Geographic Information Systems Technology News

The Newsletter of the New York State GIS Coordination Program

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Governor

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Director of State Operations

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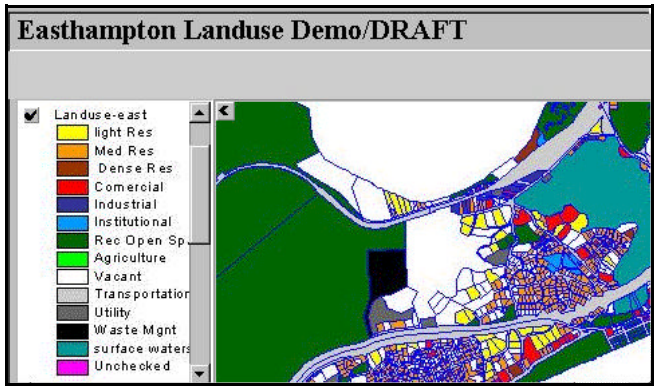
Tax Maps and the Legend of the Dragon Slayer

By Penny Wells LaValle, Director of Suffolk County Real Property

Suffolk County Real Property Tax Service Agency was created by a NYS Statute called the Assessment Improvement Act of 1970. The Agency assumed the responsibility for creating the property tax map by Local Law No. 20 in 1971. An initial Capital Funding resource of approximately 2.8 million dollars was transferred from the Department of Public Works to Real Property for the Preparation of Property Tax Maps. Thus, the Agency and the consultants retained by the County, had the financing to go into the countryside and create maps.



Like many drawings at the time, Suffolk's tax maps were composed on Mylar with pen and ink. This fine art required translating a plethora of information into a visible record and uniquely identifying each of the smallest components. The information was as well defined as the recital in a deed or the measured outline of a survey. When written records were sparse, the staff relied upon the memories of the farmer or that of a neighbor describing the fieldstone fence that once defined the property boundary. The cartographers and drafters had limited guidelines to produce a map that could be easily interpreted. They used creative skills to portray the landscape in ways that would be helpful to the public. This early creativity laid the groundwork for the product that is registered today.

Bernard M. Baruch once said, "I get the facts, I study them patiently, I apply imagination." In essence, that is how a map is created.

Thus, the first edition of the tax map identified each parcel in Suffolk County with a unique nineteen-digit number for District, Section, Block and Lot and a lot more. Real Property's first Director, H. Russell Haase, recognized the great piece of work. Having great foresight to protect the investment of the taxpayers of Suffolk, he registered the tax maps with the Federal Register of Copyrights. The Registration of a Claim to Copyright was granted to Suffolk in 1974. This piece of art then became a priceless commodity in the world of real estate and has since been registered. This is where the Dragon Slayer's Legend begins.

Shortly after the first edition of tax maps, Director Haase started negotiations with Real Estate Data, Inc. (a.k.a. REDI) to reproduce the tax maps in paper format and market them to the general public. Some highlights of the correspondence of the time indicates that some topics of the agreement were:

- a $25,000 annual payment by REDI to Suffolk for a non-exclusive right to copy and reproduce the maps;

- a 5% percentage of gross business in excess of $150,000.00; and,

- an acknowledgement by REDI of the Federal copyright secured by Suffolk and prominent display of the Copyright Claim in every edition.

This agreement appears to have been beneficial to both parties through the late seventies. However, in the early eighties, there was no agreement permitting REDI to copy and distribute tax maps. Over those years, Suffolk notified REDI and it's various corporate umbrellas of a violation of the County's Copyright. While Suffolk was being short changed in its agreement with REDI, it took a different posture with Nassau County for the right to publish and distribute new tax maps with the fee based on a percentage of sales. This clearly showed a double standard and one that put Suffolk County at a distinct economic disadvantage. This was the first triggering event in creating a case for Suffolk County.

The second event came about in a rather innocent way. When I first joined Real Property in the mid-eighties, in addition to appraisal duties, I instructed real estate brokers and other licensees of Real Property's Land Information System in the efficient use of the tax maps and microfiche. While in contact with this community, I received many complaints about REDI's products. Most criticisms concerned the constant delays in REDI's releases of their new tax map books. The public questioned why REDI was still permitted to produce an inferior product affixed with Suffolk's Copyright symbol.

Upon becoming Director of Real Property in 1996, I pursued what I believed to be the right of the people of Suffolk to protect their investment and the integrity of the information that they could access. REDI, now First American Title Insurance was clearly violating the rights of the County. My focus on this issue convinced the County Attorney's office to take action to define our rights and seek damages. The County assigned one of its best trial attorneys to challenge the international giant.

Jeltje deJong, now the Chief of the General Litigation Bureau, (nom de plume: *The Dragon Slayer*), commenced action in the form of a Complaint on August 5, 1999, against Experian, and all it's aliases, for declaratory and injunctive relief and for monetary damages for violation for the copyright laws of the United States. A succinct dateline sketch of legal activities from that point forward to this writing follows.

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"Please Note"

Effective November 2, 2001 The Center for Geographic Information will be moving to 74 N. Pearl Street, Albany, NY New Phone Number: (518) 443-2042

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The details of each case remain fodder for another article.

August 5, 1999

Suffolk's Complaint filed in the Southern District Court

May 15, 2000—*A Battle Won for Suffolk County*

The United States District Court decides that Suffolk County's Copyright Case against Experian could go forward.

May 30, 2000

Motion by Defendant to Reconsider – by an argument based on an Advisory Opinion by the Committee on Open Government

June 8, 2000

Memo of Law by Suffolk in Opposition to Motion to Reargue – on points that Experian failed to demonstrate the Court overlooked controlling decisions that were place before it, and that Advisory Opinions issued by a State Agency are not "controlling precedent"

July 25, 2000

Based on an advisory opinion written by the NYS Committee on Open Government, the District Court reverses its earlier decision and dismisses Suffolk County's Complaint.

November 20, 2000

Suffolk County appeals to the United States Court of Appeals, asking the Second Circuit to reverse the District Court's decision. Suffolk argues that:

- the Advisory Opinion by the Committee on Open Government was irrational, unreasonable and beyond the scope of the Committee's Authority;
- the District Court's determination that FOIL mandates distribution for Copyrighted Maps in violation of Suffolk's exclusive rights to such distribution violates the supremacy clause of the US Constitution; and,
- the District Court abused its discretion when granting Experian's motion for reconsideration.

July 25, 2001—*A Battle Won for Suffolk County*

The Second Circuit Court of Appeals holds in favor of Suffolk County, finding:

- Suffolk could own a copywright under the Copyright Act;
- Suffolk alleged sufficient originality in the tax maps to survive a motion to dismiss;
- The Freedom of Information Law did not take away the County's right to copyright or stop them from enforcing it;
- Tax maps could not be deemed to be in the "public domain" from inception as a matter of law; and
- Whether Suffolk County had maps that met the originality test and were, in fact, copyrightable, would have to be decided by the District Court on remand.

August 8, 2001

First American Real Estate Solutions petitioned for a panel rehearing.

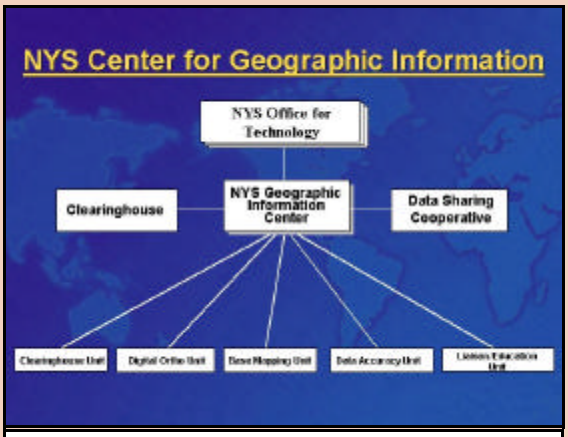
October 5, 2001

First American's request for rehearing by the Second Circuit of Appeals is denied.

Please contact Penny Wells LaValle for more information at **pennywells.lavalle@co.suffolk.ny.us**

What's Happening at the NYS Center for Geographic Information!

The Center began operating on December 18, 2000, with an initial staff of 6, and has grown over the past several months to 10 people. The most recent addition is Tim Ruhren, who serves as Manager of the Statewide Digital Orthoimagery Program (see article on page 4 for the latest news on the Program.) The Center has been a beehive of activity on several projects. Highlights include:



Organization chart of the NYS Center for Geographic Information

Training – The first offering in a planned series of 1-day topical workshops, "Intro to Digital Orthoimagery" has been offered at 8 locations across the state, to a total audience of over 600 people. This course has been very well received and has given us the confidence and experience to begin expanding the training program to additional topical workshops and hands-on technical training next year. All of the training will be either free or at a very nominal fee.

On-Line Help Desk – A contract was awarded in August for a first-of-its-kind on-line GIS Help Desk, to be operated as a service of the Clearinghouse. The Help Desk will allow members of the NYS GIS Data Sharing Cooperative to post questions via email, with responses provided back within 24 hours. All of the questions and responses will be indexed and searchable by anyone, thereby providing an on-line reference of technical help for users of MapInfo and ESRI desktop GIS software. Because the questions will be coming from New York's GIS community, the questions and responses should have particular relevance to the sorts of technical issues that arise from use of "native" datasets in the most common software environments.

Local Updates Initiative – The biggest challenge in managing Framework Data (the basic GIS layers needed by everyone, such as street centerlines, government boundaries, etc) is keeping it up-to-date. The Center is working with the Local Government Advisory Group to develop an initiative for capturing data updates from locals and feeding those into the framework data maintenance activities at the Center. The goal is not to introduce new processes or burdens at the local level, but to provide a variety of incentives to encourage locals to share their updates, which in many cases are already being performed to meet their own objectives. The process will initially be tested and evaluated for maintaining street centerlines and address ranges.

Transfer of DOT Mapping Staff – The Base Mapping staff, who have been part of the Department of Transportation for many years, will be transferred later this year to the Center. This group has been producing and maintaining the state's published base maps, including 1:24,000 scale quadrangles, 1:75,000 scale County Base Maps, the 1:250,000 scale state map, and the New York State Atlas. The Base Mapping function, including the maps and associated staff, will transfer to the Center and be integrated with the Center's Framework GIS Data program. By managing the key Framework Data layers within a single organization, better updating and integration can be achieved among the data layers, resulting in better quality GIS data for New York's users.

Map NY – A new state web banner was introduced in the Spring that is on the home page of every NY state agency. The banner offers four ways to interact with government agencies, including *e-bizNYS*, *Governor Pataki*, *Citizen Guide*, and *Map-NY*. Initially, Map-NY provides convenient links to existing web GIS applications created by other agencies. Over time, however, Map-NY will expand to include a variety of new web GIS tools, including an ability to display and browse many of the GIS datasets on the Clearinghouse through an "Explore New York" application. Other planned applications include links to real-time traffic cameras, a tool to locate government offices ("where is the closest Motor Vehicle office to my home"), and an interactive flyover capability using our new digital orthoimagery that will let you "see" a realistic rendering of the landscape in 3d.

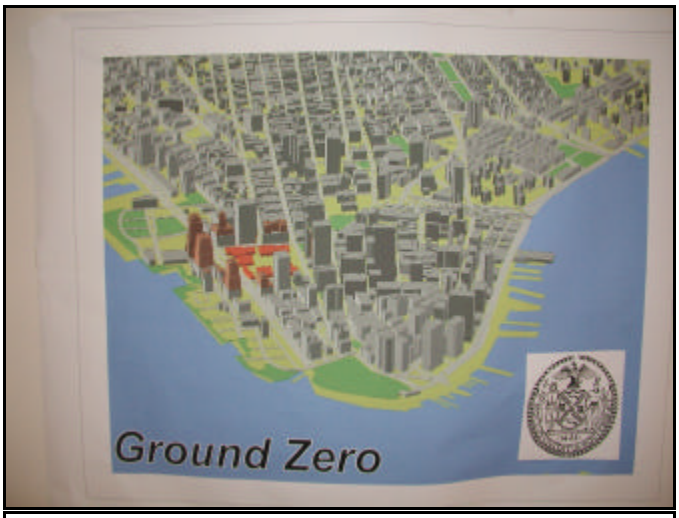
For more information, please contact Bruce Oswald at the NYS Office for Technology, Center for Geographic Information at (518) 443-2042 or by e-mail at **bruce.oswald@oft.state.ny.us**.

Functions of the GIS Center

- Provide Assistance to GIS Coordination Program
- Develop integrated framework data
- Facilitate GIS use in State, County and Local government
- Promote GIS use by government business managers to
  - Improve business processes
  - everyday decision-making

Geographic Information Proves Vital to the New York City Recovery Efforts

In Albany, one hundred fifty miles from the Ground Zero disaster scene, a dedicated team of mapping professionals had been quietly toiling to provide critical aerial imagery to the emergency response efforts. The team, part of the New York State Office for Technology's Center for Geographic Information, was responsible for the acquisition and delivery of daily imagery flights over the disaster scene. Every day from Saturday, September 15 until Tuesday, October 23, 2001, the team commissioned one, or sometimes two flights to collect up-to-date imagery showing hotspots beneath the debris pile, 3D surface changes, and very accurate digital photos to support the recovery efforts. Rainy weather kept the flight crew grounded only four times.



Map of NYC at Ground Zero

A Maryland-based contractor, EarthData International, performed the imagery acquisition flights and processed the raw imagery data immediately after the flights. The OFT team engaged EarthData on Friday, September 14, 2001 and the firm packed up their specialized computer equipment in a rental van and drove overnight to Albany. Their flight crew assembled the necessary instruments and flew from Maryland to the Albany airport on Saturday morning. By noon on Saturday, seven EarthData staff were situated in the Office for Technology's Computer Training Lab in the Empire State Plaza, and the flight crew was over the site of the World Trade Center capturing the first set of imagery.

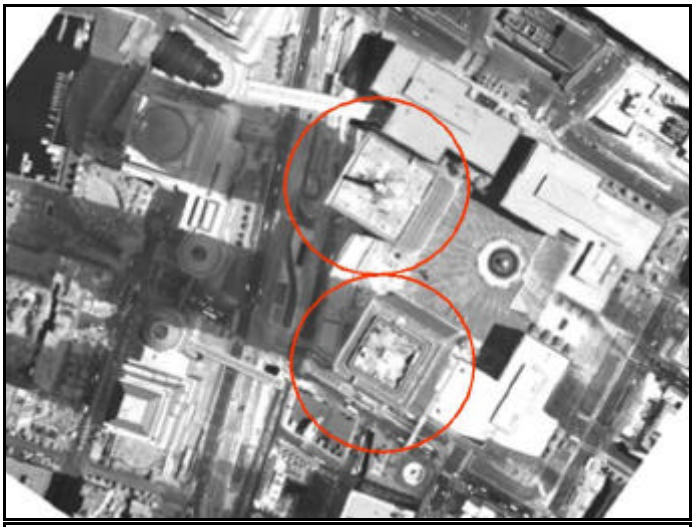
The imagery was collected using a state-of-the-art digital aerial camera, a laser terrain mapping LIDAR system, and a specialized video camera for thermal imaging. The aircraft was also equipped with a highly accurate GPS satellite positioning system and an inertial measuring system to provide precise data on the location and orientation of the imagery sensors during the flight. This positioning data enables the ground crew to compute a match between the imagery and true ground locations with an accuracy of two feet. Most of the imagery was collected from an altitude of 5000 feet. The imagery depicts objects as small as 6 inches across.

The Training Lab was transformed into a sophisticated data processing hub. During the nighttime hours before the EarthData team arrived in Albany on the 15th, staff from the Office for Technology established Internet connections, installed telephones, connected a large format color plotter, and made other logistical arrangements so that the EarthData team could begin their work without delay. Each day, as soon as the flight crew returned to Albany, the latest digital imagery data was transferred on removable disk drives from the aircraft to the computers in the lab, where the work of converting the raw data into useable imagery products began. Under normal circumstances, delivery of completed imagery products would take many days or weeks, but for this situation, the data was produced in an unprecedented 12 hours.

The resulting products included digital orthoimagery, or geometrically corrected aerial photo mosaics; a 3-dimensional terrain surface model showing the shape of the debris pile and buildings, derived from the LIDAR system; and thermal imagery which can be overlaid on the digital orthoimagery to accurately show the locations of hot spots where underground fires were still burning, even several weeks after the attack. All of this data was in digital formats compatible with Geographic Information Systems (GIS), where other map layers of information were combined in a sort of multi-layer "smart map" to help emergency response personnel assess risks and guide recovery efforts.

At the New York City Emergency Operations Center on Pier 92 in Manhattan's west side, a cadre of GIS staff in the Emergency Mapping and Data Center used the imagery data with the City's other layers of GIS data to help determine if the underground fires were close to underground gas lines and to monitor changing conditions in the debris pile from settlement and recovery operations. GIS helps to manage a wide array of related activities surrounding the site, such as mapping the locations of other damaged buildings, mapping the locations of electric and telephone service outages, temporary staging areas, and subway station closings. Other agencies were using GIS at the scene, including the NYC Fire Department, Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Environmental Protection Agency, the US Army Corps of Engineers, and the State Emergency Management Office. The NASA-funded Institute for the Application of Geospatial Technology in Auburn, NY also assisted by producing 3d "fly-through" visualizations using the imagery datasets that allow officials to tour the site virtually as if by helicopter.

Since the conditions on the site were changing rapidly as the recovery efforts proceeded, it was vital to provide the imagery data to the emergency operations staff as quickly as possible. Sporadic difficulties with network connections to



EarthData Digital Orthoimagery 7-01-00

EarthData Digital Orthoimagery 9-15-01

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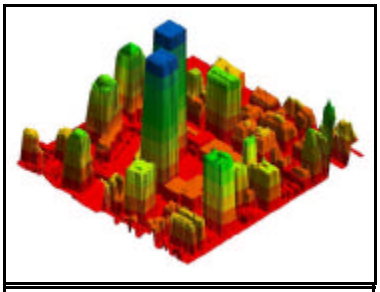
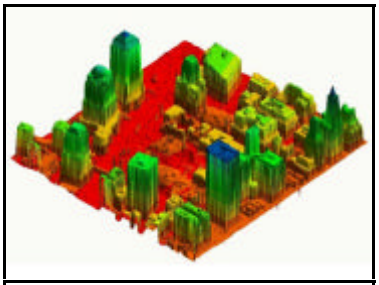
the emergency operations center required that the imagery datasets be delivered on CD-ROM, in addition to electronic delivery. In the first days of the crisis, CD delivery was the only way that agencies in the City could obtain this critical information. To accomplish that, State Police and Metropolitan Transit Authority Police couriers had been delivering CD's on a daily basis, as soon as data processing in Albany was complete. In addition, the data was posted on two secure Internet servers, one at OFT's computer center in Albany, the other at a federal data center in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, where Federal, State, and City agencies involved in the emergency operations could download the data.

According to Ellen Stein, Associate Commissioner of the NYC Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications, who oversees the City's GIS efforts, the aerial imagery is "very critical to the City's emergency response." Others have been equally appreciative. James Natoli, Director of State Operations, believes that GIS and imagery data are crucial to effective emergency response. "We discovered the value of this type of information for emergency response during the January, 1998 Ice Storm in Northern New York, and as the State's use of this technology continues to grow, we're better prepared to deal with future emergencies."



LIDAR Model 7-01-00



LIDAR Model 9-15-01

Thomas Duffy, Deputy Commissioner with the NYS Office for Technology sums it up this way: "Our GIS team is functioning as the single-source imagery provider for all of the agencies involved in the New York City response, from federal agencies and state agencies to various city agencies. Our team has been able to coordinate their imagery needs, arrange for delivery of top-notch data products at unheard-of turnaround speed, and deliver the data to all of the agencies on a same-day basis, freeing the agencies to concentrate on their response, rather than scrambling to obtain their own imagery. This is a role that the State performs exceptionally well. We've been able to do this because Governor Pataki had the foresight two years ago to establish our GIS Coordination Program, and consequently we had a team in place with the knowledge and experience to step up at the this critical time."

New York State Statewide Digital Orthoimagery Program Status

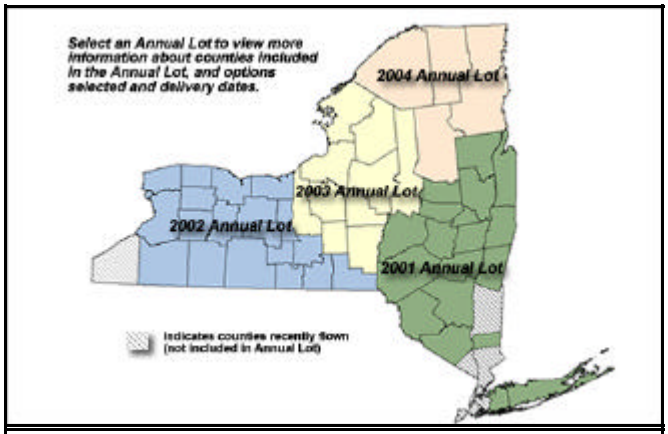
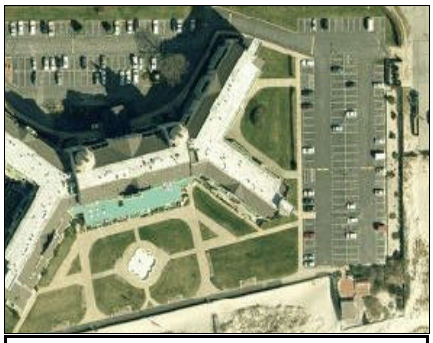


Image of the NYS Statewide Digital Orthoimagery Program Status by Annual Lot

The Office for Technology (OFT) has received digital high-resolution aerial images of Nassau and Rensselaer counties. OFT acquired the images as the first delivery in the New York Statewide Digital Orthoimagery Program under contract with VARGIS, LLC. These orthoimages (aerial images corrected so they can be used like digital maps) are the best available for the two counties and set new standards for image resolution, spatial accuracy, and timely delivery. More orthoimages will arrive for Suffolk county and most of the Hudson Valley in the coming months. GIS users across the state should find many applications for this growing set of high-resolution orthoimages.



Natural Color 1 ft. Resolution Nassau County

Nassau and Rensselaer counties were flown as a pilot project in April 2000. Nassau County was flown with color film that has been processed into orthoimagery with a 1 ft Ground Sample Distance (GSD or pixel size). The urban portion of Rensselaer County was also covered with color film processed into 1 ft GSD orthoimages. The remaining area of Rensselaer County was flown with panchromatic (black and white) film, processed into 2 ft GSD orthoimages. The 1 ft GSD orthoimages have a horizontal accuracy of ± 4 ft at the 95 % confidence interval, while the 2 ft GSD products have an accuracy of ± 8 ft.

A single tile of the 1 ft GSD orthoimagery covers an area 3000 ft x 2000 ft, while a 2 ft GSD tile covers an area 6000 ft x 4000 ft. OFT is organizing the image tiles for distribution through the GIS Clearinghouse website. Users will be able to download single tiles or groups of tiles arranged by town or city. Image catalogs and seamless tables have been created to help ArcView and MapInfo users, respectively. Initially, the orthoimages will be in State Plane Coordinates referencing the North American Datum of 1983 (NAD-83). Universal Transverse Mercator (NAD-83) versions will also be available soon. More information about the orthoimages can be obtained from the GIS Clearinghouse website.

All 17 of the counties scheduled for Annual Lot 1 were successfully flown in April 2001, and OFT's contractor is processing this imagery. Nine county governments and two state agencies funded upgrades to the base imagery products. Orthoimagery for Annual Lot 1 will become available in stages in Winter and Spring 2002. Flights for Annual Lot 2 in western New York are scheduled for Spring 2002 .

The orthoimages for Nassau and Rensselaer counties are more up-to-date than most maps, and show much more detail. The orthoimages for Annual Lot 1 and subsequent annual lots will be less than one year old when they become available. This is an unprecedented delivery turn-around for a project of this size. With such high resolution and timeliness, the orthoimages should be a GIS layer with great value in many applications. OFT will continue working to deliver high quality orthoimagery for the entire state on a nominal 4-year cycle.

For more information on the NYS Statewide Digital Orthoimagery Program Status, please go to **http://www.nysgis.state.ny.us/orthoprogram.htm.** If you have any questions regarding the Digital Orthoimagery Program, please contact the Center for Geographic Information at (518) 443-2042.

Panchromatic 2 ft. Resolution Rensselaer County

GIS Roads Project Underway

The New York State Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), in partnership with the NYS Department of Transportation (DOT) and the NYS Office for Technology (OFT), has contracted with Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) to deliver:

- A 1:24,000 scale (or better) GIS planimetric basemap of New York State;
- A "Locator" tool application to accurately identify and record where a motor vehicle accident occurred; and
- A "Map Maintenance" application that will provide a communication and tracking mechanism between DMV, DOT and OFT for updates to the basemap features.

In addition, a variety of tools and training sessions which support accident location, accident analysis and GPS coordinate validation will be delivered. ESRI has subcontracted with Geographic Data Technologies (GDT) of Lebanon, NH to complete the basemap, Bowne Management of Mineola, NY to develop the applications, Applied GIS of Schenectady, NY to provide onsite installation and training and Oracle to provide the database development.

The vision of the project is to create a basemap that is useful and valuable to NYS and local governments, as well as NYS Data Sharing Cooperative members. It is anticipated that the new GIS will have thousands of users at all levels of government who recommend/provide ongoing file updates that were discovered during their daily work. Consequently, continuous improvement will occur to improve the accuracy of the overall statewide coverage.

The goals of the project are to:

- Improve the accuracy of location coding of motor vehicle accidents;
- Allow DMV to accept coordinates and street addresses as valid inputs to location coding;
- Increase the daily production achieved by the DMV location coding unit; and
- Achieve savings due to re-use of the GIS roads files by others.

In preparation for the contract start, DMV issued a survey to all county governments in an effort to identify potential county data sources. The results of this survey will be posted to the NYS Data Sharing Cooperative website soon. Thanks to everyone who responded.

For more information on the GIS Roads Project, please contact Ann Scott by e-mail at **ascot@dmv.state.ny.us.**

New York State GIS Day

In celebration of GIS Day on November 14, 2001, the New York State Office for Technology will be hosting a GIS Day exhibit on the Concourse at the Empire State Plaza from November 14th-16th. The booth will display various uses of Geographic Information Systems technology by Local government, State Agencies, Universities and K-12 schools. On November 14th, local students from K-12 will be on hand to demonstrate how they use GIS in their classroom. The GIS Day exhibit is part of the Government Technology Conference. The booth will be located in the Government Solutions Center on the North Concourse. The exhibits will be open November 14 and 15 from 9:30am-4:00pm and November 16 from 9:30am-1:00pm.

For more information on the Government Technology Conference visit: **http://www.govtech.net**. For more information on GIS Day contact Elizabeth Novak at (518) 443-2042 or **elizabeth.novak@oft.state.ny.us**.

How do I Become a Cooperative Member?

To learn more about benefits of participating in the NYS GIS Data Sharing Cooperative, visit **http://www.nysgis/gis/datacoop.htm** or by calling Bruce Oswald at the NYS Office for Technology at (518) 443-2042
e-mail at **bruce.oswald@oft.state.ny.us**.

Bring Your Kids to Work Day

On April 24, 2001 the New York State Office for Technology hosted their first annual "Bring Your Kids to Work Day." The event was a success with nearly 40 children attending, ranging in age from 7-18 years. Events varied during the day and were broken down by age. The day started with a breakfast reception and opening discussion from William Pelgrin, Executive Deputy Commissioner.

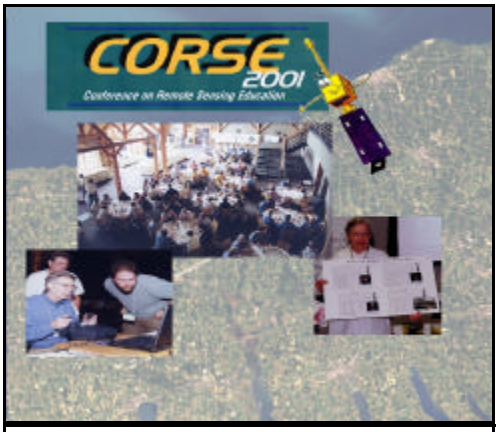
To demonstrate Geographic Information Systems, the Center for Geographic Information prepared several special activities. First, kids were taken on-line to the NYSGIS Clearinghouse where they were shown how to find their houses using the Digital Orthoimagery application. Some children were shown how to locate their schools and other items of interest. In addition, children were shown other on-line mapping applications that allow you to find addresses and create maps. The kids were given brief introduction to cartographic symbolization, which they applied to the maps they created.

Other daytime activities included having 'official' picture ID cards made with digital cameras, creating personalized web pages, demonstrations of live tele-conferences, in addition to games and tours.

The day's events wrapped up with a GIS exercise in data collection. Fortunately, for all involved, the weather cooperated! Nearly a dozen children were broken up into groups, given a hand-held GPS receiver, a map of the immediate vicinity displaying an orthoimage and a list of easy-to-find, outside landmarks, i.e., the hot dog vendor on the corner, the front steps of the Capital building, the flagpole bases along the fountain area on the Plaza, etc. The exercise began by using the map to orient them and then, using the GPS receivers to locate and record GPS points for each of the landmarks in the list. After all the points were recorded, the kids hit the computers where the data was downloaded from the GPS units into a GIS project and overlayed on the orthoimage for the vicinity. From this, the children visualized the data they collected and how it was represented on a 'map.' Then, using GIS, distances and areas were measured, landmarks were labeled and a scale was added to create a simple map. Additional discussions revolved around uses for GIS, basic mapping principles and geographic coordinates.

For more information, please call the Center for Geographic Information at (518) 443-2042.

Teachers Gather to Share Ways to Bring NASA Technologies to Classrooms



Pictures of CORSE 2001 Conference

After an introduction to Geographic Information Technologies (GIT), what would you do if you were given the freedom to do anything with them? If this were a perfect world, with unlimited budgets, and unlimited access to the technology needed to run these exciting tools for inquiry-based learning, what would you do? This was the base line for a curriculum brainstorming session that took place on one of the four exciting days at the Conference on Remote Sensing Education, (CORSE 2001), held at Cayuga Community College on June 27th – 30th.

The aim of the Conference was to help teachers learn how to integrate geospatial technology into their lesson plans. Its theme was "teachers teaching teachers." Through lectures, seminars, spatial data labs, and field exercises, eighty-eight teachers of kindergarten through the community college level (K-14) received hands-on training and experience working with spatial data and technologies made available by NASA and other government agencies. The teachers had opportunities to use state-of-the-art software, view flyovers, work in teams to design lesson plans, and practice using GPS equipment. At conference-end, they took home lesson plans and data on CDs.

Forty-three teachers from New York State participated. In addition, teachers from seven other Northeastern states were present. Teachers of sixteen disciplines, besides Earth/Environmental Science and GIS, participated: teachers of anthropology, English, geography, history, math, technology and other sciences.

CORSE 2001 was sponsored by the International Center for Remote Sensing Education, NASA's Regional Applications Center for the Northeast, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry (ESF), and Cayuga Community College. Robert Brower, Director of the RACNE, served as the Conference Chair. Professor Lee Herrington, on sabbatical from SUNY ESF, was the Conference Coordinator. Dr. Abu Badruddin, the Assistant Professor responsible for developing the Geographic Information Systems curriculum at Cayuga Community College, was the Program Committee Chair for the Conference. Prior to this year, there were two previous CORSE conferences. CORSE 1999 was held in Denver, Colorado; CORSE, 2000 met in Long Beach, Mississippi.

CORSE 2001 program highlights included three plenary sessions. Arden Georgi Thompson, Science Enrichment Specialist and teacher of the gifted and talented, spoke about her experiences in bringing satellite imagery to grades K-8. Dr. Charles Hall, Professor at SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse, spoke about assessing the potential for sustainable development in Costa Rica using GIT. Professor Mark Monmonier, Distinguished Professor at Syracuse University's Maxwell School, presented a keynote address entitled "How to Lie with Maps – and Not Even Know It" – a lesson on designing clear, easy-to-understand maps.

For more information about CORSE 2001, check out the website at **http://racims.aubcom.com/corse/.**

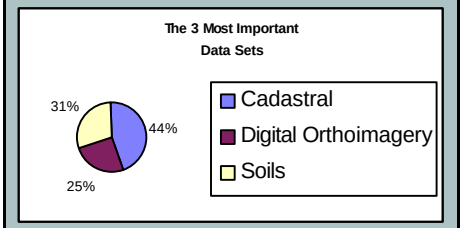
Who's Who in GIS

Would you like to be added to the "Who's Who in GIS" Listing? Please send an e-mail to the **nysgis@oft.state.ny.us**. For more information, please visit **http://www.nysgis.state.ny.us/whoismain.htm**

NYS GIS COORDINATION PROGRAM ANNUAL SURVEY

On Wednesday, June 6, 2001, the NYS GIS Coordination Program held its annual strategic planning meeting to prioritize activities for the coming year. To gather input and feedback from our customers, a survey was developed and posted on the NYS GIS Clearinghouse. The chart below is a summary of the survey responses received. These responses were invaluable in establishing priority GIS projects for the coming year including framework data development projects, expanded outreach and training offerings, and Clearinghouse enhancements to improve data access.

The NYS GIS Coordination Program would like to thank all of the respondents for participating in this important process. If you missed out on the opportunity to participate this year, we will be surveying the NYS GIS Community again in May 2002. Please keep an eye on the Clearinghouse at http://www.nysgis.state.ny.us/ for more information and thank you in advance for your participation! Your input really does help to steer our program!



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