

Central Region Newsletter

American Society for Photogrammetry & Remote Sensing

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ASPRS Annual Meeting—Anchorage, Alaska

What a great experience! The speakers, exhibitors, posters, staff, food . . . proved once again that ASPRS is an exceptional organization. Unfortunately, the Keynote Speaker had to cancel (Professor Yang Kai was traveling from China and had come down with a cold – but not SARS). Luckily, Craig Dorman, Vice-President for Research, University of Alaska, was prepared and delivered an outstanding overview on the great state of Alaska. Not only were the presentations/posters of high caliber, but the social activities planned for the conference attendees were exciting. A five-hour train ride along the Cook Inlet was a definite highlight of the conference. With the sun not setting until well after 10:00 p.m., the ride afforded everyone a wonderful opportunity to view Alaska's scenery. Cen-

tral Region ASPRS was well represented at the conference, not only with members attending, but with members making presentations and winning awards. Board Director, Larry Stanislawski presented a paper on "Automated Centerlining of Areal Features Using Thiessen Polygons for Completing Hydrographic Networks in Vector Data." Kansas University (KU) Student Chapter President, Monika Moskal presented a paper on "Remote Sensing-based Geostatistical Estimation of Leaf Area Index in the Yellowstone Coniferous Forest." KU Student Chapter member Matt Ramspott presented a paper on "Linking Remotely Sensed Measurements to Biophysical Factors of a Cool-season Grassland in Northern Kansas." KU student member Sun Park presented a paper titled "Drought Response-



Larry Stanislawski



Matthew Ramspott



Alaska scenery



Moose on the loose!

Soil Factor Relationships Based on NDVI, MODIS Thermal Infrared Data, and Digital Soil Database.” Finally, KU student Member Matt Dunbar presented a paper titled “Computer Visualization of Forest Cover Change: Human Impacts in Northeastern Kansas and Natural Disturbance in Yellowstone National Park.” The Central Region Board members also took this opportunity to present Matt with his 2003 Gene Lortz Scholarship Plaque. During the Awards Banquet held during the conference, Central Region was presented with Second Honorable Mention for Region of the Year and Third Place for Region Newsletter of the Year. In addition, Monika Moskal was awarded the Z/I Imaging Scholarship for 2003. Congratulations to all the presenters and to the entire Central Region membership for a great

year.

In closing, I just want to mention that I have never seen so many stuffed (as in taxidermy) bears. Not only did the airport have stuffed bears on display, but also the hotel lobby and the local JC Penney store (which had the largest). I finally got to see a “live” moose just before we left Alaska . . . lazily munching on grass next to the road inside the city limits. What a great place to visit!

—Submitted by Shelley Silch

Central Region Election Results

Congratulations to our new officers and directors! Kari Craun has been reelected as our National Director. Scott Perkins is our new Vice-President. Jerry Wagner has been re-elected as our Secretary/treasurer. Dr. Sreekala Bajwa, Eric Constance, and David Shaver have joined the Board of Directors.

Installation of Officers

Installation of Officers will take place on July 17th in conjunction with a technical presentation. The presentation and installation will begin at 10:00 a.m. in Conference Room 501 at the USGS facility in Rolla, MO. Please plan on attending and enjoy the installation, presentation, food and social time.

Opening Of ASPRS Central Region Library

ASPRS Central Region would like to announce the opening of its new Library located in the USGS building located at 1400 Independence Road in Room 310. The USGS generously donated the space, which has enabled our Region to consolidate years of material. Everyone will find reading material dating back to the 1930s. In addition, you will have the opportunity to see photos dating back to early days of the original "Rolla" Region members. There are only two rules that exist for the Library's use:

- 1) Please sign out any materials in the log book provided and return within two weeks.
- 2) Please leave the door open while in use and turn the light out and




(L-R) Phil Rufe, Dave Shaver, Larry Stanislawski, Jerry Wagner, Shelley Silch, Chad Raymer, Mike Finn, Scott Perkins, Matt Reed

close the door when finished.

If you have any questions, please contact our librarian - Darryl Williams (573)308—3815 or dwilliams@usgs.gov.

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LICENSURE

The subject of licensure of photogrammetrist and the licensure of GIS practitioners was the topic of a joint conference held by USGS, National Mapping Division and MAPPS in 2001. In 2002 URISA announced their proposal for certification of GIS practitioners, with a pilot program set for 2003. Information on URISA's proposal is avail-

able at their web site www.urisa.org.

The issue recently surfaced again in 2003, this time Illinois, in the form of legislation requiring state licensure for performing photogrammetric services in the state. The following news release from MAPPS details lobbying efforts to stop the legislation.

From the MAPPS web site

Illinois Senate Amends Surveyors' Licensing Bill to Exempt Photogrammetry, GIS/LIS

A bill that would have included photogrammetry, geographic information systems and land information systems within the practice of land surveying in the State of Illinois has been amended through the efforts of MAPPS.

Senate Bill 698 passed the Senate unanimously on Thursday, April 3 with the MAPPS language added in Amendment 3. The amendment exempts photogrammetric services and removes references to geographic information systems and land information systems within the practice of land surveying.

"SB 698, as originally introduced, would have required that only land surveyors perform numerous photogrammetry, GIS and LIS services in Illinois, without any provision for grandfathering current practitioners. It literally would have legislated dozens of firms out of business in Illinois," according to MAPPS Executive Director John Palatiello. "The bill did not follow the NCEES model law, nor the recommendations of the task force created by MAPPS, ASPRS, ACSM, NSPS, ASCE, particularly with regard to a grandfather provision."

MAPPS retained Mr. Andrew M. Raucci, a lobbyist who works in Springfield, the Illinois capitol, to seek amendments to SB 698.

The bill now goes to the Illinois House, where there is not expected to be opposition to the MAPPS amendments. After SB 698 was introduced, MAPPS retained Mr. Raucci, who negotiated changes in the bill with the legislation's sponsor and with the Illinois Professional Surveyors Association, the entity behind the bill.

MAPPS is a national trade association of more than 170 private geospatial firms. Its member firms are engaged in photogrammetry, GIS, LIS, LIDAR, aerial imagery and satellite remote sensing, charting and related geospatial services, products, hardware and software. MAPPS provides government relations and advocacy services to its member firms at the Federal and state levels, is a forum for teaming and partnering among large and small businesses, and is engaged in education and information programs on the business aspects of mapping and geospatial firm operation and management. For information about MAPPS, and membership in the association, visit www.mapps.org.

Each State is responsible for licensing and regulating professions in the public's interest.

Example: engineering, architecture, nursing, health care, etc. In Arkansas, Kansas, Oklahoma and Missouri the practice of land surveying is controlled in this manner. But the practice of photogrammetry and GIS isn't clearly defined as being part of Land Surveying in all states.

This is an important issue to all of us. Your ASPRS Central Region board of directors wants to know how you feel about this issue. In an effort to keep

membership informed and share viewpoints on the subject we are gathering input from members and other parties, which will in turn be printed in future newsletters.

- If you know of any licensure or certification activities in your state or community please share them us.

e-mail your comments to sperkins@westernair.com or prufe@usgs.gov

Thank you for your input. —*Scott Perkins*

Conference Calendar

September 3-5th, 2003, **Seventh Biennial Arkansas GIS Users Forum Conference and Exhibition: Shaping the Future of Arkansas**. Eureka Springs, Arkansas. <http://argis/ualr.edu/forum>

October 6-8th, 2003, **ASPRS 19th Biennial Workshop on Color Photography, Videography and Airborne Imaging for Resource Assessment**. Logan, Utah.

Call for Papers <http://www.asprs.org/cpvair.htm>

This workshop will explore the applications of high-resolution color and multispectral airborne and satellite imagery along with computer based analysis for the identification, measurement and monitoring of natural and agricultural resources. Contact: Christopher Neale, Dept. of Biological and Irrigation Engineering, Utah State University, Logan, Utah 84322-4105 cneale@cc.usu.edu

October 28-30, **ASPRS/MAPPS Terrain Data: Applications and Visualization - Making the Connection**, Charleston, SC, at the Charleston Convention Center, http://www.asprs.org/terrain_data2003/

November 5-8, **NALMS 2003: Protecting Our Lakes' Legacy**. North American Lake Management Society symposium will be held at the Foxwoods Resort Casino, in Mashantucket, CT. Given the strong history of volunteer monitoring in New England, and the presence of several volunteer monitoring program coordinators on the program committee, we are working hard to ensure good representation of the volunteer monitoring and local stewardship communities. Your participation will help make that possible! See the symposium announcement (<http://www.asprs.org/meetings/nalms2003symposium.pdf>). Complete details regarding the conference are available via the NALMS website at: <http://www.nalms.org>

Technical Presentation: Spectral Characterization Of Soils with Regard to Engineering Properties

On May 15 at the USGS Mid-Continent Mapping Center in Rolla Missouri, Professor Ronaldo Luna of the University of Missouri-Rolla presented an overview of the Civil Engineering Department's research efforts regarding the spectral property of soils. High-resolution spectroradiometric measurements for laboratory specimens of soil minerals are being used to generate visible-to-infrared reflectance spectra for selected soil minerals. The same specimens were analyzed for engineering properties, and correlations between reflectance spectra and engineering properties are being studied.

In addition, reflectance spectra depicted by hyperspectral data from the Airborne Visible/Infrared Imaging Spectrometer (AVIRIS) are being studied to assess the feasibility of using airborne hyperspectral data to infer engineering properties of soils. Part of the research has involved the development of a neural network to estimate abundances of specific soil minerals (end members) from AVIRIS data. Civil Engineering

Doctoral candidate, Yong Wu, has been investigating and developing this approach.

Professor Luna's presentation, along with Yong Wu's dissertation defense that occurred on June 2, were very interesting and represent an advancement of remote sensing applications within the field of engineering. Their findings hold promise for future research and the development of applications using hyperspectral data. The Central Region furnished Dr. Luna with a one year membership to ASPRS for his efforts in promoting the use of remote sensing. For further information regarding this research please contact Prof. Ronaldo Luna, Dept. of Civil, Architectural, and Environmental Engineering University of Missouri - Rolla (rluna@umr.edu).

News From The Southwest Missouri State University (SMSU) Student Chapter

The SMSU student chapter has elected officers for the upcoming academic year. Those individuals are:

- Gene Collins - President
- Stephen Harper - Vice President
- Stephen Wepprich - Secretary
- Nick Schrader - Treasurer

The objectives of the SMSU Student Chapter of the ASPRS are: to provide unique learning opportunities outside formal classroom instruction, to increase one's level of professional knowledge, and to provide opportunities to meet and know leaders in the field. To fulfill these objectives ten members of ASPRS including Dr. Cammack recently attended a five-day trip to Denver, Colorado and the surrounding area. The itinerary included visits to the USGS, Pixxures, and the local ESRI office. The group also visited other points of interest including the Red Rock Amp Theater, Buffalo Bill burial site, Rock Mountain National Park, and downtown Denver area to name a few.

The USGS was an all day tour with lots of great mapping and scientific research for us to tour. Some highlights of the USGS were the Ice Core Lab,

The National Map project, and the map storage facility (one of the largest in the World).

Pixxures is a private aerial photography and mapping company. The day that we visited Pixxures, final preparation was being conducted on raster images for delivery to their customers. Vector migration (a procedure to move parcels and roads to match ortho-photos) was also a project that was being completed for one of their customers.

Our final destination included a visit to one of the worlds largest GIS software mapping companies in the world, ESRI. We gained some insight on how the company operates as a whole, from the desktop to the enterprise to the Internet.

I am grateful for the opportunity to be a part of this organization, and feel that it is very important to meet our objectives every semester.

I would like to thank Tim Bixler and Jeff Grey for their diligent work in making our trip possible.

President of SMSU Student Chapter of the ASPRS — *Submitted by Gene Collins*

Technical Presentation: Assessing Urban Land Use Change and Its Impacts on Metropolitan Statistical Areas of EPA Region 7

Melissa Lanclos, a Research Associate with the Missouri Resource Assessment Partnership, will give a technical presentation in Room 501 at the USGS Mid-Continent Mapping Center at 10:00 a.m. Central time on 17 July, 2003. The mapping center is located at 1400 Independence Road in Rolla, Missouri. The abstract of the presentation reads:

General urbanization trends indicate that population density is decreasing in the urban core of mid-western cities, while the population density of outlying areas has increased. These outlying areas, which traditionally support non-urban land uses, are being converted to urban land uses. Some of these areas may not be suitable for urban land uses or might otherwise be better conserved. This paper will provide new methods to

identify rates of urban growth, determine major land cover types being converted to urban uses and delineate areas at risk for future conversion to urban uses, which potentially should have maintained their original land use. The objective of this paper is to utilize multi-temporal Landsat satellite imagery to assess the rate and direction of urban growth in several Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA) of EPA Region 7. The MSAs that will be discussed are Kansas City, St. Louis and Springfield, Missouri and Omaha, Nebraska. Satellite imagery will be acquired from 1972 through 2000 in five-year intervals, with data collected for each year in the late summer or early fall. This paper will highlight Springfield, Missouri specifically, based on the fact that it is currently the fastest growing city included in the study.

Member Profile—In Memoriam

ASPRS and its Central Region recently lost a Member Emeritus who served both his country and his community for many years. USGS Retiree and past Center Chief, Dan Kennedy passed away on Friday, March 7 2003, at the remarkable age of 103 years and 2 days. Mr Kennedy was buried with military honors in the Springfield National Cemetery on March 12.

Retired Army Colonel Daniel O. Kennedy served in both World Wars and was on the

staff of General George Patton. Colonel Kennedy was born in St. Louis on March 5, 1900, to the late John and Mary (O'Madigan) Kennedy. At age 17 he entered the U.S. Army during World War I. After being wounded he returned to the states where he married Margaret Beller in 1919 who preceded him in death in 1976. In 1984 he married Olive Shannahan who preceded him in death in 1990. He was also preceded in death by his infant son, Daniel Kennedy, Jr., as well as

two sisters and one brother.

After returning from duty in World War I, he attended the Missouri School of Mines where he earned a civil engineering degree in 1926. During World War II he was called back for duty serving from 1942-1945, earning the rank of colonel. During this tour he served under General George S. Patton.

In 1970 he retired as the head of the Central Division of the U.S. Geological Survey headquarters in Rolla.

Classifieds

The Region Board of Directors has decided to start a Classifieds section in the newsletter. Region members seeking to hire or to be hired should send information to the Newsletter editor.

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News From The Mt Oread Student Chapter



Downtown Anchorage

Alaska was the backdrop for this year's national ASPRS Annual Meeting, held on May 5 – 8 at the Egan Convention and Visitor's Center in the bustling heart of downtown Anchorage. Recovering handily from the devastating earthquake of 1964, Anchorage is now the home of over a quarter million people. It is the metropolitan center of this great Northwestern extension of the United States; the largest city in a vast state with a total population (~650,000) far smaller than many major American cities.

As a conference venue, Anchorage offered a little something for everyone. The Captain Cook memorial park, situated just blocks from the conference center and overlooking Cook Inlet, offered a thoughtful reminder of the first modern chart-making activ-

ity in this part of the world, and also a magnificent view of the complex and dangerous intertidal zone surrounding the city on three sides. Also visible from this spot were many major surrounding topographical landmarks, something generally of interest to most photogrammetrists and geographers. On the most unlikely of clear and sunny summer days (none of which occurred during our visit) it is purported that the icy peak of Denali is sometimes visible from this vantage in downtown Anchorage. Also within walking distance were the Anchorage Museum of History and Art, the Alaska Public Lands Information Center, and a wide variety of shops and dining establishments, including Humpy's Great Alaskan Alehouse and the Club Paris Café. The Alaska Aviation Heritage Museum and float plane base at Lake Hood were only a few minutes drive away, as was the USGS Earth Science Information Center on the campus of Alaska Pacific University.



Matt Ramspott, Monika Moskal, and Matt Dunbar on the ice at Exit Glacier.



Mount Oread Chapter Presenters: Monika Moskal, Sun Park, Matt Dunbar, and Matt Ramspott.

The meeting offered a chance to catch up with friends and colleagues and to participate as both presenter and audience in the technical program. Several members of the Mount Oread (University of Kansas) ASPRS student chapter gave paper presentations, including Monika Moskal, Matt Dunbar, Sun Park, and Matt Ramspott. Additionally, Moskal was awarded the national ASPRS Z/I Imaging scholarship, and Ramspott was presented with an award for



Scenic viewpoint on the Parks Highway near Denali State Park, looking towards Sheldon Amphitheater and where Mt McKinley would appear if it wasn't obscured behind the clouds.



Terminus of Exit Glacier near Seward.

visiting the Alaska Sea Life Center, hiking to Exit Glacier and the Harding Ice Field, and for hiring an exhilarating (if somewhat seasick) cruise of Resurrection Bay and the Kenai Fjords to see porpoises, sea lions, eagles, and other native fauna and flora. A trip to Whittier offered a glimpse of Americana that is surely unique, complete with gorgeous views of Portage Glacier along the way. Driving north to Talkeetna and Denali State Park presented a close-up look at the highest mountain range in North America and at the serene and majestic Susitna River valley. With long hours of daylight extending almost to midnight, many different activities could be packed into each day, making the most of a trip that was all too short in duration (only a week, less for some), but very long on expansive scenery, tasty seafood, local character, and memorable experiences not to be found anywhere else but Alaska.

— *Submitted by Matthew Ramspott*

the ASPRS Central Region's Lortz memorial scholarship.

The Great Alaska Train Adventure transported conference attendees on a scenic tour in grand style of the Turnagain Arm of Cook Inlet all the way to Portage and then back to Anchorage. The train experience featured a Polka band at the back of the train, a Bluegrass band at the front, a Karaoke car, refreshments, and a little bit of local history, in addition to the spectacular scenery. The train ride was also another opportunity for Mt. Oread student chapter members to say hello to Central Region officers Shelley Silch, Larry Stanislawski, Mike Finn, and others.

Outside Anchorage, the countryside opened up dramatically, to say the least. A two hour drive through the rain to Seward offered opportunities for



The town of Hope, Alaska from a steep climb on the Hope Point Trail. The water you see is the Turnagain Arm of Cook Inlet.

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