



GLIS 2008

No matter what you see in the image below, you are right, as our beliefs, values, and interpretation of what is going on are not always the same. For me, as the new president of the Geographic and Land Information Society (GLIS), the image represents a person sitting on his/her fences. For GLIS, that's not an option. We need to become more actively involved in creating a positive image of the society which will encourage more people to get involved in its activities.

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Last year at the ESRI user conference, René Garcia (GLIS secretary), and Bruce Hedquist (GLIS director) attempted to do just that. The outcome has proved not to be as spectacular as our intentions. But, it was a start of sorts. And, I did realize something very important: the pool of potential members that comes to the ESRI conference is vast and (still) largely untapped by GLIS and, indeed, any other member organization within ACSM with an interest in land information systems, geographic information system, and GIScience. Hence, my message in this letter primarily to the GLIS membership is to take advantage of every meeting to introduce the society to the outside world. We need new faces and new ideas in our ranks in order to make GLIS stronger. Behind any effort to grow an organization is creating an image of the organization that is attractive to others. In 2008, I would like us to address the issue of new members with renewed energy. For, without new members and more participation from the existing membership, the future does not look pretty. We have an enormous task ahead of us, and not much time; and not until we communicate to others that WE ARE THE BRIDGE on which surveyors and mappers meet will we be successful in growing our organization.

This is not a doom-and-gloom message; rather, a call to "rally the troops." Get involved in GLIS activities, come to our meetings and give us your ideas of where you see the organization going in the future, what we need to do better, how to do it.... Your involvement will help our profession and attract others to join us... for only a vibrant community can attract new, dynamic membership. I see a future where our organization will be in a position to positively impact the surveying and mapping professions... join us! It pays to get involved! You will not only bolster the LIS/GIS profession, but your professional career as well.

Robert L. Young, PLS



What do you see? ... Being an optimist, I see a kernel of life springing out.



Steve Briggs has been named Topcon Positioning Systems' new national GIS and OEM manager. Briggs joined TPS in 2004 as a product manager for network software and, until recently, served as TPS sales manager for networks and OEM. Briggs came to Topcon from Trimble Navigation where he had occupied various managerial positions.

In addition to his broad-based manufacturing experience, Briggs has been a land surveyor in four states. Steve is active in many professional associations including the International Association of Geodesy, the Institute of Navigation, and the American Association for Geodetic Surveying, where he currently serves as president.



Robert Burtch named new ASPRS National Workshop Coordinator

Offered for ten years under the direction of Dr. Russell Congalton, ASPRS Workshops have provided in-depth educational opportunities to thousands of professionals in the field of photogrammetry and remote sensing. These workshops are offered at ASPRS annual conferences, and they have been given in conjunction with ASPRS Region events for government agencies, including the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency and U.S. Geological Survey, as well as private sector companies. The workshops all carry Continuing Education Units awarded by the University of Maryland, College Park. Robert Burtch, a long-time ASPRS member, developed the very popular Preparing for Certification workshop, which he has been presenting since 2000 to consistently sold-out audiences. A professor in the Surveying Engineering Department at Ferris State University, Burtch has been teaching for 28 years. In addition to his ASPRS membership, Burtch has been an active member of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping (ACSM), and the Michigan Society of Professional Surveyors (MSPS). He was editor of the *Journal of Surveying Engineering* and currently helps review papers for that journal, as well as for *Photogrammetric Engineering and Remote Sensing* and the *Surveying and Land Information Science*.