GIS professional, teacher, author, consultant and land surveyor. Humble and hard-working, Zim was a visionary and mentor to many people in business, government, non-profit and academic sectors.

Zim was a strong advocate for protection of wildlife and land conservation. A renaissance man, he also excelled as a photographer, guitar player and music composer. This maple tree embodies his strong and colorful spirit, inspiring us to be our best while living a dignified, well-balanced, and effective life.
Mobile Land Survey Information Services can empower surveyors with quick access to information they need while in the field, while also providing spatial context to understand those data. This real-time information flow can go both ways allowing surveyors to be more efficient and more effective.

Rj Zimmer, LS, mLGIS, a Mobile Land Surveyors Information System

“Zim” was solution oriented. He worked fervently, searching for a paths that led around rather through the minefields of policy and prejudice, to find walkways that would converge and promote the ability for the GIS and Surveying communities to find common ground and symbiotic solutions.

Stewart Kirkpatrick, LocaFocus LLC
(Montana State GIS Coordinator, retired)

Zim gave so much to our rural fire departments! He donated his time to create map books and GIS resources we never even dreamed were possible.

Thanks Zim. We are still using them today.

Robert Drake
Chief, Tri-Lakes Fire Service

Zim embodied presence, dedication, sharing and learning and brought his enthusiasm for all things spatial to the rest of us, kind of like a booster vaccination shot in the arm -- infectious! He left us with so much to remember him by. I am very grateful to have known and learned from Zim. He left us a legacy of knowledge.

Pamela Case
GIS and Survey

Zim touched many people’s lives in the GIS world and set a living example of what it means to be a professional. Vastly competent in his field, Zim was an unassuming man of integrity who greatly influenced may throughout the GIS community. We are all very grateful for his contributions both as a person and a professional.

Lisa Landenburger
USGS, Northern Rocky Mountain Science Center

As a surveyor, he not only taught me, but many other surveyors about the importance and potential of GIS. He always met me with a smile at our surveyor conferences, and when I had occasion to walk into his office at the courthouse.

Stewart Nash
Land Surveyor

Zim was a consummate professional leader, straddling and contributing to the convergence and mutual professional respect of those from the Land Surveying and Geographic Information Systems professions. I always appreciated his willingness and generosity to help out whomever needed his time, expertise and well-mannered advice. He leaves a tremendous legacy of excellence and a wonderful spirit of contributing to a larger cause and lives on through those he touched and positively influenced in Montana and beyond.

Bryant Ralston
ESRI MT Representative (former)

Zim introduced me to GIS as he brought the City/County program from its' infancy to near where it is today. His tenacious but gentle persona managed to get many groups, personalities and governments to come into the 21st century. His stories of the Rocky Mountain Front inspire me to hike there to this day.

Kate Lamping
Engineering (retired)
City of Helena/Lewis & Clark County