WAURISA Board of Directors

Learn a little about the people that comprise the board for WAURISA. Board members are appointed to a two-year term. Together with committee volunteers, the board facilitates professional development and networking opportunities for its members and the broader Washington State geospatial community.

In 2020 there are 2 member-at-large positions and the Treasurer position up for election. If you would like information about running for a board position, please email nominations@waurisa.org.

[Stephen Beimborn, WAURISA President](#), works as the Manager of Departmental GIS Analysts at the City of Seattle, where he oversees the work of a group of GIS Analysts who are responsible for the successful use of GIS in specific departments, providing a wide range of services in support of each department's core mission in utilities, transportation, public safety, parks, or construction and inspections. Steve began his GIS career in 1983 with a summer college work-study job at Northwest Cartography, Inc. while he was studying for his degree in International Studies at the University of Washington. That fateful summer job evolved into a "real job" in the Environmental Consulting field with Roy F. Weston, Inc., where Steve spent the next decade working for utilities, private industry, and all levels of federal, state and local governments on projects in environmental remediation, site selection analysis, and data conversion. Steve began attending WAURISA events about ten years ago, helped found the Washington Government GIS Leaders (WGGL) special interest group in 2016, and joined the WAURISA Board as a member-at-large in 2017.



What do you like about being a WAURISA board member? WAURISA has a well-deserved reputation for organizing events and programs that benefit GIS professionals across our state and beyond. Over the years, I attended the Washington GIS Conference to learn with, and to learn from, hundreds of dedicated individuals who face the same challenges and opportunities as I do. I was drawn to joining the WAURISA Board as a way to contribute to these efforts, but I have been inspired and invigorated by the creative and collaborative manner in which the board carries out the work.

What have you done for fun lately? Watching the Sounders determined run to the MLS Championship was quite fun. It's also been thrilling to see the Seahawks prevail in one close game after another. On a personal level, recent months have afforded me a lot of time with my family. I was raised in a large family here in Washington, and I raised my children in Seattle, but with my children having gone off to college, and my siblings scattered in nearby states, these family get-togethers are special occasions.

What is something you wish you could change about the geospatial industry? The GIS profession has been on quite a roll for many decades, steadily evolving from a niche field to a mainstream phenomenon. Yet my sense is that it's harder to launch a GIS career now. There was a time when possessing a little bit of knowledge, and a willingness to roll up your sleeves and work hard, was enough to launch a career in the GIS field. Now it seems harder for many young professionals to catch that first break. We can all do our part for the next generation by offering internships at our places of work, advising and mentoring those new to the field, and contributing to efforts that provide them the skills necessary to seize any available opportunity to launch a career.

What is the most interesting job or volunteer role you've held? In my GIS career, I've been exposed to a lot of different roles and assignments. I have found supervision and management to be rewarding, but not necessarily as interesting as the work I did as a GIS Analyst. Time disappears when you are completely consumed by your work, whether it's manipulating data, writing code, performing a special analysis, or creating a report or a map. More than anything else, though, I think cartography has been the most interesting area I've ever worked. It calls on your technology skills, artistry, craftsmanship, logic, and your ability to communicate, to collaborate, and to balance a wide variety of constraints. My curiosity was piqued every day when my job was to design and produce maps. I do miss those years!

(Continued on page 20)



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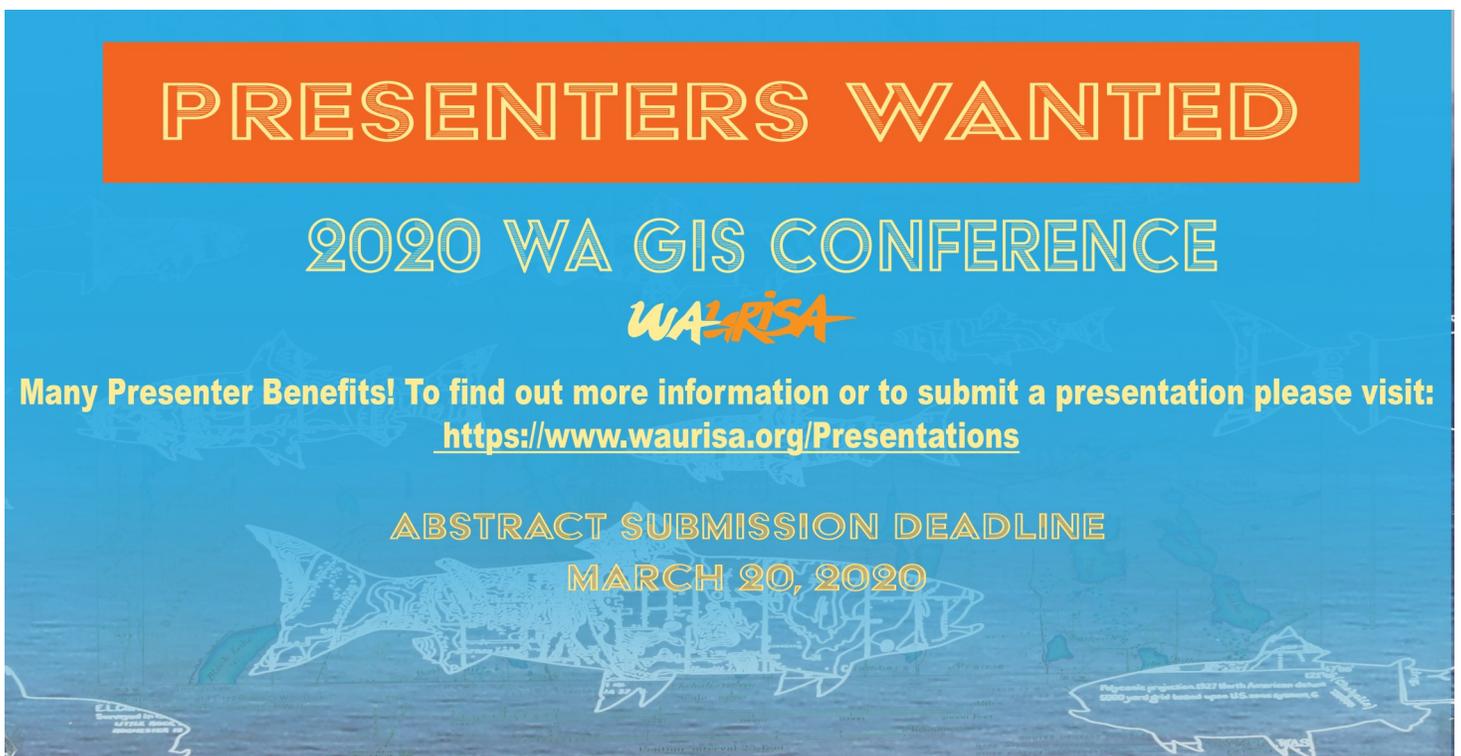
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ABSTRACT SUBMISSION DEADLINE

MARCH 20, 2020



(Meet the Board; continued from page 18)

Christina Chelf, WAURISA Secretary—Christina Chelf is a first-year board member and the WAURISA Secretary. Christina has worked in the GIS industry for over 8 years and currently works at City of Tacoma as a GIS developer creating web applications and tools. Before working in city government, Christina worked for a private business, state university, tribal nonprofit and federal agency so has almost completed the GIS career bingo card. Christina is active in the Washington Women in GIS and Technology meetup group, the WAURISA conference planning committee and is in her 4th year as a mentor for Washington Opportunity Scholarship students interested in STEM careers.

What do you like about being a WAURISA board member? I love being part of a team that is continually advocating for the growth of the GIS profession. Our team is made up of extremely talented individuals who care deeply about our community. Plus, I get to sit at the cool kids table at the conference.

What have you done for fun lately? Last fall, myself and my ultimate Frisbee team competed in the Seattle Co-Ed Ultimate Frisbee Fall League Championship. We lost our final game but ended up 2nd in the region out of over 60 teams!

Jason Eklund, WAURISA member-at-large, Technology Committee Lead—Jason is the GIS Coordinator for Kittitas County where he manages the enterprise GIS data and software for all departments. He earned a B.S. in Natural Resource Management with a minor in Spatial Information Systems Management from Colorado State University. Jason’s passion is workflow automation and enterprise GIS integrations with other systems. Jason is also actively involved in the newly formed WAURISA Washington Government GIS Leaders group.



What do you like about being a WAURISA board member? Knowing that I’m helping to support GIS users in our community while at the same time building my own personal network of professionals that I can lean on for expertise and gain valuable career experience in seeing how this type of non-profit organization is run.

What have you done for fun lately? When it is duck hunting season, I really enjoy going out with my dad and sitting in a hunting blind super early in the morning.

What is the most interesting job or volunteer role you’ve held? I am a middle school youth leader at my church for a group of about sixteen 6th grade boys. What an adventure! I love it, it’s very gratifying but can be frustrating at the same time. I love working with kids at that very crucial age in life trying to figure out where they fit in.

Have you ever visited or lived in a foreign country? Yes! Right out of high school I lived in Sweden for about 9 months where I lived with a host family, discovered my Swedish ancestral roots, became fluent in the language, and ran hurdles for a track club in Stockholm.

Tami Faulker, WAURISA Treasurer—Tami Faulkner supervises the Thurston GeoData Center. Her background as a Senior IT and GIS Project Manager allows her to provide guidance from both a GIS perspective as well as a traditional IT application development point of view. Tami has been on the WAURISA Board for 3 years and participated in the annual conferences since 2002. In her pre-GIS life she was a Senior Project Manager for the Washington State Department of Transportation’s IT division. Tami has been with the County for almost 10 years and the State for 13 years previously. Tami has a BA in Speech Communication from Montana State University and completed all required coursework towards an MS in Computer Science at Montana State University. Tami enjoys reading, good music, fun with friends, dancing, weight lifting and travel in her spare time.



What do you like about being a WAURISA board member? I really enjoy the camaraderie and friendships developed while on the Board. It is a great group of really committed people. I am also happy to be giving back to a group that has given me so much both professionally and personally. I think everyone, who can, would enjoy this experience because there are so many areas for involvement.

(Continued on page 21)

(Meet the Board; continued from page 20)

What have you done for fun lately? I really like to travel. I have been to Costa Rica and Mexico (6 times!) and study Spanish to make the trips more interesting. This January I am heading to Hawaii to see three islands. I also really am excited to eventually get a small camper trailer and travel across the US! I enjoy going with friends but am starting to also be fine with going alone. Life is to be lived and I want to be living!

Heather Glock, WAURISA member-at-large, The Summit newsletter editor—Heather is a local government account manager with Esri, based in Olympia. She works with smaller population cities and counties across the Pacific Northwest to use GIS for meeting the many challenges being faced and to build thriving communities—and she has a lot of fun in the process. Heather has a Master of Public Administration, Public Policy from Evergreen State College.



What do you like about being a WAURISA board member? I've been involved with WAURISA for about 15 years, starting as a conference volunteer and then spent time as the board vice president, president, and a few turns as a member-at-large. I have met so many people involved in the geospatial industry through WAURISA over the years – hands down it is the best way to meet new people in the industry. Each new person I've met widens my views and gets me thinking about new things – this is my favorite thing about being involved with WAURISA.

What is the most interesting job or volunteer role you've held? I was a donut fryer for a year in my early 20s. Worked 3rd shift while going to school part-time. I made a mean donut – both cake and raised. My favorite donut now is a plain cake donut, and it is very hard to find a good quality one around Olympia. In my mid 20s I volunteered to read college text books to a blind student. I wasn't very good at it, and I quit before too long, though I learned a lot about the challenges and humorous things that come with life as a visually-impaired person.

Mike McGuire, WAURISA Vice President, Vendor Chair Lead— Mike is Owner/Operator of Ascent GIS, Inc. Spokane Washington. Mike cofounded Ascent GIS, Inc. in 1998 providing professional GIS services to Federal, State and Local Government, Utility, Mining, Engineering, Universities, Forestry, and Agriculture Organizations. Mike's specialty is remote sensing. He has years of experience working with aerial, satellite and LiDAR industry leaders all over the world. Mike earned a BAE with an emphasis on geography at Eastern Washington University. Post-graduation, he taught a wide variety of subjects at the secondary education level and extended his education receiving GIS training from a local Spokane AutoCAD company where he became the GIS Manger.



What do you like about being a WAURISA board member? The best part of serving on the WAURISA Board is it keeps me engaged with my professional colleagues and friends.

What have you done for fun lately? Had a Christmas fondue dinner for my friends.

What is something you wish you could change about the geospatial industry? Redundancy data collection.

What is the most interesting job or volunteer role you've held? Successfully helped a farmer track down archive satellite imagery so he could prove his contractor was stealing and selling his hay.

Maria Sevier, a WAURISA member-at-large, Liaison to the Board for the Conference Committee. Maria is a geospatial professional who specializes in GIS mapping solutions for government, private and non-profit organizations. She has 23 years of experience working in the geospatial industry for a variety of state, county, and local governments, private, and non-profit businesses. Her experience ranges from providing mapping solutions through GIS data analysis, data mining and development, to project planning and development of business requirements/solutions for local governments.



What do you like about being a WAURISA board member? Having the chance to further the opportunities of GIS professionals in WA State.

(Continued on page 24)

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People on the Move...

Christina Chelf started January 6th as the **IT GIS Supervisor** at City of Tacoma. She is now managing 7 (soon to be 8) full time GIS staff. Christina has been with the City about 8 months and was instrumental in helping launch the City's replacement of govMe (gMap) with [taco-maMap \(tMap\)](http://tacomamap.com).

Renee Optaz just started her role as the **GIS/BI Supervisor** within the Business & Innovation Department at Metro Parks Tacoma (MPT). Renee has been with MPT since June of 2019. In her brief time with MPT she has been instrumental in the development and launch of the district's GIS/BI training program, required training for all staff.

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WAURISA

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(Meet the Board; continued from page 21)

What have you done for fun lately? Traveling to Mexico for a family reunion.

What is something you wish you could change about the geospatial industry? The pace at which our software and hardware platforms change.

What is the most interesting job or volunteer role you've held? WAURISA Conference Coordinator

Ian Von Essen, WAURISA Past-President—Ian Von Essen has recently transitioned from the governmental sector to the private sector involved in GIS consulting. Ian previously was the GIS Manager for Spokane County, a position he held for over 28 years. Prior to moving to Washington State Ian was the manager of the North Carolina DOT GIS Project (1988-89) and before that the co-manager of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's GIS and Remote Sensing Lab. Ian has an MA in Geography from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. In 2004 Ian received the U.S. Geological Survey's John Wesley Powell Award which recognizes a representative of state or local governments for outstanding achievements to the advancement of the USGS mission and in 2010, Ian received the Summit Award as GIS Person of the Year from the Washington State Chapter of URISA for contributions to the Washington State GIS Community. Ian was elected to the Board of Directors of the National States GIS Council (NSGIC) where he served a three-year term and Ian currently co-chairs NSGIC's NG911 committee in addition to his long-term involvement in WAURISA.



What do you like about being a WAURISA board member? Working with an amazing group of bright, driven, fun-loving GIS professionals committed to the advancement of the GIS profession in Washington State.

What have you done for fun lately? Within the last couple months being an avid music lover I have attended the concerts of: Kishi Bashi, St. Paul & The Broken Bones, Son Volt, Lucy Dacus, Brent Cobb, Ray Lamontagne & Carl Broemel, Kacy & Clayton, Trego, & Taj Mahal.

What is something you wish you could change about the geospatial industry? Successfully transplant the spatial gene into IT Directors.

David Wallis, GISP, CMS, WAURISA Board Member-at-Large—David is the Assistant Director of Information Governance and Strategy at the Office of the Washington State Auditor. Previously, he served as the IT/GIS Director for Cowlitz County, where he worked in Assessment/Mapping/GIS for over 23 years. He graduated Magna Cum Laude from Western Washington University in Bellingham. David teaches Legal Descriptions and GIS classes statewide for the WA DOR, and nationwide for the IAAO as a Certified National Specialty Instructor. He earned his GISP in 2009, and his Cadastral Mapping Specialist (CMS) in 2012. David has been married for 32 years and has 4 children. He enjoys spending time with his family, playing music with his band and in his recording studio, reading classic literature, and collecting Disney items.

What do you like about being a WAURISA board member? I love serving on the WAURISA Board because it helps me to be a better leader, and I want to contribute to our awesome GIS community in Washington State. I serve with dedicated GIS professionals who bring so much knowledge and talent to the table, and who inspire me to reach higher - both personally and professionally. It continues to be a privilege (and a fun time!) to serve on the WAURISA Board with these leaders.



What have you done for fun lately? I recently started playing again in a 70's/80's pop/rock band after a hiatus of 35 years. Uniquely, the band is made up of the same members that I played with in high school. We are called "5/50" (Five Over Fifty) – because there are five of us and we are all over fifty!

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GIS User Groups in Washington

Cascadia Users of Geospatial Open Source

www.cugos.org

Contact [Karsten Vennemann](#)

Central Puget Sound GIS User Group

Join Listserve [here](#)

Central Washington GIS User Group

<https://www.linkedin.com/groups?home=&gid=8252704>

Meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month.

Contact [Amanda Taub](#)

Cowlitz-Wahkiakum GIS User Group

Meets the first Wednesday of each month at 3:00 pm at the Cowlitz County Administration Annex Building, CWCOG meeting room, 207 North 4th Ave, Kelso WA (*unless other location is announced*).

Contact [Ken Pearrow](#)

King County GIS User Group

www.kingcounty.gov/operations/GIS/UserGroups.aspx

Meets 1st Wednesday every other month at 11:00am at the KCGIS Center, 201 S. Jackson Street, Seattle WA, Conf Room 7044/7045.

Northwest Washington GIS User Group

www.wvu.edu/huxley/spatial/nwwgis/nwwgis_mtgs.htm

Snohomish County GIS User Group

<http://www.arlingtonwa.gov/350/Snohomish-County-GIS-Users-Group>

Southeast Washington/Northwest Oregon GIS User Group

<http://gisgroup.wordpress.com>

Washington Geographic Information Council (WAGIC)

<http://ocio.wa.gov/boards-and-committees/washington-state-geographic-information-council-wagic-0>

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WAURISA

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