

Washington State URISA



Winter, 1999 Newsletter of the Washington State Urban & Regional Information Systems Association, formerly known as the Northwest Computer Aided Mapping Association

Washington State GIS Conference

February 22-23, 1999
Embassy Suites Hotel
Tukwila, WA



see inside for more information

Upcoming GIS Events

Washington Geographic Council (WAGIC) Meetings, WIT Sites, Dec. 17, 1998; Feb. 18, 1999 and April 15, 1999

GIC Peninsula User Group - Thurston Regional Planning Council, 1:30 p.m., Jan. 17, 1999

Olympic Natural Resource Center Winter Science Conference, Forks, WA, Feb. 4-5, 1999

WAURISA/GIC Conference: Embassy Suites Hotel, Tukwila, WA; Feb. 22-23.

American Congress of Surveying and Mapping (ACSM), Portland, OR Mar. 15-18, 1999

Third Annual conference for Professionals In Assessment, Appraisal and Information Technology: Integrating GIS & CMA 1999; New Orleans, LA, April 11-13, 1999

American Planning Association (APA) National Conference; Seattle, WA April 24-28, 1999

American Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS) National Conference National Conference; Portland, OR May 17-21, 1999

URISA'99 National Conference & Exposition: Chicago, IL, Aug. 21-25, 1999

Letter From the President

I've had the pleasure of discussing GIS related issues, and discussing WAURISA's role as a professional organization in our state, with many of you during the past several months. It has been very enlightening to see how many of our members are involved in implementing and supporting exciting new GIS solutions, and how much there is in the way of new developments and information to share among ourselves.

This winter's statewide GIS conference has been expanded to provide a mixture of policy, application and hands-on technical sessions for all GIS users. Timely issues facing our state, and how GIS technology is being used to identify, analyze and solve today's problems, will be presented. Sessions include presentations by professionals, practitioners and vendors concerning how they are helping to "put it together with GIS" in federal, state and local government organizations. During the conference, WAURISA also plans to recognize outstanding contributions to GIS that have been made in our state during the past year.

New at this year's conference are opportunities to attend technical seminars that show how to use the latest tools to successfully implement your project. You can also learn some of the fundamentals for using Visual Basic software and the Component Object Model (COM) to build GIS applications from a leading Microsoft certified software instructor in the Pacific Northwest.

WAURISA, as a professional organization, fully supports the strategic statewide initiatives sponsored by the Washington Geographic Information Council (WAGIC). Since it is frequently not possible to travel long distances for meetings, both WAGIC and WAURISA support regional user group activities as relatively convenient opportunities to meet face to face and to discuss issues and projects. You can learn more about important statewide GIS framework, metadata collection and data dissemination projects sponsored by WAGIC at this year's conference.

This winter is time for WAURISA elections. Please seriously consider volunteering your services to our professional organization and possibly becoming an officer. Remember, WAURISA cannot be successful without the active participation of all of us; and we can't expect others to carry the weight for organizing programs and activities year after year.

Look for more conference information and election ballots coming your way in January. We anticipate that some more "goodies" may be added to the program during the coming weeks. Space will be limited; so take advantage of the discounts by registering early. In the mean time, we wish you the best for a happy holiday season and a very rewarding new year.

Don Eginton

Cascadia Project & Design

Cascadia Project & Design's largest project to date, to be completed by year's end, is for the City of Olympia Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Department. They're utilizing our knowledge of both AutoCAD and ArcView to assemble drawings for the Olympia Woodland Trail Master Plan. Requiring close to 100 drawings (4-mile trail), this project entails creating dozens of large-scale resource maps as well as numerous detailed trail alignment and facilities drawings. Juggling huge data files, registered to two distinct coordinate systems, which require conversion back and forth between DWG files and SHP files on a daily basis, is a great challenge. Last spring we completed work on a graphic database of city-wide utility system maps (vectorizing) for the City of Mercer Island, completed under the direction of Marshall & Associates, Inc.. Last summer we completed a document retrieval system for the City of Lacey Public Works Department, which included scanning and indexing over 7,000 engineering drawings. Our latest web-site creations include the Wetland Campaign web-site for the National Audubon Society (<http://www.audubon.org/campaign/wetland/>) and the Loomis Forest Fund for the Northwest Ecosystem Alliance (<http://www.loomisfund.org/>).

Marshall and Associates, Inc. says, "Things are happening..."

M&A is currently working with the Idaho One Plan Committee to determine the feasibility of developing the Idaho One Plan Project Internet Mapping Component. The committee, consisting of representatives from the State of Idaho, the USDA, the EPA, and various private interests, proposed a plan to enable farmers and ranchers throughout Idaho to have access to a user friendly, affordable farm planning application. M&A teamed with Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) to identify design and implementation issues. In addition, M&A developed an interactive, computer-based prototype of the One Plan Farm Planning decision support system.

July 1998 marked the opening of Marshall and Associates, Inc.'s (M&A) new office in McCall, Idaho. The new office has a staff of four employees, including our President, Elizabeth Marshall, and our Director of Marketing and Sales, Terry Bartlett. While the Olympia office will continue to function as the main office for M&A, the opening of a second office and the addition of new staff signals the latest phase in a much anticipated growth mode for the company.

News from Our Sponsors

M&A has expanded our presence in the reseller market by offering Space Imaging's EOSAT products. Space Imaging is the world's largest commercial supplier of high quality earth imagery and geographic information. M&A can now offer software to meet all your satellite-imaging needs. Needs in areas as diverse as agricultural monitoring, infrastructure management, urban development, environmental monitoring, mapping, real estate, tourism, the media and numerous others.

Things have been busy at Nies Mapping Group!

First, earlier this year, Nies Mapping Group of Bellevue was purchased by MacDonald Dettwiler & Associates (MDA), a wholly owned subsidiary of Orbital Sciences Corporation of Dulles, VA. Orbital is a public company (ORB NYSE) whose primary business is building and launching satellites. They will be entering the one-meter resolution imagery market in Summer 1999 with the launch of Orbview3. MDA's primary business is the design, installation and operation of satellite ground stations. MDA was also recently awarded a contract to build and operate RADARSAT II, a follow-on to Canada's highly successful RADARSAT program.

Orbital/MDA had previously purchased Triathlon Mapping Corporation of Burnaby, BC, a recognized technological leader in the mapping industry. The purchase of Nies Mapping provides them with additional mapping expertise and capacity. It also positions us for growth in traditionally strong US markets and provides them with additional internal resources to address future satellite based value-added mapping opportunities. We look forward to bringing satellite based mapping technology to our Pacific Northwest clients through this new relationship.

On another front, we recently licensed our proprietary high resolution color digital orthophoto imagery and contour data to Pierce County and the cities of Tacoma and Lakewood. Under the license agreement, these clients will have network wide access to 0.5' resolution color ortho imagery and 2' contour data at significant savings over traditional "build-to-own" contract prices. Data is in production and we are currently offering pre-production license discounts to interested clients. For more information on this product, please contact John Miller at 425-869-4020.

GeoNorth Expands Services in Puget Sound Area

GeoNorth, IncTM announces the expansion of its Redmond, Washington office to provide Autodesk® and ESRI® GIS application development and product sales to government, utilities, and business organizations in the Puget Sound area. GeoNorth now offers development, implementation, and sales of Autodesk products including Autocad R14TM, Cad OverlayTM, AutoCad MapTM and MapGuideTM in addition to ESRI's MapObjectsTM and MapObjects Internet Map ServerTM through its Redmond office. GeoNorth's CityMapTM and MapOptixTM application frameworks enable fast and cost-effective development of customized, leading-edge desktop and Internet GIS applications. GeoNorth is also an Allaire business partner/developer and can optimize client/server applications using Cold FusionTM.

GeoNorth is headquartered in Anchorage, Alaska and has regional offices in Redmond, WA and Portland, OR. For more information, contact Russ Michel, Northwest Regional Manager, 425-882-6087. Visit our web site at: <http://www.geonorth.com>.

ESRI Business Partners Add Value to GIS Start-up Grant Program

Eighteen ESRI business partners have agreed to add value to ESRI's Local Government Start-up Grant Program, which provides grants to 100 local governments over an eight-month period. Business partner contributions consist of data, applications, and data creation tools whose value totals more than \$7.6 million.

ESRI's grant program, announced in July, provides GIS software and online training to 100 organizations by February 28, 1999. Eligible agencies include most forms of local jurisdictions. The purpose of the grant program is to encourage data sharing among local governments and to foster the development of geographic databases where none exist. The deadline to submit applications is February 1, 1999. For more information, including instructions for submitting applications and deadlines, see <http://www.esri.com/localgov>.

"We are very pleased to see our business partners participate in the grant program," says Christopher Thomas, ESRI state and local government industry solutions manager. "The grant recipients will have a complete set of software tools, data, and applications right from the start. This will really help agencies that couldn't otherwise invest in this technology."

Announcing the 1999 Washington State URISA Chapter Conference

Putting It All Together With GIS

Presented in cooperation with Washington State Geographic Information Council (WAGIC)

February 22-23, 1999

Embassy Suites Hotel
15920 West Valley Highway
Seattle, WA (206) 227-9567

Our state continues to face significant challenges in accommodating urban growth, improving vital public facilities, maintaining public services and sustaining the quality of our natural resources. Despite Washington's relatively healthy economy, the bottom line is that there frequently is not enough money available to do all the things that are desired.

Federal, state and local government agencies in Washington state are finding better ways to respond to these challenges by taking advantage of new ways to utilize GIS technology. GIS is used by many planners, civil engineers, environmentalists and many others in the state of Washington to help solve problems. Geospatial data can be shared to support analysis of buildable land supply, to assess transportation and public infrastructure needs, and to respond to threatened Endangered Species Act listing of the Chinook Salmon. GIS is also being deployed to evaluate the delivery of vital services in our state, and to help assure the safety of our communities during public emergencies.

WAURISA members are supporting policy and decision makers with sounder recommendations and more accurate information than ever before. Our vendors are making dramatic improvements in software capabilities and data that make it easier to use GIS on desk top PCs and make it easier to access GIS data over computer networks and via the Internet. You are invited to attend the 1999 Washington Urban and Regional Information Systems Association conference sponsored in cooperation with the Washington Geographic Information Council.

This winter's WAURISAWAGIC conference is designed to help you:

- Meet other professionals from federal, state and local government organizations and from the private sector who are using GIS to solve business needs similar to yours.*
- Learn more about GIS tools and sources of data that can be applied to urban planning, public works, public services, public safety or environmental issues facing your organization.*
- Acquire new technical skills that can make your job easier and might enable you to do your job even better.*

This year's conference features many excellent speakers, consultants and vendors from across Washington state who are looking forward to sharing information with you. It also includes expanded thematic and technical sessions designed to present and share tools you need to be effective. Come listen, learn and discuss with us how you can put it all together with GIS.

Conference Schedule at a Glance

Monday, February 22

8:00 - 9:00	9:00 - 10:00	10:00 - 10:30	10:30 - 12:00	12:00 - 1:00	1:00 - 2:30	2:30 - 3:00	3:00 - 4:30
Register & Pick Up Badges	Welcome Message Conference Theme Presentation	Break	Plenary Session: Planning Infrastructure Environment	Box Lunch	WA Cities Using GIS to Solve Business Needs	Break	GIS Data Sharing In WA Counties
					GIS On the Internet: What's Happening Now in WA		Using GIS to Manage Public Infrastructure
Visual Basic Seminar				Vendor Exhibits			
Visual Basic Seminar				Visual Basic Seminar			

Tuesday, February 23

7:30 - 8:30	8:30 - 10:00	10:00 - 10:30	10:30 - 12:00	12:00 - 12:30	12:30 - 1:30	1:30 - 3:00	3:15 - 4:30
Register (cont'd)	GIS & Salmon	Break	Rural Counties	Break	WAURISA Annual Luncheon New Officers Awards Keynote Speaker	Washington's GIS Framework	Metadata & WA GIS Clearinghouse
	Maint. Mgmt.		GIS for Planners			GIS for Water & Sewer	Expert GIS Round Table
	GIS Fed./State		GIS Architectures			ODE	GIS Apps. With Hot GUI's
	ODE		ArcFM			Vendor TBD	Vendor TBD
	Internet Mapping Solutions		GeoMedia			Photo-grammetry	Vendor Products
Vendor Exhibits							

Monday, February 22, 1999

- Welcome
- Introductory Remarks: GIS The Spatial Glue; WAGIC Strategic Plan
- Plenary Session: GIS for Urban Planning: Buildable Lands - What's New - Can We Use GIS?; Managing Washinton's Public Infrastructure With GIS; The Environment: Using GIS to Respond to Possible ESA Listing of Chinook Salmon.
- Box Lunch and Vendor Exhibits
- Microsoft Application Development & Visual Basic Technical Training
- Washington Cities Using GIS to Solve Business Needs
GIS On The Internet: What's Happening In Washington Now?
- GIS Data Sharing In Washington Counties
- Using GIS to Manage Public Infrastructure

Tuesday, February 23, 1999

- GIS Activities of Federal and State Agencies
- Using GIS to Support Response to Salmon ESA Issue
- Integrating GIS and Maintenance Management Systems
- GIS Applications In Rural Counties
- Planners find New Uses For GIS
- GIS Architectures: From Enterprise to Desk top
- Luncheon Keynote Speaker, Recognition, Awards and Vendor Exhibits
- Vendor Training Seminars and Presentations
- Framework: What's In It For Me?
- GIS for Public Water & Sewer Systems
- Photogrammetry: New Softcopy Products
- Expert Round Table: How Far Have We Come, How Far Do We Have To Go?
- Using Metadata & Washington's GIS Data Clearinghouse
- GIS User Applications & Hot GUI's

Preliminary Program

Learn about COM & Visual Basic at the Conference!

Microsoft's component architecture and rapid application development environments provide powerful new tools of choice for many GIS organizations. Computer programs written in Visual Basic support high performance, robust and customizable GIS applications that scale from the desk top to the enterprise.

This is your opportunity to become better acquainted with how these new tools can effectively be utilized and deployed in your organization. This may be all you need to know. However, the course will also provide valuable information on how you can gain further proficiency needed or pursue Microsoft certification.

The only prerequisites are that you have basic knowledge of the Microsoft Windows operating system and Office software. This special introductory course is provided by a leading Microsoft certified trainer at remarkably low cost to conference participants.

More on This Year's Presentations

Introductory Session: GIS is the "spatial glue" for much of the data contained in public information systems in the State of Washington. Learn more about WAGIC's Strategic Plan and what it may mean to you and to the future of GIS in the State of Washington. Explore this year's conference theme on how you can more effectively "put it all together with GIS."

Plenary Session: GIS is being utilized to support a variety of urban planning activities, public infrastructure planning and management activities, environmental analysis and public safety applications. Analysis of "buildable lands" under Washington's Growth Management Act will drive the use of GIS in the state's six largest counties. GIS is becoming increasingly integrated with other computerized tools to manage Washington's public infrastructure. It is also a tool of choice for supporting effective response to environmental issues, including the threatened listing of Chinook Salmon under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

Cities Using GIS to Solve Business Needs: Sophisticated GIS technology utilizing increasingly accurate geo-spatial information is becoming more widely deployed. Presentations will describe GIS development activities in some of Washington's cities that are leading the way in using GIS to support municipal functions.

GIS On The Internet: The rapid growth in public use of the Internet to access information and services will have a profound impact upon the way public and private organizations share and disseminate GIS related services and information in the future. Washington public agencies that are pioneering effective use of the Internet have ambitious plans for improving and expanding these services in 1999.

Data Sharing In WA Counties: County government provides many regional services that fit between municipal and special district services and public services provided statewide. Counties realize that much of their GIS data needs to be shared across jurisdictional boundaries to improve cooperative cost sharing; and some have taken significant steps to see that this occurs.

Using GIS to Manage Public Infrastructure: The public expects state and local tax revenues to be wisely applied to the cost-effective development and maintenance of our state's public infrastructure. GIS is being used in creative ways to assure that transportation and utility systems are well planned, inventoried and managed.

GIS Activities in Federal & State Agencies: Both large and small scale GIS data is being developed, utilized and shared among federal and state agencies to support strategic business functions that complement local government efforts.

Using GIS To Support ESA: The threatened listing of Chinook Salmon on the federal list of endangered species could cost billions of dollars to Washington businesses and residents during the coming millennium. GIS is a big part of what is being done to address this challenge at all scales and all levels of government.

Integrating GIS With Maintenance Management Systems: GIS is only one of several computer technologies utilized to support management of public infrastructure. Progressive Washington cities are integrating their GIS resources with other computer information systems to capture, maintain and deliver more information where it is needed to get the job done.

GIS Applications In Rural Counties: Rural counties face many of the same urban growth, public infrastructure and environmental degradation problems as urban counties despite sometimes significantly constrained financial resources. However many of them are utilizing low cost GIS solutions to more efficiently meet business needs and solve high impact problems.

Planners Find New Uses For GIS: Planners are great consumers of GIS information; but they are often also great producers of GIS information. Analyzing growth and development frequently requires new, creative ways of mining GIS data, massaging GIS data, and taking advantage of GIS resources to produce valuable new information for use by state and local government officials.

GIS Architectures From Enterprise to Desktop: Computers are being connected to provide increased functionality and performance. Some are dedicated to presentation of data or performing business logic whereas others are dedicated to storing large databases. Many organizations are effectively integrating GIS technology among multiple functions, activities and people.

1999 WAURISA Elections

The WAURISA Board appointed a Nominating Committee for election of officers on December 3, 1998. Open offices include President-Elect, Secretary and Treasurer. All chapter officers serve one year terms beginning at the Chapter's annual dinner. The 1999 President-Elect becomes President in 2000; and Past-President in 2001.

The Nominating Committee is seeking nominations and/or volunteers for appointive positions (such as Newsletter Editor, 2000 Conference Chair, etc.) as well for elected officers. **New This Year:** WAURISA members are encouraged to submit nominations for any GIS project, program and/or person in Washington you feel merits special recognition by the WAURISA board during the 1999 annual dinner.

Please call the Nominating Committee member for your area of the state this month (no later than Jan. 8, 1999):

- Puget Sound: Dick Thomas, Chairman 425-392-4931 ext. 228, dick@samplat.wa.org
- Central Washington: Michael Neer, 509-962-7506, mneer@co.kittitas.wa.us
- Northwest Washington: Chris Behee, 360-676-6855, ext. 257, cbehee@cob.org
- Olympic Peninsula Area: Andrew Kinney, 360-754-4458, ajk@gis.co.thurston.wa.us
- Spokane Area: Ian Von Essen, 509-459-6344, ivonessen@co.spokane.org
- Southwest: Bob Pool, 360-699-2391
- Tri-City Area: Chris Wright, 509-786-5611, ext. 5538, chris_wright@co.benton.wa.us

Ballots will be mailed to all WAURISA members in good standing (which includes all 1998 conference attendees) in January, 1999. Election results, and any special recognition as identified by the Nominating Committee and determined by the WAURISA Board, will be announced during the Chapter's annual dinner on February 23.

WA-URISA 1998 Officers

President: Don W. Eginton
Snohomish County DIS/GIS
(425) 388-3682, don.eginton@co.snohomish.wa.us

Vice President: Greg Cioc
Puget Sound Regional Council
(206) 464-6179, gcioc@psrc.org

Secretary: Dick Thomas
Samamish Plateau Water & Sewer District
(425) 392-4931 ext. 228, dick@samplat.wa.org

Treasurer: George Horning
King Co. Dept of Development & Environ. Services
(206) 296-6709, george.horning@metrokc.gov

Message From The WAGIC Chair

The Washington State Geographic Information Council (WAGIC) sponsored a Strategic Business Planning Workshop on October 12 and 13, 1998 at the Snoqualmie Summit Inn. Approximately 20 organizations were represented at the workshop. The intent of the workshop was to begin formulating the requirements and action items needed to develop a new strategy for GIS in Washington State. The plan, which is the first of its kind in Washington, is intended to guide state GIS policy into the next century. Bruce Westcott has been assisting WAGIC throughout the project. Bruce has many years of strategic planning experience as the past director of the Vermont Center of Geographic Information.

Nancy Tosta from the Puget Sound Regional Council and Karen Terwilleger from the Department of Fish and Wildlife kicked off the workshop by giving brief presentations. Nancy discussed GIS issues related to developing a transportation plan for the Puget Sound corridor. She stated the challenge will be to get all the different organizations and jurisdictions to work together on this plan. Karen discussed the Salmon Recovery plans for the state. There is a sense of urgency to restore salmon levels in the state. It is hoped that GIS will be an important tool to address this complex natural resource problem.

On the first day of the workshop the group identified high-level GIS business and technology needs and issues. During the second day the group identified the short and long-term action items needed to meet the business needs and technology issues in Washington State. The needs have been linked to the action items, categorized and prioritized. One key objective identified is to increase GIS awareness through communication and education. During the past several months, WAGIC and WAURISA have been discussing the possibility of a partnership to better define the roles of the two organizations. The initial thinking is that WAURISA would become the strong advocate for information sharing and education. WAGIC would expand its work in the area of GIS policy development and strategic direction.

The first draft of the strategic plan is available on the WAGIC Web site. There is an opportunity for people to contribute to the plan by visiting the site at www.wa.gov/gic/Plan98/planpage.htm. Please give me a call at (360) 902-1546 if you have questions about the plan or if you would like to make additional contributions toward its completion. It is important that we work together to complete the strategic plan as a state plan and not a WAGIC document.

Sincerely,
Larry Sugarbaker, WAGIC Chair

Renew your membership

The Washington State URISA (formerly NWCAMA) is a non-profit organization providing a forum for users and vendors of computer aided mapping and geographic information systems (GIS). Through regular meetings, seminars and this newsletter, Washington State URISA members keep pace with developments in the field, including local mapping, GIS applications, new and pending system acquisitions, latest products and services, and relevant issues such as digital data standards and sharing of data bases. Washington State URISA is open to all interested parties; membership is tax deductible.

Washington State



Urban & Regional Information Systems Association

CATEGORY RATES AND BENEFITS

Sponsor	\$250/year Corporate membership in Washington State URISA Early registration for exhibit space at Spring Conference Receives copy of mailing list and meeting attendance Opportunity to distribute literature at all meetings Newsletter and meeting notice subscription Opportunity to provide company profile or milestone information in newsletter One representative member (one vote) Unlimited number of employees receive Membership discount at meetings
Individual	\$20/year Member discount at meetings Newsletter and meeting notice subscription One representative member (one vote)
Student	\$10/year Member discount at meetings Newsletter and meeting notice subscription No vote

Washington State URISA membership form

Name: _____
 Organization: _____
 Address: _____
 City, State, ZIP _____
 Phone _____ E-Mail _____

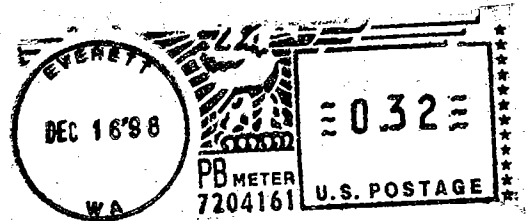
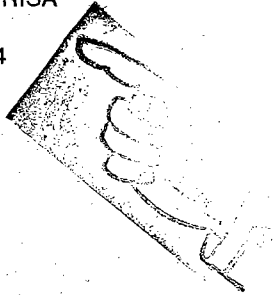
Interest group: (please check one only)

<input type="checkbox"/> Federal government	<input type="checkbox"/> State government
<input type="checkbox"/> Regional government	<input type="checkbox"/> County government
<input type="checkbox"/> City government	<input type="checkbox"/> Resource industry
<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Utility
<input type="checkbox"/> Academic	<input type="checkbox"/> Vendor

Please mail this completed form with your membership dues to WAURISA, c/o PSRC, 1011 Western Ave., Suite 500, Seattle, WA 98104



Washington State URISA
 PO Box 8115
 Kirkland, WA 98034



Gregory Babinski
 King County GIS
 700 5th Avenue, MS GAT-18
 Seattle, WA 98104

- Moved, left no address
- No forwarding address
- Moved, not forwardable
- Attempted - Not known

*Greg - this bounced!
 Dick*