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July 2018 Newsletter

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association

## July 2018 Newsletter

Hello NYS GIS Association Member!

There is so much going on!

- It's time to renew.
- There's a July webinar coming up.
- Do you, or does someone you know, want to get more involved in calling the shots for the NYS GIS Association? Nominations for board members are open.
- Do you know someone who's contributed to the GIS field and deserves to be recognized? Nominations for NYS GIS Association awards is open.
- Plus, meet another board member! Ben Houston.

Read on and enjoy,

The NYS GIS Association Communications Committee

### JULY WEBINAR

**Date and Time:** July 25th, from 12-1 PM

**Title:** ArcGIS Pro: The good, the bad and ugly

[Register](#)

**Abstract:** Have you had a chance to look at ArcGIS Pro yet? Well now is the time. Esri has finally said ArcGIS Pro will be replacing the venerable ArcMap and ArcCatalog applications we have grown to rely on. This webinar will help you get started as you evaluate ArcGIS Pro and determine when you really need to start thinking of migrating. Tripp will discuss many of the advantages ArcGIS Pro brings to the table along with some bumps in the road you may encounter.



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geospatial technology. He holds multiple certifications including Microsoft Certified Professional, Certified GIS Professional, CompTIA Certified Technical Trainer and Esri Certified ArcGIS Desktop Professional. He teaches GIS classes and workshops throughout North America. Tripp is an active member of the GIS Community. He is the Immediate Past President of URISA and recipient of the URISA Leadership and Barbara Hirsch Special Service Awards. He is the author of two books on ArcGIS Pro, Learning ArcGIS Pro and ArcGIS Pro 2.x Cookbook.

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 Membership Year is Over. Time to RENEW!

It's time to renew your membership for the 2018/2019 membership year. If you've already renewed or set up auto-renewal, THANK YOU!. If not, head on over and [renew](#) right now and cross that task off your TO-DO list. If you can't remember your password, there's a 'Forget Password' link. If your email address has changed please contact us at [info@nysgis.net](mailto:info@nysgis.net) and we'll get you squared away.

Joining supports all the programs the NYS GIS Association provides and gives us strength in numbers when we speak other groups or legislators about issues affecting the GIS community.

Thanks,

GeoSpatial Summit Sept 25 - 26, 2018



Mark your calendar for the **2018 NYS Geospatial Summit** on **Wednesday, September 26<sup>th</sup>** at the **Welch-Allyn Lodge** in **Skaneateles, NY**. If you've never

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won't want to miss it! This will be the only statewide GIS-focused event this year as the NYS GIS Association alternates between NYGeoCon and the Geospatial Summit.

All the details are on the GeoSummit [website](#).

## 2018 NYS GIS Association Awards Program

***Do you know someone who is passionate about GIS, or an individual that has contributed to the betterment of the GIS community here in New York State? Here is your opportunity to give them recognition for their hard work!***

Submissions are now being accepted in the two award categories listed below. Review the NYSGISA [Awards Program Instructions and Procedures](#) for details on each award, eligibility requirements, and procedures for submitting a nomination. Nomination forms are available [here](#). The deadline for submissions is September 5th, 2018.

Winners will be recognized for their achievements at the [NYS Geospatial Summit](#) at the [Welch-Allyn Lodge](#) in Skaneateles NY, on Wednesday, September 26th, 2018.

- **Individual Contributions to the Profession**
- **GIS Champion Award**

Feel free to contact the Awards Committee with any questions.

<https://www.nysgis.net/committees/awards/>

Thanks!

**Ross Baldwin, GISP**  
**NYSGISA Awards Committee**  
[nygis77@gmail.com](mailto:nygis77@gmail.com)

NYS GIS Association Board of Directors and Geospatial Advisory  
Council Nominations Sought

**Seeking Nominations for NYS GIS Association Board and President-Elect Positions**

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positions. The Association relies on the committed volunteer efforts and leadership from its membership to be successful and will look to fill two open Board of Directors positions this fall. Directors serve for two years and are eligible to run for a second term if they desire. So if you've ever wanted to give back, now is a great time to contribute as our membership grows. Prior Board Directors are eligible to run again if it has been two years since their last term ended.



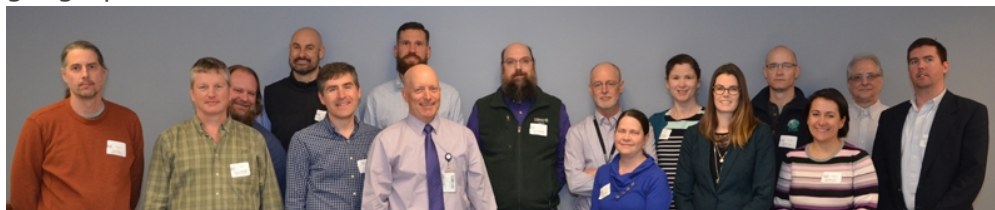
Additionally, the Board will be looking for a new President-Elect as the current one transitions into the role of President. President-Elects serve a three-year term as President-Elect, President, and Past-President with evolving responsibility over that term.

If you think these positions might be right for you, please reach out to the Nominating Committee Chair, Rick Reichert, through email with any questions at: [info@nysgis.net](mailto:info@nysgis.net). Letters of intent, biographies, resumes and other relevant materials should also be submitted through the above email. All nominations should be submitted by August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018.

You must be a member in good standing to run for any of the Board positions so please verify or renew your membership [here](#). The membership year runs from July 1 to June 30. Election results will be announced during the [2018 GeoSpatial Summit](#) at the Annual Meeting September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018. The Summit will take place at the Welch Allyn Lodge in Skaneateles, NY.

### **Seeking Nominations for Geospatial Advisory Council**

Additionally, the Association is seeking recommendations and nominations on behalf of the [NYS Geospatial Advisory Council \(GAC\)](#). The GAC is a separate organization that works with the NYS ITS GIS Program Office to coordinate, promote, and facilitate the effective development, use, and sharing of geographic information.



The Council meets quarterly in Albany, NY or via teleconference, with members serving three-year terms. The 21 member Council relies on volunteers from local government, academia, non-profits, and private industry in addition to State and Federal representation.

More information will be provided on what sectors have vacancies as it becomes available. Questions can be directed to Rick Reichert at [info@nysgis.net](mailto:info@nysgis.net) or GAC Council Chair Ross Baldwin at

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## Meet Board Member Ben Houston

### NYSGISA Newsletter Questionnaire

#### Ben Houston



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?  
**I learned to read maps as a kid and have always been good at orienteering. I had the opportunity as a young Lieutenant in the Army Corps of Engineers to attend the Mapping, Charting and Geodesy Officer Course at the Defense Mapping Agency, which was the precursor to what is now the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency. It was taught by this crusty old Marine Corps Warrant Officer. That was 1991 and my first introduction to Arc Info and Erdas. Then later I went to graduate school and learned AML programming and that was it.**
2. What is your educational background?  
**I have a BS in Geological Engineering and an MS in Hydrogeology, and am now a licensed Professional Engineer. As a young geology student in class and during a work study abroad in South America, I had to make topographic and geological maps by hand with a pencil, pace count, and compass. It was still very much a paper world back then. Computers were all command line driven and the internet and cell phones didn't yet exist. Yeah, its ridiculous, but I'm not THAT old...yet.**
3. Can you explain your job and what you do there?  
**All of my work is focused on high resolution topographic mapping and derivative data development for things like land cover, drainage, impervious surfaces and wetlands. Whether its using airborne LiDAR data or data collected from drones, I am involved with teams of people way smarter than me that make really cool high-resolution data products.**
4. How did you get involved in the NYSGISA board? How long have you been a part of the committee?  
**I got involved in the NYS GIS Local Government Advisory Committee as a GIS Analyst at the Monroe County Planning**

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programs. Since then I've been on NYSGIS Committees like Marketing, Legislative, Awards, and the Professional Affiliation Groups. Most recently I am interested in outreach to other fellow mapping professionals like Engineers and Surveyors and continuing education. I am also concerned with the trend toward push button map making where everything is assumed to be the responsibility of the software. I think geospatial professionals have a huge role and responsibility as the guardians of data quality.

5. What's the most interesting project that you have worked on and why?  
**I think the most interesting project is probably related to our recent collaboration with the Cornell Water Resources Institute and the graduate school program in the Biological and Environmental Engineering Department. Our efforts were to apply some of the drainage modeling work they are doing to high resolution datasets. The core work was done at Cornell using 10m DEMs for topo and 30m NLCD for Land Cover. We thought it was worth trying to adapt their work to the 1m DEMs that are now becoming more and more ubiquitous around NY State, and similar High-Resolution Land Cover (HRLC) data that relies on the State's 4 band leaf off imagery, NAIP 4-band leaf on imagery and, of course, some LiDAR point clouds thrown in for good measure. It's a cool culmination of a lot of mapping and remote sensing technologies that ultimately all boils down to solving a bunch of math problems. You click on any spot on the map and you get a set of numbers back. Obviously, there is a lot going on in between...**
6. What is your favorite memory from NYGeoCon or the GeoSpatial Summit?  
**You mean besides arriving at last year's GeoCon in Lake Placid and realizing I left my entire laptop kit bag on the kitchen table back home? Total. Panic. Most memories are about socializing with colleagues and making new friends. A highlight memory for me was probably having the honor of giving a presentation at the Fall Conference in 2003 after coming back from a tour in Afghanistan in 2002 and talking about some of the mapping and organizational data management challenges we had. The only real mapping capabilities we had was a bootleg copy of ArcView 3.1 I had brought in my cargo pocket!**
7. What do you like most about mapping?  
**I love looking at data. Making good looking cartographic maps? Not so much. (Layouts are not my friend). I appreciate good**

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**processes tangible for so many people. But I really love raster data because of all the cool things you can do with rasters.**

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

**I would love to go to Indonesia and explore the region around Wallace Line. I think the story of Alfred Russel Wallace as a contemporary of Darwin is fascinating, and in those days explorers and scientists had to be pretty bad-ass mappers. Plus, I am an avid scuba diver and that seems like a great excuse for a dive vacation.**

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

**Learn as much geodesy as you can. Geoids, Datums, Projections, etc. And learn basic coding skills. The more you know about writing code, the better.**

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