

February/March 2023 Newsletter

Dear NYS GIS Association Member,

Here are a few items of news:

- NYGeoCon 2023 Call for Sponsors or Exhibitors and Lodging Information
- Meet Greg Andersen, Member of the Board of Directors
- Regional Coordination Committee New
- Upcoming Opportunities & Events



Sincerely,

The NYS GIS Association Communications Committee

Image Credit: Bald Eagle on the Hudson River between Newburgh and West Point, NY | 6 Feb 2022 | [Anthony Quintano](#) | CC BY 2.0

NYGeoCon 2023 Call for Sponsors or Exhibitors

It's time to register as a Sponsor or Exhibitor for NYGeoCon 2023!

The NYS GIS Association invites you to participate as a sponsor or exhibitor at the biennial NYGeoCon, **September 25 – 27, 2023**. The conference will take place at the **Crowne Plaza Albany – The Desmond Hotel in Albany, NY**.

Sponsorship opportunities are available at various levels from \$1,000 to \$2,750. Your company will receive recognition through a variety of channels, based on the level of participation. An exhibitor-only option is available for \$750 and includes one

Sponsor & Exhibitor

Brochure: <https://files.constantcontact.com/2e31f8a7001/382d637f-db32-4cea-8dc9-dcc1215ec80a.pdf?rdr=true>

Lodging Information

Overnight accommodations are available at the Crowne Plaza Albany – The Desmond Hotel at a discounted group rate of \$159.00 per night.

- These rates are available until the **cut-off date of Sunday September 3, 2023 or until the block is full**, whichever occurs first.
- Call **(518) 869-8100** to make your reservation.
- Be sure to identify yourself as a member of the **NYGeoCon** event.

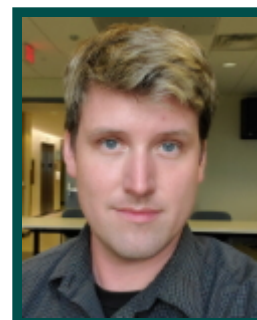
Register Online at: <https://web.cvent.com/event/92792f99-d115-440b-8061-9a78b24b79e8/regProcessStep1?RefId=NYGeoConSponsorExhibitor>



Meet Greg Andersen, Member of the Board of Directors

- **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 path to GIS was, in a way, a happy accident. I earned my geology degree in 2012, but I soon realized that the amount of travel and the often-irregular schedules in that field weren't for me, and I liked working with data more than I liked working in a lab. Of course, I still needed a job,



- **Would you explain your job and what you do there?**

I work for the New York State GIS Program Office, primarily in the Street and Address Maintenance Program, but also in other sections of the office like our parcel program and State Police support. I also participate in our office's support of outside agencies and organizations, including the Office of Emergency Management, the Executive Chamber, and others as needed. I spend a lot of my time automating processes and creating QAQC checks using Python, and I'm currently learning Arcade to assist with that. I also do some outreach to our county and local government partners, provide support for our web application, and, of course, make maps!

- **How did you get involved in the Association? Would you describe the ways you have contributed to the Association?**

My former coworker and previous Board member, Stephanie Rockwell, recommended me for her position on the board. My tenure has been brief, but I've done my best to be an active participant in the governance of the Association, including finding us a new treasurer.

- **Why do you think it is important to be active in the NYS GIS Association?**

It's a great vehicle for keeping up with what's happening in the community. GIS is such a broad and fast-moving field that there is always something new to learn. Always. Without having a link to the outside world it's harder to avoid getting stuck in a rut, in both your technology and processes.

- **How else have you shared your expertise in GIS with others in NYS either formally or informally? (other committees, mentoring, school/university presentations, etc.)**

I have always been an active attendee of the conferences we're lucky enough to have access to, including GeoCon, the Summit, and NEARC. I really enjoy talking to people in other organizations, finding out what they're working on, and seeing if that ties in with what I do. It's amazing how often it does!

- **What is the most interesting project that you have worked on and why?**

That's a tough one! I've been able to work on a lot of great projects over the years, and I don't know if I could definitively say if one was more interesting than another. I will say that I'm particularly proud of automating the creation of the COVID hot zone maps that were posted on the Department of Health website during the pandemic. If you saw any of the maps with the red, orange, and yellow zones, either on the DOH website or in press conferences, there's a very good chance it was created using a tool I wrote.

There was a very interesting presentation at the Brooklyn GeoCon about autonomous vehicles that I feel has always given me a leg up on understanding the topic.

- **What do you like most about mapping?**

I love how it transmits information in a way that can't be done any way else. A map is more than a pretty picture; it orients you in the world and helps you get a sense of how things are interconnected. Interactive maps are even better for this. I'm a strong proponent of idle browsing in Google Earth!

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

I've always thought it would be fun to visit Japan. They have a really interesting history, and I'm a big hiker so I'd love to see the mountains.

- **Do you have any specific advice or philosophies from working in the GIS world?**

Learn to code. We work in tech, and in order for us to fully realize our potential we can't be limited to whatever GUI options are provided. Coding enables you to manipulate GIS (and computers in general) with a degree of power and sophistication that simply can't be done any other way. And it's fun!

Regional Coordination Committee News

Below are a few highlights from the most recent meeting of the Regional Coordination Committee:



- Bill Ostrander, the **Southern Tier** region's representative is retiring at the end of March. If you are interested in taking his place, let him know at OstranderW@co.tioga.ny.us or complete the Contact form at <https://www.nysgis.net/about/contact/>.
- The **Southern Tier GIS Users Group** will hold a Zoom meeting on Thursday, March 23rd from 2 to 3:30 p.m.: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82648817270?pwd=WC9hQ3hSOXRkU3VDSSSt2VWwzdjg2QT09>
- Rob Hubbs will be replacing Ross Baldwin as president of **LIGIS** (Long Island GIS).

more information.

- The **Westchester GIS User Group** has scheduled an in-person annual meeting for May 18th.
- The **National Pandemic GIS Informatics Task Force Playbook** that the Regional Coordination Committee contributed to has been released. It is available at <https://www.napsgfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/National-Pandemic-GIS-Informatics-Task-Force-Playbook.pdf>.
- Doug Williamson, a **NYC GISMO** representative, reported that NYPD (New York Police Department) has migrated to the ESRI GIS portal, which will help the Department integrate its spatial data.
- **9-1-1 systems** issues were discussed.
 - There are challenges associated with meeting NENA (National Emergency Number Association) NG9-1-1 (Next Generation 9-1-1) data standards.
 - There are a variety of 9-1-1 systems implemented across NYS. In some cases county systems are different from those their municipalities use.
 - Given the fact that lives depend on 9-1-1 data, the implementation of standardized 9-1-1 data across NYS regardless of dispatch system is critical. It was agreed that the State, in cooperation with the Regional Coordination Committee and points of contact from NYS counties and municipalities, should coordinate this effort.
- Alan Leidner, of **NYC GISMO**, reported on NYC's efforts to map underground utilities. He also announced the use of sensor technologies to facilitate subsurface mapping. NYC GISMO, NYU, and OGC (Open Geospatial Consortium) have engaged in initiatives to support these efforts.

For more on the work the Regional Coordination Committee does on your behalf, go to the Regional Coordination Committee page at <https://www.nysgis.net/committees/regcoord/> for the minutes of their meetings.

Upcoming Opportunities & Events

- **Southern Tier GIS Users Group Meeting** | 23 March 2023 | 2 - 3:30 p.m. | Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82648817270?pwd=WC9hQ3hSOXRkU3VDSSt2VWwzdjg2QT09>



- **LIGIS Annual Meeting** | 28 April 2023 | Brookhaven Town Hall | More Information: <https://www.ligis.org/>
- **Spring NEARC 2023** | 16 May 2023 | University of Rhode Island | More Information: <https://www.northeastarc.org/spring-nearc.html>
- **Westchester GIS User Group Meeting** | 18 May 2023.
- **NYGeoCon 2023** | 25 - 27 September | Crowne Plaza Albany - The Desmond Hotel | Stay tuned for more information.

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