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THE IMAGING & GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION SOCIETY

~The Rocky Mountain Compiler~

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Newsletter of the Rocky Mountain Region of ASPRS, serving Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, and New Mexico

President's Message

To all my fellow Rocky Mountain Region members of ASPRS; I hope this newsletter arrives to you during a prosperous and fun filled summer. You all will appreciate this photo taken from a workhorse camera ship (aerial photo plane) one calm morning over Jenny Lake and Grand Teton National Park early this summer.



Our ASPRS Rocky Mountain Region is getting prepared for the upcoming GIS in the Rockies Conference. This year the event will be held on October 9th and 10th. We have details for some of the activities in this newsletter and online at <http://www.GISintheRockies.org>. We hope to see you there!

To all Students; it is time to start getting your abstracts together. Look for details regarding our upcoming **ASPRS Rocky Mountain Region Scholarship Program**. We always look forward to awarding Scholarships to students and will be giving between \$500 to \$1000 per eligible recipient depending on the number and quality of applicants. [Check our website](#) often for updates and details.

We will be judging applicants by categories, Undergrad (Juniors and Seniors), Masters, and PhD, so don't shy away from trying if you are a Junior or Senior undergrad. This year applications will be submitted by email making it even easier to complete.

Students; Practice your writing skills and submit interesting articles about your research here in your Rocky Mountain Region ASPRS newsletter! Any and all submissions are welcome! We publish the newsletter quarterly, so entries for 2 more issues this

Inside This Issue

-
- | | |
|----------|---|
| 2 | National Director's Report |
| 3 | 2013 GIS in the Rockies |
| 4 | Welcome New Members! |
| 5 | ASPRS Releases LAS Domain Profiles |
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calendar year are possible. Articles could also be fun stuff like field work and interesting places you've been while working toward your profession.

Also check out the [National ASPRS Student Blog](#) for links to additional online seminars and division meetings.

As always, all are welcome to join our meetings held once per month. For information about getting involved contact any one of the Rocky Mountain Region Board members listed at our award-winning website; <http://www.asprs-rmr.org>

See you at GIS in the Rockies!

Mark Stanton
Rocky Mountain Region, ASPRS, President
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National Director's Report: Executive Director James Plasker Announces His Retirement

ASPRS Executive Director James Plasker has announced his retirement from ASPRS and plans to step down from his position, effective January 2014. Plasker was selected as the Executive Director in 1998 to succeed William French who had served in the position for 20 years.



As ASPRS Executive Director for nearly 16 years, Plasker led or significantly contributed to numerous programmatic efforts on behalf of the ASPRS membership and the broader geospatial community. These included resolution of professional licensure issues and expanded geospatial representation to the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES); development of the Ten

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Year Remote Sensing Industry Forecast (Phases I-IV); increased awareness of Landsat data continuity issues and the requirement for a National Land Imaging Program; ASPRS participation in several U.S. Department of Labor career and statistical reporting programs including NAICS and ONET; expansion of both the number and monetary value of the ASPRS awards and scholarships endowed through the ASPRS Foundation; supported a number of ASPRS studies on camera calibration, digital orthophotography and the value of Landsat data; aided ASPRS volunteers in the development of the LAS common data exchange standard and the best practices guidelines for procurement of professional geospatial services and geospatial products; oversaw expansion of the ASPRS Certification Program to include technologists and intern categories; and increased efforts to support the accreditation of applied science and engineering programs through his continuing service to the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET).

During Plasker's tenure he also oversaw implementation of the Society's strategic plan, including an expansion and modernization of the ASPRS publications program; fulfillment of the decision to operate its conferences independently; improvement of the financial health of the Society; recovery of the APSRS Foundation and full endowment of its awards; and the payoff of the mortgage on the Headquarters offices. The Society now has a working investment policy for Society short and long term reserves, which specifically enabled the recovery of the publication of ASPRS manuals from an outside publisher and supported ongoing Society operations as the Nation's economic condition worsened in recent years. In addition, Plasker has implemented technological advancements in the Headquarters IT infrastructure as well as the membership database and website capabilities.

Upon announcing his retirement, Plasker said, "ASPRS is a world-class geospatial organization with members located in nearly every country. As such, I have had the pleasure to serve the membership as well as represent the Society, along with volunteer leadership, both internationally and to our sister societies in the USA. The opportunity to work with my colleagues throughout the geospatial community to enhance and improve our profession has been most rewarding to me and hopefully to the ASPRS membership in general." He looks forward to working with the ASPRS Board of Directors to ensure a smooth and effective transition to a new Executive Director.

Speaking for the ASPRS Board of Directors, President Steve DeGloria expressed deep appreciation and gratitude for all that Plasker has accomplished on behalf of ASPRS; "His dedication, leadership, and commitment to our professional society and geospatial community have been outstanding. We look forward to continuing interactions with Jim during this transition period and his continuing support of ASPRS in the coming years."

An active ASPRS member since his college days, Plasker began his career with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and for 26 years he served in a broad range of capacities, including chief of the Technology Office and chief of the Mapping Control Operations in the Rocky Mountain Mapping Center; assistant chief for Production Operations and associate chief of the National Mapping Division; and associate chief geologist for Operations in the Geologic Division. During his tenure with USGS he was responsible for the development of the National Aerial Photography Program and the National Digital Orthophotoquad Program, both collaborative efforts with colleagues from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the private sector. These programs formed the underpinnings of several current Federal image mapping functions including the National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP). He was also responsible for the development of the USGS Digital Raster Graphic Program through close cooperation with the private sector, and facilitated a multi-organizational Task Force on the Model Law on Surveying to advise NCEES at a time of rapidly changing professional geospatial practice.

Plasker has also held many volunteer leadership positions within ASPRS, the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping, the International Federation of Surveyors, the American Society of Civil Engineers, the U.S. National Section of the Pan American Institute for Geography and History, and ABET. In retirement, Jim and his wife, Billie, plan to return to their native Oregon and once again enjoy the climate and lifestyle of the western U.S.

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GIS in the Rockies Conference

"Local to Global: Geospatial on the Move"
October 9-10, 2013
Cable Center at the University of Denver

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Join us October 9th & 10th for the another great annual GIS in the Rockies Conference, including:

- Professional development: learn skills for advancement, including GISP certification points and ASPRS renewal credits
- Latest trends and industry developments: open forum discussions by industry's leading geospatial professionals
- Networking with colleagues from throughout the Rocky Mountain region
- Social event with geography quiz and prizes
- Keynote speeches by geospatial veterans James Fee of Spatially Adjusted and Frank Biasi of National Geographic Maps
- Student Breakfast with Scholarship Information
- Poster Contest
- Job Fair



As always, 2013 GIS in the Rockies features an exciting, content-rich schedule.

Track themes:

- Geographic Education: Increasing Geospatial Literacy
- GIS in Colorado (GIS Colorado)
- Mission First: Geospatial Support for Defense, Intelligence and Veterans
- Mobile Mapping: GIS on the Move (Urban and Regional Information Systems Association)
- Energy: GIS Tools for Analysis and Optimization
- Surveyors: Local Experts – Global Perspective (Professional Land Surveyors of Colorado)
- Views Along the Scale Bar: From Hemisphere to Home (American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing)
- Vendor Showcase

Pre-Conference Workshops on October 8th:

The GIS in the Rockies conference is offering pre-conference workshops on Tuesday, October 8,

2013. The following workshops are open for registration:

- [Applied Spatial Statistics using R and ArcGIS](#)
- [RockWorks 16 Borehole Manager and EarthApps](#)
- [Asset Management: Planning, Strategy, and Implementation](#)

Exhibit Hall Vendors:

The conference will feature a full slate of outstanding exhibitors and sponsors that will display their latest tools and applications, including:

- **American Sentinel University**
- **Blue Marble Geographics**
- **Bohannon Huston, Inc**
- **CAD-1**
- **Cartegraph**
- **Compass Tools**
- **David Evans and Associates, Inc**
- **Denver Water**
- **Digital Data Services**
- **EI Technologies, LLC**
- **ESRI**
- **GE Digital Energy**
- **GeCo in the Rockies 2014**
- **Latitude Geographics**
- **LizardTech**
- **Metropolitan State University of Denver**
- **North Line GIS**
- **Pictometry International**
- **United Reprographic Supply**
- **University of Denver**

Post-Conference Tours:

The GIS in the Rockies conference is offering post-conference tours of organizations and businesses that are active in the Metro Denver geospatial community on Friday, October 11, 2013. The following tours are open for registration:

- [Metropolitan Area Communication Center \(MetCom\): 911, Fire, EMS](#)
- [National Renewable Energy Laboratory \(NREL\)](#)

Although Abstracts are no longer being accepted at this time, Poster submissions are still being accepted, and of course Registration is still ongoing. Please visit the conference website for full information on the program, schedule, registration and all other details:

<http://www.GISintheRockies.org>

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GIS in the Rockies 2013 is jointly sponsored by ASPRS Rocky Mtn. Region, GIS Colorado, PLSC, and Rocky Mtn. URISA. GIS in the Rockies 2013 is a great value and the only conference of its kind! SO IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY, PLEASE REGISTER TODAY AND JOIN US IN DENVER IN OCTOBER! DON'T MISS IT!

~One workshop at this year's conference is being taught by our Region's own Michael Tuffly. Highlights are included below:

[Applied Spatial Statistics Using R and ArcGIS](#)

Date: Tuesday, October 8, 2013

Time: 8:00AM – 5:00PM

This workshop is designed to teach students how to correctly apply spatial statistics to spatial data. We will be using the statistical program "R" coupled with ArcGIS. Topics that will be covered are: programming in "R", Morans I, General Linear Models (GLM), Inversed Weighted Distance (IDW), and Ordinary Kriging.

At the end of the workshop attendees' will be able to: 1) create a basic program in "R", 2) assess and evaluate spatially correlated data, and 3) construct interpolation models in ArcGIS.

This course is designed for beginners to experts. It would be helpful to have a basic understanding of statistics, ArcGIS, and some exposure to computer programming. As with most workshops the more you know going into the course the more you will take home. This will be an all day workshop (approximately 8 hours) with breaks.

Workshop attendees' should have a laptop, ArcGIS (ver 10.1), the statistical program "R", and the spatial library loaded and operational before the workshop. Instructions will be email to all workshop attendees' where and how to load the programs and data.

Cost for the workshop is \$50.00 for students and ASPRS members and \$75.00 for others. Checks need to be received before the workshop begins. Send the check to the address below.

The workshop will be limited to 20 people.

Welcome New Members

Jan Koenig
Stephen Fenton
Kathleen Johnson
Shelby Van Arnam

Chapter News Welcome

We would like to hear from all parts of the Rocky Mountain Region: Montana, Wyoming, New Mexico, Colorado – what is going on in your area??? If you have news to share, please send it to us. If you would like to be a regular contributor to this newsletter or the website, we would welcome your participation. Get in touch with us and we will add you to our active network for teleconference meetings and website and newsletter submission.

Lidar Division Releases First LAS Domain Profile

Thanks to a recent initiative of the ASPRS Lidar Division, different segments of the lidar mapping community now have the ability to customize the LAS file format to meet their application-specific needs. The new mechanism that makes this possible is the LAS Domain Profile, which is a derivative of the base LAS v1.4 specification that adds (but does not remove or alter existing) point classes and attributes.

“The Lidar Division is pleased to announce the release of the first LAS Domain Profile, which is designed to support topographic-bathymetric (“topo-bathy”) lidar” said Chris Parrish, the Lidar Division’s Assistant Director and Lead Physical Scientist with the Remote Sensing Division of NOAA’s National Geodetic Survey (NGS). The Topo-Bathy Lidar Domain Profile adds point classification values for bathymetric point (e.g., seafloor or riverbed; also known as submerged topography), water surface, derived water surface, submerged object, IHO S-57 object, and bottom-not-found depth. Extra Byte Variable Length Records (EXTRA_BYTES or Extra Byte VLRs) are added for pseudo-reflectance, uncertainty, water column depth, figure of merit, and processing specific flags. Additional domain profiles are expected in the future, and a LAS Domain Profile Description Template is available online.

Parrish added “the coastal lidar community is currently witnessing the emergence of a new class of topo-bathy lidar systems that occupies the middle ground between conventional bathymetric and commercial topographic systems and provides seamless, high-resolution coverage across the backshore, intertidal, and shallow nearshore zones. Many users of these systems and the data they provide are interested in integrating the data into existing topographic lidar processing streams. However, the base LAS specification does not

directly support these data. To address this need, the coastal lidar community -- including members of the Joint Airborne Lidar Bathymetry Technical Center of Expertise (JALBTCX) -- have developed a LAS domain profile for topographic-bathymetric lidar.”

The LAS format, which is published and maintained by ASPRS, is the most widely-used, publicly available lidar file format, and has become the de facto industry standard for airborne lidar data. The new point classes and attributes defined in this domain profile further extend its utility by facilitating the production and use of point clouds containing both subaerial (i.e., land) and subaqueous points.

Upcoming ASPRS Webinars

Registration and Additional Information can be found on the [ASPRS website](#).

Photogrammetric Processing – September 10, 2013 (Registration Deadline: Friday, September 6)

Hyperspectral Remote Sensing: Phenomenology and Data Processing – October 14-15, 2013 (Registration Deadline: Monday, September 23)

Preparing for ASPRS Certification – September 10, 2013 (Registration Deadline: Thursday, October 10)

Elements of Orthophoto Production – November 14, 2013 (Registration Deadline: Monday, November 11)
