Keynote Speaker

Josh Greenberg provides GIS analysis and remote sensing activities for the Skagit County GIS Department. His background offers both ecological and technical guidance to County environmental issues such as habitat analysis, salmon restoration and long term growth models. Josh is currently the past president of the Washington chapter of URISA. Josh earned his B.A. in Geography from the University of Vermont with a minor degree in Zoology. In 1991 he moved to Washington State where he completed his M.S. and Ph.D. from the U.W. College of Forest Resources Ecosystem Science program. Josh has been with Skagit County for 17 years as the Senior GIS/RS analyst. When he isn’t getting paid to geek out, he is often listening to music, paddle boarding, or finding cooking gadgets.

The Future of GIS

The rate of evolution in the geospatial industry seems to be faster than at any previous time, and yet many people still don’t know what GIS even means. Predicting the future of GIS accurately is a fool’s game, but it is safe to say the challenges in GIS of the last 20 years are not likely to be the challenges for the next 20 years. This talk will take a step back and look at the road ahead for GIS users. Acknowledging that many technological barriers are gone, there are going to be new obstacles ahead. Dr. Greenberg will draw from his 30 years of using GIS, his trips to the Consumer Electronic shows, and several science fiction movies to talk about what we are likely to expect in our future. While there is no guarantee any of his predictions will come true, the goal is to make everyone think about changing technology in new ways and hopefully provide a couple laughs.