

Maine Coordinates

The Official Newsletter of the Maine GIS User Group

Volume V, Number 1 • October 1999

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Broader participation, cost sharing allow OGIS to expand statewide GIS more rapidly

Currently, 20 state agencies have signed Service Level Agreements with the Maine Office of GIS (OGIS) to continue the development and maintenance of a very important and powerful tool....**an accurate and up-to-date geographic information system (GIS) for the State of Maine.**

In a nutshell, the Service Level Agreements provide a structured framework for agencies to share the cost of priority GIS tasks that are of mutual interest to agency programs and, in the view of the GIS Executive Council, are in the best interest of the State of Maine. Tasks described in this year's work plan ensure the quality and accessibility of GIS data for current and future applications of GIS, and also provide the required capacity to coordinate, update and improve geospatial data so that it meets the needs of the state in the long-term. Broader participation this year has permitted the GIS Executive Council and the Office of GIS to expand the scope of the annual work plan and improve statewide GIS more rapidly.



(story continues on page 3, Statewide GIS)

New England GIS '99 conference moves GIS into the mainstream

Central Massachusetts was the site of the very successful New England GIS '99 Conference on June 1 and 2. The conference was cosponsored by the New England chapters of URISA, GITA, and ASPRS. Over 400 speakers, exhibitors and attendees gathered in historic Sturbridge for two days of keynotes, paper sessions, and exhibits.

Each day began with a keynote address. Larry Ayers of Intergraph Corporation stressed the conference theme by speaking on "GIS in the Mainstream—How It Affects You." Steve Cooperman of Oracle Corporation discussed "The Spatial Platform for the New Millennium." Both emphasized how the use of spatial data has moved beyond traditional storage, analysis, and display with GIS systems by GIS specialists. "GIS" is becoming "gIS" as open systems, standards, the Internet, data warehouses, and other forces spatially enable data and make it more widely available and usable.



Photos courtesy of GITA

(story continues on page 4, New England GIS '99)

Upcoming Conferences

NEARC

November 7-10
Mashantucket, CN
www.geography.ccsu.edu/nearchome.htm



MEGUG – Fall 1999

November 5, 12:00 p.m.
Augusta, ME (Public Utilities Bldg.)
www.unity.edu/sarihou/MEGUG.html



MEGUG – Winter 2000

January 6, 2000
(location TBA)
www.unity.edu/sarihou/MEGUG.html



MEGUG – Spring 2000

May 2000, Augusta
(date and location TBA)
www.unity.edu/sarihou/MEGUG.html

Thanks to retiring Board members, and welcome to new Board members (Notes from the Chairman)

At our Annual Meeting, several Board positions were vacated when terms expired. These positions were subsequently filled with new Board members. We wish to thank the retiring Board members for their involvement: Dave Carr, Peter Cutrone, Nasir Shir and Lexi Andrews. Our new Board members are:

Rey Johnson	rjohnson@bhe.com	Vice Chair
Angela Brockmann	anji.brockmann@state.me.us	Secretary
Felicia O'Clair	fclair@mps.mfx.net	At-Large
Ben Ouellette	ouellette@pwd.org	At-Large
Sari Hou	sarihou@uninets.net	Education Coordinator

Please feel free to contact any of us if we might be able to help you with a technical problem you are having with your GIS, if you would like to raise an issue which concerns the organization, or if you have suggestions for newsletter topics or conference presentations.

Proposed changes to MEGUG By-laws

At our last MEGUG Board Meeting, we reviewed the existing By-laws carefully. Several items were found to be either out of date, or no longer relevant. The Board is in the process of making changes to these so that the By-laws reflect the way the organization is operating. For example, in the past couple of years, we have found it works best to have meetings three times per year (winter, spring and fall). At an upcoming meeting, or by mail-in vote, we will be asking the membership whether these changes should be made.

Maine GIS User Group

Board of Directors:

R. Michael White, Photo Science, Inc. Chairman
Rey Johnson, Bangor Hydro-Electric Vice Chair
Judy Colby-George, GeoSystems Treasurer
Angela Brockmann, Maine OGIS Secretary
Sari Hou, Unity College Education Coordinator

Members at Large:

Felicia O'Clair, Maine Public Service
Marc Levesque, Acadia Research & Consulting
Ben Ouellette, Portland Water District
Ken Murchison, Northern Maine Dev. Community

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. atwood@photoscience.com

Visit Us on the World Wide Web:

www.unity.edu/sarihou/MEGUG.html

GIS Software Training Opportunities

Introduction to ArcView GIS (with ESRI Authorized Instructor)

So. Maine Tech. College, So. Portland 767-9642
Cost \$500 (includes: manual, CD-ROM
and course materials)

Oct. 12, 19, 26 and Nov. 2,
6:00-9:30 p.m.
Nov. 4 and 5,
8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

ESRI Training, Danvers, MA Office

Intro to ArcView
Advanced ArcView
Programming with Avenue
Intro to Arc/Info with ArcTools
What's New in Arc/Info 8
Programming Map Object with Visual Basic
Working with Map Objects IMS

Oct. 10-28 and Nov. 22-23
Oct. 4-6
Oct. 20-22
Oct. 25-29
Oct. 12-15
Dec. 13-15
Dec. 16-17

Statewide GIS

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The following activities are among the tasks to be undertaken by the Office of GIS Data Center this year. For more information visit the "News" and "Weekly News" pages at the OGIS web site: apollo.ogis.state.me.us

- Develop FGDC-compliant metadata for GIS data layers and tiles
- Convert OGIS libraries and crypt into shapefiles
- Implement feature level metadata
- Staff hydrography, geocodes, feature level metadata committees
- Expand OGIS metadata process
- Continue base map quality assurance, quality control, hydrography enhancements
- Implement changes to town boundary coverage as determined by agency
- Certify and add new GIS layers to OGIS and web site
- Maintain final GIS data in appropriate ARC/INFO libraries, coverages, and shapefiles
- Provide web site maintenance
- Enhance standards and certification process for GIS data
- Provide GIS technical support via telephone and email

Visit our web site

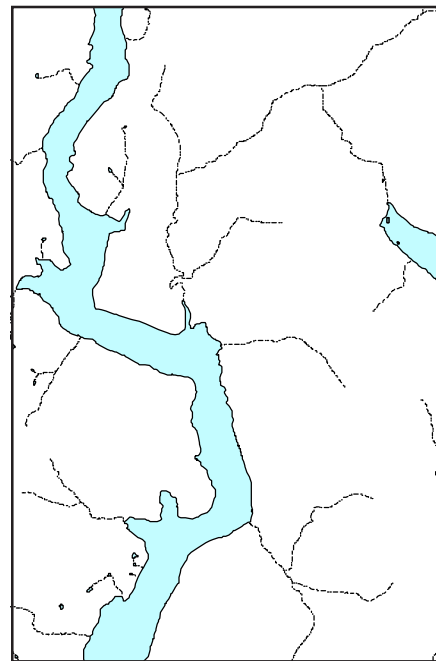
If you haven't visited our web site, you should (<http://www.unity.edu/sarihou/MEGUG.html>). Sari Hou of Unity College has been doing an excellent job of developing it, maintaining it, and adding new content. Currently, she is adding past newsletters on-line and has recently added numerous links to other GIS-related web sites.

If you have comments on, or would like to contribute to our web site, please let us know.

Committee addresses enhancements to OGIS hydrography layers

By Dan Walters

The Office of Geographic Information Systems (OGIS) currently has primary hydrography layers available for the State of Maine at 1:24,000 scale. These layers include coastline, streams, rivers, ponds, wetlands, drainage divides, drainage by hydrologic unit codes, and some stream networks. However, enhancements to the existing layers and new hydrography layers are needed to support a variety of applications, including emergency management (e.g., dam safety and inundation mapping), water flow water quality modeling, and enhanced cartography. The GIS Executive Council formed



Sample hydrography layer at 1:24,000 scale. A GIS Executive Council subcommittee is developing a plan for enhancing hydrography layers available through Maine OGIS.

a broad-based agency subcommittee to develop a plan for necessary enhancements. Since its formation, the committee has attracted a great deal of interest and many other organizations have attended the meetings.

After the initial set of meetings, the committee has decided to direct its initial attention to two areas:

- (1) Basic hydrography layer improvements. This includes edgematching, adding photo revisions, combining hydrography layers, adding MIDAS numbers and hydrographic names, and resolving state/province boundary issues, and
- (2) Enhancing the hydrography base map datamodel to support advanced applications. This includes completing the stream indexing, adding coding to support the goals of the national hydrography databases, and consideration of hydrography naming and conventions.

(story continues on page 4, Hydrography)

Thank you, Dan Walters

We all recognize the important contribution Dan Walters has made to this organization, but I want to take this opportunity to put it in writing. During the course of the past year and a half, Dan has been instrumental in making this organization a success. Through his leadership, we have been able to present a series of highly successful conferences. We also appreciate the resources he has made available to us (publication of this newsletter, for example).

— Michael White, MEGUG Chairman

New England GIS '99

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The four tracks of invited paper sessions gave over 100 moderators and presenters a chance to speak on their areas of expertise. The Technology track included sessions on devices with spatial capabilities, the present and future of photogrammetry and remote sensing, and what open systems are all about. One session brought four New England GIS software companies to discuss why our region is a hotbed of new products and services.

The Education and Employment track had four sessions on the first day, discussing GIS certification, GIS developments in education, and employment opportunities. One session included papers by students at New England colleges and universities.

"Four tracks of invited paper sessions gave over 100 moderators and presenters a chance to speak on their areas of expertise."

The Data and Applications track expanded from one set of sessions on the first day to two sets on the second day. Privacy issues, web-enabling a GIS, data warehousing, and trends in analysis were among the topics. There were spotlights on municipal, business, and utility applications, and discussions both of

business data and of data conversion and maintenance.

The fourth track, on Implementation, explored change management, defining success in GIS implementation, and metadata, and looked at issues in GIS implementation in planning, the private sector, the public sector, and utilities.

The breaks between sessions were integrated into the large exhibit hall, with 45 vendors showing their products and services. Consulting groups, software vendors, data providers, hardware producers, and other companies were well represented. On the second day there was a Vendor Showcase track, where several companies offered one-hour presentations.

The final session was a plenary where all six New England states described the GIS activities in their state governments. It was an excellent opportunity to compare and contrast the efforts of the states to provide data, standards, training, and other services to their constituents.

As the conference concluded, four lucky attendees (from Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Vermont) won GIS software and other prizes in a drawing. The conference committee, with participants from the ASPRS, GITA, and URISA chapters, are to be commended for a job well done. Planning is underway for NEGIS2000 which promises to be another session not to miss.

The above was provided by Tim Case, Senior GIS Analyst at Parsons Brinckerhoff Quade & Douglas, Inc. Tim is a MEGUG member and was a member of the NEGIS organizing committee. Marc Levesque, a MEGUG Board Member, was one of the approximately two dozen NEGIS attendees from Maine. He is happy to report that he was pleased with his attendance at the event, having had the opportunity to listen to and discuss GIS topics with vendors and users from around New England in the very scenic

setting of Sturbridge, MA (he looks forward to attending next year, as long as it doesn't mean having to drive to Massachusetts on Memorial Day, which the conference organizers have promised to avoid!).

Hydrography

(continued from page 3)

To determine the level of effort needed to address issues on both items, OGIS has started a pilot project as a part of this year's GIS Data Center work plan. The pilot will focus on a small coastal watershed — probably in the central part of Maine. While the committee is focused on improving and enhancing the base maps, the College of the Atlantic and the University of Maine will undertake pilot projects in various application areas. The nature and extent of the pilot projects will be designed by the committee as the pilot project and data enhancement proceed.

The OGIS list servers and web site will be used as primary means of communication. OGIS will add a new section to the GIS News page, located at <http://apollo.ogis.state.me.us/news/news.htm>) to publish minutes, agendas and other pertinent documents. These documents also will be sent out via the GIS list server when the documents are posted to the web site.

Questions or comments? Feel free to email them to dan.walters@state.me.us.

Note: Committee participants represent the Maine Departments of Transportation, Marine Resources, Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Environmental Protection, and Defense and Emergency Services. Additional participants include representatives from the: U.S. Geological Survey, Environmental Protection Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service, College of the Atlantic, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the University of Maine.

Recent MEGUG conferences draw record attendance

As many of you know, we had a successful Spring Conference and Annual Meeting. Held at Eastern Maine Technical College's Rangeley Hall in Bangor, we believe we had a record attendance. With two parallel tracks, we were able to cover:

- GIS Technology at the University of Maine
- Technology of GIS software
- GIS and the Internet
- AM/FM applications
- Remote sensing and GPS

In the GPS sessions, we were fortunate to have weather conducive to hands-on sessions where GPS and data collection equipment were demonstrated. Although I was unable to attend these sessions, I understand that they were informative and well-attended.

EMTC's Rangeley Hall was large enough to accommodate modest vendor displays. We had participation from numerous vendors from around Maine. It was a good chance to see what resources are available to you in the area.

This year we tried something new: a Poster Display and Contest. Although this event was not highly publicized prior to the conference, we still had a good showing of attendees' maps and posters. To make it more interesting, we asked attendees to vote for their favorite entries, with prizes contributed by vendors. While most participants liked the contest nature of the event, we did have some requests for a non-contest display. Next spring we will try to arrange it so that those who wish to simply display their creations can do so. Many thanks to all of those who submitted posters and maps for display!

— Michael White, MEGUG Chairman

We need your help!

The Maine GIS User Group is an organization of people like *you*. It is an organization dedicated to providing a forum for the exchange of information and ideas between you and other members like you. The only way it can be successful is if you participate. Whether that means attending meetings, presenting an interesting topic or project, or assisting in a workshop, you can make a valuable contribution to the success of the organization.

So if you have any ideas for conference topics, articles for this publication, or wish to present an interesting project, we encourage you to contact a Board member. Your participation is greatly appreciated.

Cool web sites

Want to surf to an interesting web site? Check out some of the interactive GIS software demos at the leading vendors' web sites. Intergraph Corporation, ESRI, and Autodesk all feature free online or downloadable demos (see screen captures, at left).

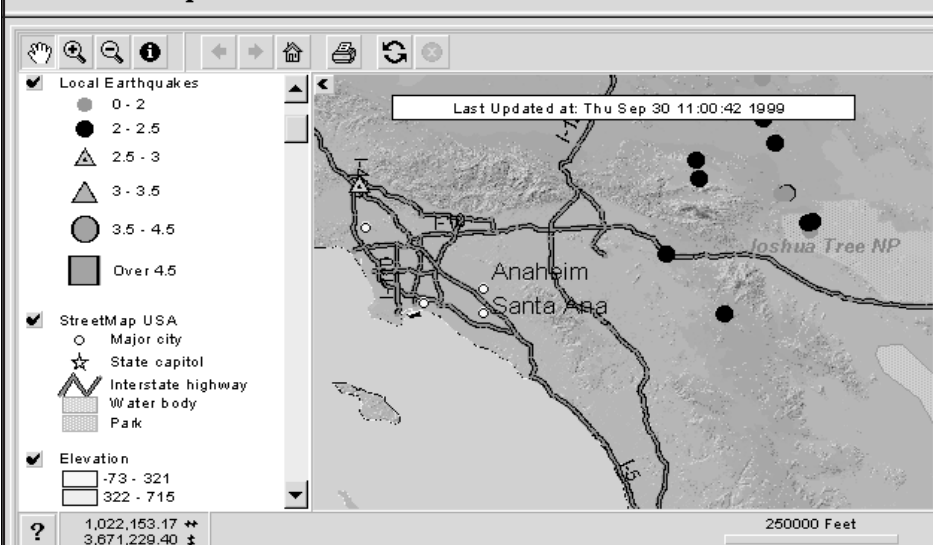
<http://www.intergraph.com/gis/demos.asp>

<http://maps.esri.com>

<http://www.autodesk.com/products/acad2000/acaddemo.htm>

If you have come across other web sites of interest that you'd like to share with MEGUG members, please send an email to mwhite@photoscience.com. We'd love to share the information.

Recent Earthquakes in Southern California



MEGUG MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____ Title: _____
Company/School/Agency: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip/Postal Code: _____
Tel: _____ Fax: _____
email: _____

Which best describes you?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> K-12 (Grade) _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Military |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Federal Agency | <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental |
| <input type="checkbox"/> College Student | <input type="checkbox"/> Consultant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Utility | <input type="checkbox"/> Hardware/Software Vendor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Municipality | <input type="checkbox"/> State Government |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Quasi/County/Regional Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

What GIS software do you use? _____

Membership Level

If you have already paid for an individual membership but prefer a corporate membership just send the difference with a note.

- Individual (\$25)
- Corporate/Institutional (\$80/four floating memberships/two newsletters)
- College Student (\$15) Name of college: _____
- School (K-12) (\$25): Includes two copies of newsletters to the school, free attendance for teachers and students at the three quarterly meetings with two weeks advance notice (see specific meeting notice for details)

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

Maine GIS User Group

RETURN FORM AND CHECK TO:

Judy Colby-George
c/o Geo-Systems
PO Box 934
Yarmouth, ME 04096

TELL A FRIEND

This membership application, and previous *Maine Coordinates* newsletters, can be found on the MEGUG web site, at www.unity.edu/sarihou/MEGUG.html.

Maine Coordinates

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