

The President's Address was given during the 2021 ASPRS Annual Conference. The virtual conference was held during the week of March 29 to April 2, 2021.

ASPRS—Our Community Garden

Hello, my name is Jason Stoker and I am the incoming President of the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing for 2021. I want to express how grateful I am to be able to serve this organization in this capacity. I am truly humbled to think that my name will be included on the same list as so many other amazing professionals who have led this Society before me. I promise you I will work hard to continue to build on the successes my predecessors have laid before me.

This last year has been a difficult one for all of us. As you can see, I am giving my address to you all virtually from my home in Fort Collins, Colorado. This is not how I expected to start my term as President when I first became Vice President, but these are the times we are now forced to adapt to. And like all of us, the Society has had to adapt and adjust to the current situation. I am happy to report that thanks to the hard work by so many in ASPRS, we are not only surviving but adapting, perhaps even evolving, to meet the moment we are faced with. I am very proud of the resilience this organization has shown over this past year.

As I start this journey as ASPRS president for the next year, I have begun to think of ASPRS like a community garden- a garden that was started almost 90 years ago. True pioneers in mapping and photogrammetry broke the ground, prepared the soil, and planted the seeds of a Professional Society- a Society that in all honesty looks vastly different than the one they started, but still carries many of the traditions and legacies forward. Over the years this garden has expanded and contracted, brought in new varieties of ideas and themes and people, and has had bouts of both health and struggle. In learning about these early pioneers I often wonder what leaders such as Colonel Birdseye would think about lidar, or mapping from a drone- something that people of that time probably could have imagined as science fiction, but not as something that could be performed by anyone willing to invest in the equipment, software and methods. I have spent some time studying the works of people who have previously tended this garden to prepare me for my tasks ahead. For example, there have been 18 Presidents of ASPRS before me that also were USGS employees, including our first President- a legacy I do not take lightly. One of my initiatives for the next year is to make the history of the Society more accessible via the web and other documents, because I feel the best way for us to tend this garden is by knowing all of the things that have previously gone in to it, the good and the bad. I encourage any of our emeritus members with stories and history to share to contact us, so we can capture memories of the Society that may be lost forever otherwise. I look forward

to some of the stories we will hear this year in our virtual annual conference.

And as any gardener knows, diversity is critical to both current and future success. A monoculture never survives very long before it seems that you put more into it than you get out of it. Diversity of viewpoints, platforms, focus areas and techniques are critical to ensuring that the Society adapts and responds to the winds of change. Adaptation can even lead to evolution over time. Diversity of our members is so critical to ensuring that we are truly representing the larger population of both the United States and the world. We won't solve the problems of our planet if we come from a narrow, constrained viewpoint. In this garden called ASPRS we must both foster new growth as well as prune the things that are limiting future growth. The Society has begun to take steps to address the issues with diversity of our membership by forming a Task Force and providing recommendations to the Board for moving forward. I know that I am obviously not the poster child for diversity, but I do promise to push any initiatives the Task Force recommends toward making the society more diverse, more representative, more inclusive, and as respectful as possible. Any suggestions for improvement are always welcome!

And as with any garden, success isn't due to only how we tend to it- things outside of our control can affect our growth and productivity. The pandemic could have really have negatively impacted us, as one of our revenue streams has always been face-to-face conferences and meetings that allow us to network, share ideas, create partnerships, build friendships and provide a bolt of energy a couple times of year. Last year we were forced to pivot quickly and move our annual conference to a virtual one. And this effort was a great success- one that has opened our eyes to how we may be able to thrive in a future where virtual collaborations and education are more commonplace. There really is no replacement for the amount of energy and inspiration that is generated from being surrounded by such amazing people in person; however we have seen that by diversifying the ways we can connect with one another we can still advance ASPRS' mission and even generate revenue. I hope to continue the expansion of virtual education and information sharing, as well as investigating options for revenue building and cost savings by having more of a virtual presence. While I am excited about this year's annual virtual conference, I am definitely already looking forward to next year's Geo Week, where the AEC Next Technology Expo & Conference, International Lidar Mapping Forum, and SPAR 3D Expo & Conference, are coming together in 2022 with partner events USIBD Annual Symposium and our own ASPRS Annual Conference.

My journey with ASPRS began over 20 years ago with Dr. Roger Hoffer, one of our Past Presidents and my M.S. Advisor- without whom I may have never become part of ASPRS. Thank you, Dr. Hoffer! I also want to expressly thank my immediate predecessors Jeff Lovin and Tommy Jordan, who have taken me under their wing and helped guide me. Finally, I want to personally thank Bobbi Lenczowski, Lorraine Amenda, and Karen Shuckman, who have really helped me better understand how ASPRS operates. To our managing director, Karen Schuckman especially- thank you so much for all you do for us. Your love and passion for this society is contagious. I want to thank our board for their hard work and dedication, especially over this difficult year. Also, our Regions, Student Chapter and Early Career Professionals have been dedicated and inspiring. Thanks to our staff, including Matt Austin, Rae Kelley, and P&N, our association management firm, as well as Jesse Winch our executive director. As many of you are aware Jesse is retiring as Executive Director this year. Jesse, thank you so much for leadership and guidance over the years. You are leaving ASPRS in a very strong position, and I hope you can enjoy retirement knowing that you left us in a very healthy place. I know I am missing thanking many folks here, but I promise I will make it up to you over the next year.

I often wonder what our earliest members would think of this garden called ASPRS today. The Society is bearing fruit now that they could not have imagined would grow in their garden when they started it. Similarly, we may not see the benefits of actions we take or decisions we make now for years to come. One thing I do know though is that a garden does not thrive without people tending to it with knowledge, care and love. And this is truly a community garden- some just come and harvest from it, and that is wonderful. And as those of us who do devote time and energy tending to it are almost all volunteers, I hope you all will join me this year and for many years to come in tending and growing this garden- in helping the Society thrive, grow, adapt, and evolve as we respond to changing times. Without your help we would not be where we are today, and without your continued contributions we cannot flourish and truly meet the moment. I look forward to seeing you all in person next year!



Jason Stoker, Ph.D., U.S. Geological Survey, 2021 ASPRS President

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Director: Dan Hubert
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<https://www.asprs.org/divisions-committees/uas-division>

The Executive Director's Report was given during the 2021 ASPRS Annual Conference. The virtual conference was held during the week of March 29 to April 2, 2021.

2021 is my 23rd year with ASPRS and this will be my last conference since I plan to retire at the end of June.

I started working for ASPRS in October of 1998, not long after Jim Plasker was hired as Executive Director. The late Kim Tilley interviewed me and recommended me for the position of Program Manager focusing on Certification and Awards to complete the administrative staff. Jim, whose knowledge and leadership was inspirational, also assigned me to be liaison with the Board of Directors, the Division, Region, and Committee officers and, eventually, Office Manager. I worked closely with Jim and Kim on a great many projects including the retiring of our mortgage on the headquarters site and the restoration of the ASPRS Foundation in 2005. Jim subsequently appointed me to be Assistant Executive Director of the Foundation and that gave me the honor of working with the Board of Trustees over the years.

After Jim retired in 2013, we saw a couple of rough years after which I was asked by then President Becky Morton to serve as Acting Executive Director. At that point, I was intensely interested in helping to steer ASPRS in the direction of a stable and financially solvent organization, so I readily agreed to do all that I could to accomplish that.

If it were not for Karen Schuckman, newly installed Managing Director, none of the great successes we all have witnessed would have happened. As most of you know, Karen is an indefatigable whirlwind who never sleeps. While working with our Treasurer, Stewart Walker, she astutely managed our finances, efficiently organized our conferences including last year when we had to shift to a virtual platform, started our weekly zoom meetings which revolutionized our intra-society communication and so many other projects and initiatives.

I am also leaving with fond memories of working for over 20 years with Al Stevens

THE ASPRS HEADQUARTERS STAFF

- Matthew Austin, Graphic Designer, Digital Publications Manager
- Rae Kelley, Assistant Director, Publications
- Jesse Winch, Acting Executive Director
- Karen Schuckman, Managing Director

HEADQUARTERS/CONDO

To date, I've shown the renovated space to the President of the Condo Homeowners Association that surrounds our physical location. She plans to inquire among their members if anyone is interested in leasing or buying the space.

I continue to work with our agent from Donohue for potential general listing purposes.

The Board still needs to decide the direction we want to go. I would recommend that we find another short-term tenant for a couple of years (like 1-3) that would give us time to clear out the other side and organize the photos, paper files, bound journals, ASPRS pubs, historic awards, etc.

AWARDS

At the recent Foundation meeting, Board of Trustees President Cliff Greve announced the launch of a new, fully endowed award focusing on government service.

ANNUAL ELECTION

This year we saw the highest percentage of members voting than any year in recent memory. Managing our list of Emeritus members and encouraging them to participate was an important change in the numbers. Thanks to Karen Schuckman for that. Also, frequent reminders to vote by P&N was helpful and sending ballots to new members who joined after the initial ballot was sent also contributed to the increased response.

MEMBERSHIP

Below are the current membership numbers for the year to date.

Some highlights include a significant decrease in the number of Emeritus members from last year due to a major investigation and clean-up of the records. Our total membership numbers are now more accurate as a result.

	2021	January	February	March
Professional	824	797	869	
Student	205	202	282	
Unemployed Professional	12	12	12	
Executive	11	11	12	
Retired Professional	16	15	16	
Rising Star	0	0	0	
Startup Alley	2	2	2	
Sustaining	25	24	25	
Sustaining Member Contacts	71	70	71	
Emeritus Members	207	209	211	
Total	1373	1342	1500	

PUBLICATIONS

BOOK SALES — BEST SELLERS LIST

- *Airborne Topographic Lidar Manual*
- *Landsat's Enduring Legacy: Pioneering Global Land Observations from Space*
- *Manual of Photogrammetry - Sixth Edition*



Jesse Winch and Al Stevens.

who was Chair of the Awards Committee until he retired last year, and Mike Renslow, Chair of the Evaluation for Certification Committee, who retired two years ago. We became

good friends over the years, and I could not have asked for two more dedicated, professional colleagues to make my job an easy one. I also had the opportunity to meet and work with the late Sky Chamard, or Father Chamard, as Jim called him, founder of our certification program, and I made the acquaintance of a couple of the folks we now have memorial scholarships for – Abe Anson and John O. Behrens, to name two and some of the family members of others – Jack Liang, Ta Liang's son and Bob and Lola Osborn, parents of Ken Osborn. And I have to add that the Awards and Certification Programs, respectively, are now in the very capable hands of Lindi Quackenbush and Mike Zoltek.

I got to play music with the renowned **Photogrammetric Ramblers** – Tommy Jordan, guitarist extraordinaire - and really a multi-instrumentalist – and Chris McGlone on the 5-string banjo. We brought the house down, so to speak, at the Student Advisory Council reception in Louisville in 2014! A couple of years later, we had a reunion and sing-along in Baltimore where we were joined by Priscilla Weeks and Karen on vocals and Cliff and Judy Greve on guitars.

It has also been a pleasure to work with such a stable and productive staff over the years and you are lucky to still have Rae Kelley and Matthew Austin at headquarters helping the good folks at P&N to keep things moving.



Photogrammetric Ramblers; Tommy Jordan, Chris McGlone, and Jesse Winch.

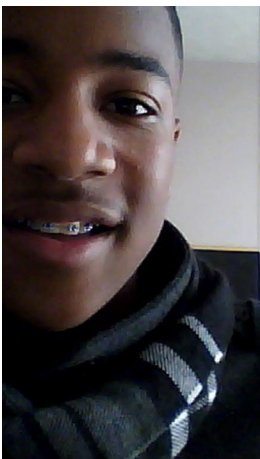
I have to say that I'm looking forward to retirement – at 78 – as I'm still very active in the Irish music world. A couple of years ago, I was inducted into the Hall of Fame for the Mid-Atlantic Region of Comhaltas Ceoltoirí Éireann, the international Irish musicians' organization based in Dublin, Ireland. I have been playing music with my younger kids and we're working on a recording project which we will hopefully finish by the summer.

But, I will definitely miss ASPRS and all the dedicated, insightful, and hard-working member-volunteers who really make ASPRS the dynamic association that it is.

I thank you all for the good wishes that I have received and depart knowing ASPRS is on a great path to continued success.

Call if you need anything.

Jesse Winch, Acting Executive Director



Too young to drive the car? Perhaps!

But not too young to be curious about geospatial sciences.

The ASPRS Foundation was established to advance the understanding and use of spatial data for the betterment of humankind. The Foundation provides grants, scholarships, loans and other forms of aid to individuals or organizations pursuing knowledge of imaging and geospatial information science and technology, and their applications across the scientific, governmental, and commercial sectors.

Support the Foundation, because when he is ready so will we.

asprsfoundation.org/donate

