

Notes from Geospatial/GIS Brown Bag Meeting

August 12, 2020

via Zoom

Attendees: Janet Reyes, facilitator;
Via Zoom: Ahmed Eldawy, Allison Hedge Coke, Canserina Kurnia, Disha Shahani, Gideon Kinzie Hawver, Guadalupe Maldonado, Jonathan Young, Karen Jordan, Liz Perez, Lynn Sweet, Mark Stewart, Maxine Wu, Mike Cohen, Pengchi Xiao, Rey Castillo, Shanon Langlie, Steve Ries, Will Hernandez
... and an unknown caller

Announcements

This meeting was recorded; video is available [here](#). The access password to view is a3^doiR*

Janet is giving **two workshops** this month: an [Introduction to Story Maps](#) workshop at 2:00 pm on August 19 and an [Introduction to GIS](#) workshop (using ArcGIS Pro) at 2:00 pm on August 26.

The **next [Geospatial/GIS brown bag](#)** will be on Wednesday, Sept. 23.

Esri has been hosting monthly [Lunchtime Chats on GIS Education](#) since June. Recordings and resources are made available after each one. The next one, on September 1 at 9:00 am, will be a Q&A with the ArcGIS StoryMaps Product Team. Questions can be submitted beforehand or during the event.

On August 13 at 9:00 am, the National Library of Scotland is hosting an online program involving **digitized maps, art, and artificial intelligence**. The recording should eventually be available [here](#).

Gideon welcomes any students interested in **R'Geospatial Club** membership and plans for the upcoming academic year to contact him at gideon.kinziehawver@email.ucr.edu.

The [2020 ArcGIS StoryMaps Competition](#) is open now through November 25. The theme is sustainable development goals.

Planning is underway for **UC-wide GIS Day** programming this fall.

First-time Attendees

Guadalupe Maldonado is an incoming PhD student in Botany. She has a masters in Geography from CSU Fullerton.

Mark Stewart is the new Esri Account Manager for UCR. Previously at Esri he held roles related to training.

Pengchi Xiao is a third-year Business student with a concentration in Information Systems. He's interested in learning more about how GIS can support businesses.

Rey Castillo is with the Data Team at the LA Times. He's attending meetings like this one to learn more about GIS. His goal is to ensure that the Times is communicating data on their website correctly in a way that's simple to understand, using the best technology and methods available.

Will Hernandez is a UCR alum with a degree in biology. He was a Peace Corps volunteer in Cameroon but was evacuated due to the coronavirus pandemic. He's now working in the state of Washington as a contact tracer for COVID. Will is interested in learning more about ArcGIS and its public health applications, especially regarding the pandemic.

In the chat, Rey, Canserina and Shanon recommended these resources for Will:

- the Johns Hopkins University [COVID-19 dashboard](#)
- Following Esri's [Dr. Este Geraghty](#) for topics around Public Health
- <https://www.esri.com/about/newsroom/blog/introducing-community-contact-tracing/> (also applies to Ahmed's discussion - see below)
- The [Harvard Global Health Institute](#)

Disha and **Maxine** were also new to the brown bag - welcome!

Discussion

Discussion around the suggested prompts:

→ What takeaways did you have from the Esri User Conference, QGIS North America 2020, or any other learning opportunities you've had over the last couple of months?

Janet:

- [ArcGIS Experience Builder](#) is a new app builder from Esri that will provide more flexibility in building web apps.
- New features of [ArcGIS StoryMaps](#): improved ability to share audio; a swipe block (side-by-side comparison of maps or imagery) is available; it's now possible to duplicate a story map, and to print one to a PDF; and the ability to share collections of related story maps you have authored has been enhanced.
- In ArcGIS Online: there's now a Map Viewer in beta that will be the default option in the fall. [Configurable apps](#) give the user the ability to create a variety of apps without any coding knowledge.
- Esri will continue to support ArcMap through early 2026, although essentially all development efforts will be targeted towards ArcGIS Pro.
- [QGIS North America 2020](#) had several worthwhile sessions. Follow the link to browse and view recordings for any of the sessions (including workshops).

Ahmed: Attended a conference on big data and data management. One major topic was contact tracing, especially as it relates to the coronavirus. There are privacy concerns as well as general data

management challenges for storing and sharing data. Ahmed encourages anyone working on these problems to share their insights and questions.

Canserina: The Esri Education Summit was really helpful because it was mostly educators presenting to their peers about topics such as how to teach GIS in a virtual environment (one solution: switch to ArcGIS Online for introducing students to GIS). Recordings from the User Conference and the Esri Education Summit will be available here: <https://www.esri.com/en-us/about/events/index/proceedings>

Mark: Even Esri employees learn new things at the User Conference! And from the Education Summit, Mark highlighted a presentation on [ArcGIS Indoors](#) (now available in ArcGIS Online as well as in Enterprise) and its use for planning how office space can be shared (“hoteling”), given social distancing and sanitation concerns.

Mike: Appreciated the virtual User Conference. With Canserina’s help, he developed a system using Survey123 for identifying and responding to on-the-ground problems in the Botanic Gardens. He expressed concerns about the differences between Collector and the new [ArcGIS Field Maps](#), given his understanding that Collector will be phased out.

Rina explained that Field Maps just brings Survey123, Collector, and other field apps into one. Mark mentioned that he wouldn’t be surprised if it eventually does replace Collector.

→ What new geospatial tools or methods have you tried in the last year (whether or not they are related to our need to work remotely)?

Janet: has used a Web App Builder, the new ArcGIS StoryMaps builder, and has used ArcGIS Pro via UCR’s instance of [Apporto](#).

Mike: There’s a new story map on the Botanic Gardens website for a [self-guided tour of desert vegetation](#). Feedback is welcome.

Liz: has been working on customizing the landing page of campus administration’s ArcGIS Online organization.

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Karen and Mike discussed **current protocols for coming on campus**. Latest updates can be found at <https://ehs.ucr.edu/coronavirus>. There’s now COVID testing in Lot 25 on the UCR campus. Everyone at UCR now has to get a flu shot every year. The first day of instruction will be October 1 [*corrected from discussion, which mentioned Oct.2.*]

Canserina mentioned an upcoming Esri [webinar](#) [August 19 at noon PDT] about best practices for hosted feature layers where high-volume traffic is expected - based on the experiences with the Johns Hopkins University [coronavirus dashboard](#).