

February 2021

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February 2021 Newsletter

Dear NYS GIS Association Member,

Here are a few items of news.

- Board of Directors Activities
- Meet Stephanie Rockwell, Member of the Board of Directors
- Upcoming Opportunities & Events

Read on and enjoy,

The NYS GIS Association Communications Committee

Board of Directors Highlights

Working behind the scenes on our behalf, the Board of Directors meets monthly. Below are a few recent highlights.

- At the February meeting, they welcomed Alan Leidner back to a leadership role as co-chair with Ross Baldwin of the Regional Coordination Committee.
- Board Member, Mary Susan Knauss, volunteered to chair the Legislative Committee.
- The process of maintaining the Association's logo trademark through the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is underway.
- Discussions and research on the NYGeoCon are ongoing.
- The Association is renewing its membership in the New York Council of Nonprofits (NYCON).



- Website domains for the NY GeoCon and the GeoSpatial Summit were renewed.
- Sponsorships for user group meetings are under consideration.

These are just a few of the items the Board, our Officers, and Committee Chairs have accomplished over the last few months. To see all that they do, the minutes from the Board's monthly meetings are posted every month to the website at <https://www.nysgis.net/about/board-of-directors/>. Take a moment to catch up on their activities if you haven't done so recently.

Meet Stephanie Rockwell, Member of the Board of Directors

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?

I started my GIS career at the time I started to take Geography classes in college. I really enjoyed the human geography classes and at that time, GIS was still just emerging. A professor of mine urged me to take GIS courses and explained how that would tie into my love of humanities and here I am! It was the best advice I was given as an undergrad.



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

I work at the NYS Canal Corp as a GIS Tech II/manager, and I love it! I have the pleasure to work with the nicest people within all different areas of the Canals organization. My job consists of various tasks and data maintenance that change daily. It could be making bathymetric maps for dredging and soundings, outside data requests, GIS support for the drone crew, and, lately, crossing into web mapping through ArcGIS online.

3. How did you get involved in the Association? Would you describe the ways you have contributed to the Association over the years?

I have been a member/follower of the Association since graduating from graduate school. It has always been an informative place and group that is invaluable to networking and keeping up with what is going on in NYS with GIS. Taking advantage of free webinars and attending/supporting the NYGeoCon whenever I can, has been the highlight for me.

4. How else have you shared your expertise in GIS with others in NYS either formally or informally? (other committees, mentoring,

and then the follow-up question of, "What is that?" opens the door for me to talk about GIS in general and its use in NY. I also have been thinking about approaching my local school district about incorporating GIS somehow. Kids need to learn to think spatially so I am still working on how to do this.

5. What is the most interesting project that you have worked on and why?

Oh boy, this is a tough one. I can't really pinpoint one specific project. I would say any project that is challenging makes it interesting. I always learn something new, and I am better for it. However, If I really had to pick one, I would say the bathymetric mapping at Canals because it required using a new set of tools and to think differently about the data.

6. What is your favorite memory from a NYGeoCon or GeoSpatial Summit?

I look forward to attending both of these! My favorite memory would have to be the last GeoCon in Syracuse when a lot of us met up after the day for happy hour where they organized "Map Trivia". We were all in teams with people we didn't know and a lot of the questions were hard! It was so much fun.

7. What do you like most about mapping?

The intelligence of it and being able to relay information or tell a story.

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

I would like to go to Thailand because of the food, the culture, the temples, and the beaches!

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

My advice would be to talk to as many people as you can in this field, take the free webinars offered, and ask a lot of questions. Also, Google is your friend!

Upcoming Opportunities & Events

- EPA Office of Environmental Justice Event: [The Mapping Inequality Project](#) | 4 March 2021 | 12 - 1 p.m. | [More Information](#)

- NEARC Spring Conference | 18 May 2021 | [More Information](#)
- Education Summit @Esri UC | 10 - 13 July 2021 | [More Information](#)
- Esri User Conference | 12 - 16 July 2021 | [More Information](#)
- NYGeoCon | Tentatively scheduled for 20 - 21 September 2021
- URISA's GIS-Pro Annual Conference | Baltimore | 3 - 6 October 2021 | [More Information](#)



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