



URBAN AND REGIONAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS ASSOCIATION

..... NEWSLETTER OF THE MID-ATLANTIC CHAPTER VOL. 2, NO. 5, SEPTEMBER 1991.....

CHAPTER OFFICERS

President

Thomas M. Murphy
Murphy & Sons, Inc.
(908) 349-4545

Vice President

William Irvin
A.D.R. Associates
(609) 663-7200

Treasurer

Andy Zetlan
Coopers & Lybrand
(215) 963-8513

Secretary

Jon Gottsegen
NJ Office of State Planning
(609) 292-3159

Trustees

Vincent Attardi
(609) 753-1161

Eugene Barlaz
(908) 297-8106

Cynthia Lanners
(302) 454-7321

Chris Perks
(609) 488-6200

Dorothy Shaffer
(301) 885-3022

CHAPTER MEETING TO FEATURE TED COFFIELT OF GENERATION FIVE TECHNOLOGY

Our next meeting will feature a presentation by Ted Coffielt of Generation 5 Technology. Generation 5 was the first to develop sophisticated computer mapping and GIS software that takes advantage of the AutoCAD graphics system. Mr. Coffielt recently assumed the duties of Reseller Manager at Generation 5, after holding positions at Intergraph and Geonex. He will describe recent GIS-related activities at Generation 5.

The meeting will be held at the Cherry Hill Hyatt, Route 70 and Cuthbert Blvd., Cherry Hill (see map and directions on page 2). A cash bar will be open in the meeting room starting at 6 pm. Light dinner fare (hot and cold snacks and hors d'oeuvres) will be available. Cost is only \$15. **IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND, PLEASE CALL PAT HOLLIGAN AT (908) 349-4545 at least 48 hours before the meeting. The fee may be paid at the door, but calling ahead is a must.**

CALL FOR NOMINEES

The Mid-Atlantic Chapter Nomination Committee will present a slate of nominees for the 1991 election at the September 12th Chapter meeting. At that meeting, the Nomination Committee also will accept open nominations from the general membership. The election process will occur as follows:

— Slate of Nominees will be presented by the Nomination Committee at the September 12th Chapter meeting.

— Open Nominations will be accepted by the Nomination Committee at the September 12th Chapter meeting.

— Nominees will be required to submit a completed Candidate Profile form to the Nomination Committee by October 4th.

— Ballots and candidate profiles will be mailed to the membership no later than October 10th.

— Ballots must be returned to the Nomination Committee by mail and must be postmarked no later than November 13th.

— The votes will be tabulated by the Nomination Committee and the results of the elections will be presented at the November 14th Chapter meeting. The results also will be published in the January Newsletter.

For more information, please contact Vincent Attardi at (609) 753-1161 or Cynthia Lanners at (302) 454-7321.

CORPORATE MEMBERS

Aerial Data Reduction Associates (ADR), Inc.
Advanced Technology Solutions (ATS), Inc.
Decision Images
Geod Corporation
Murphy & Associates
Reutter Engineering

Atlantis Aerial Survey Co.
Coopers & Lybrand
Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI)
McDonnell Douglas
Prime Computer
URS Consultants

MARK MILLMAN EXPLAINS GIS SOFTWARE CONCEPTS

The July meeting featured a new, informal dinner format and an exceptionally knowledgeable speaker—Mr. Mark Millman of Mizar Graphics, Inc. Due to a hard disk crash, Mark abandoned his prepared text and dealt with an entirely different topic.

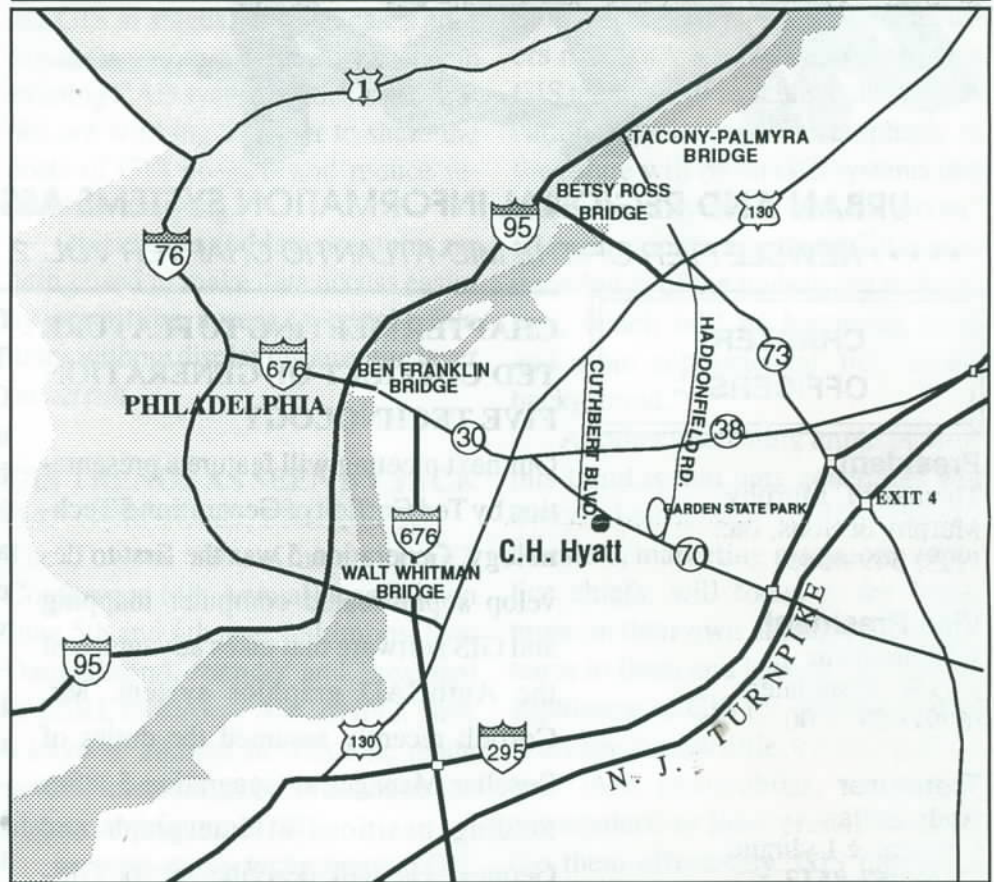
He briefly reviewed the history of GIS software development from the “bits and bytes” side of the business. He pointed out that too many AM-GIS providers focus on sales volume, pushing what they call “solutions” rather than providing tools to allow users to customize their own applications.

In the mid-1980s, Mark thought that object-oriented programming would provide the flexible tools he was seeking. As it turned out, he was mistaken. Object-oriented programming concepts are difficult to grasp and apparently were not suited to the people in the real world who needed to use these tools. Besides, the equipment available at the time was not capable of running many of the programs in an open environment. As a result, object-oriented software has not been very successful so far. However, a program called MicroStation, which was developed originally by Bentley (Exton, PA) to perform Intergraph functions on non-Intergraph hardware, continued to expand in popularity.

By August 1990, Bentley had released MDL (MicroStation Development Language). This software runs on 386 machines, VAX, and numerous other platforms and has the tools to permit rapid development of applications using a C-like development language.

MDL has been used to create a user interface and tool kit, known as MicroGIS and GIS Tool Kit, respectively, for developing mapping applications. As Millman says in his article in the summer issue of *µStation News*,

WHERE TO FIND MID-ATLANTIC CHAPTER MEETINGS . . .



Map provided by Jon Gottsegen.

“MDL provides all the tools necessary for MicroGIS to serve as a platform for the development of mapping applications within the Modular GIS Environment. . . . MDL allows for many powerful extensions . . .”

One interesting property of the MDL environment is its support for multi-featured elements. For example, a line element could represent a municipal boundary, a county boundary, and a state boundary all at the same time. Multi-featured elements require the ability to turn features, rather than levels, on or off because a single feature may occur on any of several levels depending on the other features with which it is combined.

He closes his article as follows: “GIS applications developed with MicroGIS will be fully compatible with the rich set of Modular GIS Environment applications provided by

Intergraph and portable to all MicroStation platforms. MicroGIS and the GIS Tool Kit for MDL are being used to develop custom applications for municipal mapping at the City of Newark, New Jersey, for corporate real estate at PSE&G, and for dynamic segmentation at the Florida DOT.”

Millman said he was very excited about the future of GIS development. The future likely will see an environment in which a mixture of GIS systems, all running on different hardware, but with a common operating system (UNIX), are being developed by many people. He suggested that this would be a healthy and creative environment and that its diversity would provide more value for the end user in the form of GIS products that meet customer needs better.

DID YOU FORGET TO RENEW ???

UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

Mid-Atlantic Chapter Meetings Calendar

Regular	Trustees
12 September	10 October
14 November	12 December
9 January (1992)	TBA
12 March	TBA
14 May	TBA
9 July	TBA
10 September	TBA
12 November	TBA

All regular meetings are held at the Cherry Hill Hyatt, Rte. 70 and Cuthbert Blvd., Cherry Hill, NJ. Please call Ms. Pat Holligan at (908) 349-4545 for further information and to confirm your plans to attend. All trustees meetings are held at Reutter Engineering, which is located in building 2 of the Executive Campus, just across Rte. 70 from the Cherry Hill Hyatt.

Mid-Atlantic Chapter GIS Conference will be held on Thursday, September 26, 1991, in Cherry Hill, New Jersey. The Mid-Atlantic GIS Conference is sponsored by the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of URISA and will be held at the Cherry Hill Hyatt, Rte. 70 and Cuthbert Blvd. in Cherry Hill, NJ.

The Conference will feature two workshops:

- *Introduction to GIS*, which will cover

basic GIS concepts and applications as well as methods for system development and implementation.

- *Design, Implementation, and Management of GIS*, which will cover key concepts, cost estimation, planning, data conversion methods and implementation management.

Vendor exhibits will be open all day and will cover GIS software and hardware, global positioning systems and services, GIS-related services, and data conversion services.

Full registration is \$99, which includes a full year's membership in the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of URISA. Exhibits-only tickets are only \$10. For registration information contact: Ms. Pat Holligan at (908) 349-4545. For corporate membership and exhibiting contact: Mr. Andy Zetlan (215) 963-8513.

Government Technology Conference will be held at Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY. Topic: Solutions for Troubled Times. Contact: Brian Lee, 112 State St., Albany, NY 12207, (518) 462-1780.

GIS/LIS '91 will be held in Atlanta, Georgia, October 27-November 1, 1991. GIS/LIS '91 is sponsored jointly by URISA and the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping (ACSM), American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS), AM/FM International, and

the Association of American Geographers.

Program topics include: data capture and integration, land records, management, user interfaces, standards, environment and natural resources, automated cartography, control surveys, education, engineering applications, exploration geology, image data processing, legal, economic and institutional issues, sensor systems, titles and deeds, and vehicles and navigation.

Fees are \$210 for members of the sponsoring organizations and \$260 for

Continued on last page . . .

Newsletter Information

The newsletter of the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of URISA will have two more issues this year, with the following deadlines:

<i>Issue</i>	<i>Deadline</i>	<i>Mailing</i>
Nov.	21 October	24 October
Jan.	20 December	26 December

The newsletter welcomes contributions, including announcements, letters, and press releases from all regular and corporate members as well as from the urban information community at large. Have news? Contact Haydon Rochester, Jr. at (609) 429-7152 or FAX (609) 429-0460 or mail to P.O. Box 271, Voorhees, NJ 08043-0271.

ADDRESS PROBLEM? If your address is incorrect, your name is spelled wrong, or you have a question about your membership expiration date, please call Haydon Rochester, Jr. at (609) 429-7152.

MID-ATLANTIC CHAPTER OF URISA

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM

Name _____ Title _____

Organization/Employer _____

Street/P.O.Box _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____ Phone () _____

Membership Category: () Student \$10.00 () Regular \$35.00 () Institutional \$40.00*

* Name of second institutional representative at same address: _____

Send this form, filled in completely, with your check or money order (payable to "Mid-Atlantic Chapter URISA," to: Ms. Pat Holligan, Murphy & Sons, Inc., 1882 Monitor Drive, Toms River, NJ 08753

Questions? Call 201 349-4545 (For Corporate Membership information, contact Andy Zetlan at (215) 963-8513.)

non-members. For more information, call the URISA Secretariat at (202) 289-1685 or contact GIS/LIS '91 at 5410 Grosvenor Lane, Bethesda, MD 20814-2122, (301) 493-0200.

GIS in Public Utilities Conference will be held on 1-4 December 1991 in Orlando, FL. Contact: Joe Myers, EMA, Inc., 1970 Oakcrest Ave., St. Paul, MN 55113, (612) 639-6500.

A/E/C Systems Canada. Second Canadian computer and management show for the design and construction industry. Metro Toronto Convention Centre, Toronto, Canada. Held in conjunction with **Construct Canada, The Property Management Exposition and Conference, and BIOMEX.** Contact Sharon Price, AEC Systems Canada, 32 Giles Blvd. East, Windsor, Ontario, Canada N9A 4B5, (800) 451-1196.

WATER UTILITIES PLANNING \$377 MILLION IN AM/FM PROJECTS

During the next 30 months, water and wastewater utilities are planning \$377 million in AM/FM projects. This news comes from a survey conducted by CSR, a market research firm in Roseville, CA, and reported in a recent issue of GeoInfo Systems. The study surveyed 1,168 utilities in North

America.

Many utilities are reportedly adding GIS in stages, in some cases adding software that will work with an existing CAD system. Cities and counties are working together to share the costs of GIS projects and reduce redundant mapping.

Object-oriented data structures are being used to make data access easier by permitting access to certain data items without displaying an entire layer on screen.

GIS TRENDS AS SEEN BY JACK DANGERMOND, PRES. ESRI

The Towson State University GIS Conference (4th Annual) was held on June 5th and 6th near Baltimore. Jack Dangermond, founder and President of ESRI, makers of ARC/INFO, gave a keynote address in which he made several interesting observations on the history and future of GIS.

As with many technologies, GIS seems to be approaching the stage at which it disappears. That is, it becomes an essential and unacknowledged part of everyday existence as have the automobile, television, and the personal computer. Mr. Dangermond, in his Thursday morning keynote address, observed this trend and pointed out its somewhat

counter-intuitive implications.

With GIS becoming more and more accessible and "intelligent," users need to know less and less about GIS technology to achieve their applications objectives. The emphasis in the future will be on GIS systems that almost anyone can "drive" (Dangermond's word) with little or no knowledge of the underlying technology, which will be becoming more and more sophisticated, but "in the background."

Another interesting implication of this trend is that data generators and users, whether they be city engineers, foresters, marketing managers, or police chiefs, will focus in the future more on their own data and its importance to them and less on GIS, taking sophisticated GIS for granted. Just as users need know little or nothing about how their automobiles, telephones, camcorders, or laser printers work to use them effectively, GIS users will soon be obtaining the results they want while knowing little about how GIS works. Thus, they will go "back to basics," where the most important factor controlling the quality of their GIS results is *not* their GIS hardware and software but the *quality of the data* they use as input.

* * *

**Mid-Atlantic Chapter of URISA
c/o Rochester
P.O. Box 271
Voorhees, NJ 08043-0271**



DATED MATERIAL

Member Type ▼ Expiration Date ▼

X

Pat Cummins
N.J. Dept. of Environm. Prot.
401 East State St.
Trenton, NJ 08625

