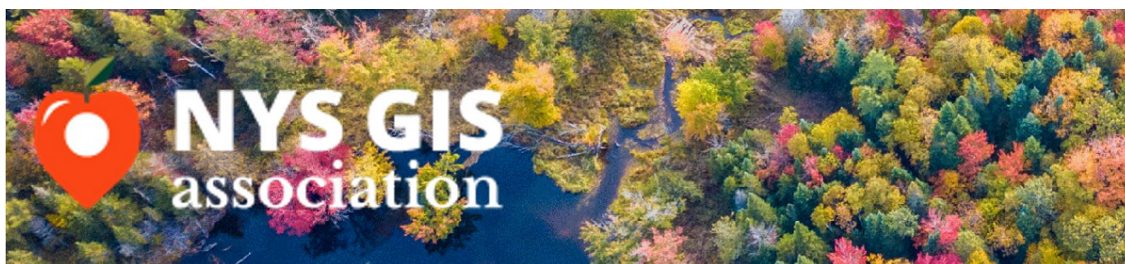


April 2023

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## April 2023 Newsletter

Dear NYS GIS Association Member,

Here are a few items of news:

- NYGeoCon 2023 Call for Abstracts
- Meet Mary Colomaio, Member of the Board of Directors
- NYS GPO Announces Modernized Clearinghouse
- Upcoming Opportunities & Events



Sincerely,

The NYS GIS Association Communications Committee

*Image Credit: View from American side of Niagara Falls (43.083, -79.071) | 2 April 2023 | AKDeakin*

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## NYGeoCon 2023 Call for Abstracts

### It's time to submit an abstract 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**.

This biennial event brings together approximately 200 GIS professionals from state, county and municipal government sectors, non-profit organizations, academia, as well as environmental, engineering and surveying consultant companies. The conference provides opportunities for comprehensive education, in-depth discussion and exchanging of ideas.

If you are interested in submitting an abstract, we invite you to begin the application by clicking the link below. **All submissions must be received by June 2, 2023.**

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## 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>

**Conference Web Site:** <https://nysgis.net/nygeocon2023/>



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## Meet Mary Colomaio, 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?**

When I started my BS at SUNY Cortland, I was enrolled in the Phys Ed. program. But right before school began, I was dealing with some medical issues that forced me to change majors last minute. Thankfully, not only is SUNY Cortland home to both an amazing teaching education program, but its also the location of one of the rare full undergraduate degrees in GIS. The staff in the geography department gave me the skills and confidence I needed to jump head first into what was still really an emerging field of work. After undergraduate school I began working in the corporate world of software sales, which taught me a lot about how to explain



Institute at University of Southern California at this time, and realized one of my major passions was connecting GIS with agriculture. As I transitioned into my current role at Cornell University, I was able to engage with researchers and faculty who not only understood the capabilities of GIS but were just as excited about it as I was. All my favorite subjects – history, science, space exploration, and even cooking, all utilize GIS!

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

My position serves as a leading technical resource in utility mapping, GIS, UAV operations within Facilities Engineering. My primary role is to manage the Utility Mapping Program for Cornell, which requires both management of the utility mapping network and organization of field data collection. I also help co-administer the University GIS license, and support student and faculty users. I wear many hats some days!

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

I joined the Association right as I finished up undergraduate school. I knew attending conferences and events was a good way to expand my network and look for jobs, and the Association provides the perfect environment for both! Since then, I've been a continuous member, and am thrilled to have been asked to join the board!

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

The Association provides members with a fantastic network of GIS professionals in many different fields of study. Being an active member helps folks best utilize the great resources that are available through these collaborations.

- **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 am passionate about teaching school aged children about GIS, and how it already is a part of their everyday life. I like to explain that any time they use a geotag on their favorite social media platform, they are already a geographer! And while my job is already to work with college students and faculty, I still enjoy working with them to help them utilize GIS to it's full potential in their projects.

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

A colleague of mine travels to Honduras regularly to build water systems in rural communities. Being asked to help map and provide data resources to the project was fulfilling for both my brain and my soul! It was tricky to source the data for the specific area but knowing that the project would be providing safe and clean water to a community made the hunt data well worth it!

Getting my very first GIS job! I met team member at Pitney Bowes looking for GIS professionals to build business opportunities in their location intelligence division. This chance meeting at NYGeoCon helped me get my first job post college and gave me the experience to be where I'm at today!

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

The diversity of the product. Virtually any field of study or business can benefit from mapping. Regardless of someone's education or experience, chances are they can still read a map.

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

Antarctica – the science stations there are doing some amazing work, and the adaptability for humans to live in such extreme temperatures is amazing to me.

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

Always be learning the next thing. We are a part of an evolving field, and there is always something new happening. Even if you aren't in any sort of formal education training, read articles, attend conferences, take webinar classes – Keep up with what's happening!

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## NYS GPO Announces Modernized Clearinghouse

New York State's GIS Program Office Announces Modernized NYS GIS Clearinghouse!

Please visit [gis.ny.gov](https://gis.ny.gov) to explore GIS resources in NYS including the new GIS Clearinghouse data page at [data.gis.ny.gov](https://data.gis.ny.gov).

The NYS GIS Clearinghouse will continue to evolve as they incorporate new datasets and apps. The NYS GPO has some exciting ideas to better engage with their GIS user community, so stay tuned!

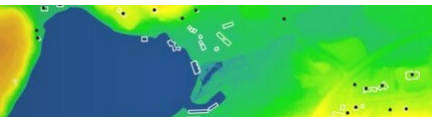
Below are a few notes about the upgrade from Lis DeGironimo, NYS Deputy GIO:

- Bookmarks will no longer work and must be changed.
- It may take Google and other search engines a little time to find and index the new pages.
- There is a chance that old URLs embedded in documents were missed during the content migration and no longer work.

The NYS GPO thanks the teams at NYS ITS, their agency partners, and the site testers. Special thanks go to the Project Manager, Tim Ruhren; the Clearinghouse Manager, Sean O'Connell; and the team at the GIS Program Office for the many hours invested bringing the new GIS Clearinghouse online.

Any feedback is welcome! Please contact the NYS GPO at [nysgis@its.ny.gov](mailto:nysgis@its.ny.gov).

## New Ways to Access GIS Data and Info in NY State



## Upcoming Opportunities & Events

- **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.
- **NYU Underground Utility Data Workshop** | 19 May 2023  
| 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM |  
Tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/underground-utility-data-workshop-tickets-595855047487>
- **STRATUS 2023 Conference** | 22 - 24 May 2023 | Rochester Institute of Technology | More Information: <http://stratus-conference.com/>
- **NYGeoCon 2023** | 25 - 27 September 2023 | Crowne Plaza Albany - The Desmond Hotel | More information: <https://nysgis.net/nygeocon2023/>



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NYS GIS Association · PO Box 64326 · Rochester, NY 14624 · USA



