



# ILLINOIS GIS NOTES

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ILLINOIS GIS ASSOCIATION

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## MAPPING OUT LIFELONG LEARNING - A SEQUEL

Charlie Fitzpatrick, ESRI Education Manager, in his Keynote Address at the 2008 Fall ILGISA Conference, encouraged attendees to accept the challenge of change, map out a lifelong learning path, and make themselves indispensable to the organization. Charlie mapped out options available for a good geotechnologist to survive and thrive in these times of accelerated evolution. His lively and engaging presentation captured our attention and prompted the follow-up questions from Pat Keegan, Greg Johnson, and Mary Clement.

You begin with K12 program in the early 90s. Tell us about some of the original participants who are now GIS Practitioners

There are a number of folks who got their start in GIS in high school, or younger, and now have jobs in GIS. At the 2007 ESRI Conference, I highlighted one fellow who was one of the earliest students I knew doing hard core GIS; he went to college with 3 years of major projects already under his belt, and paid his way through college with the work he did in the GIS lab, including teaching; he now works at ESRI overseeing a set of "mission critical" projects. In 2001, we had a couple of high school seniors up on stage who now work at Best Buy, doing GIS. In 2002, we had some 7th graders on stage; they are now at college, getting degrees in GIS. Kids who get started early working with GIS have vast options for jobs and careers.

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## THE DAHLBERG DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The Dahlberg Distinguished Achievement Award is presented to an individual who has made a significant contribution to the development and advancement of geographic information systems.

Only one such award is presented each year during the fall conference. This year's recipient is Robert Krumm.

Rob is deserving of the ILGISA Dahlberg Award for Distinguished Member for many reasons. He was present for the start of use of GIS in the state of Illinois while employed at the Illinois State Geological Survey (ISGS). In 1983, the state of Illinois purchased a turnkey GIS from ESRI and became the 27th Arc/Info customer. Rob was among the first

to take three weeks of training in this new and challenging technology.

In those early days of GIS at the ISGS, many users shared the resources of one mini-computer which was often very slow. However, Rob persevered and became one of the experts. He helped to teach many others at the ISGS about this new and exciting software. Early projects included the Lands Unsuitable for Mining Program, a project to evaluate surface mining and reclamation, as



well as the Champaign County Landfill Screening project. This project mapped and evaluated the county and identified areas that may be geologically suitable for the development of a sanitary landfill.

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## CONTEMPLATIONS

from your President

By Pat Keegan

This is sure an exciting time for ILGISA, I suspect every ILGISA president has felt this excitement since our inception in 1994.

Our current ILGISA Board is a wonderful cross-section of the membership with representation from state, county, municipal, federal and educational organizations. This is an ambitious group of very dedicated professionals and I am honored to serve along side them. This ambition and dedication will undoubtedly result in new initiatives, improvements and changes that are all intended to advance the understanding, growth and effectiveness of GIS within the State of Illinois.

The ILGISA Board realizes that our success is completely dependent on our membership placing a high value on ILGISA conferences and the ILGISA membership. This is the reason for the countless number of surveys you may have received: conference surveys, membership surveys, workshop surveys, vendor surveys, surveys on the new website and so on. Perhaps this results in survey overload, but it also results in action by the ILGISA Board and ILGISA committees. The new ILGISA website is an example of this action. The 2008 membership survey informed us that 67.4% of the respondents felt the website is an important means of communicating information and numerous comments indicated a need to improve the website.

One part of the membership that may not feel survey overload is the vendor community. Vendors have always been an important part of the membership and the ILGISA experience. Recently, the ILGISA Board created an Exhibitor Committee to help us maintain a healthy and mutually beneficial relationship with the exhibitors at our conferences. Honest and frank discussions with the vendor community have surfaced many issues that the ILGISA Board was either not aware of or we did not fully understand. Simple suggestions like making an attendee's first name the largest item on a conference name badge will help us all by enabling conversations and networking. Other issues are more challenging but I am confident the dialog will continue.

Currently, the ILGISA Board of Directors is limited to members whose principal work does not involve ownership, operation, or employment by an organization which manufactures, distributes, or sells equipment, software, data, or services for profit to users of geographic information systems (see Article V Section 4 of the ILGISA bylaws for a full description, [www.ilgisa.org/Board/bylaws.aspx](http://www.ilgisa.org/Board/bylaws.aspx)). I believe every ILGISA Board has at one time or another considered the idea of having one or two Board of Director seats open to the for-profit community. At the Fall 2008 ILGISA Conference we held a "Founding Members and Past President's Meeting" to perform a SWOT analysis (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats). We analyzed the following proposal: Add two new board seats, each can be, but doesn't have to be

filled by someone from the private sector. They will have full voting rights, but may not hold one of the executive offices (President, Past-President, President-Elect, Treasurer, or Secretary).

Here is a brief highlight of the results:

### Strengths of proposal

- ILGISA has willing and participating vendors
- Will provide Board with a better awareness of industry
- It is fair to allow all members on the Board

### Weaknesses of proposal

- ILGISA could be perceived as being tainted
- Why fix it? It is not broken
- For-profits may encounter conflicts of interest

### Opportunities of proposal

- Further market and grow ILGISA
- Become more attractive to vendors (increase ILGISA's earnings)

### Threats of proposal

- Loss of membership
- Could foster unhealthy conflict between vendors

This will be a topic of discussion for the ILGISA Board in 2009. I encourage you all to share your opinions on this matter by contacting myself: [president@ilgisa.org](mailto:president@ilgisa.org) or any other of the ILGISA Board members. <http://www.ilgisa.org/Board/currentboard.aspx>

In closing I want to acknowledge the efforts of our Executive Secretary, Tracy Rogers. Tracy's efforts and dedication are a crucial part of ILGISA's success. Also, we will sorely miss ILGISA's outgoing Past-President, Keith Caldwell. Best of luck Keith! It continues to be an honor, pleasure and an educational experience to serve ILGISA. Thank you.

*Pat Keegan is the President of ILGISA and the GIS Manager for the City of Evanston - [president@ilgisa.org](mailto:president@ilgisa.org)*

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS!

Please take a moment to “get to know” two of your new ILGISA Board Members, recently elected this past fall. Each brings a wealth of experience, new enthusiasm and initiative to the 2009 ILGISA Board of Directors. Welcome!



### BILL FAEDTKE

is the GIS Manager for DuPage County.

He has been with the County for over 35 years. Bill earned a B.A. with a concentration in the management of GIS from DePaul University.

Bill's professional experience with the County includes the management of the County's GIS frame-

work databases, the countywide PLSS legal monument system, and a GPS CORS based geodetic survey control network. During his career he has participated in many seminars and workshops to encourage close cooperation between the GIS and professional land surveying communities to improve the accuracy of GIS data.

He has been actively involved in the advancement of GIS in Illinois throughout his career. In 1997 Bill was appointed by Governor Edgar to the Illinois Geographic Information Council. Recently he has been teaming with his colleagues in the Chicago metropolitan area counties to develop region wide GIS standards to promote data sharing, and working on the Illinois Statewide GIS Initiative to create a GIS Strategic Plan.

Bill will continue to promote ILGISA as a vital means of networking GIS professionals throughout the State and developing data and system standards.



### RICH SCHULTZ, Ph.D., C.P.G.

has been employed with Elmhurst College first as an adjunct faculty in 2000, then as a full-time faculty in the Department of Geography and Geosciences since 2004. Prior to his career in academia, he was employed, beginning in 1991, as an environmental project manager and geochemist with several

engineering and consulting firms in the greater metropolitan Chicago area. His current role at Elmhurst College is Coordinator of the Elmhurst College GIS Certificate Program while he maintains his faculty rank teaching courses in GIS, physical geography, and introductory meteorology.

Following his Ph.D. in environmental geochemistry from the University of Cincinnati in 1991, a M.S. in geology from Wichita State in 1988, and a B.S. in geology from Illinois State University in 1985, Rich's professional career has seen experience in environmental project management for large corporate, government, and small private clients assisting them with everything from budget issues to sampling plans and health and safety considerations as well as mapping of contaminant plumes and acting as a liaison to regulatory agencies. He is a certified professional geologist (C.P.G.) in the state of Illinois and with the American Institute of Professional Geologists on a national basis.

Recently, he has helped institute the GIS minor at Elmhurst College and is currently planning a major in GISciences at Elmhurst College within the Department of Geography and Geosciences as part of a curriculum enhancement project.

He has been an ILGISA member since 2004 and served on the Fall Conference Planning Committee in 2007 and 2008. Two of his previous students have been named Outstanding GIS Students by ILGISA in the past several years. Rich is excited about the growth of GIS in the State of Illinois and surrounding states and looks forward to building on this existing GIS foundation that ILGISA has established. His principle goal, as an educator, is to connect GIS professionals with GIS students for the purpose of establishing internships and relationships that benefit both employers and students.

Learning about spatial concepts can benefit everyone in all occupations. He hopes to help the GIS community further expand their spatial knowledge and firmly believes that ILGISA has, and will continue, to provide a critical service to our state as the primary platform for exchange of ideas and education amongst peers in our field.

*(Mapping cont. from page 1)*

**What kinds of questions do you receive that show people's misconceptions about your role or the K-12 program at ESRI?**

There are several that come quickly to mind:

(1) "You do GIS? Cool! I have one of those in my car. I love having it just tell me the directions."

(2) "Can you teach me GIS? I don't have any software, and I know I'm supposed to have some data but I'm not sure where to get it, and I'm not too techie, but I want to teach my students, and I have all afternoon to learn how to do everything."

(3) "You do geography? So what do you do after you know all the states and capitals?"

**How has the K12 program grown beyond your expectations over the past 15 years?**

When I started, I thought I would have a job for about 4 years, after which it would just have swept thru the schools. The biggest unexpected discovery was how hard it is to bring change into classrooms; it seems easier to move a cemetery. The most delightful discovery was the way kids in out-of-school programs like 4-H just devour GIS, pick it up in a heartbeat, and want to do more and more powerful projects.

**Tell us about some Illinois programs that may not be receiving the attention they deserve.**

Ed and Nancy Gorny, classroom teachers who became ESRI business partners and do trainings as "GIS2GPS.com", do a lot of intros across the state. They are getting teachers to understand what's possible, and helping them bring it to the kids.

**How can you see organizations like ILGISA contributing to a GIS**

**professional's lifelong learning path beyond what we're doing right now (conference workshops/sessions, web page, newsletter, etc).**

Organizations play a critical role in helping people learn about opportunities, network, and get inspired to look beyond the local and familiar. With as many "layers of complexity" as GIS has, people can easily lose track of the many things that they should be thinking about. It's important to have new info, fresh ideas, exposure to new trends and opportunities. Information, inspiration, and connection are the critical things ILGISA can provide. This includes outreach to the broader community, like the Education Program.

**What routes would you recommend the newly formed ILGISA Education Committee take in expanding educational opportunities and skills of current and future GIS professionals-what do you see as high impact/high benefit areas that need attention and funding?**

Heh! Great minds think alike! The Education Committee is a terrific start! You need to work on galvanizing teachers and school counselors to attend, and even to bring kids to see the booths. The big thing for communities today is ensuring that they stay alive, and have things that young people can do for jobs. Helping communities understand the power of GIS for economic development, and helping kids understand the power of GIS for employment, these are crucial opportunities. It would be great if ILGISA could have a "Teach-In" for teachers and administrators around the state. The program runs The Teacher Conference, which ILGISA has supported as a part of its conference, allowing teachers to get some training from GIS2GPS.com, is great and needs to be supported and advertised!!

**Your closing words were "be indispensable to your organization". Can**

**the pursuit of being indispensable coexist with the pursuit of empowering non-GIS professionals to use GIS services and products? Do we lose being indispensable if we teach others how to serve themselves?**

People are indispensable even when they teach others. People who are insatiable learners will have lots of opportunities coming at them. Since people do not learn at the same pace, or with the same background, there are ALWAYS going to be opportunities for people who know how to integrate, solve problems, and communicate. Helping colleagues and others -- paying it forward -- brings more and more opportunities. The amount that there is to know is growing far faster than we can manage, so it is as important to know "how to decide what to learn about" as it is learning about the thing being studied.

**You mentioned several books that have influenced you (Future Shock, The World is Flat), what book are you reading now or what book are you looking forward to reading?**

I'm actually a s-l-o-w reader. I'm working my way (on my PocketPC) thru the book "Team of Rivals", which is about Abe Lincoln and his modus operandi, and what it meant when he surrounded himself with people who had diverse views about everything. I read more manuals, digital docs, and web articles than books. But I also love reading about the underwater world.

**What is the strangest thing you have seen while SCUBA diving?**

Last spring, I was snorkeling in Belize, away off on a reef by myself, and had an 8-foot manatee swim right in front of me; looked like a VW bus. It was really thrilling, as much as the 25-foot whale shark I swam with briefly last winter. Our oceans and the life within them are stunningly fragile, and we need to understand them better and take better care of them if we ourselves are to survive.



A fundamental part of this initiative is the adoption of routine strategic and business planning activities that include all of the stakeholder communities. Coordinated GIS activities on a statewide basis will help eliminate waste and improve efficiency in government. Agencies at all levels of government need to coordinate with other stakeholders to keep from duplicating geographic data and systems at taxpayers' expense. Those stakeholders include non-profit organizations, academia, business and utilities. The "right" solutions will vary state-by-state and they are created through the development of effective strategic and business plans.

The NSDI Cooperative Agreements Program (CAP) is an annual program to assist the geospatial data community through funding and other resources in implementing the components of the NSDI. This program is open to state, local and tribal governments, academia, commercial, and non-profit organizations. This program provides small seed grants to initiate sustainable on-going NSDI implementations. The program emphasizes partnerships, collaboration and the leveraging of geospatial resources in achieving its goals.

The State of Illinois was awarded one of the \$50,000 2007 NSDI CAP Grants for Category 3: Fifty States Initiative. The project goals were to develop and implement statewide strategic and business plans to facilitate the coordination of programs, policies, technologies, and resources that enable the coordination, collection, documentation,

discovery, distribution, exchange and maintenance of geospatial information in support of the NSDI and the objectives of the Fifty States Initiative Action Plan.

One of Illinois' first steps in the process was to contract with the Center for Governmental Studies (CGS) located at Northern Illinois University (NIU) to: facilitate upcoming stakeholder meetings, document meetings, post material, and help write the GIS strategic and business plans.

To start the process of gathering input from geospatial stakeholders from across the state, a meeting was held on July 25, 2007 in Champaign, Illinois with approximately 150 attendees. During the meeting participants were asked: "As Illinois' GIS Stakeholders, what issues and activities do you think need to be addressed for statewide GIS coordination?" For more details about this meeting and the responses, please visit: <http://www.ilgiscentral.org>.

Following the meeting in Champaign, a GIS Strategic Planning Committee (GISSPC) was formed to create a stakeholder group that included academia, private business, nonprofits, and local, county, state and federal levels of government. This committee was charged with working through the facilitated strategic planning process and structuring the GIS strategic and business plans. To accomplish their goals, this committee met on three separate occasions for one-day facilitated workshops.

The Fifty States Initiative is a partnership between the National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC) and the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC). It is designed to bring all public and private stakeholders together in statewide GIS coordination bodies that help to form effective partnerships and lasting relationships.

### **August 2007: Workshop #1 – Visioning, Internal & External Environment**

At the first meeting the group developed the following draft vision statement:

"The Illinois Statewide GIS Initiative will provide GIS leadership, coordination and services to public and private entities that serve the citizens of Illinois."

Additionally, this group was asked to review internal and external factors present in the environment that could potentially impact the success of a statewide GIS entity. Participants were also asked to identify what constraints and practical difficulties were likely to be encountered, or would make it difficult, to achieve the desired future state.

### **October 2007, Workshop #2 - Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Challenges (SWOC)**

This workshop used an exercise that is a classical component of a strategic planning process, a SWOC analysis. SWOC analysis asks participants to identify/recognize the initiative's strengths and weaknesses. It also asks participants to think about the external opportunities and challenges that might impact on the success of the initiative.

*(Continued on page 10)*



A question might be asked; "Is my land or a piece of land that I am interested in a FloodPlain?"

To answer that question, I have created a model in ArcGIS Desktop. The model uses a total of three layers; a point layer for addresses, a polygon layer for parcels, and a polygon layer for the FloodPlain.

The user enters the address for the property of interest. Based on the Selected Address, the model extracts the parcel that the address resides in and returns the Selected Parcel. The model then uses a condition to determine if the FloodPlain is in the selected parcel. The parcel will be outlined with a selection outline and if the parcel is in a FloodPlain, the area that is affected will be displayed within the parcel; completely, partially, or not at all.

The FloodPlain Checker is completely documented and is available for download on ESRI's site at:

<http://arcscripts.esri.com/details.asp?dbid=15876>

*Chris Sergent  
Systems Analyst  
City of Decatur*

## THE GISP CERTIFICATION

Doctors, lawyers, surveyors, civil engineers... What do these professions have in common?

In most states members of these occupations are required by state licensing boards to periodically renew their licenses by obtaining certification of their professional abilities. This certification is designed to protect the public by assuring that these professionals are well versed in the latest standards and procedures of their respective fields. Recertification for these professions is achieved primarily by obtaining continuing educational units, or CEU's.

While not mandatory for GIS professionals working in Illinois, certification for GIS practitioners is available on a voluntary basis through the GIS Certification Institute (GISCI). GISCI is an independent, non-profit, private organization that provides GIS professional certification upon the submittal and acceptance of documentation that proves that a GIS practitioner has:

- Achieved a high level of GIS related education.
- Advanced his or her professional development through continuing education, GIS conference / workshop attendance, and professional experience.
- Made substantial contributions to the GIS profession such as participating in GIS conferences and workshops, the publishing of professional papers, and active participation in GIS professional organizations.
- Demonstrated his or her understanding of a code of ethics required for their performance as a GIS professional.

The Board of Directors of GISCI themselves are highly regarded GIS professionals, holding top level positions in organizations such as the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (URISA), the National States

Geographic Information Council (NS-GIC), the American Association of Geographers (AAG), and the University Consortium of Geographic Information Science (UCGIS).

Applicants certified by the GISCI are designated as GISP's or GIS Professionals. As of January 2009, worldwide there were 2,886 GISP's certified by the GISCI. The majority of GISP's are from the United States and Canada. Of the total number of GISP's, 75 are from the State of Illinois. Out of the nearly 700 members of ILGISA, only 47 are certified as GISP's, which indicates we have great potential in the future professional certification of our membership.

GISP certification by the GISCI is in effect for a period of five years. At the end of the five year period the GISP must recertify, again documenting their achievements in education, professional development and experience, and contributions to others.

There are many benefits to a GIS practitioner obtaining the GISP designation. A GISP not only receives accreditation for his or her past professional experience and accomplishments, but also establishes a framework for their career path for the next five years.

As someone who has recently obtained the GISP certification, I can attest to the satisfaction of reviewing the work of my career and giving thoughtful consideration to my future professional development.

I would highly recommend that all members of ILGISA consider obtaining and maintaining your GISP certification. The GISP designation in itself is not a means to an end, but a structure that we can utilize to further our own personal development in service to our profession and the people we serve.

## GISP CERTIFICATION LIST IN ILLINOIS

FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	JOB TITLE	CO NAME	CITY
Mazher	Ahmed	GIS Technologies CAD Specialist	Kane County	Geneva
Kingsley	Allan	GIS Manager	Illinois State Water Survey	Champaign
Scott	Anderson	GIS Specialist / Quality Assurance Team Supervisor		Urbana
Joye	Baker	GIS/Floodplain Specialist	Adams County	Quincy
Kenneth	Baker	Township MFT Engineer/ GIS Coordinator	McHenry County	Woodstock
Chad	Bergeson	GIS Solutions & Support Manager	The Sidwell Company	St. Charles
Michael	Bieberitz	GIS Developer	HNTB	Chicago
Shawn	Blobaum	Vice President of Operations	Bruce Harris & Associates Inc	Waterman
Keith	Caldwell	GIS Applications Supervisor	Lake County	Waukegan
Lorraine	Chidester	GIS Technologies Office Mgr	Kane County	Geneva
Kent	Cook	GIS Coordinator	State of Illinois	Springfield
Leeroy	Cotton	GIS Analyst	City of Batavia	Chicago
Eric	Creighton	GIS Analyst	City of St Charles	Saint Charles
Steven	Damolaris	GIS Planner	City of Elgin	Elgin
Scott	Dragoo	GIS Project Manager	The Sidwell Company	St. Charles
William	Faedtke	Manager of GIS	DuPage County	Wheaton
Brian	Fee	GIS Analyst	Patrick Engineering	Chicago
Peter	Ferretti	GIS Analyst	Vernon Hills	Vernon Hills
Jennifer	Gandy	GIS Coordinator	Village of Niles	Niles
Nicole	Gattuso	GIS Manager	McHenry County	Woodstock
Adam	Gibson	Application Support Specialist	Chicago	Chicago
Dennis	Gilbertson	GIS Manager	Village of Lisle	Lisle
Michael	Grasso	GIS Manager	CDM - Camp Dresser & McKee Inc.	Chicago
Hal	Greenwood	GIS Coordinator	City of Wheaton	Wheaton
Ryon	Gross	Business Development Manager	Quincy	Quincy
Matthew	Hanks	GIS Specialist	SAIC	Swansea
Khalid	Hasan	Director of Regional GIS	Mc Lean County	Bloomington
William	Jackson	GIS Coordinator	Mc Lean County	Bloomington
John	Jiang	Director of IS	Metro Chicago Information Center	Chicago
Greg	Johnson	GIS Support Specialist	Will County	Joliet
George	Katsambas	GIS Supervisor	Pace Suburban Bus	Arlington Heights
Mark	Kemper	GIS Project Management	The Sidwell Company	St Charles
Soomee	Kong	GIS Analyst	The Sidwell Company	St. Charles
Krista	Koster	GIS Coordinator	Rogina and Associates	Oswego
Janusz	Kwiatkowski	GIS Manager	Village of Arlington Heights	Arlington Heights
Jeffrey	Laramy	GIS Analyst	Lake County	Libertyville
Brent	Mainzinger	Vice President of Business Development	The Sidwell Company	St Charles

## ILLINOIS GIS NOTES

FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	JOB TITLE	CO NAME	CITY
Robert	Marros	GIS Developer/Analyst	HNTB	Chicago
Richard	Marshall	President	O Fallon	
Carmen	Maso'	Environmental Protection Specialist/GIS Analyst		Chicago
Curtis	McBride	GIS Coordinator	Baxter & Woodman	Saint Charles
Shane	McDermott	President	Mid-West GIS Inc	Quincy
Timothy	Mescher	GIS Mapping Coordinator	Kane County	Geneva
Ramakrishna	Mulukutla	Senior Development Manager	GEODecisions, Inc.	Normal
Jay	Nemeth	GIS Projects Manager	Engineering Enterprises	Sugar Grove
Thomas	Nicoski	GIS Technologies Director	Kane County	Geneva
Keith	Nightlinger	GIS Manager	City of St Charles	Saint Charles
Troy	Olson	Engineering Technician	City of Bloomington	Normal
Perla	Peralta	Mapping, Research and Data Collection	Chicago	Chicago
Kenneth	Prchal	Rich Content Integration Engineer	NAVTEQ	Chicago
Edward	Prescott	GIS / GPS Coordinator	State of Illinois	Springfield
Thomas	Ricker	Director of Project Management	The Sidwell Company	Saint Charles
Chandrima	Roy	Research Associate	Northern Illinois University	Dekalb
Lisa	Sagami	Senior Project Engineer	Consoer Townsend Evirodyne Engineers Inc	Chicago
Peter	Schoenfield	Principal GIS Analyst	Lake County	Waukegan
Mehul	Shah	GIS Applications Developer	Chicago	Chicago
Jeff	Siegel	Technology Services Director	HNTB	Chicago
Delbert	Skimerhorn	Planner / GIS Specialist	Kankakee County	Kankakee
Vincent	Smith	GIS/Land Analyst	City of Aurora	Aurora
Stephen	Sochotsky	GIS Specialist	Town of Normal	Normal
Lori	Sommers	Assistant Village Planner	Village of Oak Park	Oak Park
Scott	Stocking	GIS Manager	Patrick Engineering	Chicago
Michael	Tasker	CADD-GIS Coordinator	Village of Glenview	Glenview
Joseph	Tauer	GIS Coordinator/Planner	Oak Lawn	Oak Lawn
Mark	Toalson	GIS Manager	Champaign County	Urbana
Eric	Venden	GIS Coordinator	Village of Gurnee	Gurnee
Jason	Verachtert	GIS Analyst	Kane County	Geneva
Andrew	Vitale	Senior GIS Coordinator	Village of Niles	Niles
Vladimir	Vojvodic	Sr GIS Specialist	Integrays	Chicago
Alan	Waddilove	GIS Consultant	Lombard	Lombard
Alfred	Weiss	GIS Specialist / GIS Faculty	Village of Hoffman Estates	Hoffman Estates
Ryan	Williams	GIS Analyst	Lake County	Libertyville
Micah	Williamson	GIS Manager	Peoria County	Peoria
Philip	Young	Research Associate, Director	Northern Illinois University	Dekalb
Xun	Zhang	GIS Technical Manager	Bruce Harris & Associates Inc	Batavia



*(Awards continued from page 1)*

A poster about the project presented by Rob and others at the ESRI Users conference won many awards. This project eventually evolved into the County Assistance Project under Rob's guidance and seven additional counties were evaluated. Rob has seen the use of GIS at the ISGS grow and develop from a tool used by a handful of GIS specialists on specific projects to a tool that is used in nearly every project by a wide-range of users.

One of Rob's most important contributions to GIS in Illinois is the development of the Illinois Natural Resources Geospatial Data Clearinghouse. While he quickly gives credit to Dan Nelson and Sheena Beaverson, "who did most of the hard work", he has clearly enjoyed the "group effort of the entire project" and his role as "shameless promoter of the Clearinghouse." It retains distinction as the ISGS's largest volume download portal on our Web site and has served up dozens of Terabytes of data.

Rob has been very active in GIS associations including the Midwest/Great Lakes ArcInfo User Group, the Illinois GIS Association, the National States Geographic Information Council, and the USGS Digital Mapping Techniques workgroups. Rob has served on the ILGISA Board of Directors including a term as President. Rob has chaired, co-chaired, or assisted with the organization of three regional ArcInfo User Conferences, many ILGISA conferences and one Digital Mapping Techniques conference. Rob has given many presentations, posters, and workshops at these meetings, but many will remember him for his numerous "Introduction to GIS" workshops where he has instructed hundreds of neophyte users in the basics of GIS.

### Service Award

The ILGISA Service Award is presented to an individual or organization, which has provided exemplary professional service or support to the GIS Commu-



nity. No more than three such awards are presented each year. This year's recipient is

**Northeastern Illinois County GIS Cooperative Program** conducted by the following County representatives:

#### **William J. Faedtke**

Manager of Geographic Info Systems  
DuPage County Information  
Technology Department  
421 N. County Farm Road  
Wheaton, IL 60187

#### **Nicole Gattuso**

GIS Manager - McHenry County 220  
2200 N Seminary Ave Woodstock, IL 60098

#### **Keith Caldwell**

Interim Manager, GIS Division  
Lake County Department of  
Information & Technology  
18 N County St Waukegan, IL 60085

#### **Alan Hobscheid**

GIS Coordinator  
Cook County Department  
of Office Technology  
69 West Washington Street, Room 2700  
Chicago, Illinois 60602

#### **Thomas Nicoski**

GIS Director  
Kane County GIS Technologies Department  
719 S Batavia Ave, Bldg C  
Geneva, IL 60134

Over the past 5 years, these five individuals have been working closely together to develop common standards for their shared GIS data. Mr. Faedtke, Ms. Gattuso, Mr. Hobscheid, and Mr. Nicoski originally met at DuPage County in 2004 with Richard Hilton of Lake County and Mike Shay of Will County to share experiences and discuss future collaboration. Beginning in 2005, the county managers arranged biannual meetings, including an annual meeting with technical staff, and completed their first collaboration project, 2005 Chicagoland Orthophotography project.

The process for developing data standards started in 2006. Mr. Caldwell, ILGISA board member, worked closely with the county managers and ILGISA in setting up a linked website where the program can communicate their information to share with other Illinois agencies. Mr. Caldwell is now continuing in Mr. Hilton's role as Lake County's primary contact. This spring will culminate with the publication of initial standards for cadastral, address and transportation datasets. These individuals have drawn the attention of ILGISA members in their sessions at the conferences and reviewing the materials on the website:

<http://gis2.co.lake.il.us/ilgisa/default.htm>.

## THE NEW ILGISA EDUCATION COMMITTEE

ILGISA has recently established an Ad Hoc Education Committee with the following mission: ““To create a sustainable professional connection for the purpose of establishing relationships between students, educators, and the professional GIS community to foster educational and professional opportunities.” Dr. Rich Schultz, Elmhurst College, will chair the committee. Several initiatives have been discussed already including: the availability of discussion boards on the new ILGISA website to allow for discussion between GIS practitioners and students, the posting on the ILGISA website of internships, job shadowing opportunities, and other activities for students entering the GIS workforce, the potential for offering more frequent workshops for ILGISA members, establishment of an ILGISA Endowed Scholarship Fund (announced at the Fall ILGISA Conference), the possibility of publishing student research, and continuing development of the Stu-

dent Paper and Poster Sessions at ILGISA conferences. The overall intent of this committee is to establish connections between GIS practitioners and the educational community. Please contact Rich Schultz at [richs@elmhurst.edu](mailto:richs@elmhurst.edu) if you are interested in being involved with the committee.

(50 States continued from page 5)

### November 2007, Workshop #3 – Issues, Goals, and Objectives

This last workshop was used to identify the strategic issues that had to be addressed in order to achieve the vision. Then goals and objectives were developed to address each issue. The strategic planning committee identified the strategic issues. Sub-groups of the overall planning committee were then formed to develop the goals and objectives for the strategic plan.

### August 2008, Final Stakeholder Meeting

Sub-groups of the GISSPC continued to meet as they worked on different sections of the strategic plan. Once a draft of the strategic plan had been developed, listening sessions were held throughout the state to obtain feedback. A final stakeholder’s meeting was held in Champaign, Illinois on August 13, 2008 to release the Strategic Plan for public viewing. A digital copy can be viewed at the initiative web site: <http://www.ilgiscentral.org>. This final meeting was also used to solicit volunteers to finish work on the Business Plan. These two plans will be presented to the FGDC to complete the NSDI CAP Grant process.

### What Can You Do?

Delivery of the Strategic and Business Plan to the FGDC does not signal the end of this effort. Additional work needs to be done to carry out the goals and objectives identified by the GISSPC and attendees at the stakeholder meetings. This initiative is focused upon the strengthening of the GIS community within Illinois! Here are some of the steps that individuals can pursue:

- Sign up for a work group at <http://www.ilgiscentral.org>,
- Add a link to <http://www.ilgiscentral.org> in your email,
- Sign up for the email list at <http://www.ilgiscentral.org>,
- Be prepared to talk about GIS and its usefulness when presented with an opportunity,
- Participate in GIS day

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## WEBINAR ON SPATIAL DATA ARCHIVING HELD

On June 10, 2008, eight people gathered at the Illinois State Library to participate in a webinar on spatial data archiving offered by the National Archives and Records Administration. The webinar was co-sponsored by the Cartographic Users Advisory Council, an organization of map and data librarians who represent and advocate for users of spatial information (maps and data) in libraries, and the Open Geospatial Consortium.

Webinar participants heard presentations on JPEG 2000 by Robert Buckley, of the Xerox Innovation Group, and GeoPDF by Bruce Boman, of the U.S. Geological Survey. Several other academic institutions from Massachusetts to California also offered GIS users the opportunity to participate in the webinar.

The U.S. Geological Survey has been digitizing and/or producing geology-related digital maps and providing access to them through the National Atlas web site (<http://www.nationalatlas.gov>), the National Geologic Map Database web site (<http://ngmdb.usgs.gov/>), their Publications Warehouse (<http://pubs.er.usgs.gov/>) and the Map Locator, which is available on the USGS Store web site ([http://store.usgs.gov/b2c\\_usgs/b2c/start.do](http://store.usgs.gov/b2c_usgs/b2c/start.do)). Their maps are being distributed in several formats, including GeoTIFF, PDF and GeoPDF.

The USGS is in the process of moving to a print on demand system so that they would not have to print and store little-used topographic and geologic maps. They are considering GeoPDF as a distribution format because many people are already familiar with the PDF format; GeoPDF documents can be readily used with the Adobe 9 browser with a toolbar that can be downloaded for free. It also has other advantages: it can be used by printers to print maps on demand, and it is geospatially enabled, so the information can be projected, annotated and incorporated into full geographic information systems.

One disadvantage is that the GeoPDF is a proprietary format; to produce GeoPDF documents or use them in geographic information systems, users must purchase Map2PDF software from TerraGo Technologies. This means that organizations that want to use the USGS' digital maps with a GIS will face an added expense, because they will have to purchase additional software to use GeoPDF.

JPEG2000 is an image compression format that allows users to progressively zoom in on digitized objects so that a larger part of the image can be viewed. JPEG 2000 is similar to the Mr. SID compression technology that is used in the Historic Maps Online site at the University of Illinois (<http://images.library.uiuc.edu/projects/maps/>). Several digital map sites, such as the Library of Congress' Geography & Maps Division's American Memory map collection (<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/gmdhtml/gmdhome.html>) and the David Rumsey Collection (<http://www.davidrumsey.com>) are distributing scanned maps in JPEG 2000 format.

Some of the Library of Congress' early digital maps are being delivered in Mr.SID format, but the Library is no longer creating new items in this format.] Using JPEG2000 and Mr.SID, users can zoom in on a particular area of a digital map via the Internet. As the user zooms in to the area, the data for that area of interest is delivered to the user. There are several advantages of JPEG 2000, including lossless compression

(data isn't discarded when a file is opened, edited and saved). JPEG2000 also supports a wider color range and can include embedded metadata (XML metadata can be associated with a JPEG2000 image). JPEG2000 images can also be used with geographic information systems using a free plug-in.

The presentations at the webinar raised a number of issues that should be of particular interest to both librarians and GIS users. Librarians and archivists have been concerned about the potential loss of digital information in all forms, including GIS data, for many years. Many computer users can recite a variety of storage formats that they have seen or used over the years (Do you remember punch cards? How about 8 1/2", 5 1/4", and 3 1/2" floppies?).



Some GIS users also remember coverages (a data format that preceded Shapefiles). There are many ways of archiving GIS information, including taking a data snapshots (saving a copy of data files at discrete intervals) and date coding (adding one or more fields to a data set made up of multiple records to identify when data was added or changed. Unfortunately, most GIS

*(continued on page 17)*

## STATUS OF PUBLIC SECTOR GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS IN ILLINOIS

Donald Luman, Illinois State Geological Survey

With funding made possible through a USGS State Assistance Grant to the Illinois State Geological Survey (ISGS), a GIS survey of Illinois public sector agencies and departments was conducted during the six-week period from mid-December 2007 through January 2008. To ensure the statistical validity of the results, a small focus group of GIS professionals worked closely over a period of several months with personnel at the Northern Illinois University Public Opinion Laboratory (POL) through all stages of the survey.

The primary purposes of the survey were both to assess the current GIS status of public sector agencies and departments, and measure the attitudes and perceptions of governmental GIS users and non-GIS users across the state. The GIS survey project was carried out exclusively through email invitations with an accompanying online questionnaire developed by the POL. The email address contact list was developed by the focus group and included 1,439 individuals, representing all governmental sectors within the state. A total of 749 respondents either completed all or a majority of the survey (699) or indicated that they were not interested in participating (50), resulting in an overall response rate of 52 percent. Slightly over two-thirds of the respondents identified their individual job position as GIS Staff (20.9 percent), GIS Manager (19.2 percent), Department/Assistant Department Head (19.0 percent), or City Manager (8.2 percent).

Governmental representation as specified by the survey respondents is summarized in Table 1. Municipalities collectively accounted for nearly 41 percent of all respondents, and individuals from county organizations comprised one-fourth of all respondents. Analysis of ZIP Codes contained in the questionnaires received showed individuals representing agencies and departments from 96 of Illinois' 102 counties participated, underscoring the statewide nature of the GIS survey.

### Findings

The GIS survey collected a large amount of tabular and statistical information, which was compiled into a set of four related documents. These are available online as download-

**Table 1 - Composition of GIS Survey Respondents**

Government Sector (in decreasing order)	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
County	25.1	25.1
College / University	12.5	37.6
Municipality, 0-15,000	11.0	48.6
Municipality 15,000-30,000	11.0	59.7
Municipality, 30,000-60,000	10.9	70.6
Municipality, 30,000-60,000	7.7	89.1
State	10.8	81.3
Regional Planning Commission/ Council	3.6	92.7
Federal	3.0	95.7
Other	2.9	98.6
Non-Profit Organization	1.4	100.0

able PDFs at the Illinois GIS Central website <<http://www.ilgiscentral.org>> (select "2007 GIS Survey"). For the purpose of this article, some of the more salient findings of the survey will be presented.

### GIS Usage in Illinois

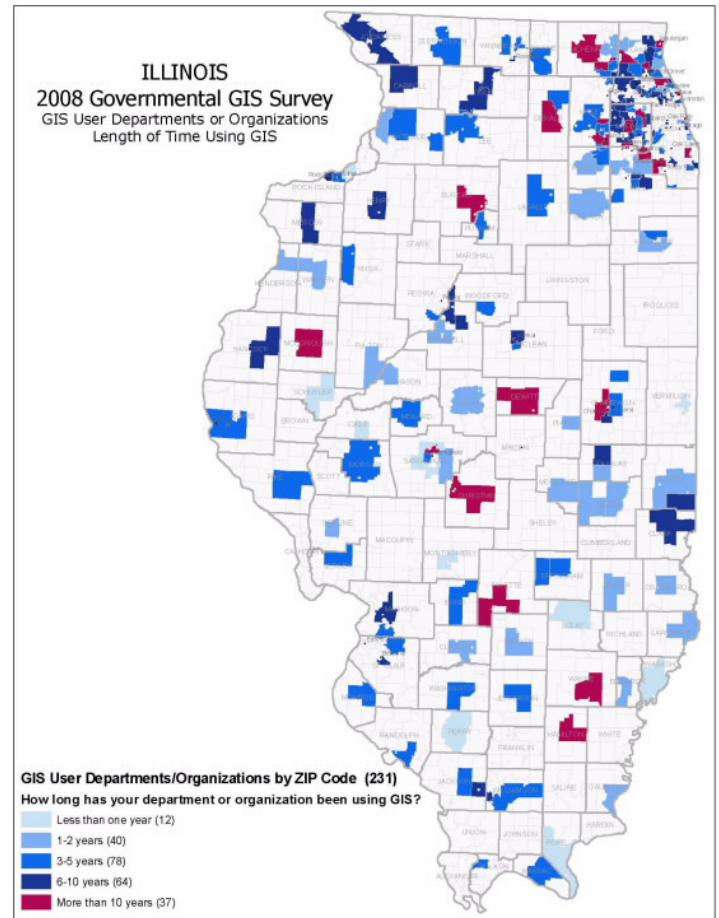
Nearly 75 percent of all respondents reported they personally use GIS frequently or occasionally in their workplace, and slightly over 80 percent of respondents indicated their department or organization uses GIS (Tables 2-3). Furthermore, what is interesting to note is that a significant percentage of departments/ organizations (22.6) have more than ten years of experience using GIS, and nearly two-thirds (66.5 percent) of all departments/organizations report having at least three years of experience. This is convincing evidence of the maturity of GIS in Illinois.

The spatial distribution of this experience is also noteworthy. Not surprisingly, the metropolitan Chicago region contains the largest concentration of GIS departments/organizations with six or more years of experience (Map 1). However, GIS departments/organizations with more than three years of experience are well represented across the remainder of the state.

**Table 2 - Do you personally use GIS in your work?**

Do you personally use GIS in your work?	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes, frequently	52.0	52.0
Yes, occasionally	22.2	74.2
No, but it would be useful to my work	11.9	86.1
No	13.9	100.0

Table 3 - How long has your department or Organization been using GIS?	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Less than one year	3.1	3.1
1-2 years	11.5	14.6
3-5 years	21.5	36.1
6-10 years	21.4	57.5
More than 10 years	22.6	80.1
Not currently, but plan to implement GIS sometime beyond the next year	2.6	86.9
Not using GIS	8.9	95.8
Don't know	4.2	100.0



Map 1. GIS Organizational Use in Illinois<sup>4</sup>

Table 4 - What type of Internet access is available in your department or organization?	GIS User Percent	Non-user Percent
High Speed (cable, DSL, wireless, etc.)	57.1	65.3
Leased line (T1, T3, frame relay, etc.)	39.5	32.3
Dial-up	0.0	0.8
Don't know	2.2	1.6
Other	1.2	0.0

While only just over 15 percent of all respondents indicated no GIS staff positions were available in their department or organization, a significant percentage (32.7) of the departmental staff have learned to use the GIS software, which may be how many offices are able to perform their necessary GIS work tasks. The table also demonstrates the important role of GIS interns in supplementing departmental staff.

Although a relatively low percentage of departments and organizations indicate they have no GIS staff, the spatial dimension of this statistic is more worrisome. Map 2 indicates

### Defining Users and non-Users of GIS

Based upon answers to key questions, respondents were broadly categorized as either GIS users or non-users. Those individuals who indicated they personally use GIS or their department/organization utilizes GIS were considered GIS users, accounting for 81.3 percent of the respondents. Likewise, individuals who indicated they and their department/organization did not utilize GIS were considered as non-users, which accounted for 18.1 percent of respondents. A small percentage of respondents did not answer one of more of the key questions. The distinction between GIS user and non-user was considered fundamental for the purpose of the survey and was used to segregate much of the questionnaire responses.

### Internet Access in the Workplace

Nearly all of the respondents, both GIS users and GIS non-users, reported either high speed or leased line Internet connection is available within their respective department or organization (Table 4). In addition, a high percentage of GIS users (74.3), and an even higher percentage of GIS non-users (90.2) reported that an Internet-based website is maintained by their department or organization. This demonstrates that there exists ample access across the state to departmental and external websites providing geospatial data and GIS information.

### GIS Staffing

All respondents classified as GIS users were asked to inventory relevant staffing positions within their respective department or organization. Of the 562 individuals who answered this question, more than half (56.8 percent) reported having one or more full-time GIS positions, and nearly ten percent (9.3) of GIS departments and organizations maintained at least one or more part-time GIS staff members (Table 5).

large sectors of the state where GIS user departments or organizations have no GIS staff, some areas encompassing several contiguous counties. Generally, these counties have large rural populations with a majority of the area devoted to agricultural land uses. However, there is a demonstrated need for GIS staffing in these rural counties to comply with mandated programs such as farmland assessments (e.g., IDOR Bulletin 810), crop compliance (e.g., USDA-FSA Annual Compliance), and related programs dependent upon the development, processing, and access to geospatial data.

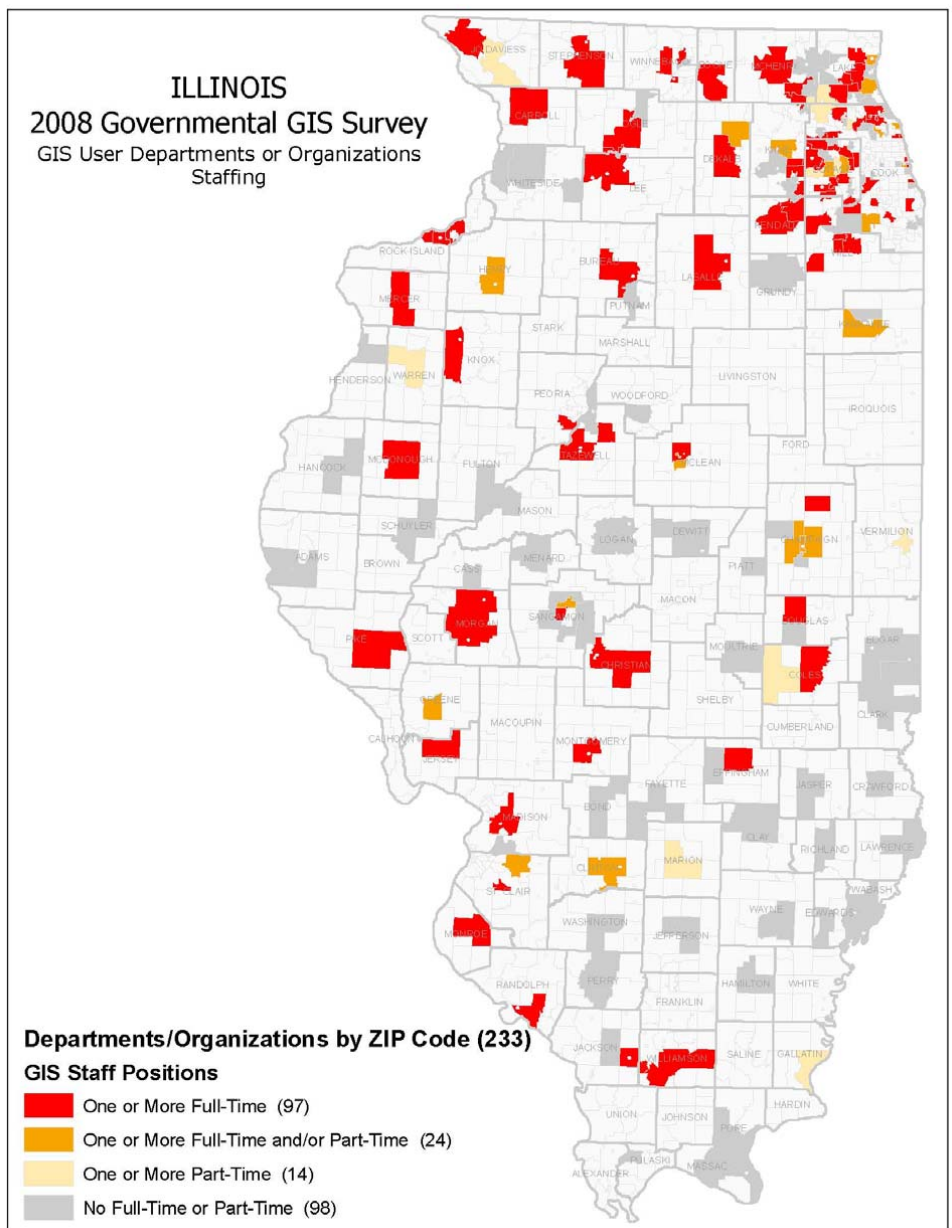
Table 5 - Staffing in GIS User Departments and Organizations	Selection (multiple selections possible)		Total # of Respondents
	Count	Percent	Count
One or more full-time GIS positions	319	56.8	562
One or more part-time GIS positions	52	9.3	562
One or more GIS interns	69	12.3	562
Regular staff has learned to use GIS software	184	32.7	562
Department uses consultant to develop GIS products	80	14.2	562
Staff - No GIS staff	86	15.3	562
Staff - Other	21	3.7	562

### Standards

GIS users were asked what metadata standard is being used in their department or organization. Of the nearly 550 GIS users who responded to this question, 41.9 percent reported utilizing some type of documentation, with FGDC as the predominant standard (Table 6). Included in the “Other” category were listed the ESRI metadata format, using the ESRI metadata editor to populate some FGDC fields, and ISO standards. Conversely, what seems a surprising statistic is that more than one-half (58.2 percent) of GIS users indicated they and/or their department or organization either do not currently employ any standard or do not know. The absence of any documentation standard can result in misunderstandings and possible misapplications of geospatial data, and is an impediment to access and distribution of the information.

### Broad Topics Concerning GIS

GIS users were asked to prioritize a set of eight selected topics which the focus group determined have broad significance regarding public sector GIS in Illinois, with ‘1st’ ranked highest in importance and ‘8th’ as least important. Nearly 500 GIS users responded to this question and the ranking is shown in Table 7. Funding and data sharing concerns were identified as the top three



Map 2. GIS Staffing in GIS Departments and Organizations.

<b>Table 6 - Are you using a standard for compiling metadata documentation regarding your GIS data?</b>	<b># of Respondents</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Cumulative Percent</b>
Yes, Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) standard	169	31.1	31.1
Yes, internal agency standard	47	8.7	39.8
Yes, library standard (MARC, Dublin CORE)	3	0.6	40.4
Yes, other	8	1.5	41.9
No	146	26.9	68.8
Don't know	170	31.3	100.0
Total	543	100.0	100.0

<b>Table 7 - GIS Users: Ranking of broad topics concerning GIS in Illinois.</b>	<b>1st %</b>	<b>2nd %</b>	<b>3rd %</b>	<b>4th %</b>	<b>5th %</b>	<b>6th %</b>	<b>7th %</b>	<b>8th %</b>
Communication among organizations	11.5	9.4	13.5	16.9	16.3	14.3	10.1	7.5
Coordination	9.5	9.8	14.1	18.0	15.4	14.7	11.3	6.6
Data resources and availability	16.1	16.7	13.5	13.3	14.0	10.2	10.5	5.7
Data sharing and distribution	16.3	22.7	16.9	11.2	10.3	10.7	7.9	5.1
Education and training	9.7	9.4	11.9	12.9	12.8	14.9	13.1	16.1
Funding	21.7	13.7	11.7	9.4	9.1	14.9	14.3	5.5
Legislative support	6.6	8.4	7.2	8.4	9.9	9.0	16.3	33.6
Standards	8.5	9.8	11.3	10.0	12.3	11.3	16.5	19.9
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

priorities, with coordination and communication occupying the 4th and 5th spots. It is worth noting that one-third of the public sector GIS users judged legislative support to be the least important among these eight broad concerns.

Table 7 shows small percentage differences separating some topics within the priority rankings, such as within the 6th ranking where four topics differ only by .6 of one percent, which brings into question the accuracy of respondents' perceptions. For comparison, a similar exercise was conducted at a July 25, 2007 statewide GIS stakeholder meeting, which was just several months prior to conducting the statewide online GIS survey. The 141 attendees were asked to rank ten issues and activities facing GIS in Illinois, similar to those used in this GIS survey. The attendees prioritized funding as highest in importance, with legislative support positioned ninth, mimicking the results of the online GIS survey. It is puzzling that the issues of communication among organizations, as well as education and training are indicated as mediocre in importance based upon information gathered from the online GIS survey and the stakeholder meeting.

## Geospatial Data Preferences

Both GIS users and GIS non-users were asked to prioritize the top five types of geospatial data they perceived as being most useful either personally or within

their department/organization (Table 8). Approximately 500 GIS users and 100 GIS non-users responded to this question. GIS users overwhelmingly ranked aerial photography/digital orthophotography first, and also marginally as their second choice. GIS non-users also prioritized aerial photography/digital orthophotography as their first choice. Roads data claimed the 3rd, 4th, and 5th (tied with boundaries) rankings by GIS users.

A cursory inspection of Table 8 shows that the geospatial data preferences for GIS users and GIS non-users differ. Perhaps the experiences gained from developing spatial data and conducting GIS applications is a key factor in explaining these differences. One preference that does seem to be shared is that natural resource data types (geology, land cover, soils, water, and wetlands) are perceived as lower, in some cases much lower in priority by both GIS users and GIS non-users.

Illinois GIS Association Users were asked where they derive information about GIS, and nearly 60 percent (57.9) of the respondents indicated ILGISA conferences, workshops, and newsletters were their primary resource. Table 9 lists additional sources in rank order, with Internet websites and colleagues following closely behind ILGISA. Currently, blogs and podcasts represented the least used methods. Some of the other sources listed by GIS user respondents included AUGI (ArcUsers of Greater Illinois), ESRI online training, MAPS-L (Maps and Air Photo Systems Forum, American Geographical Society Library), local GIS consortiums/user groups, and GIS consultants.

When asked about their involvement with ILGISA, more than one-half of GIS users report being current members and have attended at least one of ILGISA conference (Table 10). However, even though the Illinois GIS Association and its precursor, GIS in Illinois, have been in existence for nearly 18 years, almost one-third (31.5 percent) of the

<b>Table 8 - GIS Users: Ranking of most useful types of geospatial data</b>	1st User %	2nd User %	3rd User %	4th User %	5th User %	1st Non-user %	2nd Non-user %	3rd Non-user %	4th Non-user %	5th Non-user %
Aerial photography/ digital orthophotography	42.6	17.1	12.5	9.0	7.8	26.6	8.7	11.5	10.7	12.7
Elevation - contours, DEM, DTM, LiDAR, etc.	4.0	12.3	9.2	6.4	8.7	2.4	11.3	6.2	3.6	1.8
Geology - surficial, bedrock, aquifers, etc.	1.7	0.4	1.6	1.8	0.8	1.6	1.7	5.3	0	3.6
Jurisdictional boundaries - counties, municipalities, public land survey, etc.	6.7	11.1	12.0	11.8	12.2	18.5	15.7	8.0	5.4	5.5
Land Cover	1.5	2.1	3.5	3.0	2.3	0	1.7	0.9	0.9	0.9
Land User	4.8	7.7	11.4	8.6	9.7	11.3	14.8	13.3	15.2	10.9
Public lands - parks, forest preserves, etc.	0.8	2.7	1.4	3.0	3.3	3.2	0	2.7	3.6	2.7
Railroads	0	0.8	2.4	1.6	2.9	0.8	0	2.7	0	1.8
Roads	7.2	14.0	14.9	12.0	12.2	4.8	9.6	12.4	12.5	10.9
Soils	0.6	2.7	4.7	3.8	6.4	0	0.9	3.5	2.7	4.5
Structures	1.3	3.1	4.5	8.8	7.8	0	5.2	3.5	11.6	8.2
Tax Parcels	21.7	15.4	10.0	10.4	6.2	12.1	12.2	11.5	5.4	7.3
Water	1.1	1.7	2.4	6.2	5.4	3.2	4.3	4.4	4.5	3.6
Wetlands	0.4	0.6	2.5	3.6	4.1	0	3.5	1.8	3.6	7.3
Zoning	2.1	6.3	6.3	8.2	8.7	5.6	10.4	11.5	18.8	14.5
Other	3.6	2.1	0.8	1.8	1.6	9.7	0	0.9	1.8	3.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

<b>Table 9 - GIS Users: Where do you personally obtain information about GIS?</b>	Count	Percent	Total Respondents
Illinois GIS Association conferences, workshops, and newsletters	333	57.9	575
Internet websites	312	54.3	575
Magazines or newsletters	281	48.9	575
Vendor-based classes and conferences	234	40.7	575
Other professional associations	211	36.7	575
Specialty GIS conferences	145	25.2	575
College / University classes or workshops	122	21.2	575
Blogs	60	10.4	575
Podcasts	39	6.8	575
Other source	30	5.2	575

respondents indicated they are either not familiar or only have an awareness of ILGISA.

Table 9 shows that conferences, classes, and workshops are important methods to obtain GIS information. Both GIS users and GIS non-users were asked to indicate impediments to participation. Perhaps not surprising is that more than half of GIS users (54.1 percent) and more than one-third of GIS non-users (37.6 percent) selected budget restrictions as the greatest impediment (Table 11). A significant percentage of both groups indicated they were just too busy. A substantial list of other additional factors impeding participation were provided including, location of conferences; workshop and conference content (most are too basic) and conversely, generally too technical; class fees are costly; travel restric-



tions on number of in-state/out-of state attendees; uncertain how to use the information; what benefit the information is to the department; teaching schedules, as well as several other reasons.

These data indicate that there remains a significant, latent audience of GIS users and non-users in Illinois for which the Illinois GIS Association can continue to expand its educational and outreach opportunities.

## Conclusions

This project marked the first comprehensive, statewide survey of the status, perceptions, and attitudes regarding public sector geographic information systems technology in Illinois. A good deal of anecdotal information has been known and discussed about governmental GIS in Illinois, but little or no statistical data has heretofore been available. Statewide maps showing the county-level status of selected GIS variables have been produced, but a more inclusive survey at all governmental levels was deemed important to serve as a basis for better understanding the needs and desires of public sector GIS agencies and organizations.

While this GIS survey was successful in collecting a substantial amount of statistical information, it is nonetheless a snapshot of a single, brief time period in the continuing evolution of governmental GIS in Illinois. In order for this project to be entirely successful, updates to the statewide GIS survey should be conducted on a periodic basis to monitor trends on key issues of concern such as funding, data sharing, improvements in coordination and communication. In the absence of such information, it will be difficult to accurately evaluate the effectiveness of GIS strategic planning efforts, and more importantly, document critical needs to decision makers. This article is a synopsis of the GIS survey, and readers are encouraged to download the entire report narrative and tabular data in order to dig deeper into specific areas of interest.

	Percent
Not familiar with ILGISA	18.3
Aware of ILGISA, but don't know anything about it	13.2
Not a current member, but have attended at least one ILGISA conference	10.4
Current member; attended at least one ILGISA conference	53.9
Current member; have not attended an ILGISA conference	4.2
Total	100

	GIS Users			GIS Non-Users		
	Count	%	Total Respondents	Count	%	Total Respondents
Budget restrictions	304	54.1	562	47	37.6	125
Department or organization doesn't encourage or allow participation	19	3.4	562	9	7.2	125
No time, I'm too busy	235	41.8	562	65	52.0	125
No impediments, I'm just not interested	31	5.5	562	21	16.8	125
Other	62	11.0	562	15	12.0	125

*The author would like to acknowledge the valuable assistance and cooperation provided by the focus group members for this GIS survey project. They included Shelley Silch, USGS Geospatial Liaison for Illinois; Richard Hilton, Lake County GIS Manager (Ret.); Rob Krumm, Head (Ret.) ISGS Geospatial Analysis and Modeling Section; and Karen Schnite, POL Research Associate.*

### *(Webinar continued from page 11)*

users are not charged with data stewardship, and may not save data that might be used at a later time to evaluate or question a decision. CUAC librarians have raised the issue of data archiving during several of their meetings with Federal mapping agencies. One of their primary concerns is that geospatial data needs to be preserved and made available to users without any preconditions.

Ideally it should be openly accessible: available at all times, at little or no cost. The data format should, ideally, not be dependent on any partic-

ular software (in other words a neutral format that can be used by any GIS software program). The data should be able to be used in a GIS without purchasing additional software.

PowerPoint presentations from the webinar are posted on the CUAC web site: <http://www.cuac.wustl.edu/>.

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## ILGISA CELEBRATES ITS MEMBERS!

Did you know that in the late summer of 1994, the Illinois GIS Association (ILGISA) was incorporated as a non-for-profit association? As we enter this year, our 15th. Year of existence, ILGISA would like to begin our Crystal Celebration by celebrating our members!

### CRYSTAL MEMBERS

Celebrating 15 Years of Membership

Curtis Abert	* Richard Hilton	Karen Montgomery
Kingsley Allan	William Hinsman	John Moore
Dale Baumgartner	Alan Hobscheid	* Sheryl Oliver
Dennis Bomke	Mike Klingner	Gary Peterson
Pamela Brooks	Richard Knodel	* Donald Rich
Michael Bukolt	Gregory Koester	Kevin Rogers
Bob Burns	Ernst W. Kohn	Rima Roy
Keith Caldwell	Gary Kolba	Nina Savar
* James R. Carter	Gail A. Krmeneč	Scott Sorrel
Robert E. Church	Robert Krumm	Diane Szafoni
Mary Elliott	Steve Laffey	Thomas Thomey
William J. Faedtke	Michael LaRosa	Ruth Anne Tobias
Michael Hammer	Donald E. Luman	Mark Varner
Joan D. Berkes-Hanson	* Robert McLeese	Brett Ward
		Phillip B. Wilson

\* Indicates that the individual was a Founding Member of ILGISA



front row: Richard Hilton, Don Rich, Dick Dahlberg, Don McKay;  
back row: Sheryl Oliver, Jim Carter, Bob McLeese, Carol Zar.

### Founding Board of Directors

The founding Board of Directors was established in August 1994 and was comprised of representatives from federal, state and local governments and universities with active GIS involvement in Illinois.



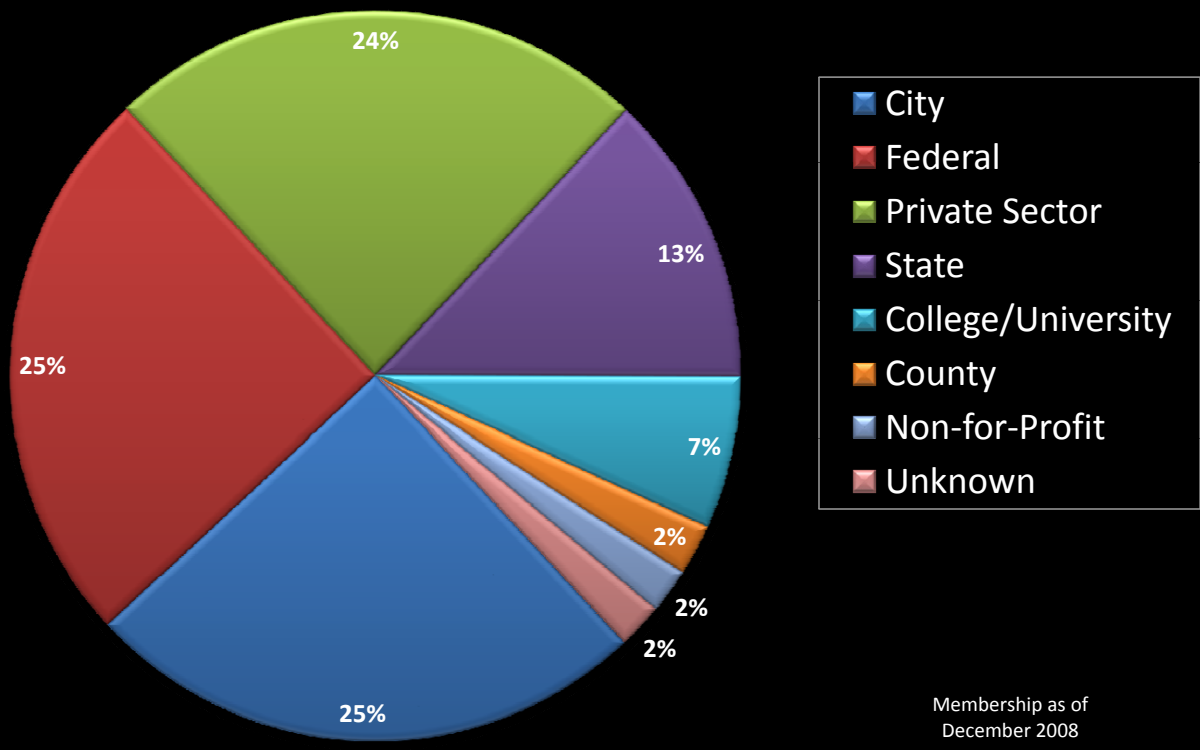
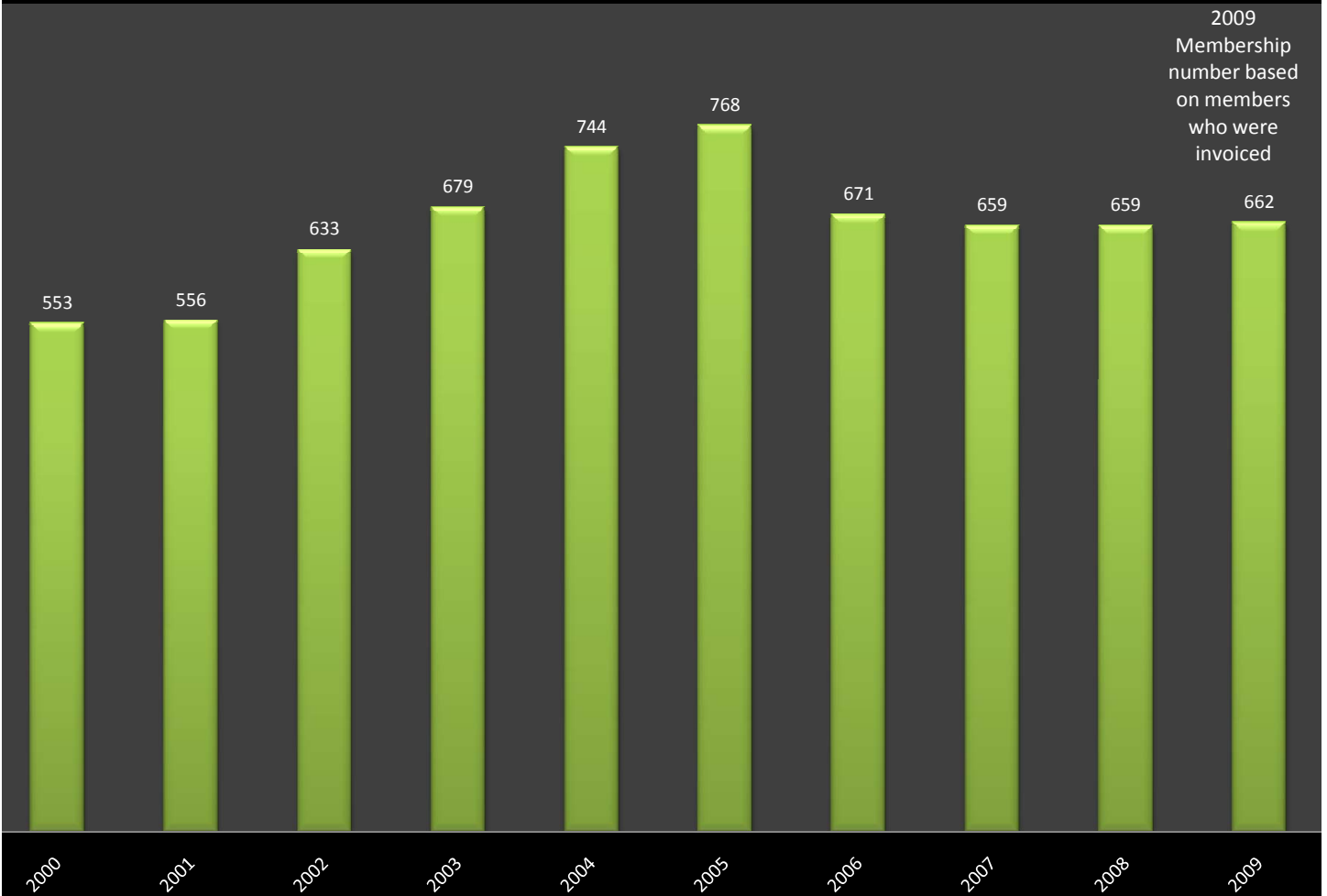
## Celebrating 5 Years or More

Edward Amoo	Nancy Gorny	Jack Nowak
Chad Anderson	Raymond Gottner	Nicholas Oeffling
Tanya Anthofer	Thomas E. Hagensee	Troy Olson
Adam Aull	Frederick Halenar	Martin Paulson
Krysti Barksdale	Brian Harger	Andrew Phillips
Susan M. Bates	Stephanie Hari	Ted Prescott
David Batson	Dan Harms	Mike Prough
Jeff Bedeker	Jodi Heitkamp	Jessica Putra
Mike Behary	Jennifer Henaghan	Alvin Ramirez
Peter A. Blaeser	Dale Hessel	Kathy Rendek
Brad J. Boesdorfer	Carole Hillgamyer	Curt Reynolds
Josh Boudi	Mary Jo Horace	Michelle Robinson
Scott Brener	Thomas R. Horak P.E.	William Rockwell
Brandt Brown	Stephen Hullcraz	Blake Roderick
Melanie Buell	Shawn Hurtig	Laurence Rohter
Cody Buhrmeister	Vicki Hynes	Brenda Runyon
Jeffrey L. Bushur	Wigberto Ingente	Pietro Scalera
Laurena L. Cain	William Jackson	Lanny C. Schnipper
Brian Cantwell	Jim Kavish	Nathan Scott
Steve Capps	Linda Kendall	Michael Semenek
Barbara K. Clauser	Connie Kilgore	David W. Shafer
M. Adam Clements	Krista Koster	Wendy Sheppard
Curtis Cook	Janusz Kwiatkowski	Jeffrey L. Simpson
Levy L. Cordero Jr.	Beth Ann Lang	Paul Sly
Philip Cotter	Bruce Lang	Stephen Sochotsky
Lee Cotton AICP	Jeffrey A. Laramy	Ronald R. Steward
Mike Dahm	Brad Larson	John Taner
William DeJarnette	Ron Laubach	Sherrie Taylor
Kevin Dicks	Laue, Tom	Steven D. Thompson
Diercks, Roger B.	M Diana Lawrence	Becky Tobin
Toni Diercks	Tim Leach	Robert Tremblay
Jane E. Domier	Jason D. LeMar	Burnis M. Turner
Natalia Domovessova	Kenneth W. Liss	Susan Tursman
Jay Donnelly	Kelly Lockhart	Tari Tweddale
Kathryn Douglass	Robert D. Lowe	Venkatalakshmi Venugopal
Jan Drennan	Bryan Luman	Jason C. Verachtert
Brian Dubis GISP	Deette Lund	Mike Voitik
Charles Ehlschlaeger	Molly Mangan	David Voorhees
Anna Fan	Paul N. Marchese	David Walters
David Favero	Steve Marsala	Dan Weeden
Karen Fouts	Justin Mattson	Gary White
Sarah M. Franks	Larry McDaniel	John White
Gordon Fritz	Tim Mella	Dan Wilcox
Nicole Gattuso	John Mellor	Michelle Wilkins
Jamie Gelis	Max Middendorf	Ryan Williams
Adam Gibson	John G. Morgan	Patrick Willis
Bob Gleeson	Gebeyehu Mulugeta	Julie Yuswak
Edward Gorny	Craig Nelson	Andy Zaletel

## Celebrating 10 Years or More

Amy L. Ahner  
 Joye Baker  
 Charles W. Barton  
 Scott Baum  
 Shawn Blobaum  
 Gregory Boysen  
 Thomas J. Bready  
 Leanne S. Brehob-Riley  
 Beverly Campion  
 Sam Chakravorty  
 David C. Clark  
 Mary Clement  
 Dusty Douglas  
 Karen Dulin  
 James C. Farver  
 Richard Feezel  
 Tim Followell  
 Dennis Gilbertson  
 Hal Greenwood  
 David Houston  
 Susan Hultgren  
 Greg Johnson  
 Hope Johnson  
 Pat Keegan  
 Richard Klusmeyer  
 Robert Kosin  
 Kenneth Kremer  
 Ken Lovett  
 Michael T. Ludvigsen Jr.  
 Carmen Masó  
 Thomas Nicoski  
 John Peterson  
 Daniel Price  
 Thomas A. Reed  
 Robert Reynolds  
 Quentin Rund  
 Karen Russ  
 Peter Schoenfield  
 Jennifer Sharpe  
 Delbert Skimerhorn  
 Jacqueline Stickney  
 Mark R. Toalson  
 Eric Venden  
 Andrew J. Vitale  
 Martin Wagner  
 Gary E. Wilson  
 Maggie Xu

## ILGISA Membership Through the Years



Membership as of December 2008