



NEWSLETTER

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Winter 2009

Inside this issue:

Association Growth Continues	1
Survey Results	1
Business Development	2
Conference	2
Education	3
Legislative	3
Membership	4
Marketing	4
Regional Coordination	5
Geospatial Summit '08	5
Spotlight	6
Association Website	7

NYS GIS ASSOCIATION GROWTH CONTINUES

2008 kicked off with widespread interest in the re-introduced surveying legislation, providing incentive for many in the GIS community to join the NYSGISA and add their voice to the growing concern how legal distinctions in GIS and GPS activities might impact the GIT profession.

The NYSGISA partnered again with the NYS Cyber Security and Critical Infrastructure Coordination (CSCIC) to sponsor the 3rd New York State Geospatial Summit. Set within the picturesque Welsh-Allyn Lodge in

Skaneateles, the panel of guest speakers included:

- Jack Dangermond (ESRI)
- Allen Carroll (National Geographic)
- Ed Parsons (Google)
- Edena Schutzberg (Directions Magazine)
- Vincent Verga (Author, "Cartographica")
- Eric Sanderson (Mannahatta Project)
- Don Rittner (Onrust Project)

A review of Summit can

be found at:

http://www.directionsmag.com/article.php?article_id=2781

The final draft of the NYS GIS Strategic Plan was distributed by CSCIC, the culmination of a year-long program funded by a USGS CAP grant. The NYSGISA participated in this project, with Jeff Volpe, NYSGISA President, as liaison to CSCIC.

Our year culminated with the highest attendance yet at the October 7th annual meeting. We had over 60 people in attendance, including over 20

(Continued on page 6)

Survey Results

In April of 2008 the NYS-GISA Marketing Committee prepared a survey for the GIS community to complete. 166 responses were received, and the results will be used to guide the Board of Directors in their efforts to improve the Association.

The survey indicated that the top four items that the Association should be stressing are:

1. Impacting the proposed Surveying Legislation
2. Continuing with NYS Geospatial Summit
3. Providing training
4. Promoting professionalism

Interestingly, while only a fraction of respondents have professional certification, the majority are considering certification within the next few years.

Geography doesn't simply begin and end with maps showing the location of all the countries of the world. In fact, such maps don't necessarily tell us much. No - geography poses fascinating questions about who we are and how we got to be that way, and then provides clues to the answers. It is impossible to understand history, international politics, the world economy, religions, philosophy, or 'patterns of culture' without taking geography into account.

Kenneth C. Davis,
Don't Know Much About Geography 1992



Business Development

The Business Development Committee is focused on promoting the growth of private sector GIT business in the state.

Activities this past year via quarterly conference calls have included:

- Drafting the mission and objectives
- Compiling a database identifying 749 GIT businesses in NYS

- Investigation of possible grant funding sources and technology transfer programs

Plans for this year include exploring cost feasibility for a survey of NYS GIT businesses, as well as close coordination with the Marketing and Education Committees.

Did you know...



In the U.S. in 2005:
~500,000 using GIS as part of job; growing at 15% each year.

Job market demand is ~75,000/year

<http://www.esri.com/news/arcuser/0700/umbrella11.htm>

Scott Sherwood

- Girk Cakmak
- Garvis L. DiLauro
- Austin Fisher
- Verne LaClaire
- John Trimber

Conference

This new committee was formed in late 2008 with the goal of working with the NYS GIS Conference Planning Committee to improve the overall quality of the annual NYS GIS Conference.

Considerations include venue selection (meeting facility, catering, parking, lodging availability) and program content.

The 2009 New York State **Geospatial Summit** will be held at Proctor's Theatre in

Schenectady on May 11-12 (Monday and Tuesday). More information will be posted soon on the [NYSGISA website](#) and via the [NYS GIS List Serve](#).

The 2009 **NYS GIS Conference** will be held in Lake Placid at the Crowne Plaza in October 25-27 (Sunday—Tuesday). More information can be found on the [SUNY ESF website](#) at www.esf.edu/nysgisconf/.

If you are interested in learning more about



up-coming conferences and other events, please check out the **EVENTS** page on the [NYSGIS website](#).

Jeff Volpe

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

Education

Education plays a vital role in ensuring youths and adults integrate spatial technology into their daily activities. As students learn professions, their understanding of GIT will expand their capabilities regardless of their occupation.

The Education Committee has begun the ambitious and exciting processing of making New York State the GIT education center in the United States (if not the world!). Hopefully,

tentative discussions with the CUNY system will eventually make this goal a reality.

A strong start in this direction is indicated by the successful application of "GIT Modules" within four colleges throughout NYS, as well as last summer's "TwIST" GIT summer camp through IAGT.

The Committee will be working with the Business Development Committee to help define ways to ensure a



sufficient qualified GIT workforce in New York State. This will involve determining practical criteria for successful training programs to fit employer needs (e.g., database development, project management, technical writing, application programming, etc.).

Bob Brower
Eileen Allen

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.

Legislative

The hot topic of the year has certainly been the recent surveying legislation under review in 2008. Information about Bills S04396 and A01927 was disseminated to the NYS GIS community via the GIS List Serve and in depth at the April General meeting in Albany.

In response to the flood of feedback, the Committee drafted several letters to the NYS Senate and Assembly. These communica-

tions expressed the NYSGISA concerns with potential impact of legislation upon the GIT community, and requested the opportunity to collaborate in the crafting of the legislation to benefit both surveying and GIS professionals as well as protect the public.

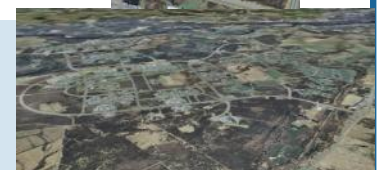
Specifically, the NYS-GISA advocates complete adherence to the Model Law and Model Rules defined by the National Council of Ex-



aminers for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES).

Copies of these correspondence can be viewed on the Association's website.

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



WHERE IS IT?!

Answer in the next
NYSGISA Newsletter...



John Montrésor

A Map of the Province of New York, 1775

"A little instruction in the elements of cartography — a little practice in the use of the compass and the spirit level, a topographical map of the town common, an excursion with a road map—would have given me a fat round earth in place of my paper ghost."

- Mary Antin

Membership

As more people have joined and the breadth of activities of the Association has widened, the Board of Directors recognized the need for a formal committee to oversee membership.

The Membership Committee, created in late 2008, keeps the master membership database updated, tracks dues (instituted in January 2009), emails membership certificates, conducts outreach to increase membership

in coordination with the Marketing Committee, and manages general meeting registration and sign-in.

In addition to these activities, the Committee has also begun a semi-annual Newsletter for the NYSGISA. Launched with this first edition, the newsletter will compliment the Association's website and monthly News Blips on the NYS GIS List Serve.

In November 2008 the

Board of Directors voted to

apply a nominal membership fee to renewed annually. There will now be two membership categories: Professional (\$10) and Student (\$5).



Sheri Norton

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

Marketing

Success of any organization is due in large part to how well it can disseminate its message. Our Marketing Committee has made great strides in this capacity, helping promote the NYSGISA via a rich and frequently updated website, monthly "News Blips" articles on the NYS GIS List Serve, and working closely with other Committees such as Business Development and Education.

The members have

been quite active, meeting eighteen times in 2008.

In 2009 the Committee will be coordinating the redesign of the website to improve site organization and provide remote website administration access and online membership.

Additional plans include increasing the number of certified and licensed professionals within the Association, as well as increasing awareness of the NYSGISA in partnership with the



Business Development Committee.

Outreach efforts have been advanced with PR materials such as flash drives, lanyards and GISP buttons.



Bruce Oswald

- Ben Houston
- Julie Tolar

Regional Coordination

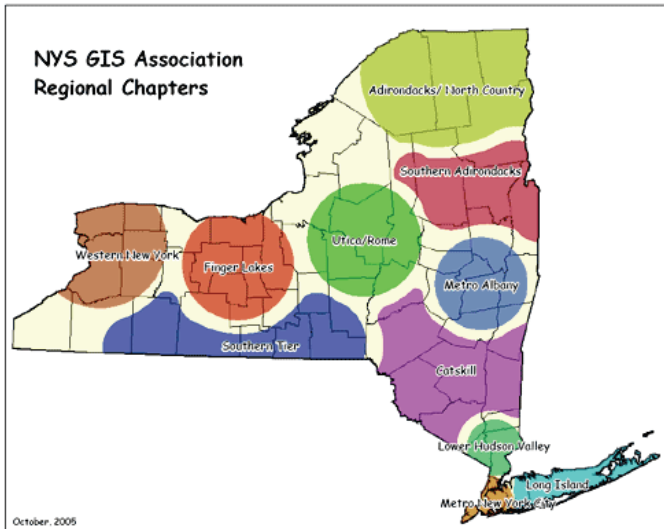
The Regional Coordination Committee is pleased to announce that all eleven regional

GIS users groups are currently active. Particularly exciting is the re-activation of the

Adirondack GIS Users Group (ADKGIS) and the Capital District ARC Users Group (CAPARC) in 2008.

The Committee hopes it can serve as a "nexus" for trading thoughts and coordinating programs (e.g., GISP workshops). More information on upcoming meetings can be found on the Association website.

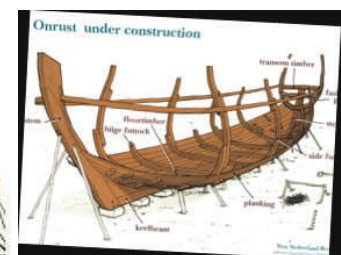
Larry Alber
Sheri Norton



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.

Geospatial Summit 2008



NYS GIS ASSOCIATION GROWTH CONTINUES (con't)

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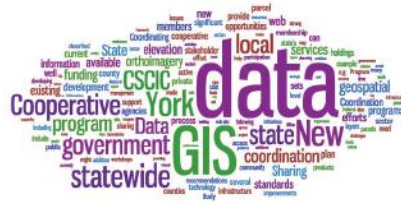
new members. Great discussions on legislative issues and marketing occurred and two new committees were formed (Conference, Membership). Awards were also given out for GISP certification. Recipients will be reimbursed the \$250 application fee for GISP certification. Our winners include:

- Karen Kwasnowski
- Heather Baker
- Deborah Parker

- Elisabetta DeGironimo

Congratulations are extended to Karen for successful GISP Certification in late December 2008!

As of early February 2008 there are now 64 GISPs in New York State. More information on the certification program can be found at the GIS Certification website: <http://www.gisci.org/>



SPOTLIGHT: Geospatial Infrastructure for Economic Recovery

The recession which began in the fall of 2008 and has continued to deepen into this new year spurred coordination between President Obama and Congress to develop a Stimulus Plan to infuse capital into numerous sectors. The intent is to create jobs and restart economic growth while producing lasting results.

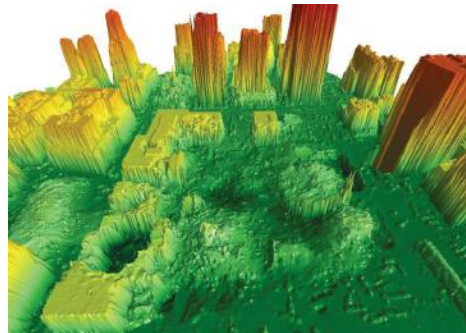
Several proposals were submitted to Congress in January requesting inclusion of investment in geospatial infrastructure as part of the stimulus package.

The NYSGISA Board recently submitted a letter to Congress urging acceptance of the key messages underlying all three GIT proposals and allocating funds for national geospatial infrastructure. Reasons stipulated included:

- **Increased competitiveness**—80% of information managed by business is connected to a specific location. Access to GIT can be more efficient and provide better services.

- **Improved management of government services and assets**—90% of government information has a geospatial component, enabling GIT to integrate disparate information sources and resolve significant issues.
- **Economic growth**—The geospatial sector has steadily increased by 35% a year with the commercial side growing at an incredible rate of 100% annually.
- **Job creation**—The US Department of Labor predicts that the GIT sector is one of three technology areas that will create the most jobs

in the coming decade. Creation of high end technology jobs such as GIT should be a priority in the US.



NOAA LIDAR Digital Surface Model — Earth Data International: NYC World Trade Center (Sept 11, 2001)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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(Director)
Sam Wear
(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

Association Website

www.nysgis.org

New enhancements to the NYSGISA website include extensive and up-to-date event listings, job postings in New York, meeting minutes, and miscellaneous documents prepared by the Board of Directors and committees (e.g., Annual Reports, survey results, letters to legislators).

Julie Tolar of the Marketing Committee manages the website content, with assistance from Jake Needle (job postings) and Carol Goodman (events). Special thanks are

extended to IAGT for hosting our website and providing Paul Opel's service to keep it updated.

As previously mentioned, plans have begun to hire a professional firm to re-design the website this year, making it easier for users to navigate and administrators to manage content and keep it up to date.



NYS GIS
association

[Register](#) | [Site Map](#)

[Home](#) > [About](#) > [Regions](#) > [Activities](#) > [Documents](#) > [Contact](#)

NEWS

GIS/Survey Article
An interesting article was published in the September 2008 "Professional Surveyor" magazine. Please take a minute to check out the article entitled "Guest Editorial: Fixing the Survey/GIS/Photogrammetry Conflict in Oregon."

GIT Job Postings
In an effort to better serve the GIT community, the NYS GIS Association has compiled a list of **relevant job postings**. Please check them out.

Events UPDATED!
We are committed to keeping the NYS GIS community updated as to what is occurring around the state. Please submit your GIS event **here** and we will include it on our **Events page**.

Communication
The NYS GIS Association posts all of its communications to

Job Postings
Updated 12/29/08

Post Date	Title	Company	Location City	Location State
12/23/08	GIS Analyst and Data Manager	New York City Department of Environmental Protection	Kingston	NY
12/22/08	GIS Specialist and Database Specialist	New York Natural Heritage Program	Albany	NY
12/03/08	Coordinator for Rhode Island Geographic Information System	Rhode Island Statewide Planning Program	Providence	RI
10/17/08	GIS Developer	Dept. of City Planning	New York	NY
10/03/08	GIS Analyst	Windham Region Council of Governments	Windham	CT
10/03/08	GIS Administrator	Equitable Resources	Unknown	
09/08/08	GIS Software Developer	TEKsystems	Long Island	NY
08/14/08	Geospatial Solutions Developer	Bergmann Associates	Buffalo or Rochester	NY
08/11/08	Geographic Technician	New York City Department of City Planning Information Division Geographic Systems Section	New York	NY
08/08/08	GIS Map Technician	City of Ithaca GIS Program	Ithaca	NY
08/08/08	GIS Scientist Agronomic Modeler	Stone Environmental	Montpelier	VT
07/17/08	GIS Project Manager	Bergmann Associates	Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, Albany	NY

[View Links to GIS Job Sites](#)

We would like to thank the following sponsors of the 2008 NYS Geospatial Summit:

Pitney Bowes / MapInfo

Bergmann Associates

CDM

ESRI

Applied Geographics, Inc.

fountains spatial Pictometry

American Consulting Professionals of NY, PLLC

Michael Baker Corp.

Bowne AE&T Group

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