

# Meridian NW

Newsletter for the Pacific Northwest Chapter of the Geospatial Information & Technology Association  
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## INSIDE...

<b>May Speaker Meeting</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2006 Washington GIS Conference</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Join us for our Fall Conference</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Upcoming Events</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>PNW Chapter of GITA Board of Directors for 2006</b>	<b>6</b>

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As this year's Pacific Northwest Chapter President, I will be completing my 3rd year on the board of directors. I also believe we are starting the year with the largest board, welcoming 4 new members. One of the greatest opportunities that I've witnessed serving on the chapter board is the development of new friendships and sharing memorable times together. This is a group of people that really care about our industry and care about the membership. Many times I have witnessed the rallying together to bring you, the membership, activities that will enrich your knowledge of the industry and also to share in offering scholarships to GIS students in their studies.

We look ahead to the rest of the year and plan for a Speaker's meeting on May 12<sup>th</sup> and also to a Fall Conference at the Salishan Lodge on the Oregon Coast. Both of these events are designed for you to learn more about the technology and the industry, and to network with other users in your community along the way.

To the membership: we not only enjoy bringing you events and initiatives, scholarship and networking opportunities, but also enjoy hearing feedback on what we as a board are doing well and those things that we could use some improvement. Please feel free to let us know how we can serve you better. I look forward to working with you this year; let's make it one to remember together.

Keith Krall  
2006 PNW GITA Chapter President

## **Spring Speaker Program and Chapter Meeting**

When: Friday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2006, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

Cost: Free, no host lunch

Where: Redmond Regional Library  
15990 Northeast 85th Street  
Redmond, WA 98052

The Pacific Northwest Chapter of the Geospatial Information and Technology Association (GITA) will hold its Chapter Meeting and short program of speakers on topics we hope are of interest to you. The combination of Chapter business with educational discussions is one way to keep you in touch with your counterparts in the region and extend the role of GITA as a local forum for tracking technology concepts and trends.

The Chapter Meeting will follow the usual format of the regular Board meetings attended by your Chapter officers and will provide a chance for you to participate in shaping the Chapter's agenda for the year.

### **Blue Cascades III**

This spring's speaker meeting will focus on the Blue Cascades project. Blue Cascades III is the third in a series of infrastructure interdependencies tabletop exercises focused on the Pacific Northwest, developed and conducted by regional public and private sector organizations themselves. Previous Blue Cascades participants, particularly regional utilities, have continued to raise the importance of taking a tabletop

exercise beyond the immediate response stage and focusing on challenges associated with restoration and reconstitution activities. They are particularly concerned with a prolonged, cascading cross-border disruption that has broad regional physical and cyber infrastructure interdependencies as major complicating factors. These organizations are especially interested in exploring these challenges in a regional electric power outage that lasts beyond the typical backup power capabilities that most critical service providers and businesses have.

### **Speakers:**

**Elisabeth Leaf**

2005 GITA Scholarship Recipient  
University of Washington

**Mary Robinson**

Manager Operations Continuity  
Puget Sound Energy

**Hal Schlomann**

Executive Director  
Washington Association of Sewer & Water Districts

**Jeff Parsons**

Critical Infrastructure Program  
Manager  
Washington Military Department  
Emergency Management Division

**Douglas Kilpatrick**

Pipeline Safety Director  
Washington Utilities & Transportation  
Commission

### **Closing Panel Discussion – Blue Cascades III**

## **2006 WASHINGTON GIS CONFERENCE**

May 8-10, 2006

Greater Tacoma Convention & Trade Center

The 2006 Washington State GIS Conference, "Putting GIS to Work for Washington State," will be held May 8<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> at the new Greater Tacoma Convention & Trade Center.

**Pre-Conference Workshops:** Monday, presented by some of the top developers in the region:

- CH2M Hill: Open Source Development & Google Earth
- ESRI: Working with ArcGIS Geoprocessing, ModelBuilder and Scripting
- Integral GIS: Evolution or Intelligent Design (C#.NET, ArcGIS Server, Web Services)
- Safe Software: Data Interoperability

**Keynote Address:** Tuesday the conference kicks into full swing with a keynote address by S.J. Camarata, who currently serves as a Director of ESRI and focuses on worldwide global corporate strategies and directions. S.J. will speak about exciting new trends in GIS and the implications, challenges and opportunities for putting GIS to Work.

**Educational Speaker Sessions:** Tuesday & Wednesday, covering a variety of exciting topics:

- |                           |                                       |                                    |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| • <i>LiDAR</i>            | • <i>Web Solutions</i>                | • <i>Utilities</i>                 |
| • <i>Small Government</i> | • <i>Enterprise GIS Management</i>    | • <i>Transportation</i>            |
| • <i>Crime Analysis</i>   | • <i>County GIS Panel Discussions</i> | • <i>City GIS Panel Discussion</i> |
| • <i>Federal/DOD GIS</i>  | • <i>Tribal Government</i>            | • <i>Student Topics</i>            |
|                           | • <i>GIS at the City of Tacoma</i>    | • <i>Vendor Track Sessions</i>     |

**Poster Contest:** Poster and map competition for the great work being accomplished around the State with GIS.

**Vendors:** Vendors will be on hand to demonstrate their products and answer any questions about services they offer. In addition to vendor booths, there will be a special vendor track on Tuesday and Wednesday.

**Food:** Your registration includes lunch each day.

**Tuesday Night Social:** Join your colleagues for a 'Night at the Ballpark' at Cheney Stadium and watch the Tacoma Rainiers battle the Round Rock Express! With your ticket you'll receive a baseball shirt with your raffle number on the back, a classic BBQ feast - hot dogs, hamburgers, salad, baked beans, chips and ice cream. This evening will be a great chance to socialize with your peers in a relaxed environment. Everyone who attends the game will be entered into a raffle for a chance to win a 4GB iPod Nano. You and up to 4 guests are invited to attend - and it's a steal at only \$25/ticket.

**Registration:** See: [www.waurisa.org/conferences/index.html](http://www.waurisa.org/conferences/index.html)

***We hope to see you in Tacoma in May!***

## Join us at our 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Conference at the Oregon Coast in October

Mark your calendars! The 7th Annual PNW GITA Fall Conference will be returning to the beautiful Salishan Spa & Golf Resort on the central Oregon coast on October 23rd & 24th, 2006. We held a successful conference there in 2003. This facility was renovated extensively since we were last there and boasts full conference facilities including a large ballroom for our conference proceedings, spacious exhibit space, high-speed Internet access, and a full business center. All rooms feature a fireplace and private balcony. A perfect retreat. Please visit [www.salishan.com](http://www.salishan.com) (see pictures below) for more information about this property.



As always, we want to hear from you. Please let any of the board members know if you have suggestions on how we can continue to improve our conference offerings or are interested in presenting a paper or exhibiting at Salishan in October. We look forward to hearing from you.

## Upcoming Events

**April 23-26 GITA's Annual Conference 29  
Tampa, Florida**

**May 1-5 ASPRS 2006 Annual Conference  
Reno, Nevada**

**May 12 PNW Chapter GITA Speaker Meeting  
Redmond, Washington**

**May 8-10 2006 Washington GIS Conference  
Tacoma, Washington**

**July 24-28 GeoWeb 2006  
Vancouver, B.C., Canada**

**Sept. 18-20 GITA's 15th Annual GIS for Oil & Gas Conference  
Houston, Texas**

**Sept. 26-29 URISA's 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference & Exposition  
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada**

**Oct. 23,24 PNW Chapter GITA Annual Fall Conference  
Salishan, Oregon**

## Pacific Northwest Chapter of GITA Board of Directors for 2006

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