

GIS Users Group – 2016 Summary

Submitted by: Nan Ewald, Everett Root, Joshua Ross, and Mark Holmes

In an effort to continually improve the experience for everyone involved with the GIS Users Group meetings, please find below a review of the Group's activities over the past year. Based heavily on positive feedback received from participants, the Center for Shared Solutions (CSS) continued with much the same format in 2016, with 2 exceptions. In an effort to touch base with more GIS folks out in the field, the June meeting was held at Camp Grayling, and although the turnout was small, the meeting and tour of the training facility was very interesting. The August meeting was hosted by the MSU Library in East Lansing, where the meeting was followed by a tour of the Library.

- The meeting was held on a bi-monthly basis on even numbered months.
- Meetings were broken into morning and afternoon sessions.
 - The morning session consisted of networking time, organizational updates and a thirty minute special topic.
 - The afternoon session was a two hour education session that usually consisted of a PowerPoint, demonstration, and discussion. (List Below)
- CSS provided coffee, tea, and snacks (e.g. bagels or muffins) during the morning networking time.
- CSS continued its support of the meetings by assigning 2 staff members, each at 10% FTE, to act as a liaison for this meeting to ensure that it was planned, marketed, and run smoothly every other month. The Liaisons for 2016 were Joshua Ross and Nan Ewald.

The 2016 GIS User Group meetings continued to build on the established success of previous years.

- The average meeting attendance for 2016 was steady at around 35 participants. (avg. 2-4 dial in remotely), with an average 75% of the morning session participants returning for the afternoon educational sessions.
- *There was also an increase in new participants to the meeting. Throughout 2016, over 30 new names were added to the attendee list and 125 people joined the GIS ListServ, raising the ListServ participation to over 850 members.*
- *Meeting attendance continued to be diverse in nature, representing GIS Users from across disciplines – Local, State, and Federal government, academia, private sector, and not-for-profit entities.*

In 2017 CSS has secured a single location of Constitution Hall for all the Lansing Meetings. This has been accomplished with one exception of being out on the road for the June meeting.

Special Topic and Educational Sessions held in 2016

Further information and meeting minutes are available at the GIS Users Group website (http://www.michigan.gov/cgi/0,4548,7-158-52927_53037_12761_15235---,00.html):

February

- Morning – Everett Root and Mark Holmes gave updates from the State of Michigan and the Center for Shared Solutions.
- Afternoon – Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) Bob Goodwin from MSU presented “The Evolution of UAS: Applications in Research and the Private Sector”. Colin Brooks for Michigan Tech Research Institute presented “Applications of UAV’s for Transportation Infrastructure Assessment.”

April

- Morning – Poster Viewing and Judging for the IMAGIN Student Paper and Poster Competition.
- Afternoon – “IMAGIN Student Paper Competition” Students will give 20-30 minute paper presentations to be judged by a panel of Michigan University GIS professors.

June

- Meeting held offsite at Camp Grayling in Grayling Michigan.
- Morning – A presentation by SFC Jeremie Meed on the history of Camp Grayling followed by a tour of Camp Grayling and a trip out to the Combined Arms Collective Training Facility area.
- Afternoon – Eric Starn “GIS for Michigan Army National Guard Facilities”

August

- Meeting held offsite at the MSU Library in East Lansing.
- Morning – Mark Holmes presented and “Update on the Michigan Geographic Framework”, followed by a presentation by Kathleen Weessies “The Big Ten Academic Alliance Geoportal”.
- Afternoon – MSU Library Tour: Turfgrass Information Center, Map Library, Espresso Book Machine demonstration, Makerspace 3D terrain model printing demonstration and a walk through the Special Collections at the Library.

October

- Morning – Eric Guthrie, Michigan’s State Demographer presented “GIS and Demographic Analysis for the State”.
- Afternoon – No Afternoon Session

December

- Morning – Tony Olkowski, Center for Shared Solutions, presented “ArcGIS Online Updates”
- Afternoon – Bill Monaghan (Indiana University), Bob Goodwin, Justin Booth, Alan Arbogast, William Lovis (Michigan State University) Presented “Costal Sleuthing in High Resolution: Interdisciplinary RS/GIS Research on Lake Michigan Coastal Dunes”.

Looking Ahead – 2017

2017 Highlights will include:

- On Thursday, April 6th in collaboration with the IMAGIN Organization, the GIS Users Group will host the 2017 IMAGIN Student Paper and Poster Competition at Lansing Community College West Campus.
- On Thursday June 1st, we will be on the road in Grand Rapids at the Kent County Road Commission.

As always, if you have any questions/comments regarding the meetings please forward them to Nan Ewald at the Center for Shared Solutions (517-373-7910). Thanks again for helping to make 2016 such a success.