GIS Day 2015

GIS Day was celebrated throughout the Pacific Southwest Region. Below are a few reports we received. These are just a few of the hundreds of GIS Day events held around the world on November 18th.

University of California, Berkeley

GIS Day 2015 at the Geospatial Innovation Facility (GIF) at UC Berkeley was a great success! The event marked the 10th anniversary of the GIF, which was launched on GIS Day in 2005. As part of the day’s theme of Discovering the World Through GIS, the event featured individual talks, a networking and social hour, and a poster session. A special plenary session, featuring local industry experts, capped off the evening’s celebration which attracted about 175 map makers and enthusiasts.

Presenters representing public agencies, entrepreneurs, and talent from local universities. The talks represented an impressive range of timely topics related to transit planning, public health, resource conservation, and overcoming industry challenges, and featured research findings, industry best practices, and descriptions of specific projects.

GIS Day at the GIF strives to serve as a platform for new ideas and new technologies, with 2015 being no different. The evening’s keynote address was transformed into a showcase of local innovators, where attendees were inspired to create, think outside the box, and acquire new skills relevant to today’s geospatial market. From encouraging us to see the world from new perspectives using unmanned aircraft systems such as drones and satellites, to encouraging the development of new tools to analyze and digitize data and images, the featured panelists delivered motivation, ideas and insight. If you missed GIS Day 2015 at the GIF, we hope you can join us in 2016!
University of California, Santa Barbara

2015 GIS Day @ UCSB celebration with more than 30 attendees was held on Nov. 18th, 2015, during Geography Awareness Week. As a global event, GIS Day provides a great opportunity for GIS users, researchers, and industry engineers to exchange ideas and to present works to a wide audience in order to facilitate spatial thinking and the use of GIS in our local community. To celebrate this special day for spatial studies, UCSB Geography PhD candidate Song Gao organized a presentation and tech-demo session at the UCSB Center for Spatial Studies. The Pacific Southwest Chapter of American Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing sponsored the refreshments. Two talks and demos were successfully presented by two speakers during the event:

Talk I: "Cross-platform GIS Mobile Apps Development in Practice."
Presenter: Song Gao, PhD Candidate in GIScience
Abstract: AppStudio for ArcGIS lets you build Mapping Apps that run natively across multiple platforms: OS X, iOS, Android, Windows Phone, and Linux. In this presentation, you will learn how to build your own Apps, using the different GIS App Templates available within 10 minutes. No programming experience is needed for this talk.

Talk II: “Three Case Studies on How GIS Can Automate Evaluations of Topographic and Sub-Surface Geological Features”
Presenter: Todd Mitchell, Pacific Southwest Chapter of ASPRS – Regional Director; Fugro – Remote Sensing Manager
Abstract: Evaluation of geologic features is conventionally performed using a combination of surface and sub-surface information. Methods for assessing conditions (such as levee performance) and/or change (such as coastal bluff retreat) can be significantly improved by performing these assessments in a GIS environment. Through data integration, archiving, change detection, logic testing and batch scripting of external programs, GIS can automate these evaluations providing fast, repeatable results. This presentation covered 3 examples of how assessments of this nature can be performed.

GIS Day 2016

The Pacific Southwest Region of ASPRS can provide support for your GIS Day event next year. The Region typically provides a monetary stipend to help finance refreshments at GIS Day events throughout the Region. We can also help to identify possible speakers for the technical portion of your GIS Day festivities.

Please contact us at pswasprs@gmail.com if you would like assistance in organizing a GIS Day event in 2016.
Pacific Southwest Region Council – Election Underway

By Lorraine Amenda

You should have received your electronic ballot for the election of open positions on the 2016 Region Council for the Pacific Southwest Region. If you haven’t seen your ballot (should be in your email from pswasprs@gmail.com via surveymonkey.com), please check your junk or spam folders. Voting is open through January 13, 2015. For those of you without valid emails on file with ASPRS or who have “opted out” of Survey Monkey, paper ballots have been sent.

PHENOLOGY RESEARCH AND OBSERVATIONS OF SOUTHWEST ECOSYSTEMS (PROSE)

Student Poster Winners (L) Mallory Barnes 1st place, Consideration of sub-annual climate conditions improves understanding of vegetation response to drought in the Southwest, Armando Barreto Munoz (2nd place, VI-PHEN: an online vegetation index and phenology analysis tool), Jesus Rodriguez (3rd place, Downscaling MODIS evapotranspiration via cokriging in the Wellton-Mohawk Irrigation and Drainage District, Yuma, AZ) with PROSE organizer Jessica Walker (R)

We wish to thank the Pacific–SW Region ASPRS for their sponsorship of the Sixth Annual Phenology Research and Observations of Southwest Ecosystems (PROSE) symposium held October 16, 2015 at the University of Arizona. The day-long symposium included 11 poster and 7 oral presentations, with opening remarks offered by University of Arizona Provost, Dr. Andrew Comrie and our keynote talk “The USA National Phenology Network: a national framework for phenological research, applications and education” given by Dr. Jake Weltzin, Executive Director of the USA National Phenology Network.

The PROSE symposium seeks to highlight the interdisciplinary science of phenology, which studies the timing of recurring biological events and their relationships to climate. Phenology can provide important data and information to anticipate and monitor ecosystem responses to global climate change. We are grateful for the sponsorship of the SW Region ASPRS and hope to continue this tradition for years to come.

Regards, The PROSE Organizing Committee
Cynthia Wallace (ASPRS, USGS–Tucson), Michaela Buenemann (ASPRS, NMSU–Las Cruces), Jessica Walker (USGS–Tucson), Theresa Crimmins (USA–NPN) and LoriAnne Barnett (USA–NPN)
More Photos from GIS Day 2015
... from Berkeley

and Santa Barbara ...
PSW News

CalGIS 2016
22nd Annual California GIS Conference
May 10-12, 2016, Anaheim, California.

The 22nd Annual California GIS Conference, *The Magic of GIS* is scheduled for May 10–12, 2016 in Anaheim, California. This annual meeting of GIS Professionals is cosponsored by the California URISA Chapters in cooperation with the California Geographic Information Association (CGIA).

Full day and half day, pre-conference workshops will be available on May 10th followed by an exciting program of speakers and presentations from the GIS community. The conference committee is actively working to put together a great program and we encourage anyone working in the geospatial professions to get involved: share your latest projects, share GIS tips and tricks and meet colleagues from government, private industry and academia from around the State!

Submit your presentation proposals before January 15, 2016 for top consideration. To submit your presentation ideas, register and additional information on program offerings, stay tuned to the conference website at: [http://www.urisa.org/education-events/calgis-conference/](http://www.urisa.org/education-events/calgis-conference/)

We look forward to sharing the ‘Magic of GIS’ with you this spring in Anaheim!

Steve Steinberg, Ph.D., GISP and Blanca Quintero, co–chairs CalGIS 2016

Would You Like a Technical Session in Your Area?

We strive to serve the needs of all members throughout the Region. If you would like the Region to hold a technical session in your area, please contact us at pswasprs@gmail.com and let us know. If you can assist in finding a location for the session or suggest a topic for the session, even better!

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**New Members**

The Pacific Southwest Region ASPRS Membership Committee offers a Big Welcome to the following NEW MEMBERS!

**October 2015**
Angela Casas

**November 2015**
Timothy Burrows *
Douglas Carner
Julia Goldsworth *
Jill Rundall *

**December 2015**
Madison Davis *

* = Student Member
Identify an Historic Aerial Photo Contest

If you can identify the area shown in the photo to the right, send an email to pswasprs@gmail.com and be entered into a drawing for a Pacific Southwest Region ASPRS USB Drive. Eligible entries must be received by January 20, 2016.

All who correctly identify the scene shown in the historic photo will be identified, along with the winner, in our next edition of the newsletter.

Hint: Within 100 Miles of the Capitol Rotunda in Sacramento, CA

Can you identify the area shown in this photo from the Towill, Inc., archives? Email your answer to pswasprs@gmail.com to qualify for the prize drawing.

Our first Hawai‘i photo did pretty well. We have four correct identifications – Jeffrey Miller, Linda Tucker, James Scarborough, and Joseph McGlinchy. James Scarborough won the raffle and received a Pacific Southwest Region of ASPRS USB drive.

Diamond Head/Waikiki, Oahu, Hawai‘i
February 16, 1965 – A portion of the Island of Oahu featuring Diamond Head and Waikiki.
Your Pacific Southwest Region Council

The officers for the Pacific Southwest Region are working hard to provide you with quality technical presentations near to home.

In the last few years we’ve offered technical sessions in San Diego, Fresno, Reno, and Davis. We are currently planning sessions for 2016. If you have suggestions for locations and topics for a session near where you live, please contact one of our officers or the region email at pswasprs@gmail.com.

President: Scott Miller, CP  millerscottb@gmail.com
Vice President: Matt Coleman, CP  mjcoleman84@yahoo.com
Past President: Bill Zeman  billzeman@gcsmapping.com
Secretary/Treasurer: Lorraine Amenda, CP, PLS  lorraine.amenda@towill.com
National Director: Alan Mikuni, CP, PE  alan@geowingmapping.com
Regional Directors: Steve Barton  sbarton2001@gmail.com
John Erickson, CP, PLS  john.f.ericsson@gmail.com
Todd Mitchell, CMS  tmitchell@fugro.com
Steven J. Steinberg, Ph.D., GISP  steves@sccwrp.org
Sam Perez  samperez3@gmail.com
Ross Winans  ross.winans@noaa.gov
Webmaster: Jeffrey Miller  jeff@geowingmapping.com

We welcome any suggestions that would allow us to better serve ASPRS membership in Arizona, California, Nevada, Hawai‘i, and the Pacific Islands.

Can you suggest a better name for our Newsletter? Send your suggestions to pswasprs@gmail.com. If your suggestion is adopted, you’ll receive a PSW Region USB Drive as a prize!