



NEWSLETTER

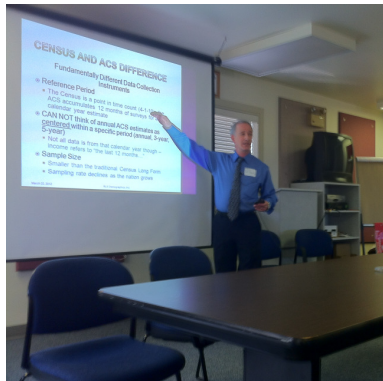
Spring 2012

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NYS GIS ASSOCIATION WINTER MEETING

Julie Tolar (Association Secretary)



The NYS GIS Association held its winter meeting on Thursday, March 22, 2012 at the NYS Thruway Authority Offices in Albany, NY. The meeting featured a presentation on census data by Bob Scardamalia, a professional demographer with more than 35 years of experience using Census and related data for marketing, business attraction, and public sector program management.

In his presentation, Bob explained in detail the type of information available within the census data, including the difference between the "traditional" decennial census and the "new" American community survey (ACS). Some major differences mentioned were the reference (time) period, the sample size, and the residency rules. Bob explained how to interpret and use this data correctly within the context of GIS. For more detailed information on these two types of data collection devices, please take a look at Bob's presentation slides.

The Association meeting was open to the entire NYS geospatial community. There was a \$10 fee for non-members to attend, but they received a complementary Association membership. For the first time, the Association was able to provide members "live" call-in access to portions of the meeting and screen-sharing during the Census presentation. Attendance totaled approximately twenty-five people, half in person and half via call-in and screen-sharing.

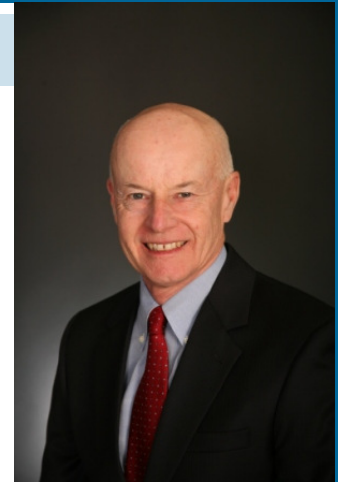
Bruce Oswald, Association President, started the meeting with introductions and a recap of recent Association activities, including work being done by the Association's committees: Conference, Education, Communications, Legislative, Marketing, Membership, Regional Coordination, and Professional Development. Please see the Association's website [<http://www.nysgis.org/about/committees>] for more information these Committees.

The group also discussed resources for people looking for jobs in the NYS geospatial industry. Bruce mentioned that there is a "GIS Job Postings" page on the Association's website [<http://www.nysgis.org/activities/gisjobs>]. Frank Winters, from the NYS Office of Cyber Security (OCS), mentioned that people can contact him [fwinters@dhses.ny.gov] if they want to know more about GIS jobs in NYS civil service.

Overall, the meeting was a very productive one. The Association wishes to thank Bob Scardamalia and the NYS Thruway Authority for making this meeting and presentation possible. Slides from Bob's census presentation are available at: http://www.nysgis.net/Docs/2012_03_22_ScardamaliaNYSGISAssociation.pdf.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Bruce Oswald



I'd like to start out by thanking all those volunteers that helped us accomplish so much in 2011! In particular, I'd like to thank both Ann Deakin and Lis DeGironimo who "retired" from the Board this year after providing the Association with significant contributions over the past few years.

Next, I'd like to welcome our new Board Members: Amy Work from IAGT and Dale Morris from Erie County as well as our returning Board Member, Verne LaClair. We're very excited to have them join us and are looking forward to working with each of them in 2012!

For a second straight year, the Board of Directors, the Committee Chairs, and I began our new terms by engaging in a strategic planning process over the course of the last few weeks. We reviewed the results of the annual survey, comments received from members, and input provided by Board and Committee Chairs on items that we needed to accomplish in 2012. The themes coming from each of these areas included:

1. Track and engage in discussions to improve the NYSAPLS legislation
2. Provide more professional development opportunities
3. Co-sponsor the Geospatial Summit and the State Conference and more closely coordinate their missions
4. Provide a conduit on communication for the NYS GIS Community
5. Provide networking opportunities
6. Implement GIS into K-12 education
7. Increase support to regional GIS organizations
8. Increase membership as well as member involvement in Association activities

In early January, we took a look at the structure of the organization and decided what changes should be made to best accomplish these themes and assigned tasks to each committee. Then, we asked each Committee to develop a work plan and budget to accomplish these tasks. We want to encourage each Association member to join a committee to assist us in completing these tasks. In order to ensure that we accomplish these tasks, the Board will monitor them on a regular basis.

While 2011 was a difficult economic year for all of us in New York, the Association was able to complete a number of items. Here are just a few of the things that were accomplished:

- A new website was developed! Let us know what you think by using the feedback link: <http://www.nysgis.org/contact>.
- NYSAPLS included exemptions for GIS professionals for the first time in their survey legislation.
- A sold-out Webinar was held on the use of ArcGIS and 3D Analyst to work with LIDAR data.
- The Association co-sponsored a wonderful GeoSpatial Summit thanks to the receipt of a \$5,000 grant from the US Geospatial Intelligence Foundation
- Twitter, Facebook and Linked-In accounts were established. Members were kept up-to-date on the latest GIS news via social networks, the NYS List Serve and the web site.
- A license to provide free Esri software to K-12 schools in NYS was signed.
- Two panel sessions were held at Educator's Day and NEARC to provide both educators and GIS professionals with insight as to what skills are needed to become successful as a GIS professional.
- Two great newsletters were released! If you haven't seen them, they can be found at: <http://www.nysgis.org/documents/newsletter>.

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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 NYS GIS Association promotes a forum for open discussion regarding the direction of the GIS profession.



WHERE IS IT?!

Answer in the next NYS GIS Association Newsletter

Previous Issue:
Mount Marcy

Conference Committee

2012 NYS GIS Conference

Make your plans now to attend the 2012 NYS GIS Conference in Syracuse on May 15th and 16th.

- **Day 1** will include informative hands on workshops and seminars conducted in cooperation with SUNY ESF and O'Brien & Gere Engineers. These events are included in the conference registration and are a great way to get an in-depth look at important emerging topics. Day 1 wraps up with a networking social at the Syracuse OnCenter.
- **Day 2** will take on a different kind of perspective from past conferences and will feature great speakers, focus on interest groups and include new experiences such as the "App Garden" and "Technology Petting Zoo!" Take advantage of a close up look at some of the latest Apps and get your "hands dirty" trying out the latest technology before making a purchase!

This is an educational and networking opportunity that you can't afford to miss! Got to <http://www.esf.edu/nysgisconf/> to attend or sign up to be a sponsor.

Verne LaClair
John Barge
Elisabeth DeGironimo
Mickey Dietrich
Austin Fisher
Jim Gilmer
Christa Hay
Eric Herman
Bill Johnson
Dale Morris
Todd Nelson
Susan Nixson
Sharon Oskam
Bruce Oswald
Lindi Quackenbush
Tom Sears
Julie Tolar
Jeff Volpe
Crystal Ziel

Communications Committee

The Communications Committee is pleased to roll out the Association's new website. Many enhancements have been made that make this resource both easier to navigate and a central place to find a plethora of information.



TWITTER



FACEBOOK



LINKEDIN

Here are just a few of the new additions:

- Blog
- Direct access to membership information and summaries of activity with the NYSGISA (great for those applying for GISP Certification!)
- Member map
- Welcome video message from our Association President!
- Resume page (coming soon!) - a new perk for members who can post a summary and resume for 6 months

Carol Zollweg
Danielle Bargovic
Don Meltz
Jake Needle
Sheri Norton
Vijay Sambandhan

Education Committee

There has been a great deal of activity happening over the last two years with GIS and Education in New York State, and this is good news for teachers.

In 2010-2011, the NYS GIS Association’s Education Committee was revived under the leadership of Dr. Ann Deakin from SUNY Fredonia. Under her leadership came a series of webinars throughout the year, focusing on topics of interest, such as LIDAR.

Additionally, a working group to investigate the possibility of an ESRI Statewide License Agreement for K-12 Educational Institution was set up. This committee has made some strategic partnerships, and an MOU has been signed and is currently available for schools looking to access ESRI software for free.

In late 2011, the NEARC (North East ARCUsers) Conference was held in Saratoga Springs, NY, and with that the 5th Annual GIS Educator’s Day was also held in Saratoga Springs. The NYS GIS Association’s Education Committee sponsored multiple panel discussions on GIS in education and in the workplace, fo-

cus on the skills for success.

Another program that has been encouraged through the NYS GIS Education Committee is the Geomenter program. It is essentially an opportunity to connect teachers with industry professional to help out with classroom GIS projects. Make sure you register on the Geomenter website.

Overall, GIS and education are poised for another remarkable growth year in New York State, thanks to the leadership of the NYS GIS Association. As Ann Deakin has stepped down, Amy Work is now chairing the committee and will continue the committee’s momentum in 2012.



- Amy Work**
- Alex Chaucer
- Ann Deakin
- Susan Hoskins
- Mike Jabot
- Robert Jones
- Susan Nixon
- Rich Quodomine

Legislative Committee

This spring, the Legislative Committee chaired by Joe Jones, achieved a milestone for the NYS GIS Association. On April 30, 2012, Ben Houston, Legislative Committee Member posted the following on the Association’s Blog:

“In a historic move after two years of discussions and coordination, NYSAPLS and the NYSGIS Association have come to agreement on language for proposed legislation that will update the definition of Land Surveying in New York. This effort has the potential to create a setting for both groups to work more closely and collaboratively together in the future. On April 17, 2012, the NYSGIS Association Board of Directors voted to support the recommendation of the Legislative Committee to endorse the NYSAPLS proposed language. The language now articulates more clearly for both surveyors and non-surveyors what is included in the definition of “professional practice”.

The proposed legislation must now make its way through committee in Albany and eventually be re-

viewed by the NYS Department of Education before coming to the full legislature for vote. The Department of Education is the oversight agency responsible for professional licensing and for regulating professional practice in Engineering and Land Surveying in New York. There is opportunity for public comment and involvement through both the committee review and the Agency review process. There remains some concern that the Department of Education may act to modify parts of the proposed bill, extracting key provisions out of the language of the law and instead relegating them to administrative rules and regulations. Keep posted here for a more detailed discussion of the key provisions in the bill that affect GIS professionals, and the how the upcoming agency review might influence it.”

Additional details are available on the Association’s Blog at: (<http://www.nysgis.net/association->



- Joe Jones**
- Ben Houston
- Bruce Oswald

Regional Coordination Committee



The regional GIS users groups have been very busy the past year, with exciting conferences and meetings both past and to come.

GIS/SIG's 21st Annual Spatial/Digital Mapping Conference was held on April 24th in Pittsford. The event was co-hosted by the Central New York ASPRS with a keynote speaker, Dr. Jen Ziemke, speaking about crisis mapping. Look for a detailed article in the next Association newsletter issue!

The **Lower Adirondack GIS Users Group** met last August with presentations on infrastructure, with topics ranging from broadband expansion research in the Adirondacks to local development projects. The recent meeting in late April showcase ways spatial technology is used for cultural resource management and research. Dirk Marcucci's of Landmark Archaeology's experience recording with GPS the various live ordinances and old bomb craters was both stark and hilarious.

LIGIS's annual conference will be held on May 11 at the Brookhaven National Laboratory. Bill Timmons of GIS Services will be presenting on new field data and capture emerging technologies.

The **Westchester GIS Users Group** will hold a full-day meeting on May 17th at SUNY Purchase. Special things on the agenda include a "lunch and learn", focused break-out sessions, and an ArcGIS.com walk-in demo lab staff by ESRI.

The **Utica-Rome GIS Users Group** met last November with presentations by Lizardtech and the City of Rome Public Works.

GISMO played a significant role on the *NYC GeoSymposium: 2001-2011-2021*. This event was sponsored by the NYC Office of Emergency Management and the NYC Department of Information Technology & Telecommunications and featured a keynote by Edward Tufte, Professor Emeritus at Yale. Watch for more on this event as well as the GISMO Next-Gen Professionals 2012 initiative in the next Association newsletter.

Dale Morris
Dorothy Nash
Laura Feitner

After the floods... by Susan Nixon

The Southern Tier Regional NYSGIS Users Group gathered in Owego on March 20th at the Tioga County Public Safety Building. The meeting drew attendees from far and wide and I'd like to thank everyone who was able to make the trip. Our topic was the flood that occurred in the Southern Tier Region in September of 2011. The location was ideal as it was also the Emergency Operations Center during the flood event.

Tioga County Sheriff Gary Howard started off our presentations with a complete overview of the Flood Event. He detailed his experience of running the response efforts from the Emergency Response Center, as there were power losses, network losses, jammed cell networks and residents who wouldn't leave their homes. The audience was captivated by Sheriff Howard's talk and we could have listened to him describe the experience for the full four-hour meeting. I came away impressed with one factor that the Sheriff and everyone involved should forever be proud of: **No Lives Were Lost and there were No Permanent Injuries.**

Dave MacEwan, the Road Status/Damage Assessment Team Leader from DOT spoke to us with regard to the New York State DOT and GIS and the Flood Response. He gave a comprehensive talk about the NYSDOT Road Status/Damage Assessment Tool that has GPS-capable off-network data entry and a client/server system with a web viewer. He then discussed the difficulties of working without fully computerized resources in an emergency: not everyone will have a laptop available in an emergency. Dave gave a great list of challenges and successes that attendees could utilize as they prepare for emergencies in their own communities.

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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 GIS Certification
- Discounts for workshops and other events

Professional Development Committee

Looking for opportunities to learn more about spatial technology? The Association is a terrific resource, providing many ways for members to grow professionally including:

- Training workshops, webinars, and special meeting presentations
- Multiple venues for keeping up to date on GIS activities around the state (website, twitter, facebook, newsletter, meetings)
- Sponsorship and hosting the New York State GIS Conference and the Geo-spatial Summit
- Posting job openings for positional around the state and New England
- Encouragement and financial support for members obtaining GISP certification and other professional achievements

Rich Quodomine
 Ann Deakin
 Garvis DeLaurob
 Amy Work



HEIGHT AND RELIEF

Layer Colouring and Contours
 Triangulation Pillars and Spot Heights
 These are all different ways of showing relief
 Some areas can be hilly
 Some areas can be flat
 But they are all measured by height on a map
 Layer Colouring is shading
 With Colour on a map
 The steeper the darker, green, brown, black
 Contours are lines,
 Drawn in black,
 Going up in tens, 30's, 40's, 50's
 Triangulation Pillars are high points
 Marked on a map
 A blue triangle with a hole, right in the middle
 Spot Heights are black numbers
 On a map
 Not always high up, or low down
 Now you know the rules
 You can carry them out
 As easy as learning, your ABC

Joshua, Liverpool College

MEMBER FOCUS: Austin Fisher

Fountains Spatial, Inc. (Schenectady, NY)

Q: How has your time in the Peace Corps influenced your career?

A: I was in the Peace Corps from 1984 – 1986, stationed in a small town in northern Mali. While I had already lived in Africa for 5 years when I was a child, this experience was completely different and has had a lifelong impact. While not always the easiest or most enjoyable period of my life, it was among the most valuable. The Peace Corps gave me an appreciation for looking at things from a different perspective and not underestimating the value of local knowledge and experience. It also taught me that less developed does not mean unhappy or backward. In fact, in many cases I was struck by the quality of life and enjoyment that could be gained in an environment with few of the modern amenities that we're encouraged to view as essential ingredients to happiness. I also learned the value of an appropriate level of technology (not too big or too small, but just right). This has been very helpful in my career at Fountains Spatial as we work to fit GIS suitably within an organization's structural constraints (e.g., budget, staffing, and computing environment).



Q: What have been a few of the challenges you've faced in GIS?

A: In my experience, GIS is all about challenges, or at least solving problems. I enjoy this aspect of our profession which calls for creative thinking and innovative approaches to identify solutions. Several projects come to mind but describing these in sufficient detail would likely go beyond the length allotted for this interview.

Q: What are the most fulfilling projects you've worked on?

A: When we first started the business in 1992, my wife Kathy and business partner Larry Spraker (or is it the other way around?) responded to an RFP issued by the Marketing Department at Niagara Mohawk (now National Grid). This project called for geocoding and complex geoprocessing of over a million addresses as part of our methodology to identify new potential customers located along natural gas distribution mains. This project is full of good memories including the excitement of winning a relative large contract, buying workstation ArcInfo, developing methodologies to resolve the many technical challenges we encountered, and of course drinking beer to celebrate.

Another of my favorite projects was GIS and GPS training performed in Kosovo with my good friend and colleague, Jonathan Cobb from the Waypoint Technology Group. We spent a week in country training students at the American University of Kosovo while sucking in as much of the local cultural as possible. The combination of very engaged students in an environment where geospatial technology has so many clear benefits to offer, made this a very satisfying experience. This was what Jonathan and I refer to as our first geospatial adventure. We followed this up with a trip to China and are currently in the processing for choosing our next location.

Q: What direction is GIS heading in the private sector?

A: I've heard many people talk about how the GIS landscape is changing, with the technology becoming transparently embedded in a broader IT framework, and the need for GIS professionals lessening. I don't entirely agree with this viewpoint. Certainly GIS continues to evolve and at a quickening pace as it becomes more and more pervasive in everyday life. As part of the process of pushing GIS further out into the mainstream of public facing applications, the look-and-feel of the technology has been morphing from a more

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STUDENTS IN ACTION

Binghamton High School's International Baccalaureate Career Certificate (IBCC) Mapping Project

JoAnne Lindstrom, MPA, SUNY Binghamton GIS Campus Core Facility

Can students serve their community from the classroom? The Linking Youth and Community Through Technology project, a partnership between Binghamton High School and Binghamton University, was designed to provide high school students a unique service learning opportunity. Between 2008 and 2010, Binghamton High School allowed Binghamton University professors in Public Administration, Bio-engineering, Computer Science and Geography to work with its International Baccalaureate Career-related Certificate (IBCC) students in partnership with local nonprofit organizations.

From Juniors to Seniors: A Survey and Map About Activities for Youth

The first class of juniors was paired with the Broome County Youth Bureau to determine what activities students in grades 7-12 were involved in. The group also planned to create web-based map that would be included on the BU GIS Core website as well as their own website.

"One issue in the Greater Binghamton community is that there isn't much activity for youth around here to do...therefore, crimes are built up and more drop out of school because school is boring for them. I think if there is more activity than the less crimes may occur because they will be in those activit[ies] after school than hanging out around the corner doing nothing...[which could] become a major problem." – High School Junior, Female

Fourteen IBCC juniors began their first year of the project learning about municipal boundaries around the city and how to use the U.S. Census. This group responded very well to participatory learning exercises, including an interactive quiz designed with PowerPoint, in which the students answered questions using the SMARTboard. By the end of the first year, several made the decision to spend their senior year with Project Lead the Way, a national, project-based learning engineering curriculum. Therefore, by the beginning of the second year, we were working with fewer (seven), but very committed, students.

Having already learned about the census, municipal mapping, GIS, and community-based research, the plan for the second year was to generate two products: 1) a web site "by youth/for youth" that would include a map of youth activities in the region, and 2) the design and analysis of a survey administered to all public school students in the city, grades 7-12.

Using the SMARTboard, students took turns entering all of the available activities for youth into Google Maps. In conjunction with the mapping project, the students designed a survey to find out what students in the City of Binghamton do after school: work, baby-sit, play on the computer, watch TV, volunteer, etc. The paper-based survey was administered in every English class in grades 7 through 12, with a response rate of 37%.

The students learned a great deal about their peers through the process of analyzing the results, making inferences where appropriate. They were excited to put the findings into a PowerPoint presentation,

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After the Flood *(Continued from Page 5)*

Bill Ostrander, the GIS Manager of Tioga County, continued the discussion of the Flood event. As the only GIS person on the job, Bill was called down to the Emergency Operations Center just before lunch on September 7th, and he didn't leave EOC for days. Luckily he had flash drive of data in his pocket, so he had data to start with. However, he had to call on his resourcefulness as the network with his concurrent GIS license was out. After obtaining a single use license from someone else's computer, Bill kept creating maps for whoever asked, until the job was done, much to the appreciation of the Sheriff and the teams surrounding him in the EOC. We all learned the importance of having a copy of our data and a single user license accessible and offline in case of an emergency.



Mark Scott and Al Frauenfelder of Esri then stepped in and gave a speedy, but very thorough and detailed presentation of ArcGIS Online and its capabilities. They highlighted the ease with which a user can create a map and share their data. In reference to our topic of the day, they discussed the Disaster Response and Assistance Program offered by Esri. There is an abundance of assistance and offerings from Esri in the event of an emergency, from software to data and imagery as well as project assistance and technical support.

Justin Knight, of Pictometry then stepped in to give us an overview of the availability of imagery coverage from Pictometry. In the event of certain types of emergency, Pictometry can be contacted and quite possibly they can fly an area of disaster and within 3 days have the imagery to the client. Counties that are already under contract with Pictometry would have no charge for this data.

A surprise guest appearance was made by Doug Freehafer and Martyn Smith of the District Office of USGS. With a quick 10 minute discussion from USGS they closed out our day by mentioning that these flood events are occurring with more frequency. They had flood data and information available for attendees and they mentioned that the report for the 2011 flood will be available in the near future.

This was a very well attended event that was so content heavy that we could have made into a day long seminar series. Our thanks to everyone involved, especially Bill Ostrander, for helping to make it a success.

MEMBER FOCUS—AUSTIN FISHER *(Continued from Page 7)*

technically imposing user interface to one far less intimidating. In many cases, the front-end of GIS is disappearing altogether with the end-user being shielded from the complexity of operations while still benefiting from the output (e.g., driving directions, location of the closest Starbucks, etc.)

Now back to the point about the need for GIS professionals. The trends I just referred to seem to be making GIS simpler to use, more integrated into other technologies, and in some cases invisible to the end-user entirely. The simplicity or even transparency of GIS presented to the end-user actually requires more complex design in the background. In order to support these operations, there will continue to be a requirement for individuals with a high level of expertise in geospatial technology. And let's not forget about data. More and more information is becoming available in easier to access and interact with forms. However, it's still geospatial data with all the nasty complexities such as integrity issues, edge-matching, geocoding, resolution, coordinate systems, metadata, etc., that a qualified GIS professional (even though they might not be called this) needs to deal with.

So my opinion is that that the need for individuals with skills sets in the ever-expanding field of geospatial technology will continue to remain strong. We'll only be dinosaurs if we ignore the need to evolve.

STUDENTS IN ACTION

(Continued from Page 8)

which they delivered to representatives of the Conrad and Virginia Klee Foundation (the project’s founder), as well as community stakeholders, their teachers, district administrators, and university representatives.

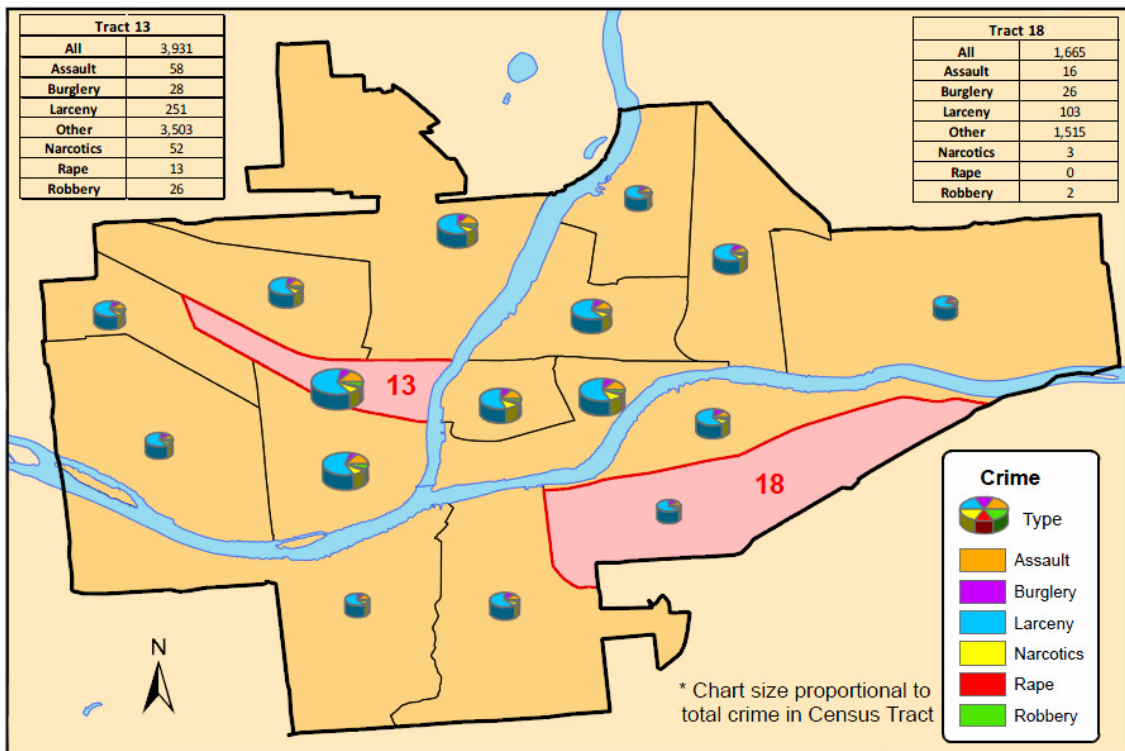
“There are many more activities [for youth] than I thought, but not enough in the poorer districts.” – High School Junior, Male

“I learned how to use Google Maps, the Census program was cool and complex, I learned how to read maps and what variables meant and I had never even heard of the Youth Bureau before this class.” – High School Junior, Female

“I learned a lot about the census and Google Maps. I love the Google Maps. I never knew you can type in an address and look exactly at the places around there, but it’s just cool.” High School Junior, Female

Learning lessons from the first year of project implementation, we decided to teach the third IBCC class, another new class of juniors, about the U.S. census, GIS, the foundations of nonprofits and philanthropy in the first half of the school year. They were then paired with a city gang prevention organization to research and compare two separate census tracts. The twelve juniors collected and analyzed data about vacant housing, crime rates, and compared demographic data. The GIS team member then converted their data onto maps for the nonprofit to use for strategize prevention and outreach efforts.

**Major Crime by Type by Census Tract
City of Binghamton, 2008**



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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

LIGIS User Conference

May 11, 2012

Brookhaven National Lab, NY

New York State GIS Conference

May 15-16, 2012

Syracuse, NY

<http://www.esf.edu/nysgisconf/>

Westchester GIS User Group

May 17, 2012

SUNY Purchase, NY

NEARC Spring Conference

May 23, 2012

Northampton, MA

NYC Arc Users Group Third Symposium

June 22, 2012

Federal Plaza, NYC

2012 International ESRI User Conference

July 23-27

Redlands, CA

URISA 49th Annual Conference

September 30-October 4, 2012

Portland, OR

NEARC 2012 Annual Conference

November 11-14, 2012

Rockland, ME



President's Message (Con't)

- The Association provided \$1,000 to IAGT's TWIST (Teaching with Spatial Technology) which is a program given each summer designed to assist K-12 teachers empowering student discovery through GIS.

With your help, 2012 looks like it will be even more successful!

In March, the Association held a meeting in Albany that featured a great presentation on the Census Data by Bob Scardamalia. Bob's presentation (with audio) is available on the Association's website at: <http://www.nysgis.net/activities/nys-gis-association-meetings>. In addition, this past winter, the Education Committee, in its efforts to implement GIS in K-12 held webinars on GIS for NYS teachers.

In April, NYSAPLS and the NYSGIS Association reached agreement on language for proposed legislation that will update the definition of Land Surveying in New York. This effort has the potential to create a setting for both groups to work more closely and collaboratively together in the future. (For more, refer to the Legislative Committee Report.)

Also, in April, the Association received bids on an RFP to provide management services for the 2013 NYS GIS Conference. While putting the RFP together and analyzing the bids was not easy, we're looking forward to moving forward with contract negotiation shortly after the 2012 conference is held. At the same time, we will be busily planning the 2012 NYS GeoSpatial Summit, which will be held in Skaneateles in late October. (Stay tuned for updates on this.)

As you can see, there's a lot going on in 2012 and the Association could use your help. Please go to: <http://www.nysgis.net/about/committees>, check out the Association's committees, find one you like and sign up with the appropriate committee chair. We look forward to your input!