FALL NEWSLETTER 2014

NEURISA Day 2014 Keynote Speaker, Greg Babinski, GISP

Finance & Marketing Manager, King County GIS Center, Seattle, WA
Chair, URISA GIS Management Institute
Past President, URISA

NEURISA is proud to welcome 2014 NEURISA Day Keynote Speaker Greg Babinski. Mr. Babinski is a highly successful advocate for the use of GIS to improve all aspects of local government business practices, and is internationally recognized as a prominent contributor to several effective efforts to advance the cause of the profession. In his tenure as President of URISA, Mr. Babinski led the expansion of the organization into the international realm, adding several new chapters around the world. As the current Chair of URISA's GIS Management Institute, Mr. Babinski is dedicated to developing resources that advance professional best practices and standards for the management of GIS operations.

Register for NEURISA Day 2014

Monday, November 3, 2014

Old Sturbridge Village, Sturbridge, MA

(Map this location)

Registration:
http://www.neurisa.org/NEURISADay2014

The New England Chapter of the Urban & Regional Information Systems Association (NEURISA) will host its annual NEURISA Day conference on Monday, November 3, 2014. This one day conference will include a keynote session, exhibitors, and presentations from professionals in the GIS community.

We are excited to announce that new for 2014 we will have a second concurrent track in order to offer more for our attendees!

In addition to networking and hearing relevant presentations, conference attendees will get to spend a few minutes in one-on-one conversations with participating geospatial exhibitors as a means to build introductions and discover mutual business or professional interests.

Register before October 17th to get the early bird price!

Opportunity for Exhibitors

Your presence at NEURISA Day 2014 will provide visibility for your company and the opportunity for direct interaction with current and potential clients from throughout the New England. Just go to the NEURISA Day registration page to register as an exhibitor.

2014 NEURISA Day
Conference Agenda
(Subject to Change)

7:30 - 8:30 Exhibitor Setup
7:45 - 8:45 Registration
8:45 - 9:00 Introduction, Chris Akin, NEURISA President

9:00 - 9:45 Keynote, Mr. Greg Babinski, GISP, King County GIS Center & URISA Past President

9:45 – 10:15 Exhibitor Shout Out
10:15 - 10:30 Break

10:30 - 11:45 Room 1/Session 1 – New Technology - Moderator: Michael Olkin, Town of Amherst, MA

- Using Online GIS Tools to Map Spatial Narratives, Victoria Beckley, Smith College Spatial Analysis Lab
- ArcGIS Pro - Getting Started and Lessons Learned, David Shortman, CDM Smith
- Python+Geo - Guido Stein, AppGeo

10:30 - 11:45 Room 2/Session 1 – Online Maps in Government & Infrastructure - Moderator: Steve Sharp, VCGI

- Streamlining Municipal Operations in Rockport, MA, Matthew Barrett, Town of Rockport, MA
- Integrating GIS & IWMS to Create an Effective Space Planning Tool, Niels la Cour, UMass Amherst
- Using Intelligent Maps to Engage Communities and Create Responsive Government, Kate Hickey, AppGeo

11:45 - 1:15 Exhibitor Visit / Lunch / Raffle

1:15 - 2:45 Room 1/Session 2 – Looking Towards the Future- Moderator: Erin Jacque, Tighe & Bond

- Statewide Standardized Tax Mapping: Lessons Learned, Future Prospects, Neil MacGaffey, MassGIS
- NOAA Digital Coast: Improving Coastal Resilience, Jamie Carter, NOAA Office of Coastal Management
- Brownfields Assessment Program, Amy Vaillencourt, Tighe & Bond

1:15 - 2:45 Room 2/Session 2 - Technology Trends - Moderator:Brett Horr, Town of York, ME

- A Roundtable Discussion about the State of the GIS Industry, Chris Akin, FM Global

2:45 - 3:15 Break & Visit with Exhibitors

3:15 - 4:30 Room 1/Session 3 – Hands On Workshop - Moderator: Shane Bradt ,UNH Cooperative Extension

- Census Data Access Workshop, Alexandra Barker, US Census Bureau

3:15 - 4:30 Room 2/Session 3 – Professional & Technical - Moderator: Chris Akin, FM Global

- GIS Management Institute, Greg Babinski, URISA
- Precision Street Panoramas in GIS, Paul Smith, Cyclomedia Technology

4:30 Conference Adjourned

NEURISA Board Profile
Mike Olkin, GIS Administrator, Town of Amherst
NEURISA, At-Large Board Member

"Map Minute with Mike"

Mike Olkin has been a GIS practitioner for the last 18-years and serves a NEURISA At-Large Board Member. He currently serves as GIS Administrator for the Town of Amherst. Recently on LinkedIn I discovered "Map Minute with Mike". I asked him to talk a little bit about the project.

Can you tell the readers a little bit about yourself? How long have you worked for the Town of Amherst? How long have you been a GIS practitioner? What is your role on a typical day of work?

The Town of Amherst created the GIS Administrator position nearly 10 years ago. I was fortunate enough to land the gig. I've been there ever since, working to provide mapping resources for Town staff and the community. I have been a GIS practitioner for 18 years, which doesn't seem possible, especially considering that I'm only 29 years old. ;) These days, my role on a typical day of work can include database administration, system administration, system integration, a wee bit of coding, map production, map revisions / data conversions, technical support and plenty of collaboration with colleagues, committee members and members of the general public. I enjoy the variety, to say the least.

What challenges inspired you to create "Map Minute with Mike"?

GIS is an important component in the way that the Town of Amherst does business and delivers services. It is used constantly by both staff and the general public. It needs to be an easy system to use and it is my job to ensure that people can use it. Most of Amherst's mapping resources are delivered via AppGeo's General Purpose Viewer (GPV), an online map-centric system integration interface that we call Amherst Maps. It's a unified interface, meaning that both Town staff and the general public use it heavily to make maps and access everything from property records, to utility system information, to permit history records. I like to think of it as a very user-friendly system, but like most online mapping interfaces, there is more than meets the eye. Educating people about how to effectively use Amherst Maps has always been a challenge; I've offered training sessions to both staff and the general public in the past, with varying levels of attendance. Map Minute with Mike is an attempt to provide training via screen-capture video, in bite-sized pieces that can be consumed anytime. It's like free candy that tastes good without promoting tooth decay.

Have you had any feedback from any town's people on it yet?

I've been promoting Map Minute with Mike via social media channels, with some very nice feedback so far. I write a brief blog post to announce each episode and each post shows up automatically on our website under the "Amherst Maps News" heading. An announcement was recently made to our Town staff about this new resource, and the feedback so far has been quite positive.

"Map Minute with Mike" is officially a series. Are there additional topics you hope to cover in the future?

Yes, Map Minute with Mike is now a series on the Amherst Maps YouTube Channel. My goal is to produce one episode per week, with each episode providing just a couple tips that will promote better use of Amherst Maps. Each episode covers a very basic theme that can be covered in just a couple minutes (a side goal is to actually produce an episode that is truly just one minute). So far, we've covered basic themes like Selecting & Filtering Features, Using the Map Navigation Tools, etc. An upcoming topic that I'm excited about is "Using the Map to Communicate" - how to markup the map and email a link to anyone. I'm thinking of this episode as a potential Bob Ross tribute.

Do you have any advice for others who may want to start an educational series in the future?

My advice to those who wish to use screen capture video to produce an educational series is to keep it simple, keep it fun, keep it brief and don't worry about mistakes. We're human and perfection is not necessary in order to effectively convey a message. Each episode should have one simple message and that message is usually best presented after just a little bit of planning. I usually spend a few minutes thinking about and mapping out a plan (yes, I like to map stuff out). As for technical advice, with screen capture video it is important to record at a low screen resolution, which seems counter-intuitive. High-resolution screen capture videos sacrifice too much in terms of text legibility and icon recognizability; I record at a screen resolution of 1024x640, which comes across nicely in both the default YouTube box and in full-screen display. There are some great free screen recording options. I use QuickTime Player on a Mac, which includes screen video capture (for some reason, this capability is not included in the PC version). On a PC, I've used CamStudio for screen video capture.

Anything else you would like to include….

To those of us working in local government, it is important to remember every day that nearly every piece of information that we use is public information. It is no longer enough to simply make this information available to all who request it. We must strive to provide public information in a format that anyone can understand via mediums that anyone can access. This levels the playing field, removes barriers, produces efficiencies, promotes effectiveness, provides transparency and helps to build the trust for which we all strive.

Thank you Mike for sharing your experience with us! *–Erin Jacque, GIS Analyst, Tighe & Bond, NEURSA Communications Coordinator*

AGENCY OF TRANSPORTATION POSITION POSTING

Job: GIS Project Supervisor
Job Opening 615825
Position Number: 861462
Job Code: 464000
Division: Highway / Asset Management & Performance / Montpelier
Status: Permanent / Full Time / First Shift
Pay Grade: 24
Application Deadline: 11/13/14

General Information
This position, (**GIS Project Supervisor, Job Opening 615825**), is open to all State employees and external applicants.

If you would like more information about this position, please contact Michelle Dion @ (802-828-2621.
Resumes will not be accepted via e-mail. You must apply online to be considered.

General Job Description
Develop a wide variety of Geographic Information System (GIS) applications and data sets for use by agency and departmental level program staff, including components such database structures, data entry forms, queries, interactive maps, and system interfaces (import/export). Configure and operationally optimize equipment such as staff workstations in order to allow the proper execution of and access to the GIS applications and datasets. Train program staff in the use of existing GIS applications as well as in the development of new, limited scope applications and tools. May assist in the development of yearly IT budget estimates and expenditure plans. Work is performed under the direction of an IT Manager or another administrative supervisor.
To read the full job specification for this position, please visit the DHR Job Specification page.

Minimum Qualifications
EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE:
Bachelor's degree in computer science, mathematics, a natural resources related field, engineering, planning field, or geography.
OR
Two years of full-time college coursework OR an associate's degree in computer science, mathematics, a natural resources related field, engineering, planning field, or geography AND EITHER two (2) years or more of experience performing data cleansing and integration with web services, project or program planning, or design and management of computer databases OR two (2) years or more of experience with GIS in a real-time or educational environment.
OR
Four (4) years or more of experience performing data cleansing and integration with web services, project or program planning, or design and management of computer databases OR four (4) years or more of experience with GIS in a real-time or educational environment and preferably ARC INFO software.
Preferred: Experience with ARC INFO software.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:
Some positions may require demonstrated proficiency in SQL.

Submission of Application
Should you submit an application for this job opening, you certify that all information entered is correct and complete to the best of your knowledge. By submitting an application, you acknowledge and understand that the State of Vermont may verify information, and that untruthful or misleading answers are cause for rejection of this application, and/or dismissal if employed with the State of Vermont.

Equal Employment Opportunity
The State of Vermont is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Applications from women, individuals with disabilities, veterans, and people from diverse cultural backgrounds are encouraged.

To find job postings and apply online:

1)Go to the Department of Human Resources Website (DHR) http://humanresources.vermont.gov/careers).
2) Click on "Job Seekers."
3) For external applicants, click on Job Seekers, Search for Jobs & Apply Online, and follow the instructions.
4) For internal applicants, click on Current Employees, Search Jobs and Apply Online. Log in to VTHR. Select Main Menu> Self Service> Recruiting Activities> Careers. The most recent postings will populate. To search for additional postings click on "Job Search" and select your search criteria.

Events/Opportunities in 2014

URISA Trainings

URISA is pleased to announce the presentation of two of its most popular Certified Workshops via instructor-led web-based training. Normally full-day classroom sessions, each workshop has been re-packaged into three sections for presentation virtually without the travel expense and time away from work. The workshop content is thoroughly peer-reviewed and updated each year and is eligible for GISP Education credit (8 hours of EDU-2). The cost to attend each virtual workshop is $195 for URISA members and $245 for non-members.

URISA's virtual classrooms are limited according to the number of participants in order to facilitate online discussions and Q&A with the presenters. Individuals are encouraged to register early to reserve a spot. (Note that the workshops are recorded, so if for some reason you cannot attend all three sections of a workshop, you will have complete access to the recorded archive.) A registration form and more details are available online.

Introduction to Open Source GIS Software

This 8-hour workshop will be presented virtually over three days:

Tuesday, October 21, 2014 - 1:00– 4:00 pm EDT
Wednesday, October 22, 2014 - 1:00– 4:00 pm EDT
Thursday, October 23, 2014 - 1:00– 3:00 pm EDT

Course Description: Free and open source software (FOSS) has been offering choices to computer users for a number of years. Over the past few years the open source choices in GIS have been broader and more capable than ever before. This workshop will focus on GIS open source software. It will give an overview of current developments from technical and management perspectives. Selected packages and their applications in various projects will be demonstrated and discussed.

Specific topics include:

- Open Source GIS background and development
- Overview of Open Source GIS spatial functionalities
- Live demonstration
- Interoperability: The Open Source GIS spectrum
- Planning and implementation issues

Intended Audience: Anyone interested in free and open source geographic information system software. The workshop will suit both managerial and technical needs and it does not require any prerequisites.

Instructor Profile: Sara Yurman, GISP is a URISA Certified Workshop Instructor. She is an experienced GIS Manager and a founder of Spatial Focus, LLC with over 25 years of experience in both organizational and technical aspects of geographic information, encompassing government at the local, regional, and state levels. Her activities have included team-building and change management as well as implementations of raster and vector GIS, GPS data integration, system development, and database design. She is a member of URISA's Address Standard Working Group and URISA's Leadership Academy faculty.

Asset Management: Planning, Strategy, and Implementation

This 8-hour workshop will be presented over three days:

Tuesday, November 18, 2014 - 1:00– 4:00 pm EDT
Wednesday, November 19, 2014 - 1:00– 4:00 pm EDT
Thursday, November 20, 2014 - 1:00– 3:00 pm EDT

Course Description: Public and private agencies face continuous challenges to accomplish more with less as increases in demand, regulatory requirements, infrastructure deterioration, and political and economic forces have significantly outpaced increases in capital and operating budgets. Many of these agencies are turning to Asset Management to cope with these challenges and improve business performance and effectiveness. This workshop will focus on several aspects of developing an asset management system that could help improve performance, reduce long-term costs, and maximize return on investment in infrastructure assets.

Specific topics include:

- Strategy and Planning
- Data Collection Methods
- Software Solutions

- · Information Management and Decision Support Tools
- · Evaluation and Performance Measures
- · GASB34 Reporting
- · Life Cycle Costs

Intended Audience: This workshop is intended for utility, transportation, engineering, planning, and environmental managers and analysts of the public and private sectors.

Instructor Profile: Allen Ibaugh, AICP, GISP is the Immediate Past-President of URISA and Certified Workshop Instructor for this and a few other URISA workshops. Allen, co-owner of DTS, has years of Program Management experience working on various GIS, database, and multimedia projects for the departments of transportation, forest management companies, metropolitan planning organizations, and city/county governments. He has extensive knowledge of web development, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), IT, and relational database integration. Allen holds an M.S. in Urban and Regional Planning and an M.A. in Geography.

Registration and more details about each workshop are available online.

Connecticut GIS User to User Network

Date and Time: Wednesday, November 19, 2014 8:30am - 3:00pm
Location Wesleyan University-Beckham Hall Middletown, CT

Parking in Lot V. Additional parking coming soon for handicapped accessibility.

Buy your own lunch available at Usdan Marketplace.

Sponsors
Special thanks to New England Geosystems and Latitude Geographics for sponsoring GIS Day!

Details
Posters will be accepted and will hang in the Legislative Office Building in Hartford for the **ENTIRE** month of NOVEMBER!

We are looking for **presenters** to share their great GIS knowledge with fellow GISers!

Please contact any of our GIS User Network Steering Committee Members for any interest in presenting, displaying a poster, etc.!

Visit the 2013 Connecticut GIS Day page including the interactive map, speaker lineup, and poster gallery.

http://ctgis.uconn.edu/

UConn CLEAR and CT DEEP
Mysteries of the New Lidar Data

Tuesday, October 28, 2014
2PM - 3PM EDT

Lidar is a detection system that uses light from a laser on an airplane to collect very accurate and dense elevation values with many different applications (and it looks really cool!). Connecticut is (partially) covered by a patchwork of Lidar datasets captured at different times by different companies with different specs. Most of the data sets are now available on the Connecticut Environmental Conditions Online (CT ECO) website in an interactive format (that means you can zoom in). This webinar taught by CLEAR's Emily Wilson and Cary Chadwick will highlight what is available including elevation, hillshade, shaded relief, slope and aspect and how to access it. It will discuss what is happening under the hood to get volumes of data out to you over the internet and will also discuss the missing areas of the state. CT ECO is a website that was designed to provide access Connecticut's natural resource data layers, and is a partnership between the UConn CLEAR and CT DEEP.

https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/573902050?utm_source=Fall+2014+Webinar+Announcement&utm_campaign=Fall+2014+Webinar+Announcement&utm_medium=email
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.

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*

Sponsors

NEURISA would like to thank its sponsors for their ongoing support!

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.