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April 2018 Newsletter

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association

April 2018 Newsletter

Hello NYS GIS Association Member!

Welcome to your monthly newsletter. You will find highlights of upcoming events, get to know your board members, and maybe learn a little something.

Enjoy,
Communications Committee, NYS GIS Association

Next Webinar: April 18th at 2:00 - 3:00 PM

Webinar: **Open Source Resources and Advanced QGIS Analysis**

Presenter: **Anita Graser** (<https://anitagraser.com/about/>)



The NYS GIS Association continues with its stellar lineup of Professional Development Webinars for the month of April. We have the honor of hosting Anita Graser, an expert and open source GIS advocate.

[Register today!](#) It takes about 30 seconds.

Seats for this webinar are going to go fast, don't miss out. Look forward to your attendance.

Webinars are Recorded

If you missed a webinar or would like to watch one again you can find them on our [YouTube](#) channel and on our [website](#).



The interview:

1. What made you interested in taking up GIS/geospatial technology as a career and how did you end up in the field of GIS? What is your educational background?

My background is in biology with an emphasis in ecology and conservation. I was always interested in computer science, although I never took formal IT classes with the exception of a required undergraduate course, which involved coding in Pascal. So in this regard, I am mostly self-taught. When ArcGIS was first launched, I realized the immense potential of geospatial technology for my field, as I was mainly a landscape ecologist, working as a conservation consultant. I eagerly took professional development classes in GIS back in Europe, worked a lot on my own on various GIS platforms, and eventually I got a graduate certificate in GIS from Montclair State University in New Jersey.

2. Can you explain your job and what you do there?

Since 2016, I have been working as a GIS specialist at the New York City Department of Environmental Protection. I am currently part of the Data Management and Maintenance team of the Bureau of Water and Sewer Operations.

3. How did you get involved in the NYSGISA board? How long have you been a part of the committee?

I have been a member of the NYSGISA board for the past few months. I sent my candidacy in when there was a call, and when a position became available, I was contacted by the chair and asked if I was interested in getting involved.

4. What's the most interesting project that you have worked on and why?

The most interesting project I have been working on is currently underway. It involves finding a small mammal species that was last spotted decades ago in the Transylvanian Plateau of Romania. In theory,

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there is no reason for that species not to thrive there. It is even currently documented by IUCN as likely to live there. However, nobody found it ever since. So I have been doing habitat suitability studies, trying to find the hotspots where the vanished species is most likely to be found.

5. What is your favorite memory from NYGeoCon or the GeoSpatial Summit

Unfortunately, I have not attended any of the mentioned events. However, I have attended the Society of Conservation GIS 2017 Conference as the NY/NJ Domestic Chapter leader. It was a great opportunity to meet dedicated professionals driven by a passion for this particular field, from all over the world.

6. What do you like most about mapping?

I always loved maps. Mapping combines technical knowledge with design skills. It is an art as much as It is a science.

7. If you could visit any one place in the world, where would it be and why?

I am attracted to rare ecosystems and unusual landscapes. It is a tough choice. Any place rich in history, both natural and cultural, as different as possible from my own heritage. If I have to choose one, I would say the Hokkaido Island of Japan.

8. Do you have any specific advice or philosophies from working in the GIS world?

Never stop learning. Study something every day. Coding is easier than you think, and it is a very useful skill – give it a try, you might get hooked (I know I did). Network, network, network. Specialize in a field as highly as you can, but don't forget to be a human. Work on personal projects, create a portfolio and put in on a dedicated website or web page. Don't underestimate social media– constantly work on your brand and market it. And, finally: if you are passionate about your work, there will come a point in your career when you will want to share your expertise and contribute to improving things, so start cultivating your leadership skills as early as possible – they will come in handy in more ways than you think.

Members in the News

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New York State GIS Association Board

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Member **Karyn Tareen**, President/CEO of [Geocove](#), was recently asked to represent alumni in a great new video from the University at Buffalo (UB). You can watch the video [here](#). Karyn was also featured in an [article](#) in the University at Buffalo's publication UBNOW in July 2017. In addition, Karyn will be the commencement speaker for the UB [Geography Department](#) this coming May.

Have GIS News?

Have GIS news you'd like to share? Email it to info@nysgis.net.

End of Membership Year is Approaching

June 30, 2018 is the last day of the 2018 membership year. How about renewing now, crossing that item off of your To-Do list before summer gets busy. You'll be credited right through to June 30, 2019.

Know anyone who is not a member? If they join now they'll be a member from their join date through June 30, 2019! A few months for free. Who can resist that? Please spread the word. The more members we have, the stronger an organization we can become.

Thank you!



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