



## **PaMAGIC MATTERS September 2011**

### **President's Corner**

The natural events that have occurred over the past several weeks, whether earthquakes or tropical storms, have really illustrated the importance of GIS and Geospatial Technologies. Whether it's preparedness in the wake of an impending storm, rapid mapping and release of information regarding an earthquake, emergency response during and after the events, or tracking of damage and impact, GIS is a vital technology. I can't help but wonder how different our assessment of the impacts and our responses to them would be without this technology.

I am also amazed at how quickly information is released as the events unfold. As we all know, the Internet and particularly social media has had a major impact on how we receive information and how quickly news spreads. The link between GIS and social media was never more evident as it was during the recent natural events. Particularly during the earthquake when literally within minutes, information could be found all over the Internet, including mapping of where the earthquake took place and what impacts were already being seen up and down the east coast. Many of these reports were simply from private individuals via various social media channels.

PaMAGIC is also in the process of taking advantage of a number of Internet and social media outlets. Over the past year, we have increased our web presence at [www.pamagic.org](http://www.pamagic.org) and we have established a Facebook page. Additionally, the PaMagic twitter account is up and running: <https://twitter.com/#!/PaMAGIC>. We will continue to use these technologies to not only spread the word about what we are doing as an organization and about GIS coordination in Pennsylvania, but we are also hoping to gain further support for the overall growth and use of GIS in the Commonwealth. With initiatives such as House Bill 1701, the Marcellus Advisory Committee, increased data sharing among state and local government entities, and the general deployment of more GIS data and related technologies, the need to release information quickly and through multiple media channels has never been more important. We are also investigating ways to increase our membership's use of these technologies, and we hope you will continue to support and take advantage of them.

One of our additional primary communication vehicles for PA GIS activities is the annual state GIS Conference. CCAP and PA MAGIC will once again assume a leadership role in the planning and execution of the Conference, and the Planning Committee for the 2012 Conference is now taking shape. Please let us know if you are interested in serving on the Committee or helping with the Conference in any way. I personally found serving on the Committee to be a very rewarding experience this past year, and it was a prime example of how far good coordination and teamwork can take us.

Other upcoming events are listed in this newsletter and they all offer an opportunity for us to collaborate in terms of the activities we are working on and how we can work together to promote GIS technologies, increase and improve the resources available to all of us, and continue to utilize GIS as a decision making tool throughout all levels of government and the private sector.

Mike Bialousz

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# [Philadelphia Department of Records Wins Award](#)

## Upcoming GIS Events

**The 2011 Pennsylvania Data User Conference** September 15 Holiday Inn Harrisburg/Hershey. This year's conference entitled, *What Data Can Teach US*, will focus on how to get the most out of the wealth of new data available from the U.S. Census Bureau, including the latest releases from the 2010 Census. The PaSDC is honored to announce that Dr. Robert M. Groves, Director of the U.S. Census Bureau, will be on hand to deliver the keynote address. Please visit the 2011 Pennsylvania Data User Conference website at <http://www.pasdcconference.org> or call the Pennsylvania State Data Center at 717-948-6336 to register

ESRI Seminar **Extend Your Reach** Philadelphia 9/6/2011; State College 9/8/2011; Pittsburgh 9/29/2011: Register here (free): <http://www.esri.com/events/seminars/extend-your-reach/>

2011 **NWPA GIS Conference** October 13 – 14 at Clarion University <http://www.clarion.edu/gisconference> for more information or for registration to attend, present and/or exhibit. **Presentation, exhibition, and map gallery entry registrations are due by September 16th, 2011.** Presentations are especially encouraged in the following tracks:

GIS in Education: Open for students and educators in general to share their projects, experiences and applications.

Oil and Gas Applications.

Emerging Technologies; especially those directed towards collaboration, data sharing, and public participation

Natural Resources Management.

GIS in Action: Open topic for your interesting application, how-to, theories and methods in the field of geospatial technologies in general.

Do not hesitate to contact Dr. Yasser Ayad [yayad@clarion.edu](mailto:yayad@clarion.edu)) or Mr. Matt Gilara [mgilara@co.venango.pa.us](mailto:mgilara@co.venango.pa.us) for sponsorship opportunities, or questions or comments, Arlene Rodriguez [arodriguez@co.crawford.pa.us](mailto:arodriguez@co.crawford.pa.us) for information on the map gallery and competition.

Save the Date" for the **2011 Central PA GIS Day!** The date is Wednesday, November 16, 2011, the location is HACC Midtown, and the website is <http://gisday2011.yolasite.com/>

**Esri Mid-Atlantic User Group (MUG) Conference**– Hunt Valley MD Dec. 6 & 7 now accepting posters for display in the Map Gallery submit your map online by **November 4** and eliminate printing time, shipping cost, and map transport. Take advantage of this opportunity to share and collaborate with your peers.

Save the Date for the **2012 Pennsylvania GIS Conference**. The dates are May 22 and 23. More information soon.

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If there is something which you would like to have included in PaMAGIC *MATTERS*, please send it to [kathryn.reed@allegHENYcounty.us](mailto:kathryn.reed@allegHENYcounty.us)