

# THE LONE STAR

A URISA Texas Publication

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## Ready, Set, Go 2019!

URISA Texas will soon hit the floor running in 2019. We will begin our first full year as a recognized educational non-profit, operating as a 501(c)(3) Texas corporation. We also have a new set of Chapter Bylaws that better reflect our organization and goals, and which outline a leadership that now includes an elected Board of Directors and appointed Chapter Officers . . .Next, a word from Chris Akin, our new Chairman-Elect:

### From the Chairman-Elect



So long, 2018. Hello, 2019!

It's been quite the year (to say the least!), and I am really excited for what's to come. We have brought on a lot of new volunteers that are buckling down to really help us plan and execute a great year.

First off, congrats to our new Board of Directors:

Chris Akin, GISP	Chairman
Olesya Powers, GISP	Vice Chairman
Sumant Mallavaram	Past Chairman
Adi Lebron	Board Secretary
Patrick Young, GISP	Director-At-Large
Danny Haverlah	Director-At-Large
Brian King, GISP	Director-At-Large

And a big thank you to those who have stepped up to be officers:

Chris Akin, GISP	President
Olesya Powers, GISP	Vice President
Adi Lebron	Secretary
Christina Lara, GISP	Communications Coordinator
Patrick Young, GISP	Events Coordinator
Danny Haverlah	Outreach Coordinator
Edgardo Sandoval	Associate Officer
Robert Wood	Associate Officer
Michelle Swindle	Associate Officer (Cont'd next page)

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And a special thanks to an amazing crop of folks who are volunteering to helping out with Events, Communications, and Outreach Committees. They are really taking the ball and starting to make things happen! As always, if you are interested in volunteering for a committee, just let us know at [info@urisatexas.org](mailto:info@urisatexas.org).

I hope you're as excited as I am to seeing where we can take URISA Texas!

Happy Holidays,  
Chris Akin  
Chairman/President URISA Texas

## From URISA Texas Communications



### ***Expect more of URISA Texas on Social Media!***

Cristina Lara, Communications Coordinator, has jumped right into posting on URISA Texas activities. Her goal: To increase our interaction and exposure on social media. *“We continue to maintain an active presence on social media. Follow @UrisaTexas on Facebook Twitter and LinkedIn to stay connected to our #mappyhour events #networking #speakerseries and much more!”*

Like/follow/subscribe to us down on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [YouTube](#) to stay connected.

## GIS aids in Prairie Preservation Effort

By: Tina Rust



*Photo courtesy of Amy Martin 2018*

**In November, 2018**, Amy Martin, a North Texas Wild columnist for [GreensourceDFW](#), asked for my help to map an 11-acre grasslands area, informally known as “Beck’s Tallgrass Prairie”, located along Beck’s Branch in

northern Richardson. This remnant prairie represents a small portion of a larger property that’s being developed and she wanted to conduct a “native plant rescue” on the property before construction begins, but needed to stay out of certain areas. The property is in a somewhat precarious location just north of a public park, south of a utility corridor, and near the city limits of Plano and Richardson. She needed to figure out exactly where all these boundaries were on the ground to avoid them when she brought out [Texas Master Naturalists](#) volunteers and others who wanted some of the native plants for their prairies before they were gone.



## Mapping Beck's Prairie

Amy sent me several different maps of the property, including a plat of the total 85-acre development and several screenshots of google maps from the current owner, who had hand-drawn in the boundaries of the park, utility corridors, and city limits. I overlaid and georeferenced these into an mxd using Esri's ArcMap software to begin to see the layout of the Beck's Prairie property. One thing that became almost immediately apparent was that the grassland area was entirely within the city of Richardson. It had been assumed it was partially located in both the cities of Richardson and Plano.

Following the map, we were able to visit the area and walk it to determine if any of property boundaries or utility corridor limits shown were visible on the ground and if they would be easy for the volunteers to identify while conducting the plant rescue. Using the map for orientation, we found that there was an area of trees that clearly defined the park to the south, and that the utility corridor had been cleared and was fairly obvious. Thus, it would not be too difficult for Amy to instruct the volunteers where to dig up the native plants for transplant to other nearby prairies.



If you zoom into that area on google, you'll see that it doesn't look like a sea of grasses, unfortunately. It looks like an open barren space next to a utility corridor. It's not until you actually walk around out there AND have someone like Amy point out all of the native

plants that you realize you're on a prairie remnant. No one would ever know the beauty that's actually out there until they take the time to walk around and look.



In the future, as the plant rescue begins, I plan to map the areas from which plants are taken from Beck's and their new locations so we can track the process. Also, I'd like to map the soils and current vegetation in both the current and future homes of these plants, so if they don't thrive we can perhaps determine why. Fieldwork will continue throughout the winter prior to development.

To learn more about Beck's Tallgrass Prairie, please go to this [website](#); or visit their Facebook [page](#). Also, Amy Martin's [article](#) highlights some of the beautiful spots of Beck's prairie.

*Tina Rust, GISP, RPA, is Archaeologist/GIS Analyst in Environmental Planning at HNTB Corporation, Plano, TX, and is Vice President of the American Prairie Corridor, a non-profit based in DFW*



## Upcoming Conferences and Workshops

### Conferences

#### GIS/CAMA Technologies Conference

Portland, OR, February 25-28, 2019  
For more information visit: [GIS-CAMA](#)

#### ESRI FedGIS Conference

Washington, DC, January 29-30, 2019  
For more information visit: [FedGIS](#)

#### Annual SCAUG Conference

Tulsa, OK, April 22-26, 2019  
For more information visit: [SCAUG](#)

#### AAG Annual Meeting

Washington, DC, April 3-7, 2019  
For more information visit: [AAG Annual](#)

#### Esri Southwest User Conference

Denver, CO, March 26-27, 2019  
For more information visit: [SW UserCon](#)

#### TNRIS 2019 GeoRodeo

Austin, TX, May 16-17, 2019  
For more information visit: [GeoRodeo](#)

#### Esri User Conference

San Diego, CA, July 8-12, 2019  
For more information visit: [EsriUC](#)

#### GIS-PRO Annual URISA Conference

New Orleans, LA – Sept 28-Oct 2, 2019  
For more information visit: [GIS Pro](#)

## Workshops & Training

#### URISA Webinars & Virtual Education

Look for available webinars for 2018 and for upcoming 2019 webinars and Virtual Ed opportunities. For more information visit: [GIS Education](#)

#### SCAUG Online Training

Members annual complimentary subscription  
For more information visit: [Online Training](#)



North Texas User Group Meeting  
Thursday, February 21, 2019, 8-3 pm, DeSoto  
For more information visit: [User Group](#)

Central Texas Mapathon - *Monthly mapping to contribute to OpenStreetMap*  
Austin GIS User Group. Austin, TX, January 27, 2019. For more information visit: [Mapathon](#)

URISA GIS Leadership Academy (1 of 3)  
Raleigh, NC, May 20-24, 2019  
For more information visit: [RaleighNC](#)

URISA GIS Leadership Academy (2 of 3)  
Toronto, Ontario, Canada, Aug 19-23, 2019  
For more information visit: [TorontoCAN](#)

TNRIS Education and Training  
TCEQ Computer Training Lab, Austin, TX  
For 2019 classes and schedule visit: [TNRIS\\_GIS](#)

URISA GIS Leadership Academy (3 of 3)  
Phoenix, AZ, Oct 21-25, 2019  
For more information visit: [PhoenixAZ](#)

## URISA Texas Events -Looking back at 2018

**MAPPY HOURS:** URISA Texas hosts Mappy Hours all over the state! Watch for new announcements – there may be one soon close to you!



URISA Texas' March 22 Mappy Hour in Corpus Christi at Brewster Street Ice House



URISA Texas' November 7 Mappy Hour in Austin at Threadgill's World Headquarters





URISA Texas' December 4 Mappy Hour in Addison at Addison Ice House

**Other Mappy Hours held this year:**

- Austin, January 25, Red's Porch Quarry
- Irving (Dallas), January 25, Bar Louie
- Austin, April 3, Red's Porch Quarry
- San Antonio, April 9, co-host with SCAUG, Rosella at the Rand
- Dallas, May 31, Ten Bells Tavern
- San Diego, July 9, Esri UC Mappy Hour, Nason's Beer Hall
- Dallas, August 9, teaming up with Dallas GeoBeers, Flying Saucer Draught Emporium
- Fort Worth, October 18, World of Beer
- Austin, December 5, Riley's Irish Pub

**SPEAKER SERIES –2018 WEBINARS:**

Although our SPEAKER SERIES was put on 'pause' while the URISA Texas Board focused its efforts on organizational matters, we scheduled several successful presentations this year:

- January 23 Mobile Field Data Collection using Esri Apps
- February 27 Asset Management: Building a Foundation for Smart Decisions
- March 27 Lessons Learned Developing a UAS Program for Local Government
- November 27 GIS Personal Branding Tips to Gain Competitive Advantages

*Keep an eye out for announcements of upcoming URISA TEXAS events in 2019!*

**EVENTS WITH URISA TEXAS SUPPORT OR PARTICIPATION IN 2018:**

- November 13 ATX GIS Day (<http://atxgisday.org/>)
- December 5 NCTCOG Regional GIS Meeting
- December 6 Austin GeoBash (<https://geobash2018.splashthat.com/>)
- URISA Leadership Academy in Austin (<https://www.urisa.org/education-events/urisa-gis-leadership-academy/#regvenue>)



## Interesting Links

URISA Texas members come from a wide variety of backgrounds and experiences. Their paths often allow them to come across interesting material. We are pleased to share the following with you in hopes that it may be of help or interest to you:

The **Texas Historical Commission** is the state agency tasked with historic preservation. Its programs and projects range widely – from historic resources surveys to artifact conservation & research to marine & regional archaeology to heritage tourism. The Commission also makes available online the Texas Historic Sites Atlas. You can search by keyword, county, address, historic designation, or site name. Check it out at: [Texas Atlas](#)

The **Texas Historical Association** has a new and easy to explore website. As a non-profit educational organization dating from 1897, it is dedicated to documenting Texas history. While there is no direct focus on maps, its publications provide insight into historical Texas and the Texas of today. Among these are the *Southwestern Historical Quarterly*, *The Handbook of Texas*, and the *Texas Almanac*. Website: [TSHA](#)

The **Society for Conservation GIS** is a non-profit whose membership is composed of volunteers from many countries who assist conservationists around the world in using GIS and other computer-based tools. What was initially a Conservation Interest Group associated with the Esri User Conference in the early 1990's became an independent consortium, an international society, to finally the international non-profit SCGIS: [SCGIS Website](#)

[2018 ESRI Storytelling with Maps Contest winners](#)

VerySpatial podcasts. Listed here at [Geography & Geospatial Technologies](#)

*Would you like an article, event, or GIS related group included in the Lone Star? Contact us at [info@urisatexas.org](mailto:info@urisatexas.org).*

