## National News: Dr. Ramesh Sivanpillai named ASPRS Fellow!

*Excerpt from ASPRS Weekly Newsletter 12/3/2020* :

**ASPRS Announces the 2021 Fellows Class**

**2021 Recipients: Alper Yilmaz, John McCombs and Ramesh Sivanpillai**

**Ramesh Sivanpillai** is a remote sensing scientist with the Wyoming Geographic Information Science Center at the University of Wyoming (UW) where he teaches remote sensing courses and directs the WyomingView program. In his native India, he received his BSc degree in Physics from PSG College of A&S, MSc in Environmental Studies from Cochin University of S&T, MPhil in Environmental Sciences from Bharathiar University, and in the US, an MS in Environmental Sciences & Policy from the University of Wisconsin, Green Bay, and his PhD in Forestry from Texas A&M University. At UW he teaches an applied remote sensing course and advises undergraduate students on research projects. Since 1992, he has been working with aerial photos and on digital processing of remotely sensed data for applications in forestry, rangeland, agriculture, water bodies, disaster assessment, and land cover/land use mapping. He has worked with national and international agencies, and academic institutions in India, the US, Mexico, Mali, Nicaragua, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Russia, Kenya, and Australia. He has served on the Board of Directors of **AmericaView** and is a member of the board of the ASPRS Rocky Mountain Region. He is serving as associate editor for the *Journal of Applied Remote Sensing*, a position he has held since 2008 and *Frontiers of Earth Science* since 2014.

The designation of Fellow is conferred on active, mid-career members of the Society who have performed exceptional contributions in advancing the science, technology and use of the mapping sciences in service to ASPRS continuously for at least the last 10 years.

The award will be conferred at the 2021 ASPRS Virtual Conference on March 31, 2021.

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*Response from the Rocky Mountain Region:*

Congratulations to Ramesh!!! We believe he is so deserving of this award, and we are lucky to have his participation on the Rocky Mountain Region Board!! In addition to his many accomplishments, he has also taught training workshops on the applications and use of satellite imagery at the annual "GIS in the Rockies" Conference for the past several years, and he has donated the proceeds from those workshops to the ASPRS Rocky Mountain Region Student Scholarship Program. Ramesh will be joining the ranks of **Dr. Tina Cary** (Space Imaging, Cary & Associates, former ASPRS National President), **Dr. Roger Hoffer** (CSU Professor, retired), and others who have had distinguished careers in the Region, contributed much to the geospatial sciences, and have been conferred the honor of "ASPRS Fellow."

# National Director's Report

**National ASPRS Update (July-December 2020)**

- **ASPRS 2021** will be a Virtual Conference to be held March 29 – April 4, 2021
  - http://conferences.asprs.org/asprs-2021/
  - Call for Abstracts is now open through Feb 15, 2021. Submit yours here: http://conferences.asprs.org/asprs-2021/call-for-abstracts/

- **1ˢᵗ Annual Symposium on Remote Sensing & Wildland Fire** (**RS Fire 2020**) was hosted by the Pacific Southwest Region of ASPRS. Comprised of four 2-hour sessions, the Symposium took place on four consecutive Mondays from November 2 - 23, 2020.
  - For further information and to obtain access to the recordings, visit www.pswasprs.org/RSFire2020.
  - The cost to access the **RS Fire 2020** recordings is $20. All students may obtain access to the recordings for free. All proceeds directly support student scholarships provided annually by the Pacific Southwest Region of ASPRS.

- Potential Mid-South Region split may occur after a vote was held among active members within the current Mid-South Region states. The new Regions would be called:
  - **Gulf South Region**: Texas and Louisiana
  - **Mid-South Region**: Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Kentucky

- The Region Officers Council (ROC) has initiated an Emeritus Member list check to remove any recently deceased members. If you know of Emeritus members within the Rocky Mountain Region who have passed away, please notify the RMR Board to help with verification of member status.

- RMR Board recently suggested to National Board of Directors that they go to a full electronic filing system and only retain certain hard-copy records. ASPRS National Board will review this option and refer to other Regions to consider.

- The Region Officers Council began to re-identify the Student Chapters in each ASPRS Region back in November, as a means of re-establishing activity within each Student Chapter.

The National Board continues to put emphasis on ways to increase membership while also providing learning, career advancement, and networking opportunities to members. If anyone in the Rocky Mountain Region has ideas or suggestions on potential workshop topics or other ways to reach out to existing RMR members, please get in tough with the RMR Board with your thoughts and we will invite you to our next Board meeting.

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# Welcome New RMR Members!!

Laura Collins
Matthew Emmett
Brandi Flanagan
Sara Marie Hedrick
Ryan Shields
Raymond V. Sumner
Caroline Tyra

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# GIS in the Rockies Update

*You can watch any or all of the presentations, including the Keynote, from the Virtual Conference held October 6-9, 2020 on the GIS in the Rockies YouTube Channel*

Also, **GIS Colorado** has officially left the **GIS in the Rockies** organization, as of 1/1/2021. Written notice to the BOD and reps from the other member organizations, **ASPRS**, **PLSC**, and **URISA**, was first given in July 2020. It will now be left to the remaining organizations to decide the future of GIS in the Rockies. More information will be forthcoming in future newsletters, posts, and communications to ASPRS members. Let us know if you have any ideas.

# ASPRS National and Regional 2021 Election Ballots

An email was sent to all members via Survey Monkey with the 2021 Election Ballot. The email from survey monkey came from: accountadmin@asprs.org via SurveyMonkey member@surveymonkeyuser.com. If you haven't received the ballot yet, you will have to contact office@asprs.org to get access.

Also, keep an eye out for your ASPRS Rocky Mountain Region 2021 Officer Election Ballot, which will also be sent to members by the National office.

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# Rocky Mountain Region Annual Officer Election for 2021 -- Candidate Biographical Sketches
(includes current Board Members and Nominees)

**President:**
**Trent Casi** has over 18 years of solutions experience in the geospatial industry. He has most recently supported enterprise geospatial solutions in the areas of energy, agriculture, surveying, government, and engineering. He has worked extensively with aerial camera sensors and global geospatial data, as well as high-resolution imagery collections with custom aerial and LiDAR sensors. Trent received a BS degree in remote sensing from the Pennsylvania State University.

Trent resides in the geospatial alley hub of Denver,Colorado. He has in the past served as both Vice President and President of the ASPRS Rocky Mountain Region.

**Vice President:**
**Michael Tuffly, Ph.D**. is the Principal for Environmental Resource Inventory and Analysis LLC (ERIA Consultants, LLC) based in Boulder, Colorado. He is also a Certified Mapping Scientist, Remote Sensing from the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS), a Certified Forester from the Society of American Foresters (SAF), a Certified Senior Ecologist from Ecological Society of America (ESA), and a GIS Professional (GISP) from the Geographic Information

System Certification Institute (GISCI). Mike holds a B.S. in Forestry, an M.S. in Natural Resource Management from Humboldt State University and a Ph.D. in Forest Science from Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado, specializing in spatial temporal modeling.

Dr. Tuffly has over 30 years experience in applied GIS and spatial modeling for federal, state, private, and nonprofit organizations. In addition, he has spent over 35 years addressing various fire, natural resource, and forest management issues in the United States and abroad. He is also an adjunct Professor in the Warner College of Natural Resources at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado and at the University of Denver. Mike has served the ASPRS Rocky Mountain Region as Vice President and President in recent years.

**Treasurer:**
**Peter Cornish, CMS-GIS/LIS, GISP**, has been providing geospatial consulting for 20 years and has been a member of ASPRS since 1998. He has worked in the private sector for several companies, including GPS Technology Corporation, Tobin International, PBS&J, and Atkins North America in positions of progressive responsibility for mapping and GIS.

Peter formed his own company, Alpine Geomatics, LLC in Conifer, Colorado in 2017, and has since then been providing geospatial consulting services. Peter's work has primarily involved support for education research, environmental, and infrastructure projects. He enjoys working with clients on complex problems and developing creative approaches using his expertise in GIS and knowledge of mapping science to deliver solutions and successful outcomes.

Peter's management experience with various companies and running his own business has contributed the organizational skills needed for Treasurer. He has supported the ASPRS Rocky Mountain Region in this capacity for the past four years.

In addition to ASPRS, Peter is a member of GISCI and the Society for Conservation GIS. He is a Certified Mapping Scientist GIS/LIS and a Geographic Information Systems Professional, and holds an Honors Bachelor's degree in Geography.

**Secretary:**

**Arron Lee** is an ASPRS Certified Photogrammetrist and a Client Solutions Manager for Merrick & Company. As a member of Merrick, Arron has an active role in the USGS 3DEP initiative and serves as a member of the NSGIC (National State Geographic Information Council) 3DEP Steering Committee. Arron's more than 20 years in the Geospatial community gives him an in-depth understanding of many of the aspects in the industry, from business development to production workflows to project delivery and client satisfaction.

Arron has a BA and BS from Eastern Illinois University in Geography and Political Science. He has served as the Illinois State Representative to the ASPRS - Western Great Lakes Region for the last several years. Arron recently relocated to Centennial, Colorado and is looking forward to becoming involved with the Rocky Mountain Region.

**National Director:**

**Terry Ryan** has been the Federal Sales Manager for Extensis (formerly LizardTech) for several years and is responsible for the sales and distribution of LizardTech's suite of software products used for managing, distributing and accessing large complex digital content, including aerial imagery, satellite imagery, and LiDAR data. Mr. Ryan has a long history working in sales, marketing and channel development for the geospatial and remote sensing industries. Before joining LizardTech, Terry worked for IntraSearch-MapMart as Director of Sales, providing remote sensing data, GIS base data, and GIS software to commercial and government users. Prior to that, he held the position of Sales Manager for Land Info International and provided GIS data and services to users across the globe. Terry has also held other sales-related positions in the geospatial marketplace, including Business Development Manager for Hitachi Software Global Technology, being responsible for development of partnerships with leading satellite imagery and aerial photography organizations around the US.

Terry graduated in 1993 with a BA degree in marketing & advertising from Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa. He is a member of ASPRS, GIS Colorado, and GITA professional organizations. He is a former Secretary, Vice President, and President of the ASPRS Rocky Mountain Region, and has just completed a 3-year term as National Director.

**Regional Director (At Large / New Mexico):**

**Christopher D. Lippitt, Ph.D., CMS-RS** is an Assistant Professor of Geography and Environmental Studies at the University of New Mexico. His research is focused on remote sensing and spatial analysis, with a particular emphasis on non-traditional applications and methodologies. He has been an ASPRS member since 2004, is a Robert N. Colwell Memorial Fellow, an ASPRS Certified Mapping Scientist in Remote Sensing, and founded the Student Chapter of ASPRS at San Diego State University. He has been a board member of the Rio Grande Chapter since 2012 and currently serves as Vice President. In addition, he is Faculty Advisor of the ASPRS Student Chapter at the University of New Mexico. Chris is passionate about enabling the next generation of remote sensing technologies through development of technology, a culture of best practice, and guiding the next generation of remote sensing professionals.

Dr. Lippitt's research includes methodological and theoretical development in remote sensing and spans a wide range of applications with collaborators from a variety of disciplines (e.g., Biology, Archeology, Civil and Computer Engineering); the common thread is the development of remote sensing technologies and methodologies that enables remote sensing to inform novel decision processes, particularly in the time-sensitive decision domain.

Current application areas include infrastructure damage assessment and regional disturbance monitoring. Students from all levels and from a variety of disciplinary backgrounds are directly involved in this research, which is his preferred way of teaching (i.e., learning by doing). He also teaches a variety of remote sensing, GIS, and graduate research courses.

Chris lives in Albuquerque, New Mexico with his wife Caitlin, sons Ben and Liam, and daughter Emily. When not working, he spends most of his time outdoors exploring the Southwest.

**Regional Director ("GIS in the Rockies" Committee):**

**Melissa Martin** is a Geospatial Technician III, specializing in processing and conducting quality control (QC) on Lidar data at Woolpert in Englewood, Colorado. Recently, Melissa became an ASPRS Certified Lidar Technologist (CLT). As a Lidar

technician, Melissa draws on her early career experiences operating camera and sensor systems all over North America and flight planning aerial and Lidar missions, including time-essential missions for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) right after Hurricane Maria hit Puerto Rico in September 2017.  This Category 5 Hurricane is so far the worst natural disaster on record to affect Dominica and Puerto Rico.

One of the key projects Melissa collected imagery for was the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) Denver Regional Aerial Photography Project, as well as other Regional Council of Governments projects, such as MRCOG in New Mexico. At Woolpert, she has enjoyed dabbling in a wider range of Lidar technologies, including working with the Mobile Mapping System data. Melissa is also working towards her Master's degree in Geographic Information Science at the University of Denver.

She has lived in Colorado for 19 years and enjoys spending time outdoors with her son, Lucas. Melissa has served the ASPRS Rocky Mountain Region as Secretary during 2019 and 2020; she has also participated in the GIS in the Rockies Conference Planning Committee meetings, and would like to continue doing so as an ASPRS-RMR representative.

**Regional Director (Communications / Newsletter):**
**Joseph McGlinchy, MS** is a remote sensing scientist with the Analytics Hub at the University of Colorado - Boulder's Earth Lab. His active research and interests include the use and application of multi-modal, multi-scale, and multi-temporal remote sensing data, along with computer vision and deep learning techniques applied to urban and natural change, feature detection, disaster response, and environmental monitoring.
Joe holds a BS degree in Electrical Engineering with a focus on signal processing and controls from the University of Akron (in Ohio, where he grew up). Later he earned a MS degree in Imaging Science from the Rochester Institute of Technology, where he focused on waveform Lidar and hyperspectral image analytics. Before joining Earth Lab, Joe was an imagery scientist in Esri's Professional Services group in Redlands, CA and later Broomfield, CO, where his work focused on data fusion using active and passive remotely sensed data with applications in feature extraction and change detection.

In his free time, Joe enjoys traveling and being outside in both high- and low-country landscapes. Highlights of his travel adventures include ice climbing inside a glacial crevasse near Interlaken, Switzerland; exploring the Mayan ruins in Tikal, Guatemala; "Via Ferrata" climbing in Northern Sweden and Innsbruck, Austria; summiting Mt. Fuji; and driving go-karts around downtown Tokyo (without helmets!).

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*Please be on the lookout for your Region member ballot, to be emailed by the ASPRS National office via Survey Monkey, similar to the National ballot.  Note that there are no contested positions on the ballot, simply because we do not have enough volunteers for that level of competition. Please vote anyway to show your support for these volunteers who are willing to give some of their time to serve all of us.  Thank you!!!*

## Student Rebate Offer

ASPRS Rocky Mountain Region will reimburse $25 of the $50 cost of student membership, so your net cost is only $25 for all the benefits of membership in the Society!

Download the Student Membership Rebate Form at http://www.asprs-rmr.org (on the Student Chapters page). Here's the best part:  *This offer from the Region is good for every year you are a full-time student!*

## RMR Student Scholarship Update

Preference is given to those studies that apply sound scientific principles to practical applications in the geospatial sciences (including Photogrammetry, Remote Sensing, Geographic Information Systems, and related disciplines).  Awards at both the undergraduate and the graduate levels are based on academic merit; that is, the application form does not request any personal financial data.
*This year, unfortunately, no applications were submitted by (or after) the Jan. 15, 2021 deadline.*

## GeoBytes Webinar January 29th

In addition to the ASPRS Webinars, our organization also offers free online seminars presented by ASPRS and sponsored by the ASPRS GIS Division, in cooperation with AAGS and CaGIS.
***Attention those seeking ASPRS Certification:***
ASPRS Online Seminars are a great way to gain Professional Development Hours!   Click here to learn more.

**Geocomputational Approaches for the Visualization and Detection of Outbreaks of Vector-Borne Diseases in Urban Environments**
**Friday, January 29, 2021 at 10:00 AM MST**
**Presenter: Eric Delmelle**
Infectious diseases have complex transmission cycles, and effective public health responses require the ability to monitor outbreaks in a timely manner. Space-time statistics facilitate the discovery of disease dynamics including rate of spread and seasonal cyclic patterns, but are computationally demanding, especially for datasets of increasing size, diversity and availability. In this presentation, I will discuss high-performance computation techniques for the rapid detection of space-time patterns of vector-borne diseases in urban areas, with an application to Cali, Colombia. Three-dimensional visualization techniques will be presented to gain insight in the shape of these space-time patterns.

**Eric M. Delmelle** is an Associate Professor of Geography at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte with experience in the development of new, robust geocomputational approaches to deepen the understanding of the dynamics of infectious and non-infectious diseases in space, time, and at different scales. His current research includes (1) modeling the co-occurrence of vector-borne diseases (Dengue, Zika, Chikungunya) in developing countries; (2) evaluating the impact of residential mobility on health care access in Florida and (3) space-time variation in the concentration of contamination from private wells in rural North Carolina. His research is funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the North Carolina Water Resources Research Institute.

**All GeoBytes are complimentary for ASPRS and CaGIS members.**
**The cost is $25 for non-members. Visit**
https://my.asprs.org/ASPRSMember/Events/Event_Display.aspx?EventKey=GB20210129
**to register.**

## RS Fire 2020: RECORDINGS NOW AVAILABLE FROM THE REMOTE SENSING & WILDLAND FIRE SYMPOSIUM SERIES!

The Pacific Southwest Region of ASPRS is pleased to announce that recordings of the 1st Annual **Symposium on Remote Sensing & Wildland Fire** (**RS Fire 2020**) are available to those who missed the live event. This was a virtual 4-date symposium series, and each date of the series included three industry-leading speakers, panel discussion, sponsor lighting talks, Q&A, as well as open networking/discussion opportunities for attendees. All of the excellent information was captured in the webinar recordings. For further information and to obtain access to the recordings, visit www.pswasprs.org/RSFire2020.

The cost to access the **RS Fire 2020** recordings is $20. All students may obtain access to the recordings for free. All proceeds directly support Student Scholarships provided annually by the ASPRS Pacific Southwest Region.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us by email at rsfire.asprs@gmail.com.

## Got Training, Networking Events?

Let's get to know each other better! Help us to organize **Technical Tours, Training, Social Networking,** and/or **Fundraising Events** in 2021. We encourage anyone in Montana, S. Idaho, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, or New Mexico to organize a get-together from wherever you are in the Region. Got an idea for an event? Please contact me or any Board member with ideas, suggestions, or questions. We can help you organize an event. You can help us with content, and spreading the word on social media. We will likely be holding most of these as Virtual Events for the time being, according to the current CDC and local Public Health Department  guidelines.

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