WV Association of Geospatial Professionals
Spring 2015 Newsletter

May 2015

Dear Fellow Association Members,

This last year has been a great experience for me as your president!
We've all been working diligently to keep geospatial front and center in our
public and private lives. Despite continued funding challenges, our members throughout the state have
pushed the acquisition of critical framework layers upon which so many of our efforts rest.
Localities continued to acquire critical data layers, particularly imagery, which they have largely been
willing to share with other community members. The state has launched important initiatives in
next-generation elevation data and making updates to our addressing program.
Our membership has not neglected a little fun either, with the continued success of "Meet and Eat"
events throughout the state. Organization members provide important contributions to meet some of
our core interests, such as training or public outreach.
The WVAGP provides a wonderful melting pot for ideas and approaches to using geospatial technology
to make our state greater.
I look forward to seeing all of you at our annual meeting on June 3 in Flatwoods. Our agenda is quickly
filling with great topics concerning water and water resources within the state.
Also, I would be remiss if I did not take the opportunity to remind everyone to vote in our election!
Board members make all the difference in an organziation, and our board provides the critical leadership
we need to thrive.
I've been fortunate to have a great board under my limited stewardship, and I eagerly await what new
and exciting ideas new board members will bring to the table!
As always, please feel free to contact me at any time with any questions, comments, suggestions or
ideas for making the WVAGP better!

Frank LaFone
WVAGP president

In This Issue

WVAGP Election Committee Report

The WVAGP Election Committee met in February to go over the election procedures that are in place for the committee to abide by when it is time to begin the election process.

This year, five candidates will be elected to the WVAGP Board of Directors for a term beginning July 1, 2015, and ending June 30, 2017.

On March 9, 2015, the call for nominations was sent out over the listserv, and 10 candidates accepted nominations.

Mid-April saw nine out of the 10 nominees submit profiles and pictures for the election packet. The packet, which contained a letter from the chairman, the ballot and the nominee profiles were sent out to the WVAGP membership May 4. The four weeks following the nominee profile distribution were for all 10 nominee profiles and pictures to be put on the WVAGP Facebook page. Two candidates are being profiled each of the first three weeks, and the fourth week will contain profiles of the four remaining candidates.

The election will take place during the WVAGP Annual Meeting on June 3 in Flatwoods. Members of the WVAGP Election Committee include Nate Davis, Craig Neidig, Matt Mullenax and Chairman Jennings Starcher.

WVAGP Board Members 2014-15

Name	Organization	Sector	Email	Term Expires
Wes Bailes	Landmark Forestry	Private	wes@landmarkforestryllc.com	2015
Adam Cottrell (Vice President)	City of Charleston	City	adam.cottrell@cityofcharleston.org	2016
Michael Duminiak	WV Water Development Authority	State	mduminiak@wvwda.org	2016
Connie Ervin	Preston County Assessors Office	County	crervin@assessor.state.wv.us	2016
Jessica Gormont	Jefferson County GIS/Addressing	Regional	jgormont@jeffersoncountywv.org	2016
Frank LaFone (President)	WV GIS Technical Center, WVU	Education and research	frank.lafone@mail.wvu.edu	2016
Colleen Lemasters	The Thrasher Group Inc.	Private	clemasters@thrashereng.com	2016
Mike Paugh (Secretary)	Monongalia County	County	mike@moncpc.org	2015
Tony Simental (Ex-officio)	Office of GIS Coordinator	State	tony.a.simental@wv.gov	N/A
Jennings Starcher (Treasurer)	WV Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management	State	jennings.n.starcher@wv.gov	2015
Paul Wray	Putnam County Assessors Office	County	pwray@assessor.state.wv.us	2015
Yueming Wu	WV Department of Transportation	State	yueming.wu@wv.gov	2015

10 Candidates for Board of Directors 2015-16

Name: John "JD" Adkins
Employment: Cabell County Assessors GIS Coordinator
Platform for board: Continue the progress that WVAGP has made in data sharing, educational opportunities, etc., while exploring experience, knowledge sharing.

Name: Kevin Kuhn
Employment: WV GIS Technical Center at WVU Research Assistant III (GIS Analyst)
Platform for board: Training is key to the successful implementation and operation of GIS. I want to improve training access and the education of WV leaders on GIS technologies.

Name: Chris Chrzanowski
Employment: Kanawha County Assessor
Platform for board: I would like to improve relations between government and nongovernment entities. I feel if we can share data more freely that it will improve everyones' product.

Name: James T. Rayburn, P.S.
Employment: Manager of Surveying for E.L. Robinson Engineering
Platform for board: To help make the organization stronger with knowledge gained from my peers and my experience.

Name: Jacob Darrah
Employment: GIS Project Manager for Blue Mountain, Inc.
Platform for board: I believe coordination and networking is the key to success for the WVAGP. I can help coordinate projects within the vision of the organization.

Name: Derek Springston
Employment: Program Associate for Northern West Virginia Brownfields Assistance Center
Platform for board: My technical GIS expertise and broad professional experience will benefit WVAGP and West Virginia professionals, citizens and decision-makers.

Name: Marvin Davis
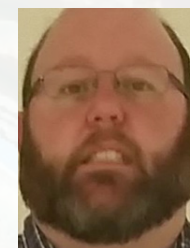**Employment:** Oak Hill GIS Department Coordinator, Oak Hill
Platform for board: I bring the perspective of a just-started professional to obtaining a geospatial position in West Virginia. I want to ensure we're receiving training and professional opportunities.

Name: Jennings Starcher, GISP
Employment: GIS Manager for the WV Division of Homeland Security
Platform for board: I've been on the WVAGP Board for a combined seven years, and served as president and treasurer. I hope to further advance WVAGP's mission and goals.

Candidates for Board of Directors 2015-16 (cont.)

Name: Matt Strogen
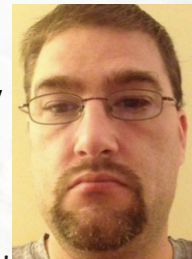**Employment:** Mapping Supervisor, Wayne County Assessor
Platform for board: I believe the WVAGP not only has the obligation to provide stewardship for the existing WV GIS community, but also to devise plans and systems to present the technology and opportunities to future users.

Name: Paul Wray
Employment: Tax Mapper, GIS Coordinator for Putnam County Assessor's Office and Mason County Assessor's Office
Platform for board: Promote GIS education and participation, help communication, develop policies and forge long-lasting relationships between the WVAGP, its members and the community.

2014 Meeting Keynote Speaker: Dan Widner

Members enjoyed the address by Dan Widner (left), who was the keynote speaker at the 2014 WVAGP Annual Meeting in June 2014. Widner is the coordinator of the Virginia Geographic Information Network at Virginia Information Technologies Agencies in Richmond, VA.

WV GISP Certifications

Colleen Lemasters, The Thrasher Group, Inc.
Jennings Starcher, WV Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management
Harold "Boomer" Yancy, Pocohontas Land Corp.
Everette Perry, WV Division of Highways
Theresa Litteral, Mountwest Community and Techinical College
Eric Combs, Region I Planning and Development Council

Stacey McDaniel, The Thrasher Group, Inc.
Benjamin Baker, Dieffenbauch & Hritz
Maria Gray, West Virginia State Tax Department, Property Tax Division
Aaron Maxwell, Alderson Broaddus University
Jason Roberts, Region I Planning and Development Council

WVAGP Member Spotlight: Kurt Donaldson

Kurt Donaldson, GISP, is a senior project manager for the West Virginia GIS Technical Center and our Member Spotlight for the spring 2015 newsletter.

Q: How long have you been working in Academia/State government?
A: 20 years

Q: How long have you been in your current role?
A: Since 1999

Q: Are you married?
A: Yes, wife Debra is a dentist.

Q: Children, grandchildren?
A: Two college-age sons.

Q: How do you spend your free time?
A: Family events and activities.

Q: To whom do you report?
A: Drs. Trevor Harris and Greg Elmes, geography professors and co-directors of the WV GIS Technical Center.

Q: What is the most unusual job you have ever had?
A: Leading military convoys in central Germany during the end of the Cold War.

Q: What is something that people may not know about you?
A: In 1981, I hiked the 2,200-mile Appalachian Trail from Georgia to Maine.

Q: What do you enjoy most about your job?
A: Collaborating with other geospatial professionals to achieve common goals.

Q: Briefly, what are one or two of the "hot topics/issues" for you and the GIS community in WV right now?
A: Legal issues regarding access to digital tax

parcel data.

Q: What is the biggest challenge in your job and why?
A: Continual funding support and retaining qualified staff.

Q: How long have you been involved in WVAGP?
A: Since the association was organized in 2007.

Q: How did you get into GIS?
A: While fulfilling requirements for a Master of Science degree in geology.

Q: Why do you work in public service?
A: To provide geospatial technologies, research, training and other services for members of the geospatial community

Q: What is the best book you've read lately?
A: "Witness at Hawk's Nest" by Dwight Harshbarger. It's about the deadliest industrial disaster in America's history.

Q: Do you have a favorite quote that guides you?
A: "Work Smarter ... Not Harder" — Allan Mogensen

WVAGP Annual Meeting

The WVAGP Annual Meeting will be from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday, June 3, at the Days Inn in Flatwoods, WV. The agenda is as follows:

9-9:10 a.m.: Welcome remarks by Frank LaFone, WVAGP president

9:10-9:30 a.m.: Statewide GIS Coordination discussion with Tony Simental, WV GIS state coordinator. Simental will discuss the Digital Elevation Workgroup that was created to address two major issues:
      1) To prepare the application for 3DEP, and to set priority regions.
      2) To develop a business plan for LiDAR acquisition in areas of the
      state that may not be coveed by a successful 3DEP application.
Also, he will note that the GIS Steering Committee was brought back to life and soon will begin working on a LiDAR and aerial imagery business plan.

9:30-10 a.m.: "Update on the National 3D Elevation Program (3DEP) from the USGS Perspective," by Craig Neidig, United States Geological Survey

10-10:45 a.m.: Keynote address: "Geospatial Initiatives a National Perspective," by Jeff Lovin, senior vice president and director of government solutions at Woolpert. Lovin said, as a longtime member of WVAGP, he was proud to be asked once again to give the keynote address for the 2015 annual meeting.
"Through insight gained from serving in organizations like the Management Association of Private Photogrammetric Surveyors (MAPPS), the Coalition of Geospatial Organizations (COGO), and now on the National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC), I plan on giving an update on several key national geospatial initiatives that stand to benefit the state of West Virginia," Lovin said.

Jeff Lovin will deliver the keynote address.

10:45-11 a.m.: Break

11 a.m.-noon: Presentations:
      1) Three Rivers QUEST, Melissa O'Neal
      2) NHD Update, Evan Fedorko
      3) GeoDesigns, MapLaunch, Thomas Saltzer

Noon-1:15 p.m.: Lunch, provided for members who preregister. For information and to RSVP, log on to the WVAGP Facebook page or visit wvagp.org.

1:15-2:15 p.m.: WVAGP Annual Membership meeting

2:15-2:30 p.m.: Break

2:30-4 p.m.: WV GIS Steering Committee meeting and 3DEP stakeholders' meeting
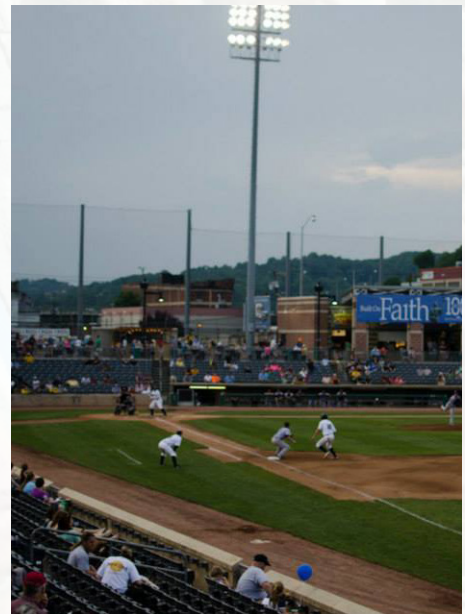
4-5 p.m.: Subcommittee meetings

2014 Lifetime Achievement Awards

At last year's 2014 WVAGP Annual Meeting, 2014 WVAGP President Hussein Elkhansa and WV GIS Coordinator Tony Simental honored three members with Lifetime Achievement Awards. They were (from left, holding framed certificates) Robb Shaffer, Jennings Starcher and Craig Neidig.

2014 Baseball Game Social

Also as part of last year's WVAGP Annual Meeting event, members got together for a Baseball Game Social at the West Virginia Power Class A minor-league baseball team at Appalachian Power Park in Charleston, WV.

WVAGP Committee Reports

Communication Committee

The WVAGP Communication Committee has been busy this year with a number of projects. Our mission has been to make all news and information available to the members through as many methods as possible.

A main focus to achieve and maintain this mission is finding new ways, as well as revitalizing old ways, to attract members to be more actively involved with the association.

This year, we have been far more active on Facebook (i.e. highlighting Board of Director nominee profiles) and have plans to be more active on Twitter (@WVAGP).

We have focused on updating the website to help integrate Facebook and Twitter updates, which should be finished in the near future. There also has been a focus on bringing new life to our newsletter, which we hope the membership will enjoy.

Our informal lunch gatherings ("Meet and Eats") have been a hit in Charleston and the Eastern Panhandle, and we're hoping to expand upon these to other areas of the state, too.

The Communication Committee is excited to build upon this year's successes in the upcoming year.

Technical Issues Committee

Aerial Mapping: The state GIS Coordinator, Tony Simental, has taken a lead in areas related to aerial mapping and LiDAR, especially putting together a plan for securing funding from the USGA Broad Area Announcement (BAA) for 3DEP.

As part of the effort, Tony and members of WVAGP attended two USGS BAA 3DEP FY15 National Webinars on April 24 and 29. A Digital Elevation Workgroup was held May 14 (See Page 9).

At the workshop, attendees focused on preparing the application for 3DEP funds and developing a business plan for LiDAR acquisition in areas of West Virginia not covered by the 3DEP funds.

Metadata: The committee continues to monitor developments, via the FGDC Metadata Working Group teleconferences, in the transition to ISO standard metadata.

Advanced users familiar with XML editing now have options for creating and validating, though there is a learning curve, and proprietary software may be required. The committee remains convinced that more user-friendly tools are needed before transitioning to ISO as a community.

EPA Metadata Editor (EME) version 4.0 now is at least partly ISO 19115 compliant.

For more information, visit edg.epa.gov.

Conference Committee

The WVAGP Annual Meeting will be in Flatwoods on June 3. Our keynote speaker is Woolpert's Jeff Lovin, who will discuss the USGS 3DEP program.

Audit Committee

The financial state of our organization is in great shape and our treasurer, Jennings Starcher, has done a great job. The full report will be read during the annual meeting.

Project Highlights

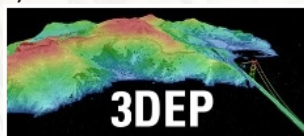Here is a noncomprehensive list of recent geospatial mapping projects across the state this year:
• Cabell County – 3-inch orthoimagery
• Hampshire County – 6-inch orthoimagery
• Putnam County – 6-inch orthoimagery

• Hancock County – 3-inch orthoimagery
Please let us know if you've had recent mapping project updated or acquired, or if you are planning to in the future! Also let us know if you are planning an upcoming mapping project!

Industry News/Links

On May 14, a public meeting was held to discuss potential high-resolution elevation data projects in West Virginia for federal Fiscal Year (FY) 2016.

This forum included the U.S. Geological Society and interested 3DEP stakeholders in West Virginia in an effort to initiate discussion on potential high-resolution elevation data project areas, identify areas of mutual interest and refine requirements.

The meeting also provided general information about the Broad Area Announcement (BAA) process to submit 3DEP proposals for the FY 2016 program year.

An online viewer has been created using the NOAA Coastal Services web tools to map new 2015 and proposed 2016 LiDAR projects across West Virginia. For more information, visit the U.S. Federal Mapping Coordination site.

While most BAA workshops are state-based, many areas of interest reflect regional requirements and may fall within one or more states. If your project crosses state boundaries, you are welcome to attend and present your area of interest in each of the relevant workshops. However, as the AOI viewer is national in scope, the AOI will be viewable by interested parties in all affected states or territories to support future discussions on multistate collaboration.

This is a link to all the state and regional 3DEP BAA workshops across the country.

If you have questions or would like to become a stakeholder, please contact Tony Simental Tony.A.Simental@wv.gov.

Also join us at the West Virginia Association of Geospatial Professionals Annual Meeting on June 3 in Flatwoods from 2:30 to 4 p.m. for the WV GIS Steering Committee and 3DEP Stakeholders meeting.

BAA 3DEP Grant Announcements: July 2015
Pre-Proposal: July 17-Aug 25, 2015
Proposal: Sept 14 – Oct 23, 2015
Selections of Grant Awards: Nov 27 , 2015-Feb 28, 2016

Upcoming Events

June 3, 2015
Event: WV Association of Geospatial Professionals Annual Meeting
Time: 9 a.m.- 5 p.m.
Location: Flatwoods, WV
Details: Lunch will be provided for WVAGP Members. RSVP please.

June 9 and June 11, 2015
Event: ArcGIS Desktop Foundations
Time: 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
Location: Morgantown, WV
Details: Training located at Brooks Hall on downtown WVU campus. For more information and online registration visit wvapg.org. For more information, contact Kevin Kuhn at kevin.kuhn@mail.wvu.edu.

July 15 and July 17, 2015
Event: ArcGIS Python
Time: 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
Location: Morgantown, WV
Details: Training located at Brooks Hall on downtown WVU campus. For more information and online registration visit wvapg.org. For more information, contact Kevin Kuhn at kevin.kuhn@mail.wvu.edu.

July 23, 2015
Event: ArcGIS Spatial Analysis & Statistics
Time: 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
Location: Morgantown, WV
Details: Training located at Brooks Hall on downtown WVU campus. For more information and online registration visit wvapg.org. For information, contact Kevin Kuhn at kevin.kuhn@mail.wvu.edu.