

August 2019

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August 2019 Newsletter

Hello NYS GIS Association Member! Here's what's in the news...

- Membership Renewal
- Meet Sheri Norton, 2019 NYGeoCon Committee Member
- Awards Program Deadline is Friday
- NYGeoCon 2019 - Registration is open!

Read on, enjoy, and look forward to 2019 NYGeoCon,
The NYS GIS Association Communications Committee

Renew Your Membership

June 30th was the last day of the 2019 membership year. If you haven't done so already, take a moment to renew your membership now. Remember that you can renew for 5 years!

Use this link to
renew: <https://www.nysgis.net/joinus/join/login>



Know someone who is not a member? Please spread the word. The more members we have, the stronger an organization we can become.

Students can join for free! The free student membership option will be available on the website soon. Please note that student members need to renew yearly; the 5-year renewal option is not available for student members.

Use this link to join: <https://www.nysgis.net/joinus/>

Meet Sheri Norton, 2019 NYGeoCon Committee Member

1. **What made you interested in taking up GIS/geospatial technology**

Like many in this field, I've had an interesting career arc. My background was originally in Anthropology (BA from Syracuse University, MA from University of Iowa), with several seasons spent tromping through Fort Drum Army Base near Watertown using GIS predictive models for archaeological field investigations prepared by the civilian-staffed Environmental Division. Hoping to find permanent employment, I returned to graduate school in Geography at the University of Albany while interning for the NYS DEC. A small family-owned GIS company, Applied GIS, hired me as a GIS Analyst while I was still finishing up my thesis. After five years of a wide range of projects (needs assessments, software training, technical writing, etc.), I had the opportunity to finally work close to my previous home in the Adirondacks as the GIS Coordinator for Warren County. Back in 2012, our family moved across the State to the Finger Lakes region to take advantage of job opportunities. I have managed the GIS Program here in Ontario County since then.



2. Will you please explain your job and what you do there?

As GIS Coordinator I oversee the County's GIS Program, which includes 20+ desktop users, many web-based applications, maintenance of an enterprise system, as well as handling data/analysis/custom mapping requests, interspersed with technical training for groups and individuals. One of the biggest challenges in the near future will be facilitating transition from ESRI's ArcGIS desktop to Pro in addition to migrating older Trimble/ArcPad equipment to alternative blended technology (fingers crossed and big gulp!).

3. How did you get involved in the NYS GIS Association board? Why did you decide to volunteer for the Conference Committee?

My original involvement began with co-coordination of the local Lower Adirondack GIS Users Group with Heather Weller from Washington County. At the time, the Association was just getting off the ground and a co-worker from Applied GIS reached out to ask if I was interested in helping on the Board. It was a great experience in those early years shaping the objectives and watching the organization grow. After this period I shifted to participating on the Membership and Communication Committees, with the latter morphing into maintaining both the GeoCon and GeoSpatial Summit websites for those respective conferences.

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

I was involved for several years partnered with the local 4H Group and County Historian, Dr. Preston Pierce, to record burial locations of WWI veterans to celebrate the Centennial of the 1918 Armistice. It was a learning experience for me figuring out how to handle disconnected field data collection with a variety of devices (darn those bottlenecked photo

[Story Maps](#).

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

A personal favorite was a presentation on [CyArk](#) at the 2012 GeoSpatial Summit years ago. I loved hearing about the use of Lidar technology to preserve 3D models of historic sites and national wonders (some of which have since been destroyed by conflict or natural disasters). It was also great to chat with the late Dr. Tomlinson during lunch!

6. What do you like most about mapping?

I like the blend of technical skills, challenges of different platforms (web, mobile, desktop, traditional print media) and artistry. I'm a "visual" person, so mapping really appeals as a great way to communicate connections and problems. It is actually similar to archaeology, with many seemingly disparate pieces (ruins, meal remains, trade goods, etc.) that viewed cohesively provide a better understanding of circumstances.

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

Machu Pichu in Peru and Masada in Israel are high on my list! Amazing history at both locations. Yes... the archaeologist is still in me 😊

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

It is a great field for continued learning through your career. While it can be daunting at times keeping up the rapid pace of changes, we are very fortunate here in New York State to have a mature professional GIS organization providing so many ways to stay connected and educated. My opportunity here at Ontario County is a great case, which I learned about through the Association's job postings.

9. What are you most excited about for the 2019 NYGeoCon?

Some of the technical tracks focused on Mobile options and Analytics sound really fascinating where I am sure to learn many new tips! I am also attending the GIS Education workshop offered on Monday afternoon.

Awards Program Deadline is Friday

Do you know someone who is passionate about GIS or has made a significant contribution to the GIS community in New York State?



[Awards Program Instructions and Procedures](#) for details on each award, eligibility requirements, and procedures for submitting a nomination.

The nomination form is available [here](#). The deadline for submissions is this Friday, August 30, 2019.

Winners will be recognized for their achievements at the [NYGeoCon](#) at the Marriott Syracuse Downtown in Syracuse, NY September 23-25, 2019.

Feel free to contact the NYS GIS Association Awards Committee with any questions.

email: nygis77@gmail.com

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

NYGeoCon 2019 - Registration is Open!

What: 2019 NYGeoCon

When: September 23-25, 2019

Where: Marriott Syracuse Downtown, Syracuse NY

How to Register: <http://sites.ennect.com/e6933>

Early Registration Ends: 6 September 2019

Sponsorship Registration is Open: Click on the link below.

<https://nysgis.net/nygeocon2019/sponsors-and-exhibitors/>

More Information: Click on the link below.

<https://www.nysgis.net/nygeocon2019/>



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