



WINTER NEWSLETTER 2014



GISPRO 2013 NEURISA was the recipient of the Outstanding Chapter Award: From left to right, Brett Horr, Erin Jacque, Robert Pryne, Diana Maties, Steve Sharp, Chris Akin, Al Butler (URISA President), and Shane White.

Dear Members,

Happy New Year from NEURISA!

2013 was an exciting year for NEURISA. It was the first time in many years that GIS-Pro was hosted in our region. Not only did NEURISA present awards to two distinguished individuals at GIS-Pro (more details below), NEURISA was the recipient of the 2013 Outstanding Chapter Award.

Below we will tell you more about our award recipients, and provide an update on the 2014 Board of Directors.

This year the Board of Directors has seen some membership changes. Several longtime members of the Board of Directors including Chris French, Shane White and Rob Pryne have stepped down. The Board is grateful to their service to the New England GIS Community. We also have several new members Shane Bradt and Bryan Stice that have come on board to assist us in 2014. Welcome Shane & Bryan! This year we have several new officers: Diana Maties was appointed as the 2014 President, Chris Akin 2014 President-Elect, Past-President Steve Sharp, Nate Dansereau was appointed 2014 Treasurer, John Hangen was appointed as Secretary, Erin Jacque was appointed as Communications Coordinator, and New Member Shane Bradt was appointed as Events Coordinator. The Board has formed a Strategic Planning Committee and is currently working hard on developing a strategic plan. We are using member feedback from last year's survey to develop the Strategic Plan, Work Plan and Marketing Plan. We hope to present our planning efforts to our members in the near future.

We wish you all a safe, happy, healthy and prosperous 2014!

-NEURISA Board of Directors

2013 NEURISA Special Achievement Award

Criterion: Through the use of geospatial or other information technologies, the individual has made a significant contribution that greatly enhances the efficiency and effectiveness of an organization; or realizes a significant return on investment; or greatly improves the quality of services. This contribution may be a single act or a cumulative performance.



Message from Departing Board Member Chris French

“Soon after moving to the New England area I found NEURISA while seeking a way to get involved in the GIS community. It is an excellent organization with high-caliber individuals and events for the geospatial professional. Contributing on the Board of Directors was a rewarding experience that I will not soon forget. There are many opportunities in the organization for anyone interested in meeting other like-minded professionals, participating in event planning, outreach, and many other types of activities. I would definitely recommend becoming a member, attending an upcoming event, or even volunteering.”

-Chris French, 2014



2013 Recipient - Michael Howser

Congratulations to Michael Howser, UCONN - University Libraries - Map and Geographic Information Center (MAGIC), for receiving the 2013 NEURISA Special Achievement Award!

Michael has transformed the way GIS data is organized and made available in CT. He has facilitated the growth and innovation that has transformed CT's Map and Geographic Information Center (MAGIC) over the past five years. He has had a role in creating a seamless statewide 1934 aerial data set of CT. He helped to establish the CT State Data Center, a collaboration of academic and state organizations that serve as a liaison to the US Census. He has helped to digitize a wealth of historical information through a massive scanning and metadata project of over 200,000 documents. The comprehensive collection of digital GIS datasets available through MAGIC has exploded in the past five years, yet still remains easy to navigate and simple to use.

2013 NEURISA Superior & Dedicated Service Award

Criterion: A NEURISA member or a member of the NEURISA Board of Directors who has made a significant contribution to the organization and its activities.

2013 Recipient - Neil MacGaffey

Congratulations to Neil MacGaffey, past NEURISA President and Assistant Director at MassGIS, for receiving NEURISA's Superior and Dedicated Service Award for 2013.

Mr. MacGaffey exemplifies the meaning of superior and dedicated.

He was a key player helping to sustain NEURISA when it was struggling to survive. He understood the importance of establishing and documenting procedures and protocols necessary to



Neil MacGaffey accepting the Superior and Dedicated Service Award



mature and sustain the organization. He realized that leadership starts with a “vision”, but is nothing without hard work, team building, speed and authenticity. He understood the importance of recruiting good people to the Board.

- Feng Yang (NEURISA Past-President): “He dedicated a great deal of his time to running this organization for many years. He was instrumental in laying down the foundation for this organization to grow to where it is now. NEURISA benefited from his vision, excellent communication and outreach skills, his ability to identify talented people, his management skills and his solid technical understanding of the profession.”
- Paul Samara (NEURISA Past-President): “He is the consummate collaborator and defender of both needed and defined processes. He has been unwavering with his commitment to this organization and his efforts have been nothing short of stellar. He exemplifies this award and I cannot think of any person more deserving!”

More than anyone else he brought discipline, focus, and dedication to NEURISA. He was (and still is) committed to making NEURISA a great organization!

Introduction of 2014 Board Members

President: Diana Maties - Diana Maties graduated in the summer of 2010 from DePaul University, where she majored in Geography with a concentration in Metropolitan Development and a GIS Certificate. Ms. Maties is a GIS Specialist and has been with CDM Smith for three years. As a GIS Specialist, Ms. Maties has experience with FEMA’s map modernization and RiskMAP programs and has been involved in collection, production, and review of products and data for the FEMA projects. Currently Ms. Maties is the GIS Lead at FEMA Region 1 Regional Service Center (RSC) helping with quality reviews of various products and any additional support the region may need. Ms. Maties was the New England Chapter of URISA (NEURISA) Events Coordinator in 2013. Ms. Maties has also been part of the URISA Vanguard Cabinet from 2011-2013 and has been involved with the conference planning of GIS Pro 2013 and will be helping with GIS Pro 2014 - New Orleans.



President-Elect: Chris Akin (GISP) - Chris Akin has been involved in the GIS industry for over 13 years, the previous 10 years with FM Global, a global commercial and industrial property insurance company focused on engineering-driven underwriting, loss prevention research, and risk management solutions. Chris works to further FM Global’s GIS endeavors, including international hazard data research and development, geospatial web tools, and a corporate Geospatial Enterprise platform. Chris received his BA in Geography with a GIS emphasis degree from Texas A&M University and a Master’s in GIS for Business and Service Planning from the University of Leeds, England.



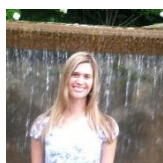
Past-President: Steve Sharp (GISP) - Mr. Sharp is a certified Geographic Information Systems Professional (GISP) with nearly 20 years of experience in the GIS industry. Mr. Sharp is currently Director of Enterprise GIS Services at



the Vermont Center for Geographic Information (VCGI). Mr. Sharp provides supervisory, technical, and consultative work in the development and oversight of State's geospatial databases, and manages a wide range of projects and initiatives for the State. Mr. Sharp was the President of the New England Chapter of URISA (NEURISA) in 2013.

Treasurer: Nate Dansereau (GISP) - Nate has been working with Geospatial Technologies for over twenty years having worked in state and local government and private consulting. He has spent the last eight years working for Green Mountain Power, Vermont's major electric utility. Nate has been on the NEURISA board for three years and is seeking a second term as treasurer. Nate has experience in database design, project management, and photogrammetry, among other technical skills. Nate has worked with a wide variety of GIS applications in many industries ranging from agricultural, forestry, public safety, recreation, and transportation.

Secretary: John Hangen (GISP) - John Hangen is the GIS Coordinator for the City of Milford, CT. He has served in a variety of private, local, and regional government GIS positions during his 19 year GIS career. John received Geography and History degrees from Central Connecticut State University and an MA in Geography from the University of Connecticut. He currently holds a GISP certification and has previously served on the GIS Certification Institute's Outreach Committee, the CT GIS User to User Group's Communications subcommittee, and Cadastral Standards Working Group subcommittee. John begins his term as Secretary for the NEURISA Board of Directors in January 2014. Before being appointed to this role, John spent a year as an at-large member for NEURISA, where he coordinated the entertaining July 2013 NEURISA Lightning Talk event in New Haven, CT. He has conducted numerous GIS outreach presentations for grade school students and for Boy Scouts of America. John is convinced he could still launch an ArcEdit or ArcPlot session using command line Workstation or PC Arc/Info.



Communications Coordinator: Erin Jacque - Erin Jacque is GIS Coordinator/Wetland Scientist with BSC Group, Inc. in Worcester, MA. At BSC Group Erin is responsible for environmental and utility mapping for Federal, State and local permits in Massachusetts, Rhode Island and New Hampshire. Erin has a great deal of experience with stormwater infrastructure mapping, natural resource mapping, and wetlands mapping (integrating ecology and GIS). Erin is a Graduate of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst with a BA in Geography. Erin has also completed work towards a Master's Degree at UMass Amherst in Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation. She is currently a part-time Masters student at Northeastern University in the Geographic Information Technology program.



Events Coordinator: Shane Bradt, GISP (UNH Extension) - Shane Bradt is an Extension Specialist in Geospatial Technologies at the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension. Shane's job is to educate everyone on the potential uses of geospatial technologies and provide hands-on training to specific audiences to help them adopt geospatial approaches in their work and personal life. He became a certified GIS Professional in 2011 and received his PhD in 2012 in the use of remote sensing to monitor lake water quality. Shane has presented at several



NEURISA events, including NEURISA Day in October 2012 and the lightning talk event held at Dartmouth College in April 2013. Shane also helped coordinate, advertise and sponsor the Dartmouth lightning talks. In cooperation with the NEURISA board, he offered intro-level, hands-on training on basic GIS concepts and open source GIS in Worcester, MA, also in April 2013. Shane recently attended the GIS-Pro conference in Providence, RI in September 2013. During the conference, he attended a workshop, gave a presentation, and participated in several NEURISA activities.

At-Large Members



Brian Stice (LandVest) - Brian Stice is a geospatial professional at LandVest, in Boston, MA. He received his M.S in Geographic Information Technology from Northeastern University, and is currently completing a Graduate Certificate in Remote Sensing Technology. Brian specializes in demographics mapping/analysis, database management, environmental land use/renewable energy GIS, and remote sensing/imagery analysis. Brian has more than 5 years of experience with GIS, is actively involved in GIS professional organizations, and keeps LandVest on the cutting edge of GIS software and technology. He currently lives in Watertown, MA, with his wife Dr. Camilla Stice and his dog Jesse James.

Mike Olkin (GISP) - Mr. Olkin is a certified Geographic Information Systems Professional (GISP) with nearly 18 years of experience in the GIS industry, specializing in municipal GIS implementation, server GIS, database administration and web application development. Mr. Olkin is currently the GIS Administrator for the Town of Amherst, MA. Mr. Olkin is a Connecticut native and has a Masters degree in Geography from the University of Connecticut. Mr. Olkin was the President of the New England Chapter of URISA (NEURISA) in 2012.



Brett Horr (GISP) - Brett Horr is a geospatial professional and GIS Manager for the Town of York, Maine. His duties include GIS analysis, web and mobile mapping projects, enterprise database management, IT support, and any and all GIS needs. In addition to his GIS Manager duties, Brett is a Maine State Certified Reserve Police Officer, serving as a reserve Patrolman with the York Police Department, while providing crime analysis, crime mapping, and assistance in accident reconstruction. Brett is also an Adjunct Faculty Member at York County Community College, instructing in GIS and Crime Mapping and Analysis for the Criminal Justice Program and serves as the Secretary for the New England Arc Users Board of Directors.

Brian DuPont - Brian DuPont is a career public servant with over 11 years of experience in local and regional government. He currently serves as the GIS Manager for the Town of Wellesley, MA, where he coordinates the Town's GIS activities and supports strategic initiatives of the Town's Board of Selectmen. He is also a member of the Planning Board in the City of Marlborough, MA. Brian holds a BA in Geography from Clark University and a Graduate Certificate in State & Local Government Leadership and Management from



Suffolk University. 2014 will be Brian's second year as an At-Large Member of NEURISA's Board of Directors.

Events in 2014

NEURISA is proposing several events for 2014 which will include hands on trainings and webinars. We will be having NEURISA Day 2014 this year and we welcome input regarding event ideas and locations. Please email Erin Jacque, Communications Coordinator at ejacque@bscgroup.com. Please include the Subject line "NEURISA Day 2014". Please stay tuned to the NEURISA web site <http://neurisa.org/> for the latest in scheduled trainings and meetings.

News & Information

Maine

The **Maine GIS Users Group (MEGUG)** and **NEURISA** are happy to bring you NEURISA ME Lightning talks.

The event has been rescheduled to March 27th at Peloton Labs (Observatory Room), 675 Congress Street, Portland, ME. From 4:30 PM - 7:00 PM

Please join us for networking from 4:30-5:00, followed by 5 minute lightning talks, and capping the evening with a half hour of networking for those that wish from 6:30-7:00. There will be appetizers served and a cash bar available.

Registration: You can register for the event [here](#).

There is no registration fee for this event but space is limited to the first 50 registrants.

FOR ADDITIONAL UPDATES PLEASE VISIT <http://www.megug.org/>

Massachusetts

Project to Further Enhance Standardized Parcel Mapping

MassGIS has funding in FY2014 and FY2015 for a new project to enhance standardized mapping. The focus of these enhancements is assessor map content missing from the standardized mapping and other obstacles to maintaining standardized assessor mapping. To be eligible for this project, communities must request that MassGIS provide specific enhancements. Requests for these enhancements MUST be sent to MassGIS by or before January 31, 2014. Details on the eligible enhancements and on requirements for your request to MassGIS are available by clicking on the above project link.

We also announced the availability of orthoimagery acquired in April 2013 eastern MA and the greater Worcester and Springfield areas. The relevant web link is:



<http://www.mass.gov/anf/research-and-tech/it-serv-and-support/application-serv/office-of-geographic-information-massgis/datalayers/colororthos2013.html>

New Hampshire

University of New Hampshire Educational Opportunities

At-large Board Member Shane Bradt will be hosting a 1-day event on remote sensing named "What's in a Pixel" on April 25th at the University of New Hampshire. The event will be filled with presentations on remote sensing technology for novices and experts alike. For more information, go to <http://extension.unh.edu/Special-Events/2014-Whats-Pixel>.

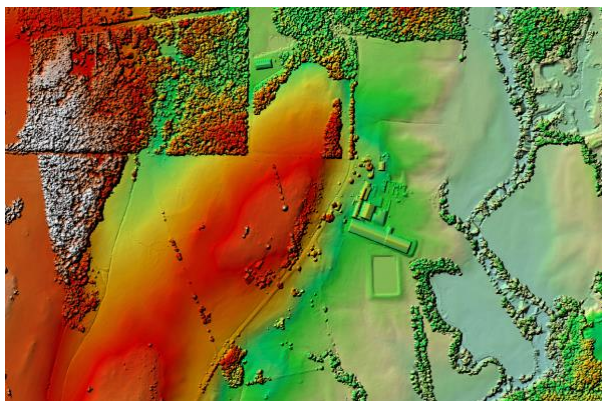
The NH Broadband Mapping and Planning Program will be hosting at NH Broadband Conference on May 16th at the Grappone Conference Center in Concord, NH. The goal of the conference is to bring together a variety of stakeholders to discuss what is happening to expand broadband access, adoption, and use throughout New Hampshire. For more information, go to <http://www.iwantbroadbandnh.org/broadband-conference-2014>.

Vermont

Vermont LiDAR Initiative Data Announcement

January 2, 2014

Mike Brouillette, VCGI



With technical support from our partners in the Enterprise Geospatial Consortium LiDAR Workgroup (a.k.a. VTeam LiDAR), VCGI is happy to announce the initial offering of LiDAR "derivative data" under the umbrella of the "Vermont LiDAR Initiative" effort. For more information on the effort, the state LiDAR plan, status graphics and other support data please visit the new VCGI LiDAR web page at <http://vcgi.vermont.gov/lidar>.

Current data availability includes 1.4m resolution Digital Surface Models (DSMs) "**ElevationOther_DSM1p4m**" and Digital Elevation Models (DEMs) "**ElevationDEM_DEM1p4m**" covering the Missisquoi subbasin and a majority of Bennington County. 2' Contours from these areas will be integrated with the existing 2' contour layer "ElevationOther_CN2T" early in the New Year. See the LiDAR web page for status graphic, project data extents and more.

To download these data select the "download" icon located in the "All new or updated data" of the "Data and Imagery" page http://vcgi.vermont.gov/warehouse/search_tools. All LiDAR



raster data is in the Erdas Imagine file format and organized at two levels for flexibility in downloading:

- 1) Ortho 9 tiling scheme; and
- 2) Original project “footprint” extent – as delivered by vendors.

Index maps and Index shapefiles are provided in the download data folders to help users find tiles of interest, e.g., “_Index_ElevationDEM_DEM1p4m.pdf” and “_Index_ElevationDEM_DEM.zip”.

<http://vcgiblog.wordpress.com/category/vt-gis-news/>

Submit future CALENDAR items, GIS News, and Ideas for GIS profiles/stories to NEURISA, Erin Jacque ejacqe@bscgroup.com. The preferred format for Calendar submissions includes the following items: *Conference Title; Brief description; Date; Time; Location; Sponsor(s); Contact: name & phone number; Website: if available*

New England Chapter of URISA (URISA)

NEURISA serves Connecticut, New Hampshire, Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Vermont.

NEURISA is a not-for-profit [501(c)(6)] professional organization incorporated in Massachusetts. We would like to thank our Corporate Sponsors for their support (AppGeo - BSC Group - CAI - Cartograph - CDM Smith - DGT Survey Group - Sanborn - Tighe & Bond - VHB).



Sponsors

