

DID YOU KNOW:

- ArcGIS 10.1 will be released this summer?
- In a recent article from Yahoo! News, Geographic Information Systems Analyst was ranked the #4 most laid back career?
- The [David Rumsey Map Collection](#) has more than 30,000 historical maps and images online?

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PAMAGIC MATTERS

APRIL 2012

House Bill 1701 Status

House Bill 1701 was introduced to the Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness committee on June 21, 2011. The Bill was introduced by Representative Bryan Cutler along with 8 other co-sponsors. The content of this bill is essentially the same as House Bill 2300 which was introduced in the previous legislative session before it ran out of time at the end of that session in a crowded legislative agenda.

Pennsylvania Mapping and Geographic Information Consortium (PAMAGIC) has joined Pennsylvania Chapter of MAPPS, an association for private geospatial firms (PA-MAPPS) and the Pennsylvania Bar Association to promote this legislation. These three organizations have also been joined by County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP), PA Chapter of the

American Planning Association, Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association (PMAA) and The Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education GIS Consortium and Affiliates (PASSHE GIS Consortium and Affiliates) which also have an interest in seeing a geospatial council formed through this legislative process. These organizations have worked together to inform their constituents about this ongoing effort and provided opportunities for input and feedback regarding the bill.

1701 was unanimously passed out of that Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee on December 6th, 2011. On February 6, 2012, it was laid on the table, where it currently sits. The current administration has a general policy which discourages the development of new advisory boards and com-

mittees due to the potential costs they can add to the state budget. The consensus among supporters is that a Geospatial Coordinating Council would have minimal operating costs, but the current Administration would like to have tangible costs in the form of a fiscal note, to be able to evaluate the costs and benefits of this legislation. PA-MAPPS legislative staff has done some research on this issue and has gathered information from other states that have geospatial councils. The coalition of organizations supporting House Bill 1701 wish to meet with Administration officials to present information about the costs and benefits of a statewide council, and to answer any other questions they might have.

***** Late Breaking Update; Bill has moved on to Appropriations Committee! (This is a good thing!)**

PAMAGIC Seeks Board Nominations

Each Spring, PAMAGIC seeks nominations for board vacancies. This year, there are three vacancies to fill for the terms that are expiring on the nine member board. Each member is elected for a three year term and is eligible to be elected to serve consecutive terms.

The annual elections for the PaMAGIC Board are held each year in conjunction with the Pennsylvania GIS Conference. Most Board activities are handled through conference calls or Web meetings, and the Board sets the annual agenda and priorities at a retreat in late June.

If you would like to nominate someone or nominate yourself, contact email [Laura Simonetti at Laura.Simonetti@co.mifflin.pa.us](mailto:Laura.Simonetti@co.mifflin.pa.us) or [Eric Jespersen at ecj@epix.net](mailto:Eric.Jespersen@ecj@epix.net).

President's Corner



**PAMAGIC President
Mike Bialousz**

Before it even seemed to start, winter has left us and I am already mowing my lawn and admiring spring's flowers. Luckily I was able to travel with my daughter and friends to Vermont for a ski trip in early March to experience some winter this year!

With the arrival of spring, you will notice we have revamped the MAGIC Matters Newsletter. We felt it was time for a "facelift" and that there are better ways to get the many GIS-related messages to you. We hope you like the new format and we welcome any feedback or suggestions you may have (just contact any

Board member).

As is typical this time of year, planning is in full swing for the annual PA GIS Conference and we hope to see you all there and that you will actively participate. Continue to check the Conference [web site](#) for updates.

Speaking of actively participating, a request recently went out seeking input for the annual State of GIS Report. We hope you will take a few minutes to send us your GIS-related chronicles from the past year, whether or good or bad, which will greatly aid in making the Report as compre-

hensive and encompassing as possible.

Other information, activities and upcoming events are listed in this Newsletter and we hope you find this useful and interesting. Please don't forget to visit (and "Like") PA MAGIC on Facebook and to follow us on Twitter! Happy spring!



Gearing Up for the 2012 PA GIS Conference

The Pennsylvania GIS Conference will be held May 22 and 23 at the Holiday Inn in Grantville, PA. The theme for this year's conference is 'GIS: Impacting Everyday Life.'

Prior to the conference, there will be a remote sensing pre-conference workshop on Monday, May 21 at Harrisburg Area Community College's Midtown Campus.

The two day conference will

feature plenary speakers, concurrent sessions, Esri's learning lab, and the evening mixer, the PAMAGIC InfoSwap.

The keynote speakers are: George White (PA's Chief Information Officer), Jim Querry (GIS Director for Philadelphia, Mike Evanoff (Google), and Christian Carlson (Esri).

To register for the conference,



go to <http://www.pagisconference.org>.

The early bird registration ends on April 6, so do not delay, register today!

PAMAGIC Excellence Award

Each year, at the PA GIS conference, PAMAGIC recognizes one individual or organization that has contributed greatly to the promotion or advancement of GIS in Pennsylvania. The award first started in 2009. Past recipients of this award include Maurie Kelly (Director of PASDA), Repre-

sentative Russell Fairchild, and Brady Stroh.

If you would like to nominate someone for this very prestigious award, please go to our website to download the nomination form. Submit your nominations by Wednesday, April 11 to Mike Bialousz, mbialousz@pa.gov.



2011 PAMAGIC Excellence Award Winner, Brady Stroh with Glenn Mohler

Show Your Stuff! PA GIS Conference Features “Maps and Apps” Contest

Show off your GIS skills to the whole Pennsylvania GIS community by entering the [“Maps and Apps” contest](#) that will take place during the PA GIS Conference on May 22-23. The “Maps and Apps” contest is open to all who register for the PA GIS Conference. One award will be given for Best Overall Map and one award will be given for Best Overall App. The deadline for submission is April 13, 2012 and online voting will begin May 4 and continue to May 18.

The submissions should reflect the theme of the conference “GIS: Impacting Everyday Life.” Maps and apps will be scored in four categories: 1) function/performance, 2) design, 3) innovation/interactivity, and 4) content.

All submissions should contain an abstract that details the purpose and intent, the software used, and the author’s interpretation of how the map or app is relevant to the conference theme.

The winners will be determined by popular vote. Map voting will take

place onsite during the conference while the app voting will be completed in advance via survey monkey.



Comic book guy’s reaction to the [“Guide to Springfield USA.”](#) Get this same reaction from your peers by entering the “Map and App” contest today!

Mapping & Technology in PA: The Good, the Bad, the Ugly

Public Use of online mapping and data illustrating “what and where things are” has grown dramatically over the last decade. Not many people really think about where that data currently comes from or where it will come from in the future. Should they? How much does this matter? What bearing does this have on the future of our Commonwealth economy and resources? Past analyses of Mapping and technology in PA have been solicited from, and reported to, data creators and primary users; this year’s version will be targeted to all data users.

PaMAGIC makes regular assessments of the state of GIS in the Commonwealth, and is seeking broadly appropriate essays and articles of 500-words or less on the subject(s). This includes topics ranging from achievements and accomplishments to innovation and technology and from privacy to crowd-sourcing. Appropriate contributions would have the following characteristics: 1) Primarily factual; some conjecture may be valuable, 2) Author(s) identified; no anonymous entries, 3) Tables, Graphs, Charts, Maps encouraged, 4) No character assassination allowed, 5)

No commercial recommendations or blatant advertisements, 6) File format should be Word or rtf.

Topics can be of your own devise. They will be reviewed and compiled by a three-person team from the PaMAGIC Board, and the summary will be presented at the Annual PA GIS Conference in May 2012.

Submit your creative works by Friday, April 13, 2012 to Glenn Mohler, mohler@co.lancaster.pa.us

Call for Essays!

We Want To Hear From You!

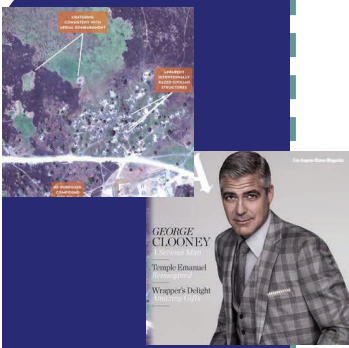
As you can see, we are changing up our newsletter. We want to make this something that you are excited to see in your inbox each month. As such, we want to hear from you! Send us ideas for articles, profiles, or issues that you think we should be covering or exposing. Also, send us pictures of GIS events, send us jpegs of your coolest maps with a description of the significance of

the map so that we can place it in the map gallery, or anything you think would be of interest to the GIS community.

We also encourage guest columns and letters to the editor. If you would like to write or share an article with the GIS community, we will gladly include it. Email your article to nlernst@hacc.edu.



Google StreetView car spotted on N. 6th Street in Harrisburg



Clooney: "We're the anti-genocide paparazzi."

Membership Has Its Benefits!

PAMAGIC is actively seeking new members and we want you! PAMAGIC is a wonderful way to stay in tune with current happenings in Pennsylvania GIS and network with GIS professionals across the state.

An individual membership to PAMAGIC is \$25. Membership benefits include advocacy, networking, and educational opportunities through participation in the PAMAGIC listserv, newsletters, the website, and special opportunities throughout the year.

If you would like to become a member, fill at the [membership application](#) and mail the form to the address listed on the bottom of the application or make a payment through [PayPal](#).

Editor's Spotlight

George Clooney and geospatial technology are not usually used together in the same sentence. In October 2010, on a trip to southern Sudan, George Clooney and *Enough* project co-founder John Prendergast, had the idea to start the [Satellite Sentinel Project](#). The idea of the project was to use satellite imagery to monitor what was going on in southern Sudan, an area that has a history of genocide and humanitarian concern.

The goals of the project are to deter a return of the civil war between northern and southern Sudan, deter and document threats to civilians on both sides of the border, and to focus world attention on the mass atrocities in Sudan. The imagery collected allows for the rapid response to human rights and human security concerns.

DigitalGlobe satellites capture imagery of possible threats to civilians, detect bombed and

razed villages, and not other evidence of pending violence.

The Satellite Sentinel Project is the first sustained public effort to systematically monitor and report on potential threats to human security in near real-time.

To learn more about this program, to see what imagery has been collected and how it has been used, visit the [Satellite Sentinel Project](#) website.

ESRI Technical Certification

Esri offers a Certification program whereby individuals can get certified at various levels: Desktop, Developer, and Enterprise: the Esri Technical Certification Program recognizes qualified individuals who are proficient in best practices for using Esri software. Exams are available for different areas of expertise at Associate and Professional levels. The program is open to Esri users worldwide.

To learn more about an individual's journey through the certification process, PAMAGIC reporters spoke to Board President Mike Bialousz, who recently completed the requirements and testing to become an ESRI Certified ArcGIS Desktop Associate. Mike completed the requirements between September 2010 and February 2011. When asked his motivation for pursuing the Certification program, Mike replied, "my primary reason for Certification was to complete the requirements for the Certified Training Program so I

could continue teaching ArcGIS 10 training courses. What I found was that the Certification process was very encompassing within ArcGIS technology, covering Desktop, Server, Mobile and general Enterprise offerings. This forced me to really brush up on my skills and ensure that I understood the bigger picture of the ArcGIS family of products and how everything relates and supports each other. This was a very challenging process, but I feel it greatly benefitted me by becoming more well-rounded as a GIS Director, an instructor, and as a project manager. This, in turn, benefits my organization as we move into newer technologies and work to improve our GIS-related processes. I would highly encourage other GIS professionals to complete this, or related, Certifications given the many benefits of the program."

There are several resources available to assist with exam preparation. Esri has several

sample questions on their web page and they also offer a two day instructor led training to assist with exam preparation. To learn more about Esri's Certification program, visit training.esri.com/certification.

If you would like to learn more about Mike Bialousz's experiences with the Certification exam, contact him at mbialousz@pa.gov.

Esri Technical Certification Program	
Desktop	ArcGIS Desktop Associate Professional
	ArcGIS Desktop Developer Associate* Professional*
Developer	Web Application Developer Associate Professional*
	Mobile Developer Associate* Professional*
Enterprise	Enterprise Geodatabase Management Associate Professional*
	Enterprise System Design Associate* Professional*
	Enterprise Administration Associate

New York GIS Conference, May 15-16

The 2012 New York GIS conference will be held May 15-16 at the Oncenter Complex in Syracuse, New York. The keynote speaker for this two day conference will be Jeff Howe, who coined the term “crowdsourcing.” Howe is the author of Crowdsourcing and is a journalism professor at Northeastern University.

In addition to the keynote, the conference will feature an App Garden and a Technology Petting Zoo. The App Garden is the new

poster session. The idea behind the App Garden is that you just don’t read about it, you play with it. The Technology Petting Zoo will allow conference attendees to use the latest and greatest technology gadgets.

To learn more about the New York GIS conference, visit <http://www.esf.edu/nysgisconf/>.

Delaware GIS Conference, April 26

The Delaware GIS conference will be held on Thursday, April 26 at the Sheraton Conference Center in Dover, Delaware. In addition to the conference, there will be pre-conference workshops on ArcGIS Online, census data, Esri’s Community Analyst and Business Analyst, and the GISP process.

The Delaware conference is also having a post conference activity called Back to Basics where participants leave all their smart phones, GPS units, and iPads behind to learn how to orienteer with just a hard copy map and a compass.

To learn more about the Delaware conference, visit <http://www.degis.org/>.



TUgis 2012 Review

Towson University held their 25th annual GIS conference on March 19 and 20 at the University Union on the Towson University campus. The theme for TUgis 2012 was “Celebrating 25 Years of Service to the Mid-Atlantic Geospatial Community.” The conference featured three plenary sessions, hands-on workshops, concurrent sessions, and a map contest.

The first plenary of the conference

featured Barney Krukoff, the State of Maryland Geographic Information Officer. Krukoff’s talked about the progress of GIS in Maryland; his remarks set the stage perfectly for the second plenary speaker, Jack Dangermond who joined the conference via Skype. Dangermond’s message focused around [GeoDesign](#), the new GIS buzz word.

Of the sessions offered, there were

several that were especially well received. The last session of the second day, Balloon Mapping from Towson University’s Jay Morgan and Phil Reese, was especially fun and had attendees thinking about all the ways that they could use the imagery collected by this low cost method (see Page 6 for more on balloon mapping). The session on Social Media and GIS from Esri was also a hit and had attendees thinking of instances when mapping



Esri President Jack Dangermond delivered remarks via Skype during the conference’s second plenary.

Central PA GIS Day: “Going Beyond the Boundaries”

Central PA GIS Day 2012 will be held on Wednesday, November 14 at HACC Midtown. The theme for this year’s event is “Going Beyond the Boundaries.”

GIS Day 2012 is a week and a half after Election 2012. As such, in the morning part of the program, high school students will be visiting HACC Midtown to go through

three interactive GIS exercises pertaining to GIS and elections. After the students go through the exercises, they will have the opportunity to visit the exhibit hall to talk to GIS companies and organizations about careers in GIS.

The afternoon portion of the program, running from 12:00pm-5:00pm, will feature concurrent

workshops for GIS professionals and GIS students. There will be approximately 20 workshops running throughout the day. In addition, there will be approximately 20-30 exhibitors in our gallery hall to allow you to see what others are doing in GIS..From 5pm-7pm, there will be a Networking Mixer that will allow you to catch up with your colleagues.

Central PA GIS Day is a FREE event for all! FREE attendance and FREE for exhibitors!
Visit <http://pagisday.yolasite.com/> for more information!



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Keep up with the latest PAMAGIC news! Find us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter, and check out our website!



Balloon Mapping

The latest rage in aerial mapping might not be as expensive as you might imagine. For less than \$100, it is possible to get high resolution aerial photography of a small geographic area. All you need is a balloon, a camera, a good plastic bottle, helium, and a few items that you might find in your shed or garage (see picture on right).

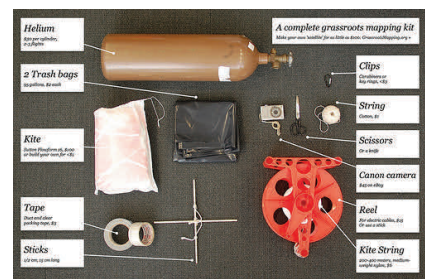
In 2010, balloon mapping received a lot of attention due to the Gulf Oil Spill as balloon mapping was used to collect imagery of the oil ridden areas of the Gulf. This “grassroots mapping” effort has led to balloons being used to capture imagery from everything from a college campus to a neighborhood.

After the imagery is collected, the photographs collected need to be stitched together and then georeferenced. The stitching process can be done in a number of programs including Cartagen Knitter, Map Knitter, and AgiSoft Photoscan Pro. To start collecting your own aerial imagery, check out the resources below.

1. Public Laboratory
2. Grassroots Mapping
3. Videos

[Balloon Mapping Kits](#)
[Grassroots Mapping with Balloons and Kites](#)

Now that you know how this works, go map something! Share your success stories with us!



Supplies needed for an aerial balloon mapping mission.

