

March 2020

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March 2020 Newsletter

Dear NYS GIS Association Member,

We know the effects of COVID-19 are much on your mind this month and presumably will be for some months to come. Perhaps our almost monthly newsletter will provide a reminder of normalcy. Here are a few items of news for your distraction.

- Meet Katherine Barnes, NYS GIS Association Member
- Upcoming Opportunities & Events
- NYS GeoSpatial Summit 2020
- Closing Thoughts

Read on, enjoy, and let's continue to take care of ourselves and look out for one another,

The NYS GIS Association Communications Committee

Meet Katherine Barnes, NYS GIS Association Member

**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 as a geography major and went to pen and ink cartography from there. I started ArcGIS (er, would you believe PC Arc/Info?!) when my then supervisor told me I WOULD learn how to use it.

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

My main responsibility is keeping maps of our Wildlife Management Areas up to date. Occasionally, I produce a map for a printed publication. I also assist Bureau staff with GIS questions.



A friend convinced me to join the Association and a committee. I am currently on the membership and awards committees

4. How else do you share your expertise in GIS with NYS programs?

I am a point person for GIS issues in my bureau.

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

My main job is producing maps of wildlife management areas. I enjoy the process. Back in my PC ArcInfo days, I wrote an app that worked much like the first version of ArcView. In fact, my supervisor had some ESRI developers come in for a demonstration. (not to brag or anything). DEC staff used it until ArcView came along.

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

I was pretty excited the year I won the door prize of a hand-drawn old fashioned style map of Cape Cod, donated by the speaker, Constance Brown.

One of my favorite talks was by a man who made video games. He explained how he made the background 'maps'. It was cute, he was embarrassed because apparently, he didn't realize he'd be talking to a room full of cartographers.

7. What do you like most about mapping?

I am just a map nerd. I like a pretty map, but I also like to scrutinize it for the information, especially around areas I am familiar with. Google Maps is an absolutely wonderful invention.

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

My current plans (for someday) are a fall cruise along the Canadian Maritimes and a trip along the west coast to see family and friends out there. There are several more exotic places I'd like to see, but they aren't even in the maybe-someday category, yet

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

What I have told interns in the past is, "Know your data before you start mapping."

• The GIS/SIG Conference scheduled for March 31, 2020, has

been postponed until Fall 2020.

- The [QGIS NY 2020 Conference](#) scheduled for 3 April 2020 has been postponed.
- [Spring Forward with Esri MOOCs](#):
 - [Cartography](#) | 22 April - 3 June 2020
 - [The Location Advantage](#) | 16 May - 17 June 2020
- The [STRATUS 2020 Conference](#) scheduled for 8 - 20 May 2020 has been postponed to May 2021.



Geospatial Summit 2020

Stay tuned to save the date for the 2020 New York State Geospatial Summit at the Welch-Allyn Lodge in Skaneateles Falls, New York!



Closing Thoughts

Hopefully without inundating you, the Communications Committee has been sharing COVID-19 resources through our website and social media outlets. Below are a few thoughts.

- As long-time users of technology, we are a relatively savvy group regarding reliable online sources. It is, however, easy, in times of stress and anxiety, to follow links that are best left unclicked. Be vigilant for those with whom we interact who may not be as skeptical of information found online.
- If you are not subscribed to GISNY-L, consider subscribing at <https://gis.ny.gov/outreach/listserv/>. Many individuals, organizations, and agencies are posting helpful resources and information.
- The NYS GIS Association is a well-connected group. It may be some months before we can physically gather together, but our shared passion for using geospatial technology to improve the lives of others will continue to unite us, virtually.

