

TNGIC Today

The Newsletter of the Tennessee Geographic Information Council

January 2001

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National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC) Annual Meeting Report... *Joe Sewash*

TNGIC President Dennis Pedersen, TNGIC Board Member Joe Sewash, and the State GIS Services Director Mark Tuttle represented Tennessee at the 2000 NSGIC Annual Meeting. The conference is a five-day event for state GIS representatives to share ideas and provide input to the direction of GIS development. The Annual Meeting provides a forum for state coordination staffs, federal representatives, other professional societies and vendors.

Topics addressed include: FGDC Awareness Campaign, state redistricting, GIS professional certification initiatives, promoting GIS to elected officials, Internet-based data distribution, and parliamentary procedure. Raytheon and NASA teamed to present research on projects involving NASA commercial data, state and local governments and academia.

More information about NSGIC can be found at <http://www.nsgic.org/>. Joe Sewash serves as the NSGIC Board Secretary and also co-chairs the professional certification issues committee. Mark Tuttle chairs the NASIRE (National Association of State Information Resource Executives) activities committee. The NSGIC Mid-Year Meeting will be hosted by Tennessee at the Sheraton Music City Hotel in Nashville, April 19-22, 2001.

Surveyors & GIS Professionals Reach Accord...*Rick Steig*

After 13 months of negotiation, representatives from 5 professional surveyor organizations and 2 GIS organizations have reached agreement on changing the NCEES (National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying) Model Law that defines the practice of surveying for which licensure is required. The group has come up with a series of recommendations concerning the legal responsibilities of professional surveyors with respect to the use of GIS and Land Information Systems (LIS).

For more information, go to <http://www.URISA.org/gispolicy.htm> or <http://www.baama.org/calendar.shtml>, click on Advocacy Soapbox on left side of BAAMA page. If you want to help the advocacy

effort, contact Bruce Joffe by email at GIS.Consultants@joffes.com (Information Source-APA Information Tech Division - <http://www.netmart.com/imago/apa-infotech/>)

First Release of 2000 Census Data...*Dennis Pederson*

The Census Bureau has released the first set of official 2000 population figures. This information is used to apportion the seats in Congress. Tennessee appears to have retained its nine seats in the U. S. House of Representatives, while western states have gained at the expense of northeastern states.

Gaining one seat each are California, Colorado, Nevada and North Carolina. Gaining two seats each are Arizona, Florida, Georgia and Texas. States losing one seat each are Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Ohio, Oklahoma and Wisconsin. Losing two seats each are New York and Pennsylvania. More information can be found at <http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2000/cb00cn64.html>

TNGIC 2001 Annual Conference...*David Speight, Conference coordinator*

The TNGIC 2001 Annual Conference is scheduled for March 28-30, 2001 at the MTSU Business and Aerospace Building. The Business & Aerospace Building is a state-of-the-art facility with modern classrooms and a 250-seat lecture hall. The classrooms and lecture hall are furnished with multimedia equipment for speaker presentations. The building encloses a courtyard which, weather permitting, will be the site of a Thursday night cookout. Fees will be \$69 per person. This includes the TNGIC annual membership fee, all meals on Thursday and breakfast on Friday morning. Registration forms will be mailed in early February.

Wednesday 3/28-Exhibitor setup from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. The following URISA workshops will be offered:

Introduction to GIS: A thorough overview of the concepts, functions, applications, technologies and trends associated with GIS. Intro to GIS provides an excellent framework for understanding the fundamental principles of GIS design and development. Topics include spatial data and database management, hardware and software considerations, GIS applications, data resources, systems integration, project planning, education and training, and implementation. The workshop is an excellent point of entry or refresher workshop for anyone who needs to know more about the evolving field of GIS.

Introduction to Object-Oriented GIS Technology: "Object-orientation" means different things to different people. This workshop is designed to clarify understanding and discuss misconceptions related to this leading technology, which is not as new as many people think. Begins with discussions of the motivation and basic concept of object-orientation, followed by a discussion of key issues and trade-offs in applying this paradigm to database management systems and to GIS. Related U.S. and international standards organizations and activities are presented.

Other workshops may be scheduled. Additional fees will be charged to attend these sessions. Contact David Speight to schedule or host a training session. Continuing education units will be awarded to workshop attendees.

Thursday 3/29-A continental breakfast will be served during registration. After the opening session, individual presentations will be given during concurrent sessions. In mid-afternoon there will be a special GIS presentation prior to the TNGIC business meeting. After the business meeting, a cookout will be held in the courtyard -- including drawings for vendor donated prizes.

Friday 3/30-A breakfast buffet will precede the closing sessions. The first session will highlight the TNGIC Strategic Planning Rollout, followed by a panel discussion of the NCEES Model Law which affects certification of GIS professionals. A final grand prize will be awarded.

Opportunities for Participation-there are many ways to participate in the Annual Forum:
Concurrent Session Presentations - contact David Speight (david.speight@infocode.com)
Map/Poster Contest - contact Chris Weber (Chris.Weber@mnps.org)
Vendor Exhibits - contact Marie Colson (macolson@tva.gov)
Meal/break Sponsorship - contact Marie Colson (macolson@tva.gov)

Accommodations--A block of rooms has been reserved at the Garden Plaza, 1850 Old Fort Parkway in Murfreesboro, telephone 1.800.3GARDEN. Be sure to request a TNGIC room. Rates are \$65.00/night. Cut off date for this rate is Feb 27, 2001.

Next TNCIG Board Meeting...

Next Board Meeting-January 31, 2001 at 10:00 CST, at the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) offices located at the Ellington Agricultural Center off Edmonson Pike in south Nashville. TWRA is the second building on the right after entering the Center from Edmonson. Parking is available at the building. If these lots are full, additional parking is available just up the hill at the Ed Jones Auditorium. Edmonson Pike is off Nolensville Pike between I-24 and I-65. From I-24, exit #56, Harding Place (west), approximately 1.5 miles then left on Nolensville Pike. From I-65, exit #78, Harding Place (east), approximately 2 miles then right on Nolensville Pike. Edmonson Pike will be the first right after turning onto Nolensville Pike. The entrance to the Ellington Agricultural Center is approximately 1.5 miles on the right. TNGIC members are welcomed to attend.

GIS DAY REPORTS...

TVA GIS Day Activities-Marie Colson

TVA had displays showing TVA applications of GIS technology at the concourse of the Knoxville TVA Office Complex and at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. In Chattanooga, GI&E hosted a GIS technology poster display and a live demo in the complex lobby on GIS Day. Volunteers also did presentations about GIS technology to area schools in Norris and Oak Ridge, Austin East High School, Knoxville; Catoosa Academy, Ringold, Ga., a school focused on disadvantaged students, at Red Bank High School to juniors and seniors and at Soddy Daisy Middle School. The conclusion of all of the volunteers was that nice looking plots attract attention and everyone wants to see their house on a digital ortho. Everyone had a great time participating in these events. We all feel it is a worthwhile effort and is very much appreciated by the community.

TDOT GIS DAY Report-Sherry Hankins

GIS Day Tennessee 2000 was held Wednesday, November 15 during Geography Awareness Week and TDOT- Planning Division, was delighted when asked to participate in such a significant worldwide event. TDOT hosted a GIS Day Open House in the lobby of the TDOT offices. We had a full house at the GIS Day 2000. Senator Henry requested a demonstration for the Legislators and GIS Day coordinator, Sherry Hankins, arranged a meeting with Children's Services to discuss potential GIS use. Along with the open house, the TDOT newsletter gave GIS and GIS Day a full front page spread, emphasizing the uses of GIS within TDOT.

University of Tennessee Knoxville GIS Day Open House-Star Lakavage

Dr. Bruce Ralston with his cast of many, hosted a successful and packed GIS Day Open House with displays by various departments within UTK utilizing GIS, private sector industries providing GIS services, local municipality offices from the City of Knoxville, Knox County and Farragut, the Tennessee Geographic Alliance and TVA. This year included a display from the UTK School of Business, particularly in the field of logistics. The variety of users, uses and displays proved once again that GIS is creeping into every aspect of business and enterprise.

GIS DAY in Clarksville-Kenneth Kirk

The GIS DAY-2000 planned by the Clarksville/Montgomery County GIS Center (CMC GIS) was a gala event for the City of Clarksville with presentations, booths, souvenirs, balloons and snacks. The Mayor, County Executive and Austin Peay University President, proclaimed November 15 as GIS DAY and delivered remarks about the development of GIS in the Clarksville community. The CMC GIS Center director and manager spoke at the event on the role of the Center in the community. The assessor of property spoke of how the implementation of GIS has improved the flow of requests in his office. The Regional Planning Office talked about the usefulness of GIS in their efforts to manage growth in the city. Two guest speakers demonstrated how their software managed the same type of data that the Center uses. In the afternoon, several city and county agencies set up displays with interactive demonstrations in the public library. The interactive booths brought a lot of public interest. Without a doubt the first GIS DAY event for the city and county seemed to be a hit. We can only hope and imagine that the next time, the event will draw even more spectators and be implemented in a broader scale.

GIS Day at the State Capitol-Joe Sewash

GIS Services hosted GIS Day Tennessee 2000, in the Tennessee Tower adjacent to the Capital and Legislative Plaza. Six agencies displayed products of their GIS initiatives. Over 150 guests including members of the State Information Systems Council, department heads and their staffs, and members of the state IT community attended. Participating agencies included: Office of the Comptroller, Division of Property Assessments, Department of Economic & Community Development, TWRA, Department of Environment & Conservation, Dept of Transportation and OIR - GIS Services.

GIS Champion...

For the past two years TNGIC has presented the GIS Champion award to an individual in the state who has played an influential role in the growth of GIS in the State of Tennessee. The board welcomes nominations from the membership for this award to be presented at the 2001 TNGIC Forum. Contact Dennis Pederson, Office of Local Government, 1400 James Polk Bldg, 505 Deadrick St, Nashville, TN

37243 or email to dpederse@mail.state.tn.us

STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE...*Dennis Pedersen, TNGIC President*

Speaking on behalf of the strategic planning committee and the entire TNGIC board, I want to take this opportunity to share some very important news with all TNGIC members and ask for your help to make TNGIC a stronger organization.

As you know, over the past few months selected individuals and TNGIC board members have been in the process of developing a strategic plan for our organization. When completed, this plan will identify specific goals and objectives and provide a committee structure that will allow all members to help carry out these tasks. In my view, TNGIC has served its members well over the past few years; however, the development of a strategic plan will provide the board and the general membership with a direction and focus that can take this organization to the next level!

What is the strategic plan?

Simply put, the strategic plan is a statement of goals and objectives developed by the strategic planning group. Many TNGIC members have expressed their thoughts about what TNGIC is, and what we should be doing as an organization. For example:

- Improving communication
- Establishing a data clearinghouse
- Updating the website
- Providing educational opportunities
- Shaping GIS related policy

Based on these ideas and others, the strategic plan takes these random thoughts and organizes them into a structured format. This provides all members with a clear vision of what TNGIC will accomplish and opportunities for the membership to participate in the organization. The plan is a "living document" and will be amended as new ideas are generated through committee development. The TNGIC board of directors will be responsible for managing implementation of the strategic plan and providing feedback to various committees.

How can you help implement the strategic plan?

TNGIC members can help by volunteering to serve on one of four newly created committees. The strategic plan identifies these committees as the mechanism to implement TNGIC goals. I have appointed committee chairs to develop specific work plans that will serve as the foundation for implementation. These work plans will be shared with the general membership at the annual conference in March and will serve as your opportunity to participate in the advancement of the organization.

TNGIC board liaisons have been assigned to each of the committees. These are Board members that will assist the committee chairs in work plan development, implementation, recruiting and other committee management functions. The following is a list of the committees, committee chairs, and board liaisons:

Committee

Chairperson

Board Liaison

Activities	Jeanette Jones	Dennis Pedersen
Professional Development	Sergei Andronikov	Lindsey Galyen
Communication	Star Lakavage	Dan Hawk
Technical	Costi Tudan	Joe Sewash

Over the next few months, please take a few moments and think about which of these committees you would like to help serve. To help you in your decision, I've included an excerpt of the strategic plan that identifies the goals and objectives.

1. Sustain effective communication between the TNGIC membership, the Board of Directors, and the geospatial community.
 - 1.1. Improve the effectiveness of the TNGIC Newsletter.
 - 1.2. Provide timely and relevant content to TNGIC members and the geospatial community through the TNGIC website.
 - 1.3. Promote the usage of TNGIC listserv for distribution of information.
 - 1.4. Maintain a permanent business address.
2. Promote professional development and foster educational opportunities and excellence for the TNGIC membership and the geospatial community.
 - 2.1. Promote the development of a GIS code of ethics.
 - 2.2. Advocate the definition of core competency skills to further the formation of the GIS profession.
 - 2.3. Develop and sustain relevant educational opportunities for the TNGIC membership.
3. Support opportunities and mechanisms for the TNGIC membership input, participation, and networking.
 - 3.1. Ensure through policy and practice that TNGIC does not favor any group or vendor
 - 3.2. Provide an Annual Conference for the TNGIC membership each calendar year.
 - 3.3. Sustain a rotating regional forum, to include meetings of the Board, and issues of regional interest and technical relevance involving GIS.
 - 3.4. Encourage each member of the TNGIC membership to participate in at least one committee-based activity annually.
4. Advance the state of GIS technology in the geospatial community on behalf of the TNGIC membership.
 - 4.1. Establish and maintain a public-access NSDI Clearinghouse node.
 - 4.2. Engage existing groups to promote information sharing.
 - 4.3. Cultivate and support a GIS mentor program.

Membership participation is crucial for a successful organization. In the past, TNGIC may not have

provided its members with enough opportunities to participate, but through strategic planning and committee development all members will have an avenue to contribute.

GISource adds GIS InAction Profiles...*Joe Sewash*

The GISource website (<http://gis.state.tn.us/>) invites you to visit the GIS InAction profiles section of its site. These profiles are for public, academic, and non-profit organizations using GIS in Tennessee. Each profile offers an overview of the mission of the agency and how they use GIS in day-to-day activities. Profiles also include web links and contact information. As the number of InAction profiles grows, users will have a convenient place to begin networking and learning about GIS development in Tennessee.

If your agency or group is interested in submitting a GIS InAction profile, contact the GISource webmaster at jsewash@mail.state.tn.us or visit the submission instruction page at <http://gis.state.tn.us/library/InAction/submission.htm> Local governments are strongly encouraged to apply.

User Groups...

ET Map Info Users Group--Contact Reid Gryder at 865-482-7919 or at GryderRK@aol.com for quarterly meetings in the Knoxville/Oak Ridge area.

Oak Ridge/Knoxville Area ESRI Users Group--Contact Pat Wurth at 865-481-4729 or at patsy.a.wurth@saic.com . Next meeting date tentatively scheduled for January 25, 2001, 1:00 PM, EST, at Roane State Community College, Oak Ridge Campus. Email Pat to receive meeting notices or to verify the January meeting date.

ESRI Users Group in Middle Tennessee--Contact Jennifer Higgs at the Metro Nashville Planning Commission (jennifer_higgs@metro.nashville.org) for meeting dates.

Middle Tennessee GIS Users Group--Contact Wade Wilson (wwilson@neel-schaffer.com) for meeting dates. This non-software specific group discusses general GIS topics.

Intergraph Users Groups--There are several in the Huntsville, AL area covering FRAMME, Geomedia and MGE. For additional information contact Ron McLeroy , telephone 256-882-8112 .

TN Federal GIS User Group--Meets twice a year at the US Fish and Wildlife Service offices, 446 Neal Street, Cookeville, TN. Contact Jason Dukes at US Fish and Wildlife Service, at 931-528-6481 ext. 216 or email jason_duke@fws.gov for meeting dates.

West Tennessee Users Group forming-As plans firm up, information on this group will appear in the newsletter and on the website. This is a general interest group for those using or interested in using GIS. Contact Costi Tudan, EnSafe, Inc at 901-372-7962 or email to ctudan@ensafe.com

Meetings and Conferences

Geospatial Information & Technology Association (GITA)-March 4-7, 2001. San Diego, CA. 24th Annual Conference and Exhibition. Conference and registration information can be found at www.gita.org.

[org](#)

TNGIC List Server...

The TNGIC-L listserv, hosted by TDEC, is located at tngic@tdec.state.tn.us.

To subscribe, use the following instructions:

1. Use your regular e-mail functions
2. Send a message to tngic-request@tdec.state.tn.us
3. In the ****SUBJECT**** field, enter the word "SUBSCRIBE"

You should receive a return message indicating the status of your subscription and guidelines which you should retain. Send outgoing messages to the TNGIC group to tngic@tdec.state.tn.us. Report any problems to John Farrar at: trix@tdec.state.tn.us.

The TNGIC list server is not very active so if you are not flooded with TNGIC email, do not assume it isn't working. You make it work, it doesn't work by itself!

TNGIC Website--

Access the TNGIC website by using www.tngic.org. Any materials for consideration for the website should be forwarded to Joanne Logan at loganj@utk.edu. TNGIC membership applications are available on the website.

A Note From The Editor...

Please report any address changes to the editor by emailing to ae_gis@bellsouth.net or calling 865-457-8242. Submit any article for the next newsletter to the above email address.

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[Home](#)