



SOUTH CENTRAL ARC USERS GROUP

June, 2007

Volume 2007, Issue 2

PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

Welcome to the 19th year of the South Central Arc User Group!! I am most honored to serve as your president this year and am committed to making this organization stronger. There are many improvements coming your way that I am very excited about. I hope you will be just as thrilled!

Like you I am extremely proud to be involved in the geospatial industry. I feel very fortunate to be included in a profession that gives us such an ability to "give back" to our society: whether by finding the best location for a new fire station, helping to eliminate habitat destruction of an endangered species, managing our forests, preparing for an emergency, or managing the infrastructure of our cities.

To continue the concept of "giving back", we have added a new position to the SCAUG board this year. The Outreach Coordinator will help recruit volunteers for subcommittees and annual meetings, develop and

implement programs to add value to the Association, and recruit regional GIS user groups to become sub-chapters of SCAUG. We will be announcing more information on sub-chapters throughout the year. Future programs that add value to the Association will give you the tools to continue to "give back" to the best of your ability.

For those of you that made it to New Orleans, I hope that you enjoyed the Crescent City as well as the conference. I know that the people of New Orleans, including some of our colleagues, were glad that we were there as they still cope with the recovery efforts. I like to think that SCAUG helped bring some much needed revenue and support to this region. Please join SCAUG in its commitment to improving our membership and supporting our Louisiana and Mississippi states by encouraging your friends in these areas to join and participate in SCAUG.

continued on pg 3

2007 ESRI INT'L USER CONFERENCE

SCAUG would like to invite you to join our **User Group Meeting at the 2007 ESRI Conference in San Diego. SCAUG will be meeting on Tuesday, June 19 in Room 3 from 5:30 pm to 7 pm.** The user group meeting is an excellent way for current & future members to get updated on the latest events, meet the officers, and network with GIS professionals in our region.

This year's meeting will highlight our last conference in New Orleans, and plan for next year's conference in Corpus Christi, TX. We will also

be discussing the year's agenda and what the organization has planned for outreach programs, increasing membership, and the benefits of membership. If you missed the annual conference, this meeting is a great way to catch up with friends in the GIS community. See you there!

We hope that you will join us! This will be the 19th year that the organization has been together and we look forward to your continued support and participation. See you in San Diego!"



SCAUG President
Justin Cure, GISP
City of Longview, TX

SCAUG BOARD

- > **President: Justin Cure, GISP**
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- > **North TX Rep: Suzanne Wachal, GISP**
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- > **South TX Rep: Eric Stauber**
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- > **Oklahoma Rep: Charles Brady III, GISP**
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nsmith@ihl.state.ms.us
- > **Outreach Coordinator: Colby Free**
cfree@bexar.org
- > **Past President: Joe Chapa**
jchapa@sanantonio.gov
- > **ESRI Rep: Stacia Canaday**
scanady@esri.com



"It was a pleasure meeting you at the 2007 SCAUG-GIS conference in New Orleans. We found it to be one of the best and exciting conferences in North America and hope you found it as enjoyable as we did."



NEW ORLEANS CONFERENCE A SUCCESS!

In early April, SCAUG hosted its 17th annual conference in New Orleans at the Royal Sonesta Hotel in the heart of Bourbon Street. The week started out with two days of classes attended by over 60 GIS professionals. Classes ranged from beginning GIS to Spatial Analysis and Arc Server.

On Wednesday, the conference kicked off with a keynote showcasing an extraordinary historical atlas of Louisiana maps.

Days were spent in a variety of stimulating GIS sessions. Twenty vendors were

showcased for two days giving 200 attendees ample time to see new products and spend time learning how to incorporate new technology.

On Thursday night, the evening social was kicked off with a Bourbon Street line parade complete with a brass jazz band and ending with a masquerade social.

The SCAUG board had hoped this conference would show our support and commitment for our Louisiana members and to stimulate growth in the Louisiana and Mississippi. Our sincerest thanks to all of you who came to New Orleans.



NEW ORLEANS MAP CONTEST WINNERS

Most Informative Map

- 1st Tim Nolan, Collin County, TX
- 2nd David Stoneking - True Automation
- 3rd Richard Truong - City of Allen, TX

Most Creative Map

- 1st Tim Nolan - Collin County, TX
- 2nd Shriram Bhutada - City of Allen, TX
- 3rd Betsi Chatham - City of Ft. Worth, TX

Best Map Book

- 1st Shannon Deckert - City of Killeen, TX
- 2nd Richard Truong - City of Allen, TX
- 3rd Tim Nolan - Collin County, TX

Best Application

- 1st Shriram Shutada, City of Allen, TX
- 2nd Tim Nolan, Collin County, TX

Baddest Map on the Bayou

David Allen, city of Euless, TX

Guess the Image

Marilyn Stone-Barack, Veterans Administration

Vendor Bingo

Tracey Foster, Waggoner Engineering



PRESIDENT'S WELCOME, CONT.

In keeping with the tradition of a great conference, we are already working hard on Corpus Christi for 2008! Our conference coordinator, Lydia, has big plans for us, and it will surely be a great time as we meet new friends, catch up, with old acquaintances, and learn what's new in the industry on the Texas Gulf Coast. Please help us make it the best conference yet by participating in surveys throughout the year and encouraging your colleagues to attend.

The confidence I have in the future of this organization is grounded in the quality of the team we have working for us. The volunteers who serve as

SCAUG officers and committee members are deeply dedicated and represent the best of the best. This year's staff of seasoned professionals are ready to meet any challenge and have proven their dedication to the job no matter how difficult the task. I encourage you all to consider serving on the board or joining a committee in the future.

I look forward to working with all of you to make this the best year of SCAUG yet. Please continue to "give back" by seeking and participating in ways to help SCAUG "give back" to you and our profession. See you in Corpus!!!

EIGS AND IHL GEOSPATIAL COUNCIL PARTNER TO SPONSOR HIGH SCHOOL COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Jackson, MS – The Enterprise for Innovative Geospatial Solutions (EIGS) and the Geospatial Council of the Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL) are pleased to announce the establishment of a geospatial high school adoption program with five Mississippi high schools. During the spring of 2007, the selected high schools will work with university/community college partners to design and complete a community-based geospatial information science and technology (GIS&T) project. The participating high schools will receive computer hardware and software, technical support and training, GPS units, and resource books to support the projects.

The program, named the Mississippi Area Remapping Strategy (MARS) by one of the participating high schools, includes high school teachers and students from Water Valley, Batesville, Cleveland, Enterprise, and Claiborne County. Volunteering their time and expertise are five members of the IHL Geospatial Council including Alcorn State University, Delta State University, Jones County Community College, Northwest Mississippi Community

College, and The University of Mississippi.

"A key component of the pilot program is the involvement of the community and the focus of the project on a community need that GIS technology will help address," stated Joyce Brasell of Northwest Mississippi Community College, the statewide coordinator for the pilot project. The projects will address a diverse array of community needs such as using geospatial technology to address school bus routing in an effort to develop more efficient routes to save time and fuel and cut down on pollution.

On January 26, 2007, the official kick-off for the program will be held in Jackson and will include speakers from the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges, Institutions of Higher Learning, Mississippi Department of Education, and ESRI. Additionally, several representatives from the EIGS industry cluster will address the critical workforce needs and GIS&T skills in private industry.

Contact: Lisa Stone, lstone@olemiss.edu

Submitted by Neal Smith, Mississippi Rep

ESRI TIP!

ArcGIS 9.2 offers many new improvements to geodatabases. If you have pre-existing personal (Access) geodatabases, these improvements won't be available until you upgrade your geodatabase. Simply viewing or editing a geodatabase with ArcGIS 9.2 does not automatically upgrade it. ArcGIS will not upgrade your geodatabases automatically; you must manually do this when you are ready.

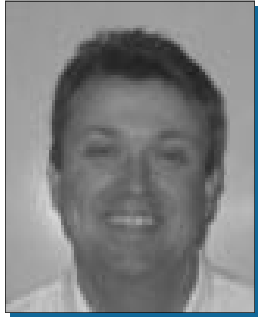
Upgrading your geodatabase puts it into a 9.2 format; a 9.2 geodatabase cannot be read by a 9.1 client. 9.1 geodatabases can be read by 9.2 clients. You shouldn't upgrade your geodatabases until you're sure that everyone who reads or uses those geodatabases has upgraded to ArcGIS 9.2 as well.

Upgrading a geodatabase to 9.2 involves two steps. First, you should probably back up your data. Then go into ArcCatalog, right-click on your geodatabase and choose Properties. In the General tab, there's a button near the bottom called Upgrade Geodatabase. Clicking on this button teaches your geodatabase about all the new things in 9.2.

Geodatabases at 9.2 also offer a new coordinate storage system called High Precision. If you have existing geodatabases, you must upgrade the spatial reference of your existing data to take advantage of the high precision model. This cannot be done until the geodatabase itself has been upgraded. Right-click on a feature class or a feature dataset in ArcCatalog and you'll see an option called Upgrade Spatial Reference. This converts your vector coordinates to utilize the new high precision system.

Submitted by Stacia Canaday, ESRI Rep

STATE CHAPTER NEWS



LA HAS A NEW STATE REP!!

James A. Price

jprice@gcr1.com

Hi, my name is James Price. Thanks for your participation in SCAUG. I know how valuable everyone's time is. I'm the Louisiana State Rep, and I am here to help where I can. Please feel free to contact me anytime at jprice@gcr1.com, or 504-432-9959. I look forward to working with you all in the coming year. Thanks.

Some of you who have been with SCAUG for a while may remember me when I served most of the year in 2000 as the Mississippi Representative to SCAUG while working on GIS for the State of Mississippi. I have been in either the remote sensing or GIS industry since 1985, when I started as a cartographer for the old Defense Mapping Agency, which

later became NIMA, and now NGA. I left DMA to attend graduate school at Texas A & M University. Post A & M, I worked in remote sensing for the Navy at Stennis Space Center for 10 years. I left the Navy to pursue GIS full-time which lead to a series of jobs in the private and public sector. Recently I worked in GIS storm surge modeling at the National Hurricane Center in Miami, Florida, and after Hurricane Katrina, returned to New Orleans to work in emergency operations for the City of New Orleans, and now privately at GCR & Associates. I look forward to an active year with SCAUG and hope to see you all in Corpus Christi next April!

OKLAHOMA CHAPTER LED BY CHARLES BRADY

Hello from Ardmore, Oklahoma.

My name is Charles Brady III & I have been the GIS Coordinator for the City of Ardmore since 2000. I am the honored to be Oklahoma's State representative of SCAUG and would like to invite suggestions on how SCAUG can better serve Oklahoma's GIS Community. Oklahoma is very fortunate in having one of the strongest State Chapters of SCAUG. Having been a member of SCAUG over the past 7 years, I many times take for granted the strong professional contacts that being an active SCAUG member facilitates. Currently SCAUG is the best way to meet the majority of the GIS professionals in Oklahoma. This year the Oklahoma Chapter is hosting several free user group meetings at local universities across Oklahoma in order to reach beyond our current membership. There also will be a statewide conference & training in October to help you acquire those much needed GISP points. I hope to see you at several local events in the future and welcome suggestions from my fellow Oklahomans. Feel free to contact me anytime at cbrady@ardmorecity.com

Later. . .

UPCOMING OKLAHOMA EVENTS

User Group Meetings

University of Oklahoma

When : Late August (exact date TBA)

Where : National Weather Center, Norman

East Central University

When : Late November (exact date TBA)

Where : East Central University, Ada

OK SCAUG Conference

October 9, 2007

Moore Norman Tech Center
Training

October 10—11, 2007

Visit www.scaug.org under Chapters
for complete details

10 Years of Oklahoma SCAUG



Congrats to Charles and his family. They welcomed a baby girl into the family Calin Lou Brady, 7lb,4oz, 18.75 inches.

SUZANNE WACHAL, NEW NORTH TEXAS REP

Your new North Texas State Representative is Me, Suzanne Wachal, GISP. I am looking forward to being your representative to keep GIS alive in our community and to bring more members to SCAUG in the coming years. I can be reached via email @ Suzanne.Wachal@fortworthgov.org.

In 2002 I received my Bachelors of Science Degree in Geography with a minor in Mathematics, at the University of South Alabama in Mobile, Alabama. While in school I was an active participant in the

Geography Club and the South Eastern Regional User Group (SERUG). Before I graduated I began working for a private entity with major work in Waste Water Treatment Plants and their affects on the Gulf of Mexico. Now I work for the City of Fort Worth as a GIS Analyst II for Environmental Management for almost 4 years; I am active on several committees and am always trying to find ways to better convey the value of a GIS to my co-workers. I live in Lewisville, TX with my Husband, two daughters and two dogs.



North TX HAS A NEW REP!!
Suzanne Wachal
Suzanne.Wachal@forworthgov.org

MISSISSIPPI CHAPTER LED BY NEAL SMITH

MARIS Technical Center,
 An ESRI Authorized Training Location.
 Visit <http://www.maris.state.ms.us/HTML/Training.htm> for upcoming classes, or contact Steve Walker (swalker@ihl.state.ms.us) to request a class topic.

Events in Mississippi

May 30-31, 2007
[MS-FAST SBIR Workshop](#)
 Hattiesburg, MS
<http://www.technologyalliance.ms/MSFast/index.php>



MS STATE REP
Neal Smith
nsmith@ihl.state.ms.us

SOUTH TEXAS REP, ERIC STAUBER



Austinites: Check out the new Austin area user group website at <http://www.austin-aug.com/>
Alamo Area GIS Users Group continues to meet quarterly at the Blue Star in downtown SA. Get on their blog at [GOOGLE GROUPS, \AlamoGIS](#).
 Be sure to check with Eric at ECStauber@pbsj.com for all the happenings in South Texas



**DEBBIE ALLEN,
 CITY OF SAN ANTONIO**



South Texas SCAUG Member Debbie Allen, City of San Antonio Development Services, spent the month of April exploring Nepal.
 Deb remembered all her GIS buddies at home while in Namche Bazaar at an elevation of 11,286 ft with regular evening temperatures at 5°F. Above is Mt. Everest. Deb can fill you in !



We are set to take next year's conference to Corpus Christi. This makes it easier for our members to prepare their budgets and make arrangements in advance. Start planning now.

When: 4/7/2008 - 4/11/2008

Where: Omni Corpus Christi Hotel-Bayfront and Marina Towers

SCAUG Hotel Rates:

Non-Government Agencies Single—\$109 Double—\$129

Government Agencies Single—\$85 Double—\$129

We're on the Web
www.scaug.org



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