



**asprs** THE IMAGING & GEOSPATIAL  
INFORMATION SOCIETY

## **EASTERN GREAT LAKES REGION NEWSLETTER, DECEMBER 2020**

### **2020 YEAR IN REVIEW FROM EGLR PRESIDENT**

**By: Dr. Shawana P. Johnson, GISP CEO of Global  
Marketing Insights, Inc.**

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Dear ASPRS and Eastern Great Lakes Region and Future members, Regardless of the unending unique situations we have all faced personally and professionally in 2020 this year has literally “zoomed” by.

When I became President of the Eastern Great Lakes Region, for 2020 my platform was to set up the “foundation Marketing tools” needed to attract new members. What a great year to do this and obtain live marketing feedback. I am pleased to report we (the EGLR Board and our Lakeland Community College – Intern (GIS/Marketing) Patricia Horkan) have completed our goals and built on that Marketing Platform. To date we have delivered: Our new website: <https://www.asprs.org/eglr-2> where you will see:

- a GIS map listing all our current EGLR members as well as the geo and GIS related companies in our region- broken out by Member; Government/Public Services/Utilities;

Engineering/Consulting/Software; Schools/Research;  
Manufacturing; Aerial Firms/Drone Firms

- Overview and contacts links for EGLR board members
- Current Overview of speakers and pdf of presentations for our Technology Impacts: What's Next in Mapping? virtual meeting held 11/12/2020 as well as 2019's meeting
- EGLR Newsletters

Our first virtual meeting Technology Impacts: What's Next in Mapping? was a resounding success with just under 70 attendees for the entire meeting listening to an all-star group of speakers – the meeting highlights follow this year in review article.

As my last official act as President I would like to welcome my Vice-President, Michael Joos, as the 2021 President. I know he will take us to the next level of superior support of our members. You can read about Michael in the Board section of our website. To our members, ASPRS Headquarters team, ASPRS President and part of our home region, Jeff Lovin, Woolpert and my board and college intern thank you for your support this year. NONE of what we accomplished would have happened without you.

Sincerely, Shawana

## **EGLR'S VIRTUAL MEETING "TECHNOLOGY IMPACTS: WHAT'S NEXT IN MAPPING?"**

The Eastern Great Lakes Region (EGLR) was proud to present a Free Virtual Meeting, "Technology Impacts: What's Next in Mapping?" on Thursday, November 12, 2020 from 1-4:30pm. The meeting was divided into three sessions, each one focusing on a different technological advancement in mapping and its impact on the process of data acquisition, data analysis, and map creation. A total of nine speakers, from tech companies, academia, government agencies, and the military, shared presentations on these advancements, each followed by a brief question and answer period.

Nearly 70 attendees joined us online for the chance to learn from and interact with industry experts.

The first session of the afternoon featured presentations on Autonomous Vehicle Mapping. Dr. Aaron Morris of Allvision shared how autonomous vehicles can recreate a to-scale duplicate of a particular area or city. Matt Mercurio, from CivicMapper and PAMAGIC demonstrated the many ways cameras can be used in creating maps. Dr. Richard A. Chase spoke of a project MTRI participated in to create automated, fuel-efficient vehicles and described the process by which it would be possible to communicate with them. Johnnie Delay, Sr from L3 Harris Technologies, the last speaker in the first session, described the elements necessary for a successful future AI projects.

3DEP (3D Elevation Program) took center stage in the middle session. Charles Hickman from USGS shared an update on the 3DEP mapping of the region. Dr. Jason Stoker, also from USGS, discussed the National Geospatial Program. Lastly, Dr. Srinidhi Dharmapuri from Sanborn, demonstrated a way of collecting, organizing, and recalling large amounts of LiDAR data.

The final technical session focused on Hydrographic Mapping. Dr. Mary Ellen Miller from MTRI shared her project on wetland connectivity in the Great Lakes. Charlene S. Sylvester from U.S. Army Corps of Engineers explained the process they employ for mapping the Great Lakes, as well as the results of their work.

To close our meeting, we were honored to have ASPRS National President and EGLR member, Jeff Lovin of Woolpert share highlights of his year in office and some of the recent activities at the national level. Incidentally, Dr. Jason Stoker, who presented during the 3DEP session, is the incoming President of ASPRS National.

If you or someone you know was unable to attend the meeting and would like to review the information presented or if you attended and would like the chance to view any of the presentations again, we encourage you to visit the region's website where the meeting agenda, speaker information, and links to all speaker presentations

has been posted. [CLICK HERE](#) to visit the EGLR website and view these great presentations.

\*Thanks to our speakers who so willingly shared their projects and expertise with us.

\*\*Thanks to ASPRS President Jeff Lovin for his closing remarks and the EGLR Board for their assistance in accessing such a great lineup of speakers. A special Thank You to Michigan Tech Research Institute for hosting both the EGLR Board members and the meeting via Zoom Link, Colin Brooks of MTRI for arranging the Board's visit to MTRI as well as the Zoom Link, Dr. Mary Ellen Miller of MTRI for stepping in as our in-person host on the day of the meeting, Seth in MTRI's IT department for setting up all the necessary equipment, and MTRI intern Zane Almquist for her assistance.

## 2020 EGLR ELECTION CANDIDATES

It is time, once again, for EGLR Board Elections. Read on to learn about this year's candidates.

### **Vice President: Mr. John Antalovich Jr.**

John has a BS in Civil/Environmental Engineering and an MBA. He is a licensed PE and PS. John has worked at Kucera International Inc. for his entire career in various production capacities and for the past 15 years as the company President. He has served as ASPRS Softcopy Committee Chairman and currently serves as MAPPS Aerial Acquisition Committee Co-Chair.

### **Secretary/Treasurer: Dr. Colin Brooks**

Colin Brooks is a Senior Research Scientist at the Michigan Tech Research Institute, where his research focuses on applications of high-resolution remote sensing to address ecological and transportation infrastructure problems. He previously worked on oak woodland conservation and salmon restoration research for UC-Berkeley, and for the U.S. Forest Service as a GIS Specialist. Since 2011, he has focused on how UAV-enabled sensing can help collect geospatial data easily and safely while adding value to decision-

making processes. He has been a member of ASPRS since 1992. He has served as an EGLR board member from 2008-2012 and as EGLR Secretary / Treasurer since 2018. He has a Ph.D. in Biological Sciences from Michigan Technological University, a M.E.M from Duke University in Resource Ecology, and a B.S. from Lenoir-Rhyne College in Pre-Forestry.

### **Region Director: Dr. Ben Vander Jagt**

Benjamin Vander Jagt is the founder of PixElement, a Midwest startup that provides cloud-based (and now, desktop) 3D reconstruction and mapping software for the construction, mining, and defense industries. Ben is a land surveying graduate (Ferris State University, Michigan) although he spends most days now in front of screen writing software...the very thing he set out NOT to do. Ben has served as the chair of the UAS Division within ASPRS, has given workshops at the annual ASPRS convention and local meetings, and is actively looking for ways to align surveying professionals with ASPRS and vice versa.

### **Region Director: Patricia Horkan**

Patricia Horkan has spent the last year working as a GIS/Marketing Intern for the EGLR, while completing the final classes to earn her GIS Technical Certificate from Lakeland Community College. In this position, she did extensive market research to understand the member area and the geospatial technologies located within it, even creating a member map with location analysis. Patricia also designed and managed content for the region website and created and designed the region quarterly newsletter. She also coordinated the publicity for the region's recent virtual meeting. Patricia also has a B.A. in Business Administration, with a focus in Marketing. She has spent time working in various store management positions, where she focused on building and sustaining customer relationships.

## **DIVERSITY IN THE EGLR**

ASPRS President, Jeff Lovin, recently shared that ASPRS leadership has set a goal of increasing diversity within the organization. This

work is still in the beginning stages, but every member can play a part in this important effort. One way this can be accomplished in the Eastern Great Lakes Region is to focus on attracting student members. This not only injects new enthusiasm and fresh ideas, but also helps to extend the longevity of the region as the student members then advance to professional memberships.

There are many benefits to be gained from having an ASPRS Student Membership. They include society newsletters, PE&RS, job fair access, discounts on conferences and purchases at the online bookstore, scholarship opportunities, and the chance to network with industry professionals who are eager to share their knowledge offer advice.

However, students are often intimidated by the idea of attending a professional meeting, so members may need to bring ASPRS to them. This can be done by:

- Contacting a school near you (or one of the 82 schools and research institutions shown on the GIS map on the region website) and dropping off some society information or offering to speak at an event or class
- Assisting with STEM events at a school, museum, or community
- Establishing a professional contact with a school guidance or career counselor

There was only one student membership within the EGLR in 2020; let's all work to increase that number in 2021!

## WHY JOIN US?

As one year ends and another begins it seems like an appropriate time to review exactly why an ASPRS EGLR membership is so beneficial.

The American Society of Photogrammetry (ASPRS) was founded in 1934 as part of The International Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing. It is the original geospatial organization. The society is divided into 15 regions whose meetings and events are focused on areas of regional interests. In the case of The Eastern

Great Lakes Region (EGLR), this means the Great Lakes, the Ohio River watershed, and energy.

A survey of EGLR members and former members conducted earlier this year found members strongly value EGLR membership because of three main reasons:

## **CERTIFICATIONS**

ASPRS is the only organization to offer nationally recognized certifications. As more and more technical disciplines come to rely on photogrammetry and remote sensing, it is more important than ever that any information is trusted to be accurate and dependable. The primary objectives of the ASPRS certification programs are:

1. To identify and recognize those persons who, after careful appraisal by their peers, and after passing a written examination, are considered to have met the requirements established by the Society for certification.
2. To provide a basis for weighing the validity of allegations and complaints that involve practicing photogrammetrists and mapping scientists, and for taking appropriate action in connection therewith.
3. To encourage persons as yet not fully qualified to work towards certification as a goal of professional achievement.
4. To encourage certified persons, through the recertification process, to continue their professional achievements as rapid change in technology occurs.

## **ONLINE EDUCATION/PUBLICATIONS**

Just like in any other technology-based industry, it is important for those in the geospatial industry to stay current on practices and advancements. ASPRS offers its members the chance to do just that thru online courses. ASPRS members can find online seminars and workshops at the ASPRS website. These allow someone working towards certification to obtain professional development hours. Also included in this section of the website are webinars for kids,

information on the ASPRS Early Professionals Mentoring Program, and other career and education resources.

ASPRS members also have access to industry publications. The journal of "Photogrammetric Engineering & Remote Sensing" is commonly referred to as "*PE&RS*," and is the official journal of imaging and geospatial information science and technology. Included in the journal on a regular basis are highlight articles, such as the popular "Grids & Datums" and "Mapping Matters" columns, as well as peer reviewed scientific and technical papers. All ASPRS members receive a monthly edition of this journal. In addition, members can visit the ASPRS website and have access to large variety of books related to photogrammetry, remote sensing, geospatial and imaging sciences and applications. All are encouraged to visit the bookstore and take advantage of the offered material to increase both knowledge and skill sets.

## **NETWORKING**

Eastern Great Lakes Region events give members the opportunity to establish professional contacts with their fellow members. These contacts can prove to be invaluable as they may lead to work on future projects, employment opportunities, the exchange of ideas, and offers of professional assistance.

It is our hope that all members take advantage of these extremely valuable member benefits. It is also hoped that all members would spread the word about the positives of being an ASPRS EGLR member. The region grows stronger from the expertise of each member.

## **CONTACT US**

The EGLR Board consists of professionals from the aerial (manned and unmanned), engineering and services, geospatial market development and geospatially focused research institutions who are working within local, state, and federal governments and commercial market domains. We encourage you to email a board member with any questions about ASPRS EGLR. We would also be

happy to offer guidance if you or your organization is experiencing a difficulty, or even if you would just like to bounce some ideas off someone in the industry.

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We also encourage you to visit the region on social media to stay informed of any news and events pertaining to ASPRS EGLR:

[ASPRS EGLR Website](#)

[ASPRS EGLR Facebook](#)

