

## NYS GIS Association Education Committee Meeting Minutes

27 March 2013 | 9:30 – 10:27 a.m. | Conference Call

**Attendees:** Eileen Allen, Alexander Chaucer, Ann Deakin, Susan Hoskins, Mike Jabot, Jon Little, Rich Quodomine, Dave Stern, Amy Work

1. **NYS Esri K-12 Implementation.** Alex updated the group on his work with Darren Faccilonga of NYIT to work out the details on technical support for those using the site license. Users will contact the IT staff at NYIT for technical support. There was discussion regarding a single point of contact for each user to avoid bombarding NYIT with multiple calls from the same organization. Eileen shared the SUNY model for contacting SUNY ITEC for support. Alex followed up on this during the meeting and learned from Darren that, at least for now, there is no need for a single point of contact. Thus far it has been the IT person at the school that has handled the calls for technical support.

Ann reported that a draft of 2 web pages have been submitted to Carol Zollweg, the Communications Committee chair, for review and posting to the Association's web site. As of March 28<sup>th</sup>, Carol had done this and provided a web address for us to look at the result. Work will continue on the supporting pages. Ann's goal is to share the completed pages at the GIS/SIG conference on April 16<sup>th</sup>.

Eileen reported that there will be a Summer Institute at SUNY Plattsburgh and a Regional Science Fair in April. Both are opportunities for spreading the word regarding the NYS Esri K-12 Implementation. Ann will e-mail the MOU to Eileen.

2. **Susan Hoskins | Adopt-A-Pixel Program (LDCM).** Susan informed the group that NASA had published the 1<sup>st</sup> image from the LDCM (Landsat Data Continuity Mission) at [http://www.nasa.gov/mission\\_pages/landsat/news/first-images-feature.html](http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/landsat/news/first-images-feature.html). It shows Fort Collins, CO and has a "swipe" tool to view the two different versions of the same image: one in natural color and one using infrared bands.

The working group for the Adopt-A-Pixel program is starting to get some of the pilot photos and data in. There will be a Flickr site to upload photos and data for the citizen science component of the project. Susan related that there is a bit of a learning curve or gaps in understanding the concept of land cover. Where some see rural with a barn, they are unsure as to whether it's rural or built-up. The perspective of urban versus rural dwellers appears to influence their application of Anderson's Land Use and Land Cover Classification System.

3. **NYGeoCon 2013.** The consensus is that the Education Committee would like to sponsor a panel as recommended by Bruce that would highlight preparation for a job in the geospatial industry from the perspective of professionals in the field (e.g., Bill Johnson, Larry Spraker, Austin Fisher). Ann, Eileen and Rich volunteered to move forward with this.

In addition to the panel the Education Committee would be interested in arranging a Birds of a Feather

session, if something like that is being considered for the Conference. Susan Hoskins and Amy Work are spearheading an effort with a working title of "NYS (GIS Association) Forum for GIS Applications in Education." We envision this as a user group of sorts that would share current projects, challenges, etc. on a regular basis through in-person meetings, a listserv, webinars, etc. among educators at all levels.

Finally, the issue of student registration came up as a barrier to student participation. While a "career panel" as Bruce has suggested would certainly attract students, the educators on the Committee weren't sure that would be enough to make it financially worth it for students. Listed below are a few suggestions that were made.

- Could students apply to work at the conference in exchange for their registration? The students could work at the registration desk, deal with AV issues, etc.
- Could students apply to be part of a "Student Geospatial Press Corps" in exchange for their registration? They would interview vendors and blog about the conference to fellow students on the Association web site.
- What about a best paper competition where the winner would receive a free registration?
- What about offering a 1-day registration for students that would not include meals?
- For future recruiting, could we webcast a session to show students what they're missing?

Ann will start sending out e-mails to the higher ed list I have advertising the conference, including suggestions of how to get students to come...see if the institution will provide transportation and/or lodging if the student pays for the registration. Dave suggested encouraging students to contact their Student Associations/Government to apply for funds through an appropriate club (Environment Club, Geology Club, etc.)

Susan N. recommended, via e-mail, that we encourage representatives from NYC based businesses to participate on the panel. She pointed out that "there are a limited number of slots for employees in the public sector." It would be more realistic to highlight the private sector.

4. **Bob Brower's E-mail regarding a summer GIS camp.** The group discussed the e-mail from Bob Brower that Ann forwarded to the group. (The e-mail exchange is appended to the minutes.) The group observed that there are a number of camps that are focused on STEM with a geospatial component (e.g., JCC's STEM camp with which Mike is working). The group thought it might be helpful to have a listing of such camps for posting on the Education Committee's web page at the Association's web site. This could, of course, be connected to the NYS Esri K-12 page, as well. Jon is going to put out a query through NYGA to see what is currently being offered.

Amy suggested there could be funds available that these camps, Bob's included, for which they could apply on an annual basis, similar to what was done for TwiST in the past. Ann will broach this with the Board at the April meeting.

5. **NYS Forum for GIS Applications in Education.** Susan H. and Amy will be meeting next week to discuss this. It was suggested that the NYGeoCon 2013 might be an opportunity to get people acquainted with the idea. See the Birds of a Feather reference under the NYGeoCon 2013 item above.

#### **Review of Action Items from 20 February 2013 Meeting:**

- ~~Consider the conference ideas for further discussion and perhaps arriving at some decisions regarding how we should proceed. Sue N. will share our discussion with the Conference Committee. Done.~~
- Amy will pursue possible members based on her K-12 contacts. **Ongoing**
- Alex will continue to work on the NYS GIS K-12 Consortium MailChimp template. **Ongoing**
- Susan H. will keep us apprised of the NASA Adopt-a-Pixel program. **Ongoing, see item 2. above**

#### **Action Items for April & April Meeting**

- Ann will start an e-mail discussion of Alan Leidner's suggestion for NYS GIS internships
- Jon will endeavor to gather information regarding camps/institutes with a geospatial component through NYGA
- Ann will introduce to the Board the idea of an annual RFP for camps and institutes promoting geospatial education.
- Susan H. and Amy will meet to further discussion of a NYS Forum for GIS Applications in Education.
- Ann will follow up with Susan N. regarding the Conference Committee's reaction to our suggestions/ideas for keeping the cost down for students and the Birds of a Feather session.
- Ann will follow up with Bruce Oswald regarding the career panel to see how we want to proceed with that.
- Ann will set up a Doodle poll for the April meeting.

## E-mail exchange regarding Bob Brower's Summer GIS Camp

Ann Deakin <Ann.Deakin@fredonia.edu> Mar 22 (8 days ago)

to Alexander, Amy, David, Eileen, Jonathon, Michael, Rich, Susan, Susan

Hi all,

Below is an e-mail exchange with Bob Brower of IAGT regarding a possible Summer GIS Camp. Please read it over for our meeting next week. Hopefully we'll have time to briefly discuss it.

I'll forward the conference call information on Monday...don't forget, we're "meeting" next Wednesday at 9:30 a.m.

Have a good weekend.

Best,  
Ann

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Bob Brower <[bbrower@iagt.org](mailto:bbrower@iagt.org)>

Date: Wed, Mar 20, 2013 at 10:01 AM

Subject: RE: GIS Camp

To: Ann Deakin <[Ann.Deakin@fredonia.edu](mailto:Ann.Deakin@fredonia.edu)>

Cc: "Bruce Oswald ([bruce.oswald@gmail.com](mailto:bruce.oswald@gmail.com))" <[bruce.oswald@gmail.com](mailto:bruce.oswald@gmail.com)>,  
Amy Work <[amwork1220@gmail.com](mailto:amwork1220@gmail.com)>

Hi Ann,

It is something that Bruce and I spoke about that came out of the NYSGIS sponsorship of the GIS Camp that IAGT ran a couple times, embedded within the TwiST program. (Teaching with Spatial Technology).

Bruce pointed out that although we opened the enrollment on a state-wide basis as required by NYSGISA, on a practical basis participants would need to find lodging here to participate. So it was always "heavy" toward Central NY participation, although we never intended it that way. So we thought that a residential GIS camp program would change that. (It was just too much for IAGT to organize without more substantial funding support...)

Now fast forward a couple years....and we (IAGT) have started up a Community Mapping /Geospatial Information Technology Resource Center program...and are recruiting non-paid student internships from area colleges and Universities and one of the interns has a perfect background to help develop GIS/GPS materials and camp activities. I

reached out to the CEO and to the Camp Director for the YMCA about integrating GIT into the camp and it fit well with their longer term strategic planning. They already run a residential program... that isn't new for them. What's new is the purchase of an adjacent camp that doubled their potential programming potential (and shoreline). All of a sudden I can see the potential to develop the residential GIS camp program embedded in their programming. I have very shallow financial support right now but I'm looking for applicable grants and Foundation funding. But in the meantime I need help mentoring. ( We have 7 interns this semester in various forms..) I love working with them but have to free up time to find funding....

So that's a little more of the story behind my email. I think it may be too soon to approach NYSGISA. I haven't done my homework at all...Don't know who is on the Ed Committee or what its current mission, goals, objectives, or program is focused on....We have been loaning the camp the GPS units...and might find support from local foundations to purchase some lap tops....So thanks for reminding me about the state site license...Send on some more good ideas!!!!

As Always,  
Bob

-----Original Message-----

From: Ann Deakin [mailto:[Ann.Deakin@fredonia.edu](mailto:Ann.Deakin@fredonia.edu)]  
Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2013 8:14 AM  
To: Bob Brower  
Cc: Bruce Oswald ([bruce.oswald@gmail.com](mailto:bruce.oswald@gmail.com)); Amy Work  
Subject: Re: GIS Camp

Hi Bob,

Great to hear from you! This is the first I've heard of the possibility of a GIS residential summer camp. Or, at least I don't remember hearing of it. ;-)

Shall I forward this to the NYS GIS Association Committee to see whether anyone might be willing to be a mentor? Will there be computers/laptops available? If so, the NYS Esri K-12 site license could be used in that context.

Hope you and yours are well.

Best,  
Ann

On Tue, Mar 19, 2013 at 4:58 PM, Bob Brower <[bbrower@iagt.org](mailto:bbrower@iagt.org)> wrote:

> Bruce,

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> Do you have any interest remaining in the idea of a GIS residential

> summer camp? Our local YMCA has a residential camp facility on Owasco

> Lake and they just bought the adjoining Boy Scout camp. They run both  
> day and residential camps in 1 week to 2 week sessions. We are about  
> to start developing curriculum materials and camp activities with  
> interns from LaMoyne and SUNY Cortland for their use at the camps. (We  
> taught their camp councilors how to use GPS units last year and it  
> went well...)  
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>  
> If you are still interested in this at all, I could use another mentor  
> to work with the interns via tele-conferencing. Nothing too demanding  
> but I'll spare you the details unless you are interested...(This is  
> volunteerism...not paid mentoring...) We are trying to find some funding  
> from local foundations to cover the equipment and minimal support for  
> the local YMCA but would need to find another resource to kick it up a  
> notch and make it state-wide. In the meantime we're slowly moving this forward.....  
>  
> Ann,  
>  
> Any interest? Any ideas?  
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>  
> Bob  
>  
> Hope all is well with you both, with family, and with friends...  
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