

NYS GIS Association Education Committee Meeting Minutes

8 October 2014 | 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. | Conference Call

Attendees: Alex Chaucer, Ann Deakin, Susan Hoskins, Jon Little, Andy Mendola

1. Is it possible to use the NYS GIS Association website to update education-related conferences and create more of a public presence when landing at the Education Committee page? Ann will communicate with Carol to see what our options are, including the following.
 - a. Add a link to current events that would include dated pdfs, educational opportunities and what's happening in geospatial education across NYS.
 - b. Perhaps an Education Resources bar below minutes?
2. Jon submitted his grant to NSF for \$200,000 for establishing a pipeline between high schools and geospatial companies.
 - a. 10 high school teachers in the first year will be trained, then 2 or 3 of those will continue
 - b. City of Rochester School District, Webster School District, BOCES
 - c. 2 day professional development workshop in Summer 2015 with follow-up in Fall 2015
 - d. Use GeoTech resources to flesh out the MCC courses for a certificate program
3. Ann reported that Mike has made numerous contacts with schools and many of them are in the process of becoming ConnectED.
4. Susan wondered whether we should require our committee members to be GeoMentors? We need to promote this at the Association.
5. Geographic Alliance Conference Andy, Susan and Jon attending. Andy will be conducting a workshop using Canal data Susan found in Pictometry online
6. Vince DiNoto of the GeoTech Center was at Pictometry on 9/22. Educators from all around gathered at Pictometry for 2.5 days. Vince has committed to supporting efforts to develop assignments using Pictometry imagery in a GIS context.
7. Alex held an Ebola humanitarian mapping workshop. He had someone from OpenStreet Map come in and present. He attended the FOSS4G conference, with some of the highlights below:
 - a. How to integrate open source GIS into a traditional GIS shop
 - b. How to tell stories using spatial temporal data using CartoDB.
 - c. Workshops on OpenLayers and GeoServer.
 - d. Sessions on big data and analytics. There are many tools available, such as Pidgin, Apache Cassandra, JSON, etc.
 - e. Open Source Geospatial Certification, including badges.

Alex also shared his experience at a Maker Faire (www.makerfaire.com). He observed the increasing visibility of drone activity... Drone Wars. He got a full body scan so he can print out a copy of himself as an action figure using a 3D printer.

Alex recommended we participate in MapMaker Interactive:

mapmaker.education.nationalgeographic.com/?ar_a=1&b=1&ls=000000000000 This website is geared to elementary school students. The NY Geographic Alliance will be interested. Thus far, Committee members have suggested the following.

- Niagara Falls
- Adirondack Mountains
- Statue of Liberty
- Catskill Mountains
- Farmland in NYS
 - Dairy: corn, soybeans, pasture, cheese trails, Greek yogurt
 - Grapes: western NY, Finger Lakes, Hudson Valley, Long Island
 - Organic: niche agriculture, local food movement
- Erie Canal: NY and US commerce
- Finger Lakes
 - Glacial landforms
 - Native American history, agriculture, tourism
- Chautauqua Institution
- Seneca Falls (women's rights movement)
- Letchworth State Park
- St. Lawrence River
- World Trade Center
- State Capitol

8. Susan announced that today is 4H Science Day. Rockets to the Rescue! Go to: www.4-h.org/4-h-national-youth-science-day/
9. Pete reported by e-mail that he and his faculty liaison at SUNY Jefferson are teaming up with the CIS division to revise their intro to GIS course. They are endeavoring to see how to navigate college requirements so that they might be able to produce a "problem-based solutions method" GIS course as a 4 credit lab course. They recognize that there are many hurdles and a lot of work ahead, but the conversation has been started to take this class to the next level.
10. Lisa reported by e-mail the WNY GIS Users Group had a successful geocaching event with the SUNY Fredonia students at Lake Erie State Park a few Saturdays ago. (Successful = no injuries or lost students!) Ann echoed the value of this experience for her students because Lisa, Mary Pirelli, Brian Barnes, and Jake Needle made a point to share their expertise with the students, such as what employers are looking for, valuable skills, the importance of conference and professional group participation, etc.

11. Is there a better time we could meet to get better attendance? For now, we will meet on November 12th at 10 a.m. and perhaps set up a different standing meeting time for the Spring 2015 semester.