In this picture: John on the left with (image: John on the right receiving the OACES Surveyor of the year Award in 2017. 

In this picture: John on the right receiving the OACES Surveyor of the year Award in 2017.

John Waffenschmidt started working for Lincoln County on April 1st, 1987; upon retirement this spring, he leaves major lasting impacts on Lincoln County and the GIS community.

John played a very influential role in resolving the Monument Preservation issue that arose in 2001. We are very fortunate that, with the leadership of John and Dean Anderson, and the hard work over several years of many others, we were able to develop a resolution that everyone could agree on, and that has stood the test of time.

Cy Smith, a Geospatial Program Coordinator for the recommendation that John was very influential in creating and putting into practice, noted, “John played a very influential role in resolving the Monument Preservation issue that arose in 2001. We are very fortunate that, with the leadership of John and Dean Anderson, and the hard work over several years of many others, we were able to develop a resolution that everyone could agree on, and that has stood the test of time. That goal has been true for all of the areas I have worked in during my career.”

Working in IT called for balance with one of his favorite local activities, noting that “a walk on the beach or in the woods, can be rejuvenating.”

Dr. John Waffenschmidt was a GIS expert and a leader in the field. He had a passion for surveying and technology which he brought to the project. His career spanned several industries and he is known for his contributions to the field of GIS.

He started his career at the Lincoln County Surveyor’s Office in 1987 and worked his way up to be the IT Director. He was instrumental in the development of the GIS Leadership Academy and the GIS Leadership Academy Foundation. He was also the President of the Oregon Geographic Information Council (OGIC) from 2018 to 2020.

John Waffenschmidt was recognized for his contributions to the field with the OACES Surveyor of the Year Award in 2017. He was also a member of several professional organizations, including PLSO (Professional Land Surveyors of Oregon), ORURISA, and ORGIS.

John was known for his leadership and his ability to inspire others. He was always looking for new ways to improve the quality of work and the way people did business. He was committed to developing solutions that were transferable across industries.

John was a mentor to many and his passion for GIS and surveying was contagious. He was always willing to share his knowledge and experience with others.

John Waffenschmidt will be missed, but his legacy will continue to influence the field of GIS for many years to come.