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INFORMATION SOCIETY



Eastern Great Lakes Region

EGLR NEWSLETTER

March 2021

A MESSAGE FROM THE EGLR PRESIDENT

**By: Michael Joos, CP, GISP; Director Business
Development, T3 Global Strategies; mjoos@t3gs.com**

As I sit down to write this message, the first quarter of 2021 is winding down (or perhaps, that milestone will have passed by the time you read this). That means that the current Eastern Great Lakes Region Board of Directors has had a couple of months to establish some goals and priorities for the year. If you followed and participated in the Region's activities last year, you are aware that we did a lot of exciting things and established some strong momentum for the Region – thanks in no small part to our dedicated Board and the leadership of our 2020 Region President, Shawana Johnson. I see it as my role to keep the Region moving forward and to build on the momentum that was created in 2020.

One of our highest priorities this year is to increase participation in the Region and in ASPRS as an organization. Speaking candidly, the Region continues to struggle with participation. This is a situation that is not unique to ASPRS – we see this in other professional organizations, in our churches, volunteer fire companies, charitable

organizations, and others - but it is one that we can address, with your help.

Participation in ASPRS and in the Region offers a host of benefits including opportunities to build meaningful relationships with fellow practitioners, stay abreast of new and emerging technologies, achieve or maintain professional certifications, and demonstrate your commitment to your career and the profession.

Speaking to my personal experience, I can say that actively participating in ASPRS at the National and Regional levels has been extremely rewarding and beneficial to my long career in the geospatial industry. Opportunities to lead and contribute abound and I am glad that I took advantage of the ones that were presented to me. I invite you to do the same – we are always looking for new leaders and new people who are willing to get involved.

So, by now, I am sure you are asking yourself, how can I get involved? In response to that, I submit a couple of suggestions:

1. This one is easy! Join our Eastern Great Lakes Region group page on LinkedIn at <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/2592523/> to get plugged in to Region news and opportunities to participate.
2. Respond to our Call for Papers to have your presentation included in one of our technical meetings or conferences.
3. Attend our technical meetings!
4. Encourage your colleagues or employers who are not currently members of ASPRS to join and get involved.
5. Start with a casual role with the Region, contribute (or manage) to our website, volunteer for a committee, etc.
6. Consider running for office. While we don't have all the trappings of Senators and Congressmen, it is still nice to know that we (the Region officers) are contributing to the betterment of our profession.

In addition to the focus on increasing participation, we are also looking forward to two major events in 2021. First, we are excited to be planning our Summer Technical Meeting, which is planned for the

July/August time frame. At this early stage of planning, it looks that the meeting this year will be a joint event, co-hosted by the Eastern Great Lakes *and* the Western Great Lakes Regions. To say we are excited about this opportunity to collaborate with our sister region would be an understatement, to say the least. And, if the progress towards getting the current global health pandemic behind us continues, we may be able to have a live component to the meeting this year (we're even planning for a social event, if possible!).

The other event for 2021 will be the EnerGIS Conference, planned for some time in the late fall. We are pleased to be invited back by the good folks at GITA/EnerGIS to partner with them in the delivery of this exciting conference. This marks our fourth consecutive year of co-hosting the EnerGIS conference, and we could not be more thrilled to be a part of this great event. Stayed tuned for more information on both events, including a Call for Papers and opportunities to sponsor.

I'll close this message by again extending our sincere invitation to get involved. We welcome your participation at any level and look forward to opportunities to work together to make the Region better for everyone.

With warm regards,



Michael Joos, CP, GISP
President, Eastern Great Lakes Region, ASPRS

NEW EGLR BOARD MEMBERS

Please join the EGLR Board of Directors in welcoming our newly elected board members. The following individuals will be serving a 2-year term in their elected position. We look forward to working with them and are excited to see what new ideas they have for the region and its members.

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: Trish Horkan

Trish 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. Trish 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. Trish 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.

EGLR MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: SUSTAINING MEMBERS

****Special thanks to John Antalovich, Jr. from Kucera International, Inc., Michael Joos from T3 Global Strategies, and Jill Kelley from Woolpert for their contributions to this article.**

There are three main types of ASPRS memberships: individual, student, and sustaining. This month we would like to focus on Sustaining Memberships. A Sustaining Corporate Membership allows companies to better serve its employees and its customers. Such a membership helps ASPRS to set industry standards, provide continuing education and professional development, and maintain the CEPB accredited ASPRS professional certification program. It allows ASPRS to publish the PE&RS Journal which contains career-oriented articles as well as peer-reviewed research as well as technical books like the *Manual of Remote Sensing*. Lastly, a sustaining membership allows ASPRS to extend academic scholarships to students (future employees and customers) and provide networking and business development opportunities through regional and national meetings.

Currently, there are 27 corporations that have joined ASPRS as Sustaining Members. The Eastern Great Lakes Region is fortunate to have three of those corporations within our boundary – Kucera International, Inc, T3 Global Strategies, and Woolpert.



Kucera International Inc., headquartered in Willoughby, Ohio, was founded in the late 1940's by an avid pilot wishing to start a business that would allow him to incorporate his love of flying. He purchased surplus equipment, had World War II-type aircraft equipped with cameras, and began offering commercial aerial mapping services. The company was incorporated in 1953 with plans to delve into the use of other, emerging mapping technologies.

Today, Kucera International, Inc. is a leading, full-service provider of high quality, cost effective aerial mapping and related geomatic services to government, commercial, industrial, professional, and institutional entities throughout the US and abroad. Kucera's staff are experts in various geospatial fields. The staff includes licensed/certified photogrammetrists, surveyors, engineers, GIS specialists, and computer technicians. The in-house capabilities and experience in data acquisition, mapping, and data extraction allow Kucera to offer their clients a start-to-finish project with a consistent quality experience.

Kucera is a longstanding corporate sustaining member of ASPRS, MAPPS, and a variety of state and local GIS, surveying, and mapping organizations. Kucera is also a channel partner with Google Earth and GeoSpan/GeoVista mobile/oblique imaging services.



T3 Global Strategies is a full-service survey, mapping, engineering, and GIS firm headquartered in Bridgeville, Pennsylvania, just a couple of miles outside of downtown Pittsburgh. The company was founded in 2000 and is a certified small business.

Our professionals bring a broad range of expertise and credentials to their roles with the company. We employ Certified Photogrammetrists, Professional Surveyors, Licensed Engineers, Project Management Professionals, and GIS Professionals who support a talented team of photogrammetrists, GIS and CAD technicians, lidar analysts, project managers, engineers, and surveyors to deliver quality projects to our valued clients.

T3 prides itself in providing opportunities for team members to develop as professionals and in supporting the organizations that advocate for our profession, educate the practitioners and end-users, and promote ethical business practices within the industry. T3's leadership saw ASPRS as doing all those things well and decided to join as a Sustaining Member firm.

Throughout our more than 20 years in business, we have enjoyed mutually beneficial working relationships with numerous ASPRS SMC firms, combining the collective strengths of our industry partners to deliver enhanced solutions to our clients.

As we continue to move towards getting the global health pandemic under control and returning to some sense of normalcy, T3 is looking forward to reconnecting with our clients, industry partners, and colleagues through in-person interactions, such as a return to the workplace, meetings that include real people in the same room, live

conferences, and all those other wonderful opportunities we had to connect that we took for granted just one year ago.



Woolpert began as a four-person engineering and surveying firm in Dayton, Ohio, in 1911. The firm has continually expanded and advanced its capabilities over the last century to holistically support client needs. As a result, the firm has become a premier architecture, engineering, geospatial (AEG) and strategic consulting firm.

In 2019, Woolpert celebrated 50 years of geospatial excellence by acquiring two international geospatial firms and augmenting its strategic geospatial service capabilities. These capabilities include aerial and terrestrial lidar, bathymetry, hydrography, land-based and acoustic survey, aeronautical survey, photogrammetry, remote sensing, sonar, data processing, GIS, UAS, UAM, subsurface utility engineering, floodplain mapping, coastal resilience, etc.

A few key projects underway in 2021 involve collecting topographic and bathymetric lidar data and imagery in Hawaii under separate contracts with the U.S. Geological Survey and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Geodetic Survey. Woolpert also is collecting and processing lidar data and imagery in Alaska to fuel the U.S. Air Force's GeoBase program and is under contract with the Tennessee Department of Transportation to provide photogrammetric and mapping services for the design and construction of roadways throughout the state.

As 2021 progresses, the firm will provide AEG and consulting services to support the nation's infrastructure overhaul and is

eyeing additional geospatial acquisitions to continue its trajectory of strategic growth.

SUMMER 2021 TECHNICAL MEETING BEING PLANNED

Plans are currently underway for a joint technical meeting with the Western Great Lakes Region to be held this summer. The meeting will be conducted in a hybrid fashion, having an in-person and virtual component, to allow as many members as possible to take part. A July/August 2021 date is expected. As the date gets closer, we will be issuing a call for papers/presentations and providing a tentative agenda.

Please check future editions of this newsletter as well as the region website, <https://www.asprs.org/eglr-2>, for more information.

We hope you can join us!

MEMBER PROJECTS

The Eastern Great Lakes Region (EGLR) of ASPRS is an active group of highly professional government, academic, private sector and interested parties from the Lower Peninsula of Michigan, Ohio, and western Pennsylvania who are dedicated to advancing knowledge, skills, and capabilities in applying mapping sciences and information management techniques within the region.

The EGLR Board is proud of its members and the work they do and would like to offer you a space in our quarterly newsletter to share that work with your fellow members. If you have a project you would like to have featured, please email a brief synopsis and an accompanying image to Trish Horkan (nakroht@gmail.com) and we will publish as many as space allows in each newsletter edition. Projects will be featured in the order in which they are received. Please make sure you have any necessary permissions from your client and employer to have your work published.

CONTACT US

The EGLR Board consists of seasoned professionals from aerial (manned and unmanned), engineering and services, geospatial market development and geospatially focused research institutions 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](#)

Lastly, the Eastern Great Lakes Board of Directors has created a tri-fold brochure highlighting the assets of our region and the benefits of becoming a member. Please consider taking some copies with you to your next business event. [Click here](#) to print the brochure and help spread the word about ASPRS EGLR.