

Potomac Perspectives

Fall 2009 Newsletter



ASPRS - POTOMAC REGION

The imaging and geospatial information society

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Successful GeoTech 2009 Conference

The ASPRS Potomac Region's 16th annual GeoTech Conference, with the theme of "Geospatial Infrastructure: Looking to the Future," was held October 5-6, 2009 in the NOAA Auditorium and Science Center. Co-hosted by NOAA's National Geodetic Survey, this year's conference drew a near-record audience of over 160 people, including representatives from 11 government/military agencies, 6 universities, and 38 private sector firms.

The first day of the conference featured four well-attended workshops. Topics covered included 1) Terrain Mapping; 2) Fundamentals of Automated Feature Extraction (AFE); 3) Accessing and Processing Public Domain Landsat Data; and 4) An Overview of Airborne and Terrestrial Data Sources for Disaster Response. Participants learned about a wide variety of geospatial data, technologies, applications, and techniques, including contemporary remote sensing capabilities.

Tuesday's session opened with the Conference Welcome by Dr. Bill Corso, Deputy Assistant Administrator of NOAA's National Ocean Service.

Dr. Corso highlighted NOAA's mutually-beneficial involvement in ASPRS, dating back 75 years to the founding of the society, and emphasized the theme of looking to the future.

Dr. Eckstein stressed the importance of ASPRS membership and presented the current Potomac Region membership numbers, broken down by state. The Region currently has 765 total members, with over half in Virginia.



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Our special thanks to the sponsors of the GeoTech 2009 Conference.

Maryland and North Carolina have the next two highest membership counts, with 207 and 81 members, respectively. Dr. Eckstein then covered the Potomac Region's 2009 and planned 2010 activities, including numerous Tech Tours, hosted by various companies and government agencies throughout the region.

The Keynote Speech was given by Mr. Ernie Reith, Deputy Director of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency's (NGA) InnoVision Directorate. Mr. Reith's talk, titled "Fusion: Connecting the Pipes," explored the very timely topic of data and information fusion. Mr. Reith presented NGA's R&D Roadmap and InnoVision's Vision for the Future, with an emphasis

on fusion strategies and frameworks.

The Technical Sessions comprised ten well-received talks organized into three topic areas: Coastal Mapping Applications, Sensors and Systems, and Spotlight on Emerging Issues. Many attendees commented favorably on the presenters' collective wealth of expertise on a wide variety of topics, ranging from sensing modalities (topographic, bathymetric, terrestrial and mobile lidar; hyperspectral imagers; and synthetic aperture radar) to outlier detection, open-source software, snow cover indices computed from moderate-resolution imagery, and coastal science applications. ASPRS Potomac Region plans to make these talks available as podcasts.

With 13 booths, the Exhibit Hall approached its full capacity. The exhibits showcased many new tools and offerings from the geospatial industry. (Note: a full list of conference sponsors and exhibitors appears in this newsletter.) As always, networking was a key aspect of GeoTech.

While exploring the Exhibit Hall, many participants took advantage of the opportunity to make new contacts and/or catch up with old acquaintances.

Also announced at the event was the new venue for next year's GeoTech: George Mason University! Many thanks to all the speakers, workshop instructors, volunteers, sponsors, exhibitors, and participants who contributed to making GeoTech 2009 a success. We look forward to seeing you at GMU in 2010!

Volunteers for Potomac Region

If you would like to sponsor a tour, provide a technical paper for the newsletters or get more involved with activities in your local ASPRS chapter, we want to hear from you. For more information, please visit the PR website or contact any member of the board.



The Potomac Region would like to express our appreciation to the exhibitors for participating in GeoTech 2009!

November Elections for PR Board Members

PR Past-president Dave Szymanski announced the candidates for the 2010 Potomac Region Board of Directors. The secretary/treasurer supports region operations through bookkeeping and financial management. The secretary/treasurer will remain an officer throughout the four-year term becoming the board vice-president, president, and past-president. The Region Director serves for three years and acts as a committee chair, which is assigned at the discretion of the president.

Elections will be held during November. Specific voting procedures will be e-mailed to members soon. Please vote for your representatives in the upcoming election. Your participation is needed.

Candidates for Secretary/Treasurer

Genong (Eugene) Yu, Ph.D.
Research Assistant Professor
Center for Spatial Information Sciences & Systems
George Mason University

John Manzer, Business Development
Manager
GeoEye Corporation

Candidate for Region Director

Josh Sisskind, Image Scientist
ITT Space Systems Division

N. C. Chapter hosts Conference 13-14 November

The North Carolina Chapter of ASPRS Potomac Region (NCASPRS) conference will be held at N.C. A&T State University north campus, near Greensboro, NC.

By registering at this year's conference you automatically become a NCASPRS member, at the associate level. The \$80 registration can be paid on-site. If you are not a ASPRS member, by registering and attending this conference, the NCASPRS also offering to pay 50% of your new membership with ASPRS-Potomac Region. This represents a saving of up to \$60, with all the benefits of ASPRS membership including: PE&RS journal, training and employment opportunities, and discounts on ASPRS publications.

This year the conference will start with "Pictometry International" presenting its leading-edge 3D solutions and new directions in Lidar technology and will end with a study of shoreline changes and applications of SAR data in coastal zone by Dr. Yong Wang from East Carolina University.

The complete conference agenda is available at the following:
<http://www.ncasprs.com/conference.htm>
or contact Mr. Luiz Cortes:
(704-347-4552) / lcortes@sanborn.com.

Conference Times:

Friday, November 13th (8:00am to 5:00pm) and Saturday, 14th, (8:00am to 11:00am).

Conference Registration Fee: \$80.00

This is a great opportunity to meet other fellow professionals in your area, and learn about updated information on technologies and researches in the industry. If you are licensed in NC or SC, you also have the opportunity to earn 12 additional hours of Professional Development Hours.

Highlights from GeoTech 2009



Keynote Speaker Ernie Reith
National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency







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For Board meeting agendas, minutes, news, events and contact information, visit the Potomac Region Website: <http://www.asprspotomac.org/>

2009 Potomac Region Officers:

President : **Barbara Eckstein**, Ph.D. McClendon, LLC

Past-President : **David Szymanski**, Ph.D. Booz Allen Hamilton Inc.

Vice-President: **Peter J. Doucette**, Ph.D., ITT Corp.

Secretary/Treasurer: **Christopher E. Parrish**, Ph.D. NGS, Remote Sensing Div, NOAA

Historian : **Yogendra Singh**, CP, PLS

National Director: **Allan Falconer**, Ph.D., Associate Dean, College of Science,
George Mason University

NC Chapter President :Luiz Cortes, Sanborn

Technical Program Chair : **James Chris McGlone**, Ph.D., CP, SAIC

Education & Professional Development Committee Co-Chairs:

Richard B. Gomez , Ph.D., Research Professor, George Mason University

David Szymanski, Ph.D., Booz Allen Hamilton, Inc.

Membership Chair: Anthony Stefanidis, Ph.D., Professor, George Mason University (GMU)

Communications Chair : **Charlene Sailer**, Ph.D., NGA

Region Directors:

John Manzer, GeoEye, Inc.

Yong Wang, Ph.D., East Carolina University

Anthony Stefanidis, Ph. D., Professor, Dept. of Geography & Geoinformation Science,
George Mason University