Carolina Chapter - Urban & Regional Information

THE ATTRIBUTE

NEWSLETTER FOR THE CAROLINA GIS PROFESSIONAL

Spring 2012 Volume 7, Issue 1

OFFICER'S ADDRESS

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- New name and look to Chapter Newsletter
- 2013 NCGIS conference Planning underway.
- Member Spotlight

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

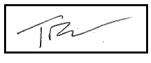
May, 2012 Carolina URISA Newsletter

It is really hard to avoid APPs. As a parent of two preteens…mobile phones, iPods, iPads, and other mobile devices are a reality and definitely a sign of the times. The interesting thing is the prevalence of these small programs or applications now a common term – APPs (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/APP). These programs don't just give you the joy of running through a temple, seeing what the wait times are for rides at Disney, or help you book a table at your favorite restaurant. They can also allow us to use and collect mapping data. With developers of these APPs seemingly coming out of the woodwork (or caves), the possibilities as the old saying goes are endless. The young man in me loves the new technology. The old man in me is cautious not to forget the actual art and action of mapping and the joy of a surprise when you go "cold turkey" (without APPs) to find the wait time for Splash Mountain is shorter than you expected.

A lot has been going on behind the scenes at Carolina URISA (CURISA) as of late. CURISA supported the South Carolina SCARC conference in Charleston, South Carolina in February by hosting a booth and being a sponsor. In addition, CURISA hosted a SDE/SQL post conference workshop that was well attended and received. In North Carolina, CURISA is "knee deep" in planning and helping to organize the NC Statewide GIS conference in February 2013. CURISA will host four preconference workshops, operate a booth, and organize the conference poster/exhibit event. Look for more in the coming months.

I am excited to be your new CURISA President and look forward to where our group is going. With a board consisting of newbie's and veterans, we look forward to doing great things for our members. We will continue to provide our membership with new content and opportunities while not forgetting to be cognoscente of our past. Technology is great, but so too is the relationships we build and maintain with our GIS colleagues. After all…they don't have an APP for being human!

Best Regards



Tim Muhs, CURISA President

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

This quarter CURISA asks one of our newest members, a few questions

James E. Armstrong
Director of Planning & GIS
Richmond County, NC

Please tell the readers a little about your career. (Where do you work? What do you do for that organization? How long have you been there?)

I work for Richmond County, NC as the Director of Planning and GIS services. I have been in this position for about 13 years. Prior to this position, I was the Planning Director for the City of Rockingham.

How did you first learn about GIS and how have you become more involved in GIS over the years?

I first learned about GIS while attending ASU as a Planning student. GIS was only a buzz word then but I was reading about the possibilities that it could afford. This was very early on. During my first job with Land of Sky Regional Council in Asheville, NC, I continued reading everything I could. Though I did not have any actual program or application, I know GIS would one day begin to change the way planners would do business. After moving to Rockingham as the City Planner, I was fortunate to be able to use PC Arc/Info. This was command line GIS. With the help of a GIS intern, I was able to develop the City's first GIS coverage database. When the opportunity to move to the County as the GIS director, I took it. I still had planning activities to perform, but my eye has since then always been on the GIS process. With the County, we went from Arc/info 6.0 on a VAX station using librarian to an SDE shop with ArcGIS 8.0 in just a few years, and we have not looked back (too often).

"The biggest change in GIS that I have experience was the transition from the coverage world to the SDE. "

How has your college experience prepared you for a career in GIS?

When I was at ASU, GIS was not yet apart of the curriculum. Much of the training I have taken on the use of GIS has been though workshops and courses, both online and instructor led. Over the past few years, I have been working in the NCSU GIS Masters program, which has been very exciting. I have learned so much more about what GIS is all about and its capabilities. I would sincerely recommend taking some of these courses, even to achieve a graduate certificate.

What has been the biggest change in GIS since you began your career?

The biggest change in GIS that I have experience was the transition from the coverage world to the SDE. Once the issue of topology was answered with ArcGIS 8.3, this transition made sense. Though the transition itself was not difficult, it did open up a whole new world to the GIS experience. From the look of things today, this experience is only getting more fascinating.

What is your favorite hobby?

I really enjoy planning golf, hiking, and spending time with family and friends.

What is your favorite movie of all time?

My favorite move of all time is an old one called "The Gods Must be Crazy" . It has been awhile since I have seen it.

We are looking for interesting subjects for our next interview!

This is an excellent opportunity to showcase someone's talents, learn from and about fellow members, and share with CURISA members.
If you know someone who you would like to see interviewed and hear what they have to say about CURISA, GIS, etc., please email the editor at:

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CHAPTER CONTACTS—WHO'S WHO

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Don't hide in the grass
Come join us!

Conference Calendar

• ESRI International User Conference - San Diego, CA	July 23-27, 2012
• GIS in Public Transportation Conference - St. Petersburg, FL	September 13-15, 2012
• GIS-Pro: URISA's Annual Conference for GIS Professionals - Portland , Oregon	September 30-October 4, 2012
• URISA's 2012 Caribbean GIS Conference - Montego Bay, Jamaica	November 12-16, 2012
• 2013 NC GIS Conference—Raleigh NC	February 17 - 18, 2013

COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

There are several colleges and universities in the Carolina's that offer Degrees and Certificates in Geographic Information Systems. These programs provide the student with the tools to advance themselves as GIS Professionals. While not complete, the following list is the first iteration of the programs being offered. The list will also be available on the CURISA website.

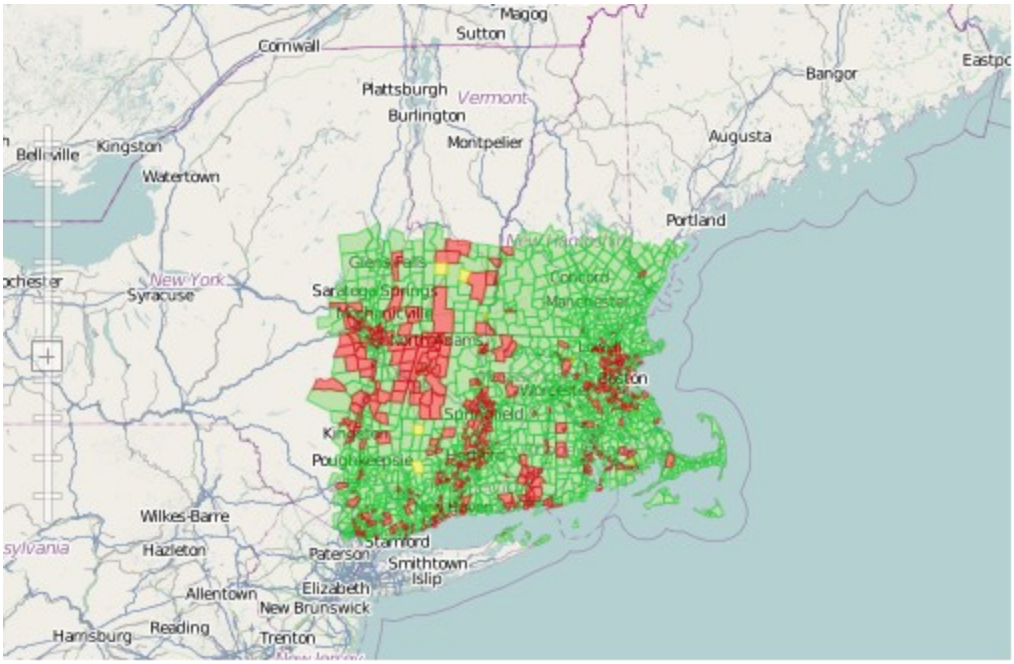
Institution	Website	Contact Name	Distance Learning	Degrees
UNC-Greensboro	http://www.uncg.edu/geo/	Dr. Rick Bunch	?	GIS certificate
North Carolina Central University	http://www.nccu.edu/academics/sc/scienceandtechnology/geospatialscience/index.cfm	Dr. Gordana Vlahovic	No - but evening courses	MS in Earth Science (GIS), ASPRS Provisional Certificate program at the Bachelor's and Master's levels.
UNC - Wilmington	http://www.uncw.edu/earsci/geography-GIScertificate.htm	Dr. Halls	?	GIS Certificate
NC State University	http://www.gis.ncsu.edu/	Dr. Hugh Divine	Yes	Masters in Geographic Information Systems Technology (MGIST) GIS Graduate Certification
Haywood Community College	http://www.haywood.edu	Jenny Carver	Yes	Geospatial Technology Certificate: Advanced Geospatial Specialist, Global Positioning Systems Specialist, and Property Mapping Specialist
Central Piedmont Community College	www.cpcc.edu/gs	Rodney Jackson	Yes	Associate in Applied Science in Geospatial Technology, plus several curriculum certificates in specializations such as Programming, Databases, Land Records and others.
Asheville Buncombe Technical Community College	http://geospatialtechnology.blogspot.com	Pete Kennedy	Yes	Spatial Databases Certificate and Geospatial Analysis and Visualization Certificate
NC Central University	http://www.nccu.edu/Academics/sc/scienceandtechnology/geospatialscience/geography/index.cfm	**Timothy Mulrooney**	?	BS in Earth Science and Geography, program in Cartography
Penn State	www.worldcampus.psu.edu		Yes	Masters in GIS and Graduate Certificate
NorthWest Missouri State	http://www.nwmissouri.edu/dept/gis/		Yes	?
Montgomery County Community College	http://www.montgomery.edu/	Kevin Lamonds	Yes	Certification
East Carolina University	http://www.ecu.edu/geog/	Burrell Montz	Yes	Certification and BS Degree in GIS and Masters in Geography
Appalachian State University	http://www.geo.appstate.edu/	Dr. Jeffrey D. Colby		Certifcation, BS, MA (Certification)

HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED ABOUT. . . .

GIS and Cloud Based GIS

Geographic Information Systems i.e. GIS is combination of hardware, software and data that is mostly used as a supporting system for making best possible decisions through spatial and non-spatial data relations, visualization and processing. It is used on a daily basis across various industries in public and private sectors. The benefits of having such system are vari ous, from cost reduction to optimized business operations.

To be more clear what this is all about, bellow is embedded one simple GIS project created and hosted in GIS Cloud (live and fully functional). It is made of a base map (OpenStreetMap) and of a spatial layer i.e. demographic Census data for State of Massachu setts in US that is made of polygons, which represent a segment of area. Each polygon con tains various non-spatial data, like: age segmentation, medium age, number of males, num ber of females, population in 2003, population in 2000, etc. All this statistical information combined with a spatial component can be put in a relation with other spatial or non-spatial data, from the same or other layers. GIS processes all these information and gives you a clear visual result in a form of a map or textual information.



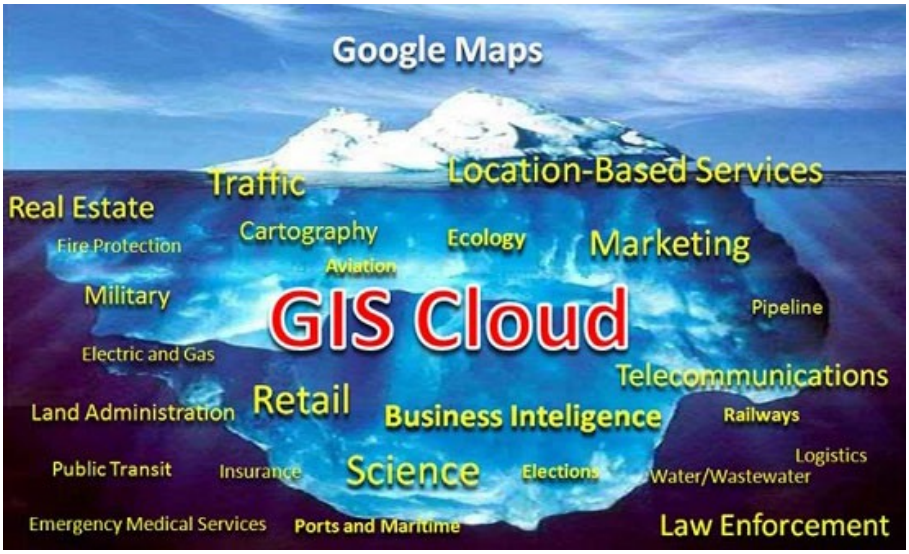
In the example above simple GIS, thematic map shows relations between two statistical values: population in 2003 and population in 2000. The green represents population growth (pop2003>pop2000). Yellow represents no change and red stands for population decline (pop2003 < pop2000). By processing such data we can easily understand it and actually see which areas have which population trend.
Of course this is just a small and simple example, GIS can do much more.
How is it different from Google Maps?
This is one of most common questions. We all know Google Maps and use them in everyday life, so how is GIS different?

HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED ABOUT(CONT)

HOW IS IT DIFFERENT FROM GOOGLE MAPS?

THIS IS ONE OF MOST COMMON QUESTIONS. WE ALL KNOW GOOGLE MAPS AND USE THEM IN EVERYDAY LIFE, SO HOW IS GIS DIFFERENT?

In GIS, a map is only one component of the system which is used to visualize a result. GIS software enables you to create your own maps and made them out of your own data! You can create maps from any industry format without any size limitation. With such maps and various tools like analysis, geoprocessing, etc. you can understand your data in a totally new way and make best possible decisions, much faster than using any other "traditional" way.



Unlike classic web mapping, which is more oriented to the consumer, GIS software is mainly oriented towards businesses and other types of organizations. This type of usage requires advanced features and to be able to handle and process large volumes of data (spatial and non-spatial). Web mapping is not sufficient for such usage.

CLOUD – THE NEW ERA IN GIS

UNTIL NOW, GIS WAS TRADITIONAL KIND OF SOFTWARE, MOSTLY DESKTOP AND SERVER-CLIENT ARCHITECTURE. IT COMES WITH A HIGH PRICE ATTACHED AND USUALLY IMPLEMENTATION OF SUCH SYSTEMS LASTS FOR MONTHS WITH A LOT OF EDUCATION NEEDED. IN THESE DAYS, WHEN GIS COULD REALLY HELP IN MANY INDUSTRIES, THERE ARE MANY CONCERNS ABOUT RETURN OF INVESTMENT WHEN IMPLEMENTING SUCH HIGHLY PRICED SYSTEM.

As we can witness in many other industries, cloud computing i.e. providing Software as a Service (SaaS) and not as a product has proven to be the right answer. This is something GIS Cloud embraces and tries to provide GIS available over the web accessible from any browser!

Source: http://www.giscloud.com/gis-and-cloud-based-gis

Now you know!!!

Project Management Principles to Manage Geospatial Projects Workshop

May 21 8:00am to 3:00pm.

Join us as Bruce Taylor, project manager with Critigen (a technology consulting firm), offers an interactive workshop focusing on management principles as applied to geospatial projects. Class attendees will learn the most practical project management techniques from the Project Management Institute's "Project Management Body of Knowledge" and how to apply them to everyday geospatial projects such as hardware/software upgrade rollouts, GPS data collection missions, high-volume document scanning, and more! The workshop will cover the fundamentals of project management such as Work Breakdown Structures, Resource Planning, Scope and Cost Control, Scheduling (including dependencies, slippage, critical path, etc.), Risk Management, Change Management, Communication and Project Lifecycles. Participants will leave understanding how these techniques can be used improve project planning, monitoring and execution, and how to maximize the chance of a successful project.

This full day workshop is hosted at the Main Fire Station (Station 91) located at 405 Magnolia Rd, Pinehurst NC, 28734 on Friday, May 21 from 8am to 3:30pm. Cost for the workshop is $95. (includes lunch with vegetarian option available)

Topics to be covered include:

- Integration Management
- Scope Management
- Time Management
- Cost Management
- Quality Management
- Communication Management
- Human Resources Management
- Risk Management

SIGN UP NOW BY GOING TO:
https://www.regonline.com/curisa_PM_workshop

QUICK BITS

City of Statesville

April 26, 2012

Statesville, pop. 24,532. Hourly Rate: $10.00. Currently seeking a Temporary Engineering Aide/GIS Technician with the City of Statesville Electric Utilities Department. Applications will be accepted at your local Employment Security Commission. Must apply by the deadline date if listed. Closing Date: Open Until Filled. EOE

GENERAL STATEMENT OF DUTIES: Performs intermediate technical work completing field engineering tasks and assisting with GIS functions does related work as required. Work is performed under regular supervision.

ESSENTIAL JOB FUNCTIONS:
GPS data collection involving field work in various climates;

Extensive spatial data entry in office;

Work approximately half time in field and half time in office;

Does related tasks as required.

REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES: Knowledge of MS Office Suite including Access; experience with ArcGIS; ability to follow oral and written instructions.

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE: Graduation from high school and some college preferred or any equivalent combination of experience and training which provides the required knowledge, skills and abilities.

Carolina URISA 2012 Membership

Join CURISA now to enjoy the support of a regional GIS professional association that partners with URISA and The GIS Certification Institute. CURISA relies on your memberships to maintain the chapter, publish a quarterly newsletter, host events and workshops and represent the regional GIS community in matters of policy and standards. Your CURISA membership entitles you to discounted registrations for workshops and access to other seminars and networking events.

Your membership will be for calendar year 2012 (January to December). We've made it easy for you to renew your membership via our online registration system. ***A new online registration system*** – The new system will look and feel a bit different, but will provide more flexibility in administration of your own account. ***Change in our rate structure*** – We have gone to a flat $30 fee as opposed to $20/$40 based on national URISA membership. CURISA also offers a discounted group membership for five or more members from the same organization.

You may go to www.carolinaurisa.org and navigate to the Membership page.