

Want a voice in NYS GIS? Be a candidate for the Board of Directors!

Election on Oct 25th...

More info on Page 7



NEWSLETTER

Volume 2, Issue 1

Summer 2010

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2010 Geospatial Summit

The 5th New York State Geospatial Summit was held on May 19th at the Otesaga Hotel in Cooperstown. A reception was held the evening before at the Baseball Hall of Fame.

The roster of presenters on Summit day included:

- **Nicholas Roy** - *MIT Robust Robotics Group*
- **Jason Hyon** - *NASA/JPL*
- **Ted Morgan** - *Skyhook Wireless*
- **Bruce Markuson** - *Ghosts of Cooperstown*
- **Stuart Rich** - *Penobscot Bay Media*
- **James Fee** - *WeoGeo*

We began with a fascinating recount by Nicholas Roy of the process creating a small geo-sensitive flying robotic device indoors without GPS. MIT's product can provide critical unmanned site mapping in both military (e.g., for infiltrating enemy sites) and civilian scenarios (e.g., disaster recovery missions).

Next Jason Hyon gave examples of the NASA Jet Propulsion Lab's work tracking global climate change with remote sensing. Stuart Rich followed up with a insightful view of possibilities for urban development, focusing on large-scale "micro-level" analysis.

The morning rounded out with a panel session, with the first three speakers fielding questions from the audience.

Attendees were disappointed by the last-minute cancellation of Steve Coast, founder of OpenStreetMap, but hope he'll be

able to participate in a future Summit. However, folks were entertained by Bruce Markuson's tales of neighborhood hauntings, particularly frequent sightings on the upper floor of the Otesaga! Members of the audience even recounted their own corporeal experiences staying at the hotel.

The afternoon continued with Ted Morgan's description of the burgeoning place-integrated internet applications incorporating Skyhook Spotrank. The ability to finely track specific demographic flow patterns has tremendous potential for targeted advertising.

Blogger James Fee wrapped the day with a hilarious recount of his struggle to obtain and process property data from the City of Tempe, Arizona. He also provided a riveting example of crowdsourcing in Portland, Oregon, to enable law enforcement to identify the core location of an incident.

The afternoon concluded with a final panel session, with James and Ted responding to additional inquires from the conference attendees.



Association Background

The NYS GIS Association is a growing non-profit organization for New York professionals involved in GIS, Global Positioning Systems (GPS), land information systems (LIS), remote automated mapping and related geospatial technologies.

The organization is designed for those involved in the GIS community to exchange knowledge and ideas regarding important topics facing the industry in the coming years. The NYSGISA promotes a forum for open discussion regarding the direction of the GIS profession.



WHERE IS IT?!

Answer in the next NYSGISA Newsletter

Previous Issue:
Carrier Dome, Syracuse U.

Business Development

Verne LaClair, recently elected to the Board of Directors, took over as chair for the Committee. The members are currently re-examining the goals of the Committee, with direction from the Board of Directors.

Verne LaClair
Girk Cakmak
Garvis L. DiLauro
Austin Fisher
John Trimber



Conference

The major initiative of the Committee has been finalization of the Memorandum of Agreement with ESF to co-host the annual NYS GIS Conference. Three Association liaisons— Jeff Volpe, Verne LaClair, and Alex Chaucer—are participating on the Steering Committee.

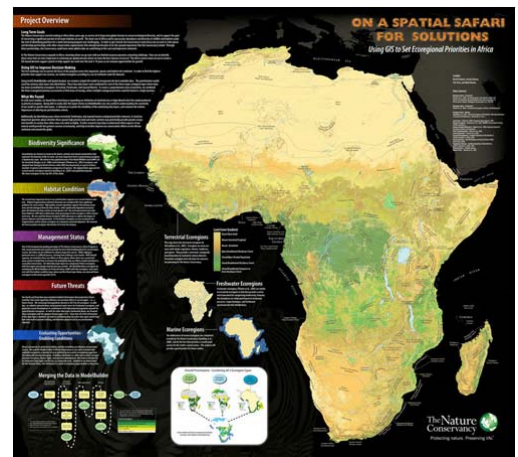
Elements of this agreement are:

- Co-sponsorship of the annual NYS GIS Conference
- Providing a two-way line of communication between the two organizations by designation of three NYSGISA representatives on the Conference Advisory Council
- Coordinated effort to improve the quality of the entire event and increase attendance
- Net revenue generated is shared 50-50
- Annual incentive to NYSGISA members (e.g., workshop discounts)
- Development of an assessment system

A copy of the complete MOU can be viewed on the NYSGISA website at <http://nysgis.idslip.com/>



[Lists/Latest%20News/Attachments/1/SUNYESF_MOU_Signed_011810.pdf](#)



The 2010 **NYS GIS Conference** will be held in Saratoga Springs at the Saratoga Hilton October 24-26 (Sunday—Tuesday). More information can be found on the SUNY ESF website at www.esf.edu/nysgisconf/.

Jeff Volpe
Heather Baker
Bob Brower
Ann Deakin
Paul DeFrancisco
Mickey Dietrich
Anyee Fields
Mike Fitzgerald
Christa Hay
Joe Jones
Brent Kinal
Bruce Oswald
Deb Owens
Steve Polzella
Tom Sears
Tao Tang
Josh Williams
Robert Zitowsky

Education

One of our new Board members, Ann Deakin, has replaced Bob Brower as the Chair of the Committee. A new endeavor is coordinating the development of a webinar focused on open source GIS. A preliminary version will be offered as a workshop this year at the NYS GIS Conference in Saratoga Springs, with a final presentation in 2011. Webinars such as this will help members earn education credits for GISP certification.

Another focus of the Committee is advocating the GeoMentor program. Begun and coordinated by ESRI, the program encourages people with GIS experience to share their knowledge by adopting a classroom or other group (e.g., museums, libraries, youth organizations, etc.).

A person can help students learn about spatial technology, and provide real-

world examples from their own professional background (e.g., forestry, archaeology).

The Committee is also reviving the **Galileo Poster Competition** award-program. Please contact one of the Committee members if you would like to donate a prize for this award. There will be 3 Categories: Grades 6-8, Grades 9-12, and undergraduate/community college.



Ann Deakin

Eileen Allen
Shazia Bee
John Borst
Alex Chaucer
Bob Jones
Susan Nixon
Laurie Smith
Amy Work

Cover NYS in Dots!

As of mid-July, New York State has about 20 registered GeoMentors. There are many more unofficial GeoMentors out there. Haven't you volunteered your time to visit your child's classroom to talk about maps or GPS? What about geocaching with a Scout troop? Maybe you've helped a local volunteer group access spatial data at the NYS GIS Clearinghouse. These are all examples of geomentoring. All you need to do is take the extra step and register your interest at the GeoMentor website <http://edcommunity.esri.com/geomentor/index.cfm>.

You get to set your own level of participation: Learning – Stage 1, Seeking – Stage 2, Working – Stage 3, or Reporting – Stage 4. Most of the current registered GeoMentors in NYS are at the Seeking and Learning stages, but there are several at the Working stage. (To see what these stages mean, go to the process link at the GeoMentor website: <http://edcommunity.esri.com/geomentor/process.cfm>.)

While ESRI sponsors this effort with the National Geographic Society, you don't have to be an ESRI user to participate. Anything you do to further geospatial knowledge and access in your community helps us all! Add your support by registering as a GeoMentor!



Legislative

NYSAPLS had once again submitted legislation to change surveying law in New York, the draft legislation was not sponsored and did not move forward. Joe has spoken regularly with NYSAPLS President, Darren Morgan, and is has planned a meeting with him and Ben Houston after the NYS GIS conference in Saratoga will be held. NYSAPLS plans on submitting the same version of the legislation as the did in the last session

and plans on obtaining new sponsorship.

After a discussion with Kelly Norris, Executive Director of the Society of professional Engineers meeting will be held after the discussion with NYSAPLS to collaborate our efforts for incorporation of language that is satisfactory to the GIS, engineering, and surveying communities.

After a new version is drafted including resolution of GIS concerns

It will be posted on the NYSGISA Site for comments later this fall or early winter.

Concerns – email jjones@bownegroup.com

Joe Jones

Jason Baum
Girk Cakmak
Michael Crino
Clare Dunn
Anyee Fields
Christa Hay
Ben Houston
Susan Knauss
Theresa Pardo
Paul Rooney

Directions to Nowhere

I was takin' a trip the other day
When I got confused about which way
I was to turn so in nothin' flat
I found I was lost, and needed a map.

Which way is north?
What's the Scale?
What does THIS mean?

You know our world is mostly round
But maps are flat and so I found,
That things don't look like they really are
Whether you're in a plane, a ship or a car.
When something round gets flattened out,
you get distortion.

As I tried to make some sense of things
I saw stars and squares and little flat rings
I finally found an "N" which meant of course.....

So I twisted the map 'til things looked right.....

Well I got un-lost and finished my trip.
But I'd like to share this little tip.....

You need to look at the scale and key.....

Learning to Read a Map (a song from "Unfolding Maps")
Joan Mautehttp

Membership

The Committee has been working closely with the Marketing Committee to provide input and testing of the new integrated database of the Association website revamped earlier this year.

Members can log in and print annual membership certificates for GISP certification. Also, key persons designated for administration can now manage membership information and obtain summaries of individuals history with the Association (e.g., years of membership, level of participation).

Another focus of the Committee this year is improving the election process. The tight time-frame allotted for our annual meeting necessitates changing how members can vote for candidates.

Individuals can register as either a Professional (\$10) or Student (\$5). You can join using the Association website (<http://www.nysgis.org/aspcode/register.asp>) or by requesting a form from the Committee or Association Secretary.

Benefits of joining can be

found on Page 5!

Anyone can join

—whether you consider yourself a GIS professional or have only recently been introduced to the technology. Our members are also active with the regional GIS users groups—a great way to learn more!



Sheri Norton

- Katherine Barnes
- Christa Hay
- Razy Kased
- Deborah Parker
- Carol Zollweg

Marketing

It's been another busy year for the Marketing Committee. Jake Needle lead the effort coordinating with the consultant for the website update. Ben Houston, Lisa Andrews, Clare Dunn, Julie Tolar, Ann Deakin, and Carol Zollweg provided extensive input shaping the final product.

A new survey was distributed in May via the NYS GIS List Server, with 169 responses (up from 2009!). Feedback from the results include a very

strong interest in the upcoming Open Source webinar. Respondents are also keen on the Association focusing on conference improvement, professional development opportunities, and networking.

The group has also established both a Facebook page and Twitter account. These venues for member interaction have grown steadily since setup mid-summer. Website links can be found at the bottom of Page 7 of the newsletter.

The Association flier is also

getting a makeover, with updated content to reflect how the organization has changed since inception. These should be available at the booth at the NYS GIS Conference in October.



Bruce Oswald

- Lisa Andrews
- Ben Houston
- Jake Needle
- Julie Tolar

Regional Coordination

With Larry Alber's recently retirement from the NYS DEC last year, The Regional Coordination Committee leadership has passed to Lis DeGironimo. Lis was elected as a Board member of the Association in 2009 and has generated many new ideas for coordinating activities between the many user groups across the state.

Some key plans include:

- Formally defining what a regional chapter is
- Formalize the relationship of the

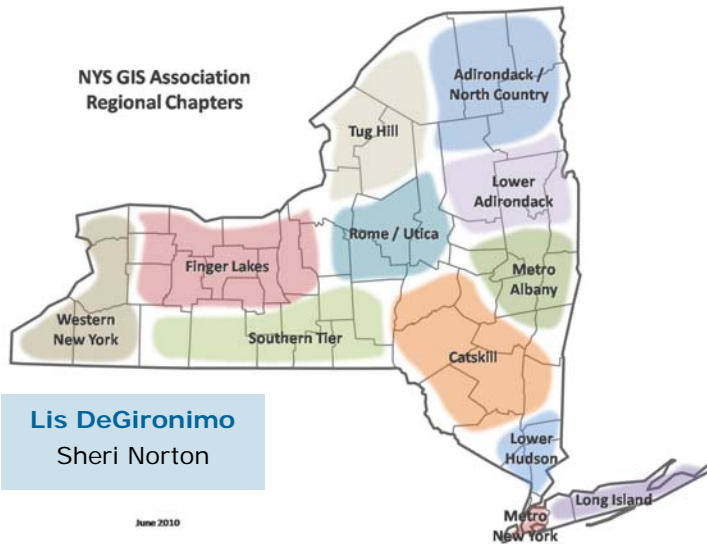
NYSGISA with the regional chapters

- Increase coordination between the NYSGISA and the chapters
- Provide support for chapters

More information on upcoming meetings can be found on Page 7 of this newsletter and on the Association website.

The new regional map was recently revised to illustrate the approximate geographic areas represented by the respective user groups. The new map shows the Tug Hill Chapter which is chaired by Mickey Dietrich.

Another milestone is the just-signed MOU between the Association and GISMO (see article on Page 6).



Meeting Matters...

The **Southern Tier** GIS Users Group met in mid-February 2010 at the Town of Big Flats, with a focus on a range of tools that can be leveraged for GIS.

The **Lower Adirondack** GIS Users Group held its first meeting of the year in March at Skidmore College focused on education. A tour of the interdisciplinary lab and program overview by Alex Chaucer was followed by a presentations by Paul Rooney on ESRI's K-12 opportunities and a discussion of IAGT initiatives by Fred Piper.

Back in April the **Utica-Rome** GIS Users

Group held a data-themed meeting with presentations on GPS innovations, how LiDAR data is being used as a data source, and on the SDSFIE data standard.

The **Western NY** GIS Users Group just met in mid-June with topics including migration from ArcIMS to ArcGIS Server, US Topo and the National Map Viewer.

The **Metro-Albany** GIS Users Group met in late June with an extension discussion and demonstration of web-based GIS.

Why Join?

- Become a part of New York's only statewide professional GIS association.
- Keep abreast of the latest GIS events.
- Network with other geospatial professionals.
- Promote professionalism and certification within the GIS community.
- Expand the use of GIS in other professions.
- Impact legislation and other issues affecting GIS in New York State.
- Accumulate Professional Contribution and Education credit for GISP Certification
- Discounts for workshops and other events

SPOTLIGHT:**Strength in Numbers—*NYSGISA Signs MOU with GISMO***

Founded in 1990, GISMO is the New York Metropolitan Area's largest geographic information systems (GIS) users' group, with an estimated 400 members from city, state and federal agencies, non-profit organizations and the private sector. After a few years of an irregular meeting schedule, GISMO has new energy and has scheduled bi-monthly meetings for 2010.

GISMO leadership met with several NYSGISA board members at the 2010 NYS GeoSpatial Summit to discuss the merits of a formalized partnership. Many ideas were exchanged at this meeting and it was determined that it would be mutually beneficial to pursue a partnership. The NYSGISA was invited to speak to the GISMO membership at their June meeting.

On June 30th, Bruce Oswald and Lis DeGironimo traveled to NYC and gave a presentation describing the Association and highlighting the benefits of a partnership. By formalizing this relationship, the Association would reinforce its connection to the

New York City metro area and gain many additional members. GISMO, through the Association, would gain a voice on legislative matters, a catalyst to organize and reinvigorate its membership, and a vehicle to receive dues. GISMO members would receive the same benefits that Association members enjoy, such as access to a personalized report showing credits toward GISP certification, and receiving a discount to Association sponsored training classes.

By a consensus of GISMO members in attendance, GISMO agreed to become affiliated with the NYS-GISA! A few weeks after the meeting, an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) was signed. The Association is in the process of exploring implementing a new membership category for GISMO members so that in the near future, GISMO members can join both organizations via the NYSGISA website.



NYSGISA Member Rich Quodomine to Contribute Chapter to New AAG "Practicing Geography" Book

A new book by the Association of American Geographers, "Practicing Geography: Careers for Enhancing Society and the Environment", will be a compilation of articles to include a chapter from NYSGISA member **Rich Quodomine**. Below is a small section of his synopsis:

"I believe the practice of geography outside of academic environments will be the next great challenge for geographers to master. For years, academia has recognized the intellectual place of geographers in describing the interactions of people, economics and landforms as a part of a larger system of logical events that can be explained by geographic theory,

such as Christaller or Weber. However, as one of my former colleagues joked, "You're a geographer? If I need a map, great!" Now, he and I had worked together at that point for some time, and knew of the use of my economic geography background. This knowledge of usefulness of applied geography is not yet well-appreciated in many professional environments. The first and foremost duty of a practicing geographer is to serve as a professional example of his or her background, regardless of its application."

More information on the book can be found at http://www.aag.org/cs/news_detail?

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jeffrey Volpe
(President)

Bruce Oswald
(Vice-President)

Christa Hay
(Treasurer)

Sheri Norton
(Secretary)

Ann Deakin
(Director)

Lis DeGironimo
(Director)

Verne LaClair
(Director)

If you have ideas for Newsletter content or would like to submit an article for inclusion, feel free to contact Sheri Norton at nortons@co.warren.ny.us

EVENTS

ANNUAL BOARD ELECTION!

The annual election for the NYS-GISA Board of Directors will occur at the Annual meeting on October 25th at the NYS GIS Conference in Lake Placid. We hope you will consider running for a 2-year term on the Board of Directors.

(If you are interested, please submit a written statement of your interest to the NYSGISA Nominating Committee by **12 noon on Monday, Sept. 30th** c/o Sheri Norton (518-761-6411) by fax or to nortons@co.warren.ny.us by email).

REGIONAL MEETINGS:

GISSIG: September 16

Western New York: September 17

Lower Adirondack: September 24

OTHER EVENTS:

URISA 48th Annual Conference
September 28-October 1, 2010
Orlando, FL

NYS GIS Conference and Annual NYSGISA Meeting/Election
October 24-26, 2010
Saratoga Springs, NY

NEARC 2009 Annual Conference
November 7-10, 2010
Newport, RI

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

The Education Committee is working on a plan to increase training opportunities for its membership. In the near term, the Education Committee has arranged a workshop on Open Source GIS at the 26th Annual New York State GIS Conference in Saratoga Springs on October 24, 2010. Bryan McBride will be teaching participants in this hands-on workshop. Open Source GIS may be an economically viable option for agencies and organizations trying to break into geospatial technology. For more information, visit the Open Source Geospatial Foundation at <http://www.osgeo.org/>.

Future training plans include a collaborative effort with the New England Chapter of URISA on Return On Investment (ROI). In the context of GIS, ROI is a performance measure used to evaluate the efficiency of investment in geospatial technology. The underlying components of the formula are simple. Does the gain from the investment exceed the cost of the investment? For most of us, it's difficult to overstate the value of investment in GIS. The key, though, is to show that value quantitatively to those that control the investment. GIS has often been a tough sell over the years because of the significant up-front costs; a webinar on ROI may help our members make a convincing case to decision makers that those up-front costs mean long-term savings.

The NYS GIS Association is now on TWITTER and FACEBOOK!!!

Check out our new Twitter account to get the latest on Association news and activities.

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/NYS-GIS-Association/128516370520959?v=wall&ref=sgm>
http://www.tweetshare.com/NYS_GISA