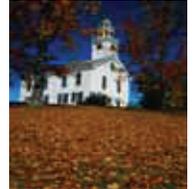
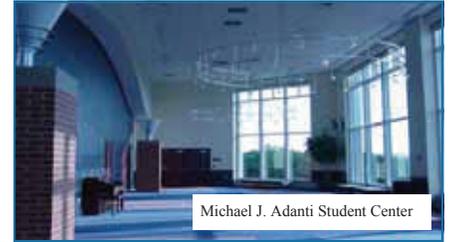


This Quarterly Newsletter is created by the Education and Training Working Group of the Connecticut Geospatial Information Systems Council. Our purpose is to communicate news about current GIS related activities within the State of Connecticut. The newsletter is edited by Beth Stewart-Kelly and Liz Crutcher

Fall 2008
Volume 1, Issue 3



From the GeoDESK GIS Day 2008 AT SCSU!



Michael J. Adanti Student Center

NOVEMBER 19TH 2008

This year's GIS DAY activities will be co-hosted by the Southern Connecticut State University Geography Club, under the guidance of Dr. Eric West, the CT User to User Network and the Geospatial Council Education and Training Working Group. The event will be held at the Michael J. Adanti Student Center ballroom on the SCSU Campus, 501 Crescent Street in New Haven. The one day event will take place from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The public is invited to view how Connecticut uses GIS in a map gallery where GIS posters and maps contributed by municipalities, state agencies, universities and other groups will be displayed. There also will be a "People's Choice Vote" for the best poster submitted (and you can vote on your own poster!). Information tables and informative presentations will be offered, so come early! See the GIS Day flyer on page 6 for the agenda.

GIS Day At SCSU
FREE
CONNECTICUT'S GEOSPATIAL NEWSLETTER
501 Crescent Street New Haven
November 19, 2008
Visit our Map Gallery

Articles from the Geo-Desk

- GIS Day Nov. 19th at SCSUpg 1
- A Message from Governor Rell.....pg 2
- GEO Jokes.....pg 3
- Open Source Online Maps on MAGIC.....pg 3
- News from: Out of the GEO BOX.....pg 4
FEMA and Moss Point Recovery
- Data Inventory & Assessment Group launches Standards.....pg 4
- 2008 Connecticut NAIP Imagery.....pg 5
- Unexplored Arctic Region USGS.....pg 5
- GIS Day Flyer..... pg 6

Newsletter Contacts

Letters to the Editors
Because this newsletter is for us – the CT GIS world – we need lots of feedback. All letters or comments will be reviewed and published provided space exists in the newsletter. Please feel free to submit letters and articles to:

beth.kelly2@us.army.mil

WEBSITES of Interest:

- [The Association of American Geographers \(AAG\)](#)
- [The National States Geographic Information Council \(NSGIC\)](#)
- [The University Consortium of Geographic Information Science \(UCGIS\)](#)

Education and Training Working Group members are:
Co-Chair: Peter Sandgren DEMHS **Co-Chair:** Sandy Prisloe UCONN, Beth Stewart-Kelly Military Dept., Liz Crutcher DOIT, Scott Roberts Town of South Windsor, Dennis Barry DSS, Peter Petrella DSS, Arroll Borden United Way, Bernard Asimonye DOIT, Tyler Kleykamp OPM



Fall 2008

Volume 1, Issue 3

A Message from Governor Rell August 25, 2008



The State system received a Special Achievement in GIS Award on August 6th at the 28th Annual ESRI International User Conference in San Diego

Governor M. Jodi Rell announced today that the state emergency preparedness response system, which uses the latest in geographic information system (GIS) technology, has earned an international award. The Geographic Emergency Management System (GEMS) was developed by the Department of Information Technology (DOIT) in partnership with the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS). Credit is also due to the GIS Steering Group that met for weekly planning sessions, and consisted of GIS specialists from several state agencies, including the departments of Transportation (DOT), Environmental Protection (DEP), Public Safety (DPS), Policy and Management (OPM), and the CT Military Department. The state system received the Special Achievement in GIS Award on August 6 at the 28th Annual ESRI International User Conference in San Diego. It was one of 182 national and international projects selected for recognition at the conference, which drew 13,000 people from 123 countries. "I congratulate both the Department of Information Technology and the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security for their hard work on the GEMS application," Governor M. Jodi Rell said. "It has added tremendous capacity to state emergency response efforts, providing access to needed information during times of crisis." GIS applications use geographic data to produce maps, models, tables and other data formats showing relationships and patterns. The award-winning state system provides local and state officials with Web-based access to diverse geographic data owned by multiple state agencies. Officials can analyze diverse geographic data, including census, transportation, critical infrastructure, hydrography, topography, political boundaries and more to assist in emergency response efforts. "This technology is essential for a coordinated, swift and effective state and local response in the event of a homeland security emergency,"

Governor Rell said. "The recognition underscores the growing importance of GIS in government and across the public and private sectors." The system prototype was used at the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) during the April 2005 Federal TOPOFF exercise, which tested federal, state and local response to a simulated act of terrorism in New London. After continued development, the system was placed into use at the end of 2007. In 2004, Governor M. Jodi Rell issued an [Executive Order Number 4](#) establishing the Governor's Interim Geospatial Council to coordinate and promote technology and sharing of geospatial information. In 2005, she signed into law legislation creating a permanent State of Connecticut Geospatial Information Systems (GIS) Council.

The state GIS Council (www.ct.gov/gis) was formally launched in January 2006 and consists of members from municipalities, state agencies, and higher education working to promote coordination of GIS efforts statewide.



Can Geography be funny?

What do you call a map of outhouses in the woods?

A shaded relief map!

Why couldn't Mark McGwire reach first after hitting his 62nd home run?
He didn't have a base map!

Send us your favorite Geography quote or joke and get your name up here!
Email them to the E&T Working Group at beth.kelly2@us.army.mil

Note From NEARC

At the 2008 Northeast Arc User's Conference (NEARC) in Hyannis, MA, the People's Choice Award for best map poster was awarded to Kevin Berger and Liz DeNardis of the town of Manchester, CT for their poster depicting housing foreclosure trends in Manchester.
Congratulations!

New On-line Mapping Viewer at MAGIC

Fall 2008

Volume 1, Issue 3

Big changes are coming to MAGIC within the next few months. The Map and Geographic Information Center (MAGIC) at the University of Connecticut has been developing a new way to view its growing collection of georeferenced historical maps and aerial photography. MAGIC's current online viewer, using ECW images and an ER Mapper image server, allows users to view georeferenced aerial photography like the 1934 Connecticut aerial photography and rectified historical maps. If users have access to a GIS program like ArcGIS they can download a plug-in to view the ECW image within their own GIS system. MAGIC's current system does not allow for users to print maps, search for specific locations in Connecticut, or add other data to the view.

MAGIC's user community will be getting a significant upgrade in the way they will be able to view MAGIC's imagery and data online. Using GIS software from Cadcorp, a leader in Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) compliant GIS technology, MAGIC will bring its online collection into a new online mapping system. The service will run off a POSTGIS database and CADCorp's Geognosis online mapping service. By using this system MAGIC will be able to keep its online data in their original format. For example, data formats used in the online mapping website will include ECW files, TIFFs, shapefiles, and E00 files.

This high quality online tool will allow users to put these historical maps into a spatial context, not just a map on a screen. Users will be able to search for specific locations in Connecticut, compare changes in time between historical maps by using transparency tools to see through georeferenced maps, and make customized maps that can be printed from the website.

The site is being tested throughout the fall semester. Over the course of the next few months additional online mapping tools will be added to the site. Web links from map features, where users will click on a specific location on the map and an internet link will be opened, data download tools where users can download GIS data from the extent of their view to their machine, and finally, data upload tools where users can add maps and from MAGIC's collection and view the maps in the online map browser. Future instruments will include online digitizing tools, spatial query tools, web file services, and web mapping services.

Also, make sure to check out MAGIC's collection of data in the coming months as they add Connecticut quadrangle geology maps, historical town road maps of Connecticut, and historical New York-New Haven railroad maps. All the new data will be georeferenced with complete FGDC metadata. For more information please visit magic.lib.uconn.edu or the online mapping site www.econmap.com

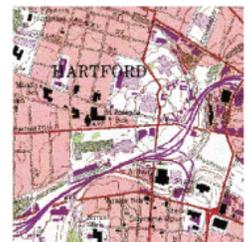
Maps and Data Available in MAGIC's Online Map Viewer

Aerial Photography



Includes:
-1934 mosaic
-1991 mosaic
-Online aerial indexes from 1951, 1970, 1985, 1990, and 1995

Topographic Maps



View USGS topographic maps from 1895 to 1997

Historical Maps



Statewide and county historical maps including the 1859 Tackabury Map and 1792 Blodget map

Connecticut Base Data



View a variety of Connecticut geospatial data including zip codes regions, town boundaries, water bodies, and census designated places



A Municipality's Benefit from GIS FEMA's GIS Program Has Positive Impact On Moss Point Recovery

FEMA Release Date: June 23, 2008 Release Number: 1604-659

BILOXI, Miss. -- Many of FEMA's recovery operations and programs often go unnoticed by the public. A great example of the lesser known roles of FEMA's assistance comes through the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) program. In simple terms, GIS uses cutting-edge technology to aid recovering communities by providing the means to gather, analyze and utilize a broad spectrum of data - from topography to political and governmental boundaries as well as population and demographics. The information provided by GIS serves to help communities in many different aspects of recovery and community planning in the wake of a disaster. GIS works with local governmental and non-profit entities as well as the Governor's Office of Recovery and Renewal at the request of FEMA's Long Term Community Recovery (LTCR). "GIS analysis capabilities are a part of the technical assistance package LTCR provides to local governments, the state and non-profit community rebuilding partners," said Bob Haywood, Section Chief for LTCR at FEMA's Mississippi Transitional Recovery Office (MS TRO). Moss Point is one south Mississippi city taking full advantage of the GIS program as it recovers from Hurricane Katrina. Under the leadership of the mayor, Moss Point is facing its challenges by focusing on new and improved housing and promotion of the business district through downtown development and the creation of a riverfront district. The goal is to increase the city's tax base by attracting new industry, commercial development and, most importantly, a thriving, diverse population. The Moss Point Housing Task Force is charged with identifying solutions to meet the housing needs of the city. The task force has formed a Data Collection & Assessment Committee to perform a study to determine housing needs. Dan Allen, GIS Unit Lead at the MS TRO, has been working with the committee. "The committee's goal is to increase Moss Point's tax base through residential developments in run-down areas with derelict housing," said Allen. "We can help them by providing the technology to develop a strategy for improving Moss Point's housing which is one of the major challenges facing the city in the midst of its recovery process."

A Housing Geographic Information System currently being created by GIS is one example. "Once we pass this information on to the city, they will be able to maintain the system by populating it with new data as it becomes available," added Allen. In developing its housing plan, Moss Point will take the GIS map book, consider input from residents and then overlay the information with SmartCode. SmartCode is a land development ordinance template for urban planning aimed at providing smart growth as an alternative to urban sprawl. In addition to developing housing, Moss Point has an ambitious plan to promote its business district through the redevelopment of the downtown area. The use of GIS does not stop with affordable housing and downtown development, however. Housing and zoning, though, remain the two most crucial elements in which Moss Point is utilizing GIS to successfully execute the overall recovery plan. "It all comes back to housing and zoning," said Barbara Smith, FEMA Long Term Community Recovery (LTCR) Manager. "Those are the keys to a successful overall recovery plan here in Moss Point. And, it wouldn't be possible without the help of GIS." FEMA coordinates the federal government's role in preparing for, preventing, mitigating the effects of, responding to, and recovering from all domestic disasters, whether natural or man-made, including acts of terror.



CT Geospatial Working Group Update

Data Inventory and Assessment Working Group Prepares to Launch Business Plans.

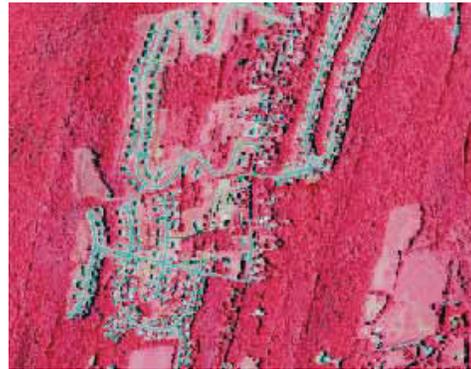
Don't miss your opportunity to comment on key data business plans developed by the Data Inventory and Assessment Working Group. This is one of four working groups established by the Connecticut Geospatial Information Systems Council (CGISC) and is tasked with developing plans and standards to move Connecticut toward a common framework for management of its geospatial data. The working group is made up of twelve subcommittees that represent data that have been determined to be important for the Connecticut GIS community. While most of the focus has been on four core data layers—orthophotos, parcels, street centerlines, and address points—as identified in the Connecticut GIS Strategic Plan, most of the subcommittees have been working on Business Plans and Standards. As drafts are completed, they are posted on the Council's website so interested parties may make comment before adoption.

Since its creation in 2006, the Connecticut Geospatial Information Council has been working to provide a cohesive GIS development strategy for the state. The council was established by statute, meets once a month, and has accomplished some important milestones since its establishment including a Strategic Plan for GIS development, a Business Plan to implement the Plan, and numerous data acquisition projects. For more information, visit www.ct.gov/gis.



2008 Statewide NAIP Imagery Starting to be Delivered Sandy Prisloe, University of Connecticut

The Aerial Photography Field Office of the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) has begun to deliver NAIP (National Agriculture Imagery Program) imagery that was collected earlier this summer with a Leica ADS40-SH51 digital airborne sensor. Currently only the compressed county mosaics (CCMs) are being made available in a JPEG 2000 format at approximately a 15:1 compression ratio. The vendor, 3001, Inc. and FSA will perform additional quality assessment of the imagery prior to its release this winter in an uncompressed GeoTIFF format organized by USGS 3.75' quarter quads. As of 9/18 Fairfield, Middlesex, New Haven, New London and Windham Counties have been delivered and also can be viewed and downloaded from <http://datagateway.nrcs.usda.gov/GatewayHome.html>. The NAIP imagery has 1-meter ground resolution and includes 4 bands (blue, green, red and near infrared). A small area in Middletown is displayed below in both true color and false-color infrared. Acquisition of this imagery was made possible through a collaborative funding arrangement among a number of Connecticut State agencies and the USDA.



Unexplored Arctic Region to be Mapped Michael Gauldin, United State Geological Survey



A scientific expedition this fall will map the unexplored Arctic seafloor where the U.S. and Canada may have sovereign rights over natural resources such as oil and gas and control over activities such as mining. Both countries will use the resulting data to establish the outer limits of the continental shelf, according to the criteria set out in the Convention on the Law of the Sea. The extended continental shelf, the seafloor and subsoil beyond 200 nautical miles from shore that meet those criteria, is an area of great scientific interest and potential economic development. The expedition will be collaboratively undertaken by the U.S. and Canada using two ships. The U.S. Geological Survey will lead data collection from September 6-October 1 on the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Healy to map the Arctic seafloor. The Geological Survey of Canada, Natural Resources Canada will follow Healy on the Canadian Coast Guard ship Louis S. St. Laurent (Louis) and study the geology of the sub-seafloor. "The two-ship experiment allows both the U.S. and Canada to collect and share complementary data in areas where data acquisition is costly,

logistically difficult, and sometimes dangerous," said USGS scientist Deborah Hutchinson, who will sail aboard Louis. "Both countries benefit through sharing of resources and data as well as increasing likelihood of success by utilizing two ice-breaker ships in these remote areas of the Arctic Ocean."

"Healy will utilize an echo sounder, which emits sound signals in the water, to map the seafloor. This will be done using a multibeam bathymetry system," said USGS scientist Jonathan Childs, chief scientist on Healy during the September cruise. "Unlike conventional echo sounders, which measure the water depth at a point directly beneath the ship, the multibeam system collects a 'swath' of depth information about 3 km wide along the ship's path, creating a three-dimensional view of the seafloor." The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration funded U.S. participation in the U.S.-Canadian mission and collaborated with the University of New Hampshire to collect bathymetric data in the Arctic Ocean on Healy from August 14-September 5. Research is coordinated by the Extended Continental Shelf Task Force, a government-wide group headed by the U.S. Department of State. Participants in this Task Force include the USGS, NOAA, U.S. Coast Guard, National Science Foundation, Joint Chiefs of Staff, U.S. Navy, Department of Energy, Environmental Protection Agency, Executive Office of the President, Minerals Management Service, and the Arctic Research Commission.



GIS Day 2008 is here!

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Join us on the SCSU Campus as we celebrate the contributions that Geographic Information Systems and Science make to state and local government, education, scientific inquiry, and community wellbeing.

Sponsored by the Connecticut Geospatial Information Systems Council with the SCSU Geographic Information Science Club and the Department of Geography.

Visit www.ct.gov/gis to learn more about the Council.
Visit the club's website www.southernct.edu/geography/GIScienceClub/ to see a list of abstracts.

Presentations • Poster and Map Gallery • Council Meeting

Join the Education and Training Working Group in a
"People's Choice Vote"

for best posters award on display award.

Winners will be posted on the CT Geospatial Council Website www.ct.gov/gis

10:00 — 3:30 Connecticut GIS Poster and Map Gallery

10:00 — 11:40 Morning Track

- Mashups by Kate Woodruff of UCONN
- Oblique Imagery by Pictometry
- GIS on a Blackberry by Scott Roberts, Town of South Windsor
- New developments at the Map and Geographic Information Center (MAGIC) at UCONN

11:45 — 12:45 Brown Bag Lunch or enjoy Campus Dining

12:45 — 2:25 Afternoon Track

- GIS at Yale, by Abraham Kaleo Parrish, Map Department
- The Magic and Reality of GIS in Language Learning, by Dr. Joel Goldfield, Fairfield University
- GIS and Health by Dr. Ellen Cromley, The Institute for Community Research
- Contributions of GIS-Based Analysis to Managing Student Retention at State Universities by Eric West, SCSU

2:30—3:30 Connecticut Geospatial Council Meeting (Everyone invited!)