



imaginNEWS

what's inside

Poster Gallery
Winners

New Board
Officers

Who's
Doing What

2001 Forum
Call for
Presentations



Counties and Local Users Conference

If only the newsletter was printed in full color, we could share with you the fabulous fall color we experienced traveling to, from and being at beautiful Shanty Creek for the fall

Counties and Local Users Conference. Over 230 GIS users gathered for the 4th annual conference.

MIC and IMAGIN again offered the opportunity to fill out the contact page of the Michigan Geographic Resources Inventory survey.

Conference attendees were encouraged to participate with the carrot being entrance into the prize-give aways Tuesday morning.

WINNERS:

- \$50.00 Home Depot Gift Certificate — *John Bush, Ionia County*
- \$50.00 Home Depot Gift Certificate — *Roger Belknap, Kent County Road & Park Commission*
- \$35.00 Applebees Gift Certificate — *Ken Kaiser, City of Marquette*
- \$35.00 Applebees Gift Certificate — *Tory Meyers, Progressive AE*
- \$35.00 Applebees Gift Certificate — *Kathleen Weessies, MSU Library*

- Fee Registration to IMAGIN combined Forum and Counties and Local Users Conference — *Connie Cousins-Leatherman, Kalamazoo County HSD*
- Fee Registration to IMAGIN combined Forum and Counties and Local Users Conference — *Lee Everson, DNR*
- Golf Putter donated by Engineering Supply Health Dept. — *Dawn Siegel, Livingston County*
- Golf Umbrella, Hat and Towel donated by Woolpert — *Teri Schiedel, Kalamazoo*
- Four large special Shanty Creek cookies — *Michael Wee, City of Muskegon*

Anticipating a small crowd at the demonstration stations, set-up changed substantially when as many as 30 crowded around a monitor to see demonstrated Project Management in ArcView or Labeling ArcView. One participant noted, "we worked our darnedest to stump the demonstrator but she seemed to know all the answers."



MAIN STORY continued on page 2

MAIN STORY *continued from cover*



New to the conference this year was the Map Gallery. The following were voted first, second and third place by conference participants:

BEST CARTOGRAPHIC DESIGN

- 1st: St Clair County, Air Industrial Park Series
- 2nd: Oakland County, Shiawassee & Huron Headwaters Resource Preservation Project
- 3rd: Marquette County, KI Sawyer Development

BEST ANALYTICAL PRESENTATION

- 1st: St. Clair County St. Clair, County Buildout Analysis Comparing Zoning & Master Plans
- 2nd: Northwest Michigan Council of Governments Zoning Class System
- 3rd: Marquette County, KI Sawyer Development

BEST DATA INTEGRATION

- 1st: St. Clair County, Land Division in St. Clair Area
- 2nd: Oakland County, Clinton River Trail
- 3rd: Waterford Township, no title

BEST COOPERATIVE PRESENTATION

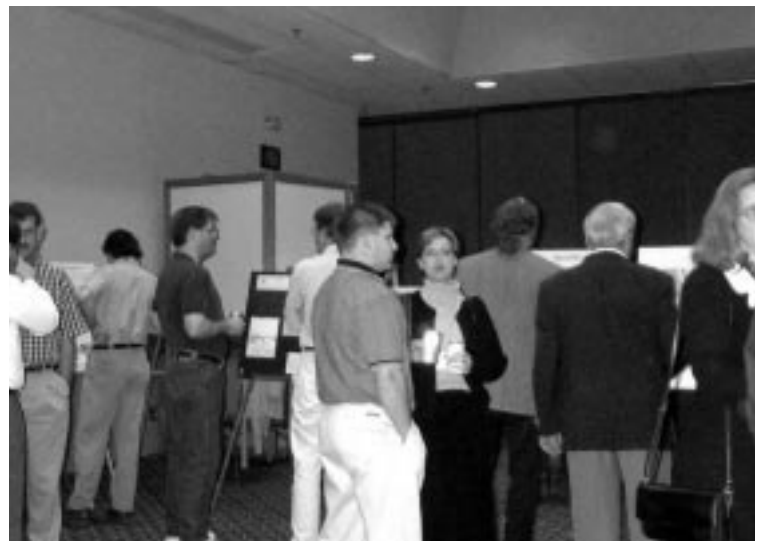
- 1st: St Clair County, Air Industrial Park

The conference concluded Tuesday afternoon with the annual meeting. A tie among candidates for a position on the board of Directors occurred and results of a run-off were not known until the annual meeting. The membership returned the incumbents:

- Brian Berdanier, Ottawa County
- Vince Bevins, CUPPAD Commission
- Gary Bilow, MDNR
- Bill Enslin, MSU – Center for Remote Sensing & GIS
- Dave Frey, LIAA
- Scott Oppmann, Oakland County
- Frank Sobie, Wade-Trim

New officers were also elected:

- Jim Bennett, President, Infogeographics, Inc.
- Sharon Bramble, Vice-President, Kent County
- Scott Oppmann, Treasurer, Oakland County
- Dave Frey, Secretary, LIAA



Conference attendees commented that they enjoyed the opportunity to network with fellow GIS users, they learned what others were doing, they got some ideas about new projects or a new way of doing an existing task....they enjoyed the weather, color and an opportunity to get away from the daily grind. Don't tell work but a few hit the links and experienced The Legend.



Who is doing What in GIS and Spatial Technology?

NAME OF MUNICIPALITY/AGENCY:
OAKLAND COUNTY, MI

LOCATE ON THE MAP.



Population: 1.2 Million
Geographic Coverage: 910 Square miles
Number of Staff: 8 Full Time
 1 Part Time
Yearly Budget: Project-based

GIVE A STATUS OF YOUR PROGRAM (5-6 PARAGRAPHS – WHEN STARTED, WHO IS INVOLVED, PLATFORM AND SOFTWARE YOU USE, ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE)

The Oakland County GIS program is not an activity conducted by one agency. Rather, it is a countywide set of strategic information gathering and sharing activities conducted by several County agencies and many local cities, villages and townships (CVTs). The County is developing an enterprise GIS

program to support and promote coordinated “location-based” data development and access across jurisdictional and departmental boundaries.

A majority of the County’s GIS efforts have been focused on the creation and development of core GIS data sets such as parcels, digital orthophotography, road centerlines with address ranges, topography and hydrography. Once automated, these data sets are made accessible to other County departments as well as to the 61 CVTs across the County at no cost. The automation of these enterprise wide data sets allows the CVTs and other county departments to leverage centrally maintained GIS data sets into GIS applications. In support of this effort, the County entered into a master purchase agreement with ESRI and is supplying each CVT with 3 copies of ArcView GIS and ArcPress software at no cost. Full-time resources have also been dedicated at the County level to train and support participating agencies in their GIS implementation efforts.

DESCRIBE ANY NEW PROJECTS OR ACTIVITIES (2-3 PARAGRAPHS)

The County recently completed the automation of approximately 430,000 parcels from hard copy maps into a seamless, countywide ArcInfo coverage. The parcels are positioned centrally on the GIS data server and are maintained regularly by the Oakland County GIS Utility. In addition, a road centerline and address range coverage has been completed that is integrated with a computer aided dispatch system and will be utilized by the U.S. Census Bureau for development of the Tiger 2000 data.

Presently, the County is receiving low altitude, black and white digital orthophotography that was flown in April of 2000. The County will also be receiving a TIN model that will support the creation of 2 ft. contours and color infra-red orthophotography (1”=2640’ scale) to compliment the County’s current black and white orthophotography. Many CVTs had intended on flying their own photography and funding it with local tax dollars. The individual cost of these flights, had they been flown, would have been more than twice the cost the County has incurred. Once completed, the orthophotography will be accessible to other County departments and the CVTs.

The GIS Utility also recently completed an ArcGIS Migration Plan. This Plan is a direction-setting document that will guide Oakland County's enterprise geographic information system (GIS) program through the migration of ESRI's object-oriented spatial technology. It is a road map for the County that identifies the steps necessary to fully implement this new technology. Furthermore, the Plan prepares the County so it can take full advantage of new software versions as they are released by ESRI.

Oakland County has also launched a cooperative purchasing agreement that will encourage the use of pre-approved GIS vendors. Through this program, the County will fund a portion of the costs of the CVT's GIS projects and will encourage sharing of information on projects between CVTs. This program will also encourage common data standards and ensure that data can be shared from the County to the CVTs and back again.

WHAT WOULD YOU DO DIFFERENTLY IF YOU HAD TO START OVER?

Looking back over the last few years, a couple items come to mind. First, the County should have been more proactive in raising the level of GIS understanding and how it can be used to increase government services. This was realized when the County started offering an Introduction to GIS class twice a month and the classes were immediately booked. The classes continue to be very popular and to date, over 150 people have been trained on the basic concepts of GIS and how it can be utilized in their organization.

Secondly, the need to create hard copy output from a GIS was not taken seriously enough. A lot of effort has been focused on re-engineering workflows and making sure that the enterprise GIS data sets are as accurate as possible. Many of the County's users simply want to use GIS to create hard copy maps for citizens or for presentations. We are now looking at restructuring some of our data sets (in particular annotation issues) that will meet the needs of our users.

WHAT VALUABLE PIECE OF INFORMATION HAVE YOU LEARNED THAT YOU WOULD YOU LIKE TO SHARE WITH THE GIS COMMUNITY?

A major reason the County's GIS program has been successful is because the focus has been on improving government service. Technology, while important, has not been the focus

and only has served as a delivery mechanism for these services. The value of the improved services longer-term will greatly outweigh the investments in technology.

More information about Oakland County's GIS implementation can be found at www.co.oakland.mi.us/c_serv/gis.

Name: Erick Phillips
Title: GIS User Support Specialist
Organization: Oakland County GIS Utility
Address: 1200 N. Telegraph Rd. Bldg. 49 West Pontiac, MI 48341
Telephone number: (248) 858-2040
E-mail address: phillipse@co.oakland.mi.us

Thank you to the Counties and Local User Conference sponsors:

Aerocon Photogrammetric Services

Aero-Metric, Inc.

Air Land Survey

Analytical Surveys, Inc.

Ayres Associates

ERDAS

ESRI

G. Lengemann Co.

Intergraph Corporation

Kucera International, Inc.

Call for Presentations for the 10th Annual IMAGIN Forum & Counties and Local Users Conference

MAY 21 AND 22, 2001 – LANSING CENTER

Presentations are being solicited for the 10th Annual IMAGIN Forum and the Counties and Local Users Conference in the following subject area:

Municipal and County GIS: This tract will feature GIS applications in use in municipal and county governments. Application areas could include land use planning, assessment & taxation, public safety, environmental protection, public works and other areas where GIS technology is used in local government service.

New Technologies & Trends: This tract will feature the latest GIS technologies being developed by several of the country's leading GIS vendors. Specific software and/or application demonstrations will illustrate how information technology trends are resulting in more powerful and integrateable GIS toolsets.

GIS in Problem-Solving: This tract will feature specific GIS research and/or applications used to solve complex problems and high-end analysis.

Federal & State Initiatives: This tract will feature current

GIS initiatives occurring in federal and state government.

Use of Web Technologies for Public Access: This tract will feature the use of the web-based public access applications and how they are improving access to government records.

Management and Policy: This tract will feature GIS management and policy issues identified and overcome during implementation of these multi-faceted systems.

Education, Training and Employment: This tract will feature GIS education, training programs, and employment opportunities.

Share and Share Alike – Issues on Data Sharing: This tract will feature cost-effective strategies for data sharing.

Student Paper Competition: The Student Paper Competition is open to all currently enrolled students. Papers should reflect student projects and may be research-oriented or applied GIS. See the website for further details www.imagin.org. Deadline different from tracts above, March 1, 2001.

Instruction and further information can be found on the website www.imagin.org. Abstracts due January 1, 2001



Member News:

Ernest R Cacciaglia is the new GIS Coordinator for Grand Traverse County with a B.S. Degree in Chemistry from the University of Michigan. He performs supervisory and technical work to plan, organize and direct a program for the operation and enhancement of the County's GIS network and database. He works with the Equalization Department and other Departments and Agencies to determine their needs for GIS, suggests direction and provides training options and support. Ernie also supervises the GIS staff and assists in budget planning and development.

Jim Bennett has established the firm of InfoGeographics, Inc. Contact information for him and Senior Consultant Brooks Kelley is as follows:

James Bennett, President
InfoGeographics, Inc.
9251 Blackburn Drive
Traverse City, MI 49684
231-995-8266 voice 231-995-8267 fax
jbennett@infograpics.com
bkelley@infographics.com

Ken Kaiser has moved to the City of Marquette as an Engineering/GIS Technician. New contact information for Ken is:

Ken Kaiser
City of Marquette
850 W. Barage Ave.
Marquette, MI 49855
906-228-0440 voice 906-228-0445 fax



27300 Haggerty Rd., Suite F-40
Farmington Hills, MI 48331

NONPROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
FARMINGTON HILLS, MI
PERMIT NO. 592

IMAGIN is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization comprised of individuals and organizations interested in the use and application of geographic information system (GIS) technology in Michigan. Our members are committed to improving the quality and availability of digital data necessary to make good use of GIS. We believe that cooperation and open communication are necessary to achieve these objectives.

●

imagiNews

is published 12 times a year.
You may contact the editor at:

IMAGIN
27300 Haggerty Road, Suite F-30
Farmington Hills, MI 48331
(248) 489-3972
(248) 489-3973 fax

Jim Bennett, IMAGIN President

Deborah K. Schutt, Executive Director

IMAGIN MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- Discounts to the annual IMAGIN forum, local users' fall GIS conference, workshops, training sessions and IMAGIN products.
- Subscription to monthly *imagiNews*;
- Advertising discount rates;
- For data sharing organizations, access to authoritative digital information; and
- Complimentary licensed copy of DataLogr© metadata management software for data sharing organizations (cost to other members: \$50.00; non-members: \$85.00 plus \$4.50 postage).

Frank Sobie, Board Liaison/Information Resources Committee
Erick Phillips, Chair/Information Resources Committee

Contents©2000 IMAGIN. All rights reserved.

*Opinions and positions expressed by columnists and contributors are not necessarily those of IMAGIN, its officers, employees or the editor and publisher of *imagiNews*.*

