

WV Association of Geospatial Professionals

December 2016

Happy Holidays WVAGP members and GIS Professionals!

I cannot believe we are already into December. This means your WVAGP elected board members have been at it for a few months now.

Our biggest focus this fall was to have a GIS Day event put on by our association. Since this is a major undertaking and our resources are spread across the state, we decided that this year we would promote all of the local GIS Day events. This endeavor has gained momentum among the members, so much so that we are going to the capitol in the spring to promote GIS to our newly elected state officials. Keep an eye on your email for more information about this event.



Also, we are less than six months out from our next annual meeting. If you would like to assist and participate in the coordination of this event, please contact this year's Conference Committee Chairman Frank Lafone at frank.lafone@mail.wvu.edu.

I hope all of you enjoy the holidays!

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GIS Day Observed Across West Virginia

Colleges and government agencies opened their doors to educate and celebrate geographic information systems (GIS) on Wednesday, Nov. 16, as part of the international celebration of GIS Day.

GIS Day is an event during which students, educators and GIS professionals around the world demonstrate software and applications to communities.

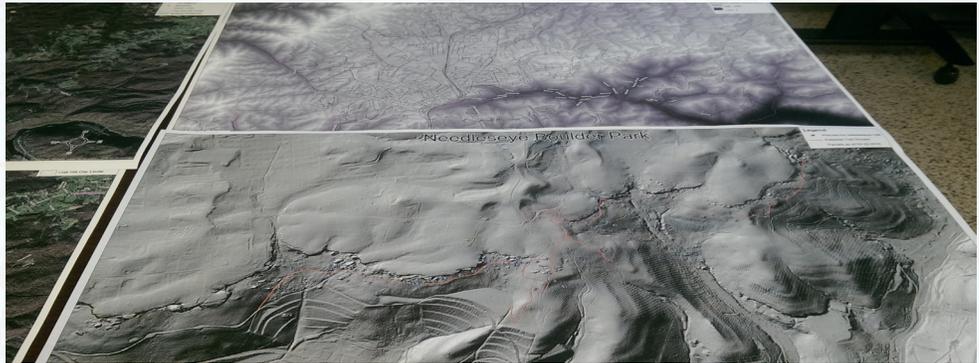
“We started GIS Day to inform the world about how geography connects communities and the planet,” said Esri president and co-founder Jack Dangermond. “Many of the biggest challenges we face today can be met by applying geospatial technology to them.”

Members of the West Virginia Association of Geospatial Professionals (WVAGP) hosted several events as part of the GIS Day celebration. WVAGP President Adam Cottrell hosted city of Charleston events, and Oak Hill GIS Coordinator Marvin Davis hosted a gathering for the city of Oak Hill. At some local colleges, Dr. Crystal Krause focused on careers in GIS at Davis & Elkins College, Marshall University students displayed posters and Dr. James Leonard worked with high school students on GIS and GPS activities, and Frank Lafone hosted 40 high school students at the West Virginia University Geography Club and WV GIS Technical Center, showcasing a virtual reality CAVE and a hands-on GIS exercise. The West Virginia Department of Transportation also hosted a professional transportation GIS meeting.

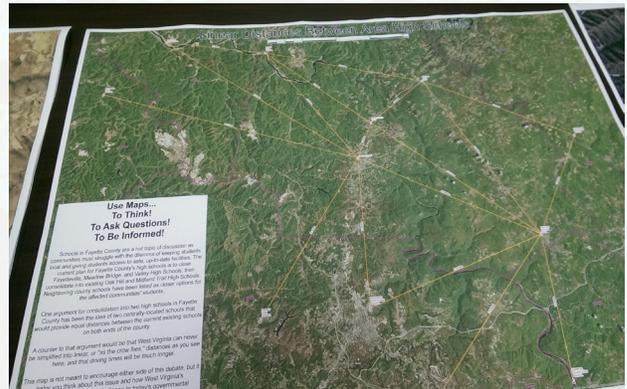


CONTINUED: GIS DAY OBSERVED ACROSS WEST VIRGINIA

The city of Oak Hill's GIS Day went really well, according to Davis. "We had a similar turnout to last year, with several guests staying most of the duration of our event," Davis said. "Our event was an open house, map gallery and live ArcGIS Online demonstration of some of our mapping capabilities."



Davis said that visitors were very engaged and appeared to be intrigued by the maps displayed. The maps covered how the city is analyzing terrain and managing assets.



"There also were some public interest maps, such as those showing the distance between schools in our area, because consolidation is a very hot topic added. "We're getting enough interest that think we'll continue this event in the future, and hope to involve our local schools, as well."

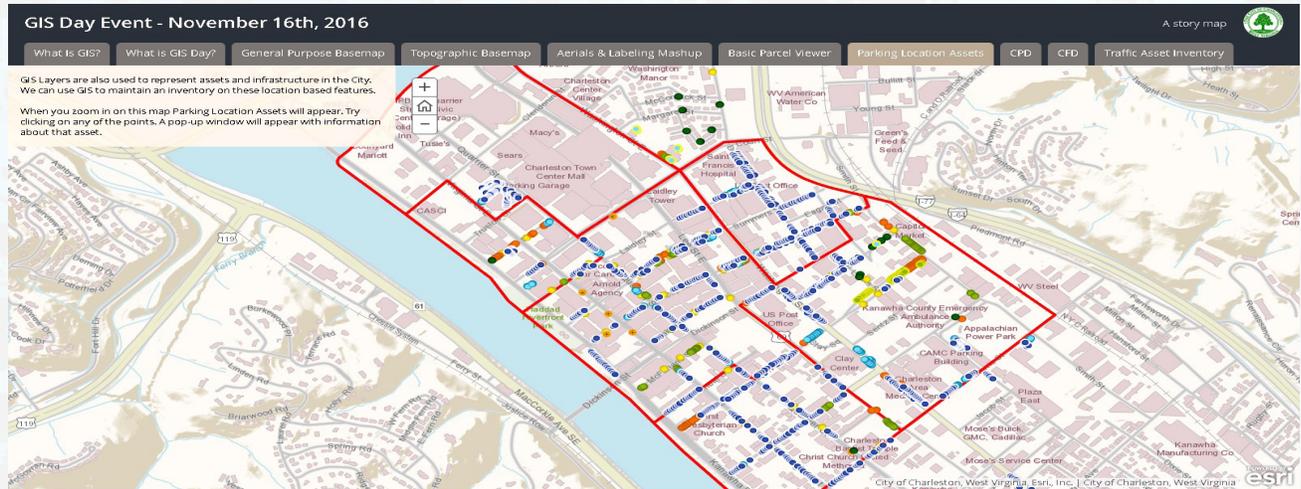
Davis & Elkins College had about 40 students and a few professors in attendance on GIS Day. Krause, assistant professor of biology and environmental science at the college, spoke first about the school's GIS minor, potential careers and use of GIS in various majors.



Tim Blake from the U.S. Forest Service in Elkins also spoke about his career, education in general and GIS work on the Monongahela National Forest. Jessica D. Perkins, GISP, GIS programmer analyst II for the WV Division of Natural Resources presented a story map on her career and GIS projects at WVDNR. Kelli Williams concluded the presentation by sharing project details and GIS personnel duties at WV Department of Environmental Protection.

"Presentations were well-received, and students seemed engaged, offering insightful questions," Perkins said.

For more information about GIS Day, visit gisday.com.



This photo illustrates the Esri story map 'series' application used at the city of Charleston's GIS day event.

Charleston Hosts GIS Day Event

The city of Charleston put on its first GIS Day event Nov. 16. The city had guests attend from the Kanawha County Assessor's Office and the WV Infrastructure & Jobs Development Council. There also were a few city employees who wanted to know more about GIS and how Charleston was implementing it. The event encouraged internal discussion among the city departments, stimulating collaboration and solidifying unity.

An ESRI story map "series" application was used to educate the attendees about GIS and showcase some of the ways the Charleston is utilizing GIS. The city also demonstrated a couple of other applications, including one that is used for producing a mass mailing list. This application can create a mailing list in seconds, whereas the previous method could take up to a day or even longer. Another application, which was presented at the event, is still under development. However, the city is getting close to deploying a mobile device solution, which will assist field workers with data collection and documentation of work activity.

Legislative GIS Day Set for April 4

We have secured Tuesday, April 4, 2017, for Legislative GIS Day at the capital in Charleston. Government and non-government geospatial organizations and businesses are invited to attend. The capital will provide 8-foot tables and organizations should bring displays, laptops, handouts, etc., to share with our legislative representatives and the public. Please bring extension cords and power strips if needed. Public Wi-Fi is available, but bringing a back-up air card is advisable. Set-up will begin at 7 a.m., those presenting should be ready by 8 a.m., break-down is at 4 p.m. and everyone will vacate by 5 p.m.

Please e-mail Jessica Perkins at Jessica.D.Perkins@wv.gov with the following information to register for this event: name of organization/business, contact person, address, phone, mobile phone and email address.

Registration will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Questions can be directed to Jessica Perkins and Tony Simental, state GIS coordinator, at Tony.A.Simental@wv.gov.

The following organizations have registered: Blue Mountain Inc., Esri, Woolpert, WV Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations, WV Association of Regional Planning & Development Councils, WV Department of Transportation, WV Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, WV Division of Natural Resources WV Geologic and Economic Survey and WV State GIS Coordinator's Office, WV GIS Technical Center, WV Property Tax, WV Society of Professional Surveyors and WVDEP Water Use Section.

Member Spotlight: Mike Pizzino

Mike Pizzino, GIS coordinator for Harrison County, WV, has been selected for this newsletter's edition of the WVAGP Member Spotlight:

How long have you been working in West Virginia and what had led you to working in GIS?

I've been working in GIS since the beginning. I was born in Princeton, WV, and was raised in Elkins. I started my working career in 1987 on AutoCAD.

How long have you been in your current role?

Since 2000.

Are you married?

Yes, to Donna.

Children, grandchildren?

I have a son, Sam, and a granddaughter, Rosa.

How do you spend your free time?

Coding, woodworking and remodeling a house, and I obtained my private pilot's license in 2015.

Do you have a favorite hobby?

That would have to be flying. My wife and I purchased a plane last year and it's the ultimate get-away from everything.

Who other than your staff and boss do you interact with most as part of your job?

The assessor, the 911 director and the Harrison County Commission.

Who do you report to?

Mostly myself but I'd say the assessor keeps the most tabs on me.

What is the most unusual job you have ever had?

I worked in a doughnut shop while still in high school.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

Building new layers from scratch. Taking data from nothing to a useful layer is rewarding.

Briefly, what are one or two of the "hot topics/issues" for you and the GIS community in West Virginia right now?

Online applications ... getting them right and all working together.

What is the biggest challenge in your job and why?

People. Getting everyone on the same page with sharing data for a greater good.

How long have you been involved in AGP?

I've been a member since the beginning, not always time to be as involved as I'd like though.

How did you get into GIS?

Converting tax maps for the assessor from CAD to GIS, and it snowballed from there.

Why are you in Public Service?

Job security!

What is the best book you've read lately?

Steven King's "End of Watch."

Do you have a favorite quote that guides you?

"Complications are disarrangements of simplifications." I heard an engineer say this early in my career, and it made sense.

Anything else you'd like to add?

I won a SAG Award (Special Achievement in GIS) from ESRI in 2016. That was a career highlight!

WVAGP Training Survey Results

Randy Campbell, chairman of the WVAGP Training Committee, reported that 55 people responded to the recent WVAGP GIS Training Survey, which is designed to help schedule future training. Below are the results:

Esri instructor-led courses:

1. Intro to Geoprocessing Scripts Using Python (3 days)
2. Developing Web Apps with ArcGIS API for Java Script (3 days)
3. ArcGIS 4: Sharing Content on the Web (2 days)
4. Image Analysis with ArcGIS (2 days)
5. ArcGIS for Server: Site Configuration and Administration (3 days)

Other instructor-led courses:

1. PROGRAMMING: ArcGIS Python: Intro, Geoprocessing, Map Automation (3 days)
2. PROGRAMMING: API Java Script Web Applications (2 days)
3. ANALYSIS: Spatial Analysis with Vector & Raster Data (2 days)
4. ArcGIS SERVER I: Publishing Maps online and Multiuser Database.
5. TOPICAL: Lidar Concepts, Processing, Viewing and Analysis
6. TOPICAL: Mobile GIS Applications and Solutions
7. ANALYSIS: Spatial Statistics (1 day)

Campbell added that if anyone is interested in being a GIS instructor or has a GIS training facility, please contact him at randycampbell@kanawha.us.

Rankings are shown in these tables. Classes have been sorted by weighted score. Rankings have been assigned for sorting based on total number of votes and a sorting based on respondents' first choice.

Weighted score: For each class, the number of first-choice votes was tallied, then multiplied by 45, the number of second-choice votes was multiplied by 25, third-choice votes were multiplied by 15, fourth-choice votes were multiplied by 10 and fifth-place votes were multiplied by five. The multiplied values were added together to get a weighted score for the class.

Sorted by total votes: Classes were sorted by the total number of times someone voted for them (maximum 29 votes). The number of first choice votes were used as a tie-breaker, followed by second, etc.

Sorted by first choice: Classes were sorted by number of first-choice votes, with the number of second-choice votes used as a tie-breaker, followed by third choice, etc.

A full survey data sheet is available upon request.

Table 1. Esri Instructor-Led Courses

ESRI Instructor-Led Courses	Weighted Score Rank	Total # Votes Rank	1st Choice Rank
Intro to Geoprocessing Scripts Using Python (3 days)	1	1	2
Developing Web Apps with ArcGIS API for Java Script (3 days)	2	2	1
ArcGIS 4: Sharing Content on the Web (2 days)	3	3	5
Image Analysis with ArcGIS (2 days)	4	4	3
ArcGIS for Server: Site Configuration and Administration (3 days)	5	6	6
ArcGIS 3: Performing Analysis (2 days)	6	8	4
Designing Maps with ArcGIS (2 days)	7	7	7
Introduction to ArcGIS Pro for GIS Professionals (2 days)	8	5	8
Building Geodatabases (3 days)	9	10	10
Deploying and Maintaining a Multiuser Geodatabase (2 days)	10	11	9
Configuring and Managing the Multiuser Geodatabase (3 days)	11	12	11
Working with CAD Data in ArcGIS for Desktop (1 day)	12	9	14
ArcGIS Online Subscriptions for Organizations: Publisher Workflows (4 hours)	13	15	15
Distributing Data Using Geodatabase Replication (2 days)	14	17	12
Editing and Maintaining Parcels Using ArcGIS (2 days)	15	13	19
ArcGIS 2: Essential Workflows (3 days)	16	20	13
ArcGIS 1: Introduction to GIS (Version 10.3; 2 days - 16 hours)	17	21	16
Working with Geometric Networks for Utilities (1 day)	18	16	17
Exploring Enterprise GIS: A Workshop for Leaders (4 hours)	19	18	20
Implementing Versioned Workflows in a Multiuser Geodatabase (10.3) (3 days)	20	23	18
Editing Data with ArcGIS for Desktop (2 days)	21	14	21
User Workflows for ArcGIS Online Organizations (4 hours)	22	19	22
Implementing Esri Geoportal Server (ArcGIS version 10.1) (2 days)	23	22	23

Table 2. Other Instructor-Led Courses

Other Instructor-Led Courses	Weighted Score Rank	Total # Votes Rank	1st Choice Rank
PROGRAMMING: ArcGIS Python; Intro, Geoprocessing, Map Automation (3 days)	1	1	1
PROGRAMMING: API Java Script Web Applications (2 days)	2	2	2
ANALYSIS: Spatial Analysis with Vector & Raster Data (2 days)	3	6	4
TOPICAL: Lidar concepts, processing, viewing, and analysis	4	3	6
ArcGIS SERVER I: Publishing maps online and multiuser databases	5	7	3
TOPICAL: Mobile GIS Applications and Solutions	6	4	5
ANALYSIS: Spatial Statistics (1 day)	7	8	7
GPS: Using GPS in GIS; GPS, ArcPad, Data Collection (1 day)	8	9	9
TOPICAL: Preparing for GIS Exam	9	10	8
GIS FOUNDATION III: Advanced GIS Implementation; Geodatabases, Topology, Editing (1 day)	10	11	10
TOPICAL: Cartography in GIS - Best Practices	11	5	11
ArcGIS SERVER II: Server & Database Configuration, Caching, Services	12	14	23
GIS FOUNDATION II: GIS Basics; Attributes, Tables, Query, Analysis, Editing (1 day)	13	19	12
TOPICAL: GIS Program Management	14	15	16
TOPICAL: Cadastral; Parcel Editing, COGO, Map Book, Best Practices	15	16	17
TOPICAL: National Hydrographic Dataset (NHD)	16	23	13
TOPICAL: Open Source Internet Mapping	17	12	18
TOPICAL: ArcGIS Tools for Addressing Management, SAMS	18	24	14
TOPICAL: ArcGIS Online Resources; AGOL, ArcGIS Organizations, Web Publishing (1 day)	19	20	19
TOPICAL: 3D ArcGIS - ArcScene, City Engine, Digital Cities	20	22	20
TOPICAL: GIS and Addressing; Data Management, Tools and Resources	21	17	24
TOPICAL: CAD - Autodesk/CAD Training for GIS Mappers	22	18	25
GIS FOUNDATION I: What is GIS? Intro to Spatial Data and Mapping Concepts (1 day)	23	26	15
TOPICAL: Google Maps Mashups	24	13	26
TOPICAL: Preparing FGDC Metadata	25	25	21
TOPICAL: Intro to Land Surveying for GIS Professionals	26	21	27
TOPICAL: Intro to Remote Sensing	27	27	22
TOPICAL: Census Boundary and Annexations Surveys (BAS)	28	28	28
TOPICAL: National Geospatial Reference System; Geodesy	29	29	29

NWS Seeks Hazard Simplification Survey Input

Craig A. Neidig, the National Map liaison for West Virginia, Virginia, New York and Pennsylvania for the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), said that the National Weather Service (NWS) is seeking public input on improvements to flood advisory and watch notifications. This information should be shared with emergency management and hazards constituencies.

The public comment period for these Hazard Simplification surveys on consolidation of the NWS flood advisories and watches is open until Saturday, Dec. 31.

To participate, click this link: <http://www.weather.gov/hazardsimplification/repairs>

Peter R. Ahnert, who is with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)/NWS Middle Atlantic River Forecast Center, feedback from a diverse range of partners and stakeholders to help inform decisions to help form the future product suite.

PayPal Info for WVAGP Events

PayPal is the method that WVAGP uses to handle online payments for events. WVAGP has been made aware that some state agencies may not be able to use PayPal. It is the responsibility of state employees to check with their P-Card Coordinators to get approval to use PayPal for payment. If these P-Card Coordinators are not allowed to use PayPal, then they will need to contact WVAGP Treasurer Jennings Starcher at wvagtreasurer@gmail.com to work out alternate methods of payment.



WVAGP Board Members

Name	Organization	Sector
Adam Cottrell (president)	City of Charleston	City
Chris Chrzanowski	Kanawha County Assessors Office	County
Colleen Lemasters (VP)	WV State Historic Preservation Office	State
Frank LaFone	WV GIS Technical Center, WVU	Education & Research
JD Adkins	Cabell County Assessors Office	County
Jennings Starcher (treasurer)	WV Div. of Homeland Security, Emergency Mgt.	State
Jessica Brewer	Region VII Planning & Development Council	Regional
Jessica Perkins	WV Division of Natural Resources	State
Kevin Kuhn	WV GIS Technical Center, WVU	Education & Research
Michael Duminiak (secretary)	WV Water Development Authority	State
Paul Wray	Putnam County Assessors Officer	County
Tony Simental (ex-officio)	Office of GIS Coordinator	State