



**GEOSCIENCE  
INFORMATION  
SOCIETY**

# newsletter

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## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

*by* Adonna Fleming

Spring has arrived – somewhere! Not in Lincoln, Nebraska, we got 8.5 inches of snow on the first day of Spring, and had the dubious distinction of having the Weather Channel broadcast live from our downtown area. The good news is that we got an extra two days of Spring Break with no classes and the University Libraries closed. This gave me some time to get caught up on GSIS business.

As you will notice we have several vacancies for committee chairs and representatives. This society is what you make of it! Several of our committees do not require attendance at the annual meeting, but *do* offer the opportunity to network with your colleagues and contribute to the profession. Examples of this type of committee are: the Web Committee, Best Paper Committee, and the Mary B. Ansari Best Reference Work Committee. Those who are interested in issues might want to get involved in the committees that present forums at the annual meeting. These include: Collection Development, Preservation, and E-Resources. The format for the forums is flexible and the committee determines the content; this is a great opportunity to create something worthwhile. Remember when you go to other conferences and say to yourself, “I wish they would have a program on this...” Now, is your chance! In addition, we need representatives to other societies and associations. Those of you who attend other conferences please sign up.

If you like to write, don't forget to submit to the newsletter. This can be a review, your opinion about an issue, we look forward to hearing from our members. And don't forget to submit an abstract for this year's annual conference, and if you gave a paper in Salt Lake the deadline to get your paper in to me is Tax Day! Good luck in both situations!

Those who volunteered for committees and representative positions, a big thank you for your commitment and I'm looking forward to working with you this year!

## VICE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

*by* Patricia Yocum

My service to GSIS as Vice President is devoted to planning for our annual meeting. Happily I'm finding Philadelphia to be an intriguing venue. It is an historic city with major sites not far from the Philadelphia Convention Center. This year, 2006, marks the 300<sup>th</sup> birthday of Benjamin Franklin and celebrations are plentiful. Events and activities, many which are free and self-paced, are listed at [www.benfranklin300.org](http://www.benfranklin300.org). Philadelphia is also home to many public, academic and special libraries. The twenty-eight belonging to PACSCL, the Philadelphia Area Consortium of Special Collection Libraries, include a number of unique scientific libraries. Links to each are given at <http://www.pacscl.org/> Information about the city and the region is provided by the Greater Philadelphia Tourism Marketing Corporation at <http://www.gophila.com/>

Our reason to be in Philadelphia of course is to meet, learn, discuss and prepare for the future of our services to geoscience. We will start Saturday by again offering GeoScience 101, an introduction to geoscience librarianship for librarians new to our specialization or considering a professional move in our direction. We will also have our Collection Development Forum, Annual Business meeting, and evening reception. The fieldtrip will include a visit to the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI) in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, across the Delaware River from Philadelphia. Key programs as always are the Topical Session and the Poster Session. Our theme for both is “Geoscience Information: Keys to Discovery”. Echoing the conference logo and evoking the city's historic role in science, learning and information, the theme encompasses a wide variety of topics with which geoscience librarians deal. I hope you will consider how your efforts are promoting the flow of information which can advance discovery in the geosciences. I encourage you to submit an abstract for either an oral presentation and/or a poster presentation. We are doing so much in our libraries! Philadelphia is a great place to get the word out and a great place to celebrate 40 years of GSIS activities!

*(continued, p. 3)*

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GSIS members are encouraged to contribute materials for publication. Material for the June, 2006 issue should be received no later than May 26, 2006. Please send materials by e-mail to [cjm@thurston.com](mailto:cjm@thurston.com)

The electronic submission form for abstracts will be available on GSA's Web site April 1 through July 11. Our Topical Session is Number 59. Review and selection of

abstracts will begin in mid-July and be done quickly. Looking forward to Philadelphia!

**TREASURER'S FINAL 2005 REPORT**

<b>GEOSCIENCE INFORMATION SOCIETY 2005 Final Report (by Jane Ingalls 3/23/06)</b>					
	<b>Income Budgeted</b>	<b>Income Actual</b>	<b>Expense Budgeted</b>	<b>Expense Actual</b>	
<b>EXECUTIVE BOARD</b>					
President			\$150.00	\$52.70	
Vice-President			\$100.00		
Past-President			\$25.00		
Secretary			\$200.00	\$20.15	
Treasurer			\$100.00	\$75.74	
Teleconferences			\$0.00		
<b>Subtotal</b>			<b>\$575.00</b>	<b>\$148.59</b>	
<b>MEETINGS</b>					
2004 Meeting (carried forward from 2004)			\$2,665.00	\$1,807.68	
2004 sponsored reception (Springer)		\$250.00			
2004 Fieldtrip (carried forward)			\$270.00	\$498.00	
2005 Meeting (rooms and AV)	\$1,000.00		\$1,000.00	\$765.59	
2005 Meeting Reception (CSA, ESRI, GIA, Springer, Elsevier)		\$2,400.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,958.40	
2005 Awardees lunch			\$175.00	\$200.00	
2005 Meeting: fieldtrip	\$600.00	\$225.00	\$600.00	\$240.00	
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$1,600.00</b>	<b>\$2,875.00</b>	<b>\$6,210.00</b>	<b>\$5,469.67</b>	
<b>DUES</b>					
Institutional	\$1,800.00	\$2,675.00			
Personal	\$5,600.00	\$6,556.00			
Sustaining	\$30.00	\$540.00			
Retired	\$200.00	\$185.00			
Student	\$150.00	\$100.00			
Pooled Sponsorship	\$300.00	\$470.00	\$300.00	\$114.00	
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$8,080.00</b>	<b>\$10,526.00</b>	<b>\$300.00</b>	<b>\$114.00</b>	
<b>PUBLICATIONS</b>					
Publications Manager			\$500.00	\$815.53	
Directory of Geoscience Libraries	\$80.00				
Mailing labels	\$200.00	\$105.00			
Newsletter: printing			\$3,000.00	\$1,794.73	
Newsletter: mailing			\$900.00	\$466.75	
Newsletter: subscriptions	\$600.00	\$1,080.00			
Newsletter: back issues					

Newsletter: cancellation refunds			\$80.00		
Proceedings, v.35(2004)			\$1,805.00	\$1,805.00	
Proceedings, v.34 (2003)	\$1,400.00	\$1,265.00	\$1,650.00	\$1,655.00	
Proceedings, v.33 (2002)	\$300.00				
Proceedings, v.32 (2001)	\$180.00				
Proceedings, prior volumes	\$0.00				
Index	\$15.00				
Reprints					
Royalties					
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$2,775.00</b>	<b>\$2,450.00</b>	<b>\$7,935.00</b>	<b>\$6,537.01</b>	
<b>REPRESENTATIVES/APPOINTEES</b>					
AGI Member Council rep			\$25.00		
AGI Gov't Affairs Program rep			\$25.00		
CUAC (2 reps @ \$200 each)			\$400.00		
Publicity Officer			\$50.00		
Auditor			\$25.00	\$14.94	
<b>Subtotal</b>			<b>\$525.00</b>	<b>\$14.94</b>	
<b>COMMITTEES &amp; SERVICE POSITIONS</b>					
Archivist			\$50.00		
Best Paper			\$25.00		
Best Reference Work			\$25.00		
Collection Development			\$25.00		
Distinguished Service Award			\$25.00		
Exhibits			\$85.00		
New display case			\$200.00		
GeoRef Users Group			\$25.00		
Guidebooks			\$85.00		
International Initiatives			\$25.00		
Membership			\$150.00		
Membership brochure					
Photographer			\$25.00		
Nominating			\$100.00		
Preservation			\$25.00		
Website Advisory			\$25.00		
<b>Subtotal</b>			<b>\$895.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	
<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>					
AGI member society dues			\$400.00	\$222.00	
GAP contribution			\$400.00	\$222.00	
GIS International Fellow	\$600.00	\$511.50	\$0.00		
Ansari Best Ref Award		\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	
Ansari Distinguished Service Award		\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00	
Gifts (unrestricted)	\$250.00	\$80.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	

Gifts- Professional Develop Fund	\$200.00	\$170.00	\$200.00		
Bank charges			\$40.00	\$53.00	
Interest	\$200.00	\$389.91			
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$1,250.00</b>	<b>\$2,051.41</b>	<b>\$2,040.00</b>	<b>\$1,497.00</b>	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$13,705.00</b>	<b>\$17,902.41</b>	<b>\$18,180.00</b>	<b>\$13,781.21</b>	
Bank Account Balances	1/1/05		6/30/05	9/30/05	1/6/2006*
Union Bank of California checking	\$13,236.02		\$16,874.87	\$17,518.28	\$16,329.12
Union Bank of California savings	\$2,616.80		\$2,618.36	\$2,621.48	\$7,229.72
Stanford Federal Credit Union: Ansari CD	\$7,000.00		\$7,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$7,000.00
SFCU: Ansari Savings	\$398.96		\$464.76	\$487.55	\$29.59
SFCU: CD	\$11,925.47		\$12,050.20	\$12,093.22	\$12,178.33
*By 1/30/06, all accounts were closed, and checks were sent to Renee Davis who opened accounts at Wachovia Bank.					

## GSIS COMMITTEES

### Archivist

*Purpose: To collect and preserve the history of the society.*

Chair: vacant

Lura Joseph, 2006-2007

Lisa Fish, 2006-2007

### Best Paper Award

*Purpose: To determine the Best Paper Award.*

Chair: Rusty Kimball, 2006-2007

Carol LaRussa, 2005-2006

Renee Davis, 2006-2007

Judie Triplehorn, 2006-2007

### Collection Development Issues

*Purpose: To collect, analyze, disseminate and publish data on geoscience literature costs; investigate, respond to issues; report on cooperative collection development issues.*

Chair: Chestalene Pintozzi, 2006-2007

Paul Kirk, 2005-2006

Shirley Rais, 2006-2007

Michael Noga, 2006-2007

Thomas Zogg, 2006-2007

John Hunter, 2006-2007

### Electronic Resources

*Purpose: To keep the society informed with the current trends, and issues concerning digital data, includes the former GeoRef Users Group.*

Chair: vacant

Amy Butros, 2005-2006

Li\_Mei Chen, 2005-2006

Ann Hubble, 2006-2007

Elaine Adams, 2006-2007

### Exhibits

*Purpose: To plan, design and arrange for GSIS exhibits and maintain booth materials.*

Chair: Darin Buri, 2005-2006

Dona Dirlam, 2005-2006

April Love, 2006-2007

### Guidebooks

*Purpose: To update and maintain the Union List of Field Trip Guidebooks database.*

Chair: Louise Zipp, 2006-2007

Barbara Haner, 2005-2006

Lura Joseph, 2005-2006

Dorothy McGarry, 2005-2006

Carl Olson, 2005-2006

Renee Davis, 2006-2007

Linda Rose, 2005-2006

Elaine Adams, 2006-2007

### International Initiatives

*Purpose: To investigate, report on, and recommend internationally-focused activities for GSIS.*

Chair: Jan Heagy 2006-2007

Judie Triplehorn, 2006-2007

Margie Walsh, 2005-2006

Dorothy McGarry, 2005-2006

Elaine Clement, 2005-2006

### Mary B. Ansari Best Reference Work Award

*Purpose: To determine the Best Reference Work Award.*

Chair: Janice Norris, 2005-2006

Janice Jaguszewski, 2005-2006

Sally Scott, 2005-2006

Linda Newman, 2006-2007

Renee Davis, 2006-2007

Tom Zogg, 2006-2007

### **Mary B. Ansari Distinguished Service Award**

*Purpose: To determine the Distinguished Service recipient.*

Chair: Claren Kidd 2005-2006

Janice Sorensen, 2005-2006

Michael Noga, 2006-2007

### **Membership**

*Purpose: Review/revise brochure; solicit new members; contact members who have not renewed and welcome back members who renewed late.*

Chair, Miriam Kennard 2006-2007

Paul Kirk, 2005-2006

Judie Triplehorn, 2005-2006

Karen Sue Bolm, 2006-2007

John Hunter, 2006-2007

Sarah Ziegler, 2006-2007

Lisa Fish, 2006-2007

### **Nominating**

*Purpose: To nominate candidates for elective offices; prepare, mail, and count ballots and report results.*

Chair: Linda Musser 2006

Clara McLeod 2005-2006

Andrea Twiss-Brooks 2006-2007

### **Preservation**

*Purpose: To recommend GSIS's role in preservation activities and develop preservation guidelines for the geoscience community*

Chair: vacant

John Hunter, 2006-2007

Linda Musser 2006-2007

Thelma Thompson, 2006-2007

Anne Graham, 2006-2007

### **Website**

*Purpose: To advise on the content and organization of the GSIS Website; determine winner of the Outstanding Website Award.*

Chair: vacant

Suzanne Larsen, 2005-2006

Carolyn Laffoon 2005-2006

Beth Roberts, 2006-2007

### **GSIS REPRESENTATIVES**

(3-year appointments, starting with the Annual Meeting)

AGI [Vacant]

ALA [Vacant]

Atmospheric Sciences Librarians International (ASLI) –

Judie Triplehorn, 2005-2007

Cartographic Users Advisory Council (CUAC) [Vacant]

GeoInfo VII [Vacant]

GSA Publications Committee – Michael Noga, 2005-2007

NSDL – Ed Lener, 2006-2008

North East Map Organization (NEMO) – Anne Graham, 2005-2007

SLA [Vacant]

Western Association of Map Libraries (WAML) – Wendie

Helms, 2005-2007



### **Professional Issues Forum Report (from the GSIS annual meeting October 15, 2005)**

Below are some of the discussion topics from a forum at the GSIS annual meeting. If you have any thoughts or insights on these issues, please consider sending a response to the *GSIS Newsletter*, or consider sharing your thoughts by presenting at the annual meeting in Philadelphia. (-- Linda Musser, recorder.)

– Continuing education: keeping current in your field, what are the emerging issues and how do you identify them?

– Electronic journals: quality control issues (e.g., Lura Joseph's survey of 20 geology titles by Elsevier; finding missing bits and poor scans), storage/withdrawal of print, storage/retention/withdrawal of electronic issues.

– Remote storage: robotic storage, selecting materials to send, how to support browsing needs.

– Access versus Storage: how to balance these competing demands

– New services: access to textbooks, document delivery (OSU, UU, PSU and UIUC all trying this).

– Scholarly communications: what is it? why is it such a big issue?

– Librarians' decision-making lots of talk with administrators, don't "they" trust us?, demands for more data gathering.

– Weeding decrees: requirements to work with faculty (don't "they" trust us to make these decisions without consulting the faculty on each title?), how much time is reasonable for weeding?, what criteria are being used for de-selection?

– Administrators' demands: IM, blogs, chat reference, digital storytelling... are we being allowed to give up anything? What would we give up?

– Basic skills: is there a changing skill set for the 21<sup>st</sup> century librarian?

### **MEMBER IN THE NEWS**

**LURA JOSEPH** is the co-author of an article in the Winter 2006 issue of *Issues in Science and Technology Librarianship*, now available at <http://www.istl.org/>, "Surveying Graduate and professional students' perspectives on library services, facilities and collections at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign—Does subject discipline continue to influence library use?" by Tina E. Chrzastowski and Lura Joseph, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

## NEW MEMBER

We are pleased to welcome a new sponsored member, A. K. Srivastava, Supervising Librarian and Head, Information and Library Services, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation, India. He is currently a Ph. D. candidate in the Department of Library and Information Science at the University of Pune. The title of his dissertation proposal is, "Organising knowledge in the field of petroleum exploration and exploitation".



### American Geographical Society Library Fellowships

The American Geographical Society Library, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Libraries, welcomes applications for two short-term fellowship programs:

*McColl Research Program fellowships.* This is a short-term fellowship program available to individuals who wish to communicate their geographical research results to a broad, educated general audience. Awards of \$3000 for

four-week fellowships will be provided to support residencies for the purpose of conducting research that makes direct use of the Library, and results in publication in a mutually agreed outlet.

*Helen and John S. Best Research Fellowships.* Stipends of \$375 per week, for periods up to 4 weeks, will be awarded to support residencies for the purpose of conducting research that makes direct use of the Library.

The AGS Library is one of North America's foremost geography and map collections with strengths in geography, cartography and related historical topics. Formerly the library and map collection of the American Geographical Society (AGS) of New York, it was transferred to the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Libraries in 1978. Applications must be received by October 20, 2006. All fellowships are tenable in 2007. For further information, write, call or e-mail the AGS Library, P.O. Box 399, Milwaukee, WI 53201-0399, Tel. (414) 229-6282, (800) 558-8993 (toll free), E-mail [agsl@uwm.edu](mailto:agsl@uwm.edu). Web site: <http://www.uwm.edu/Libraries/AGSL/fellowships.html>

## FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEWS

with thanks to Linda Zellmer

### USGS Geospatial Operations Center Study

On October 4, 2005 the USGS started a public-private competition that will determine current and future functions and the number of personnel required by the National Geospatial Technical Operations Center (NGTOC) at the Denver Federal Center, an all government campus, located in Lakewood, Colorado. The official notification was posted in Fed Biz Opps. The study will be completed within 12 months.

The study was informally announced, Sept. 15 when the USGS communicated intentions to consolidate the functions and operations currently performed at its mapping centers and other distributed sites to the Denver Federal Center, in Lakewood, Colo.

### Oregon "Squaw" Name Changes

At its December meeting, the U.S. Board of Geographic Names approved a proposal from the U.S. Forest Service to rename 16 geographic features in Oregon which contained the "Squaw." The place names changed and the new names include:

Squaw Back Ridge, Jefferson County → Akawa Butte  
Little Squaw Back, Jefferson County → Little Akawa Butte  
Squaw Gulch, Jefferson County → Akawa Gulch  
Squaw Flat Canyon, Jefferson County → Carcass Canyon  
Squaw Creek Falls, Deschutes County → Upper Chush Falls  
Squaw Ridge, Lake County → Hoona Ridge  
Squaw Mountain, Lake County → Moohoo'oo Mountain  
Squaw Creek, Wheeler County → Podo Creek  
Squaw Meadows, Wheeler County → Podo Meadows

Squaw Flat, Jefferson County → Tai Flat  
Squaw Creek Canyon, Deschutes & Jefferson Counties → Whychus Creek Canyon  
North Fork Squaw Creek, Deschutes County → North Fork Whychus Creek  
South Fork Squaw Creek, Jefferson County → South Fork Whychus Creek  
Squaw Creek, Deschutes & Jefferson County → Whychus Creek  
Squaw Creek Rim, Deschutes County → Whychus Rim

Two additional names were deferred at that meeting, pending an official recommendation from the Forest Service Chief because the names would honor a Forest Service employee. The Board also reaffirmed the name of Mount Saint Helens, in Washington, because a proposal had been made to rename it Volcano Saint Helens. The Board cited the fact that the name is well-established for its decision.

### Soil Survey for Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has completed a 1.9 million acre soil survey of Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument near Kanab, Utah. The Monument, managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), was created by Presidential Proclamation in 1996 and represents a unique combination of archaeological, historical, paleontological, geological, and biological resources. The new soil survey offers several benefits. Each type of soil was correlated to an ecological site, which will allow Monument staff to plan restoration and make land use decisions.

### **NGA to Withdraw Some Publications**

In November, the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) announced that it will remove its Flight Information Publications (FLIP) and Digital Aeronautical Flight Information File (DAFIFTM) from public access. The reason this data is being withdrawn is because several countries that share this data with NGA are claiming copyright over the data that they share with NGA. Government agencies and authorized government contractors will not be affected by this decision.

NGA officially announced its proposed intention to remove the aeronautical products from public access starting October 1, 2005. As a result of comments received during the public comment period, NGA decided to phase in withdrawal of the products. In addition, NGA decided not to withdraw paper map products to a scale of 1:250,000 to 1:5,000,000. Libraries will continue to have access to these maps and data.

### **New Statistical Abstract of the U.S. Now Available**

The 2006 *Statistical Abstract of the United States*, which is the 125<sup>th</sup> edition, was released December 21, 2005. The Statistical Abstract, which dates back to 1878, contains tables of social, political and economic statistics, as well as international statistics. The new edition also contains historical statistics and new tables on a wide variety of topics, including pet ownership and. The Statistical Abstract of the United States, 2006 is available for \$39.00 from the U.S. Government Printing Office. It is also available in Depository Libraries and online at: <http://www.census.gov/prod/www/statistical-abstract.html>.

### **We the People: American Indians and Alaska Natives**

A new Census Bureau publication, *We the People: American Indians and Alaska Natives in the United States* provides data on the largest specified tribal groupings, reservations, Alaska Native Village Statistical Areas (ANVSAs) and areas outside reservations and ANVSAs at the national level. It is part of a special report series that presents data collected from Census 2000 on demographic, social and economic characteristics. The publication is available at: <http://www.census.gov/prod/2006pubs/censr-28.pdf>

### **FEMA News**

The FEMA Flood Map Store (<http://store.msc.fema.gov>) and the Map Service Center (<http://msc.fema.gov>) web sites have been merged into a single web site: [msc.fema.gov](http://msc.fema.gov). People who connect to the old Flood Map Store will be automatically redirected to the new MSC website. The Map Service Center has several how-to guides available for free download. The new MSC also has links to sites that explain changes in the site, Letters of map change and other publications on the site, as well as a link to the final version of the Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map viewer (<https://hazards.fema.gov/wps/portal>). In addition, the site has digital FIRMs available for download. For more information on DFIRMs, and download data, use the link on the map service center web site.

### **Registry of U.S. Government Publication Digitization Launched**

The Government Printing Office has set up a registry for U.S. Government Publication digitization projects. The registry is part of the Government Printing Office's plan to provide electronic access to the entire legacy collection of U.S. Government publications. The Registry, which is located at <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/legacy/registry/>, will serve as a locator tool for publicly accessible collections of digitized U.S. Government publications, increase awareness of U.S. Government publication digitization projects encourage collaboration on digitization projects and provide a model for future digitization projects. For more information about the Registry, see the Registry web site.

More information on the Digitization program, including a link to the September, 2005 final report on priorities for digitizing the legacy collection, see <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/legacy/index.html>.

### **VMAP 1 Data Completed**

In late January, the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency announced the completion of the Vector Map Level 1 data. This data, which was compiled by the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency in cooperation international partners, consists of the digitized points, lines and polygons representing features on Earth.

This standardized data set will allow users worldwide to work from a common reference point. The VMap1 data is divided into thematic layers, or coverages. Data for a variety of themes, including boundaries, elevation, hydrography, industry, physiography, population, transportation, utilities and vegetation, are available. The data is being distributed on CD to U.S. military agencies by the Defense Logistics Agency. Data that has been released to the public available from the U.S. Geological Survey ([www.usgs.gov](http://www.usgs.gov)).

As a result of the cooperation developed in compiling VMAP 1, the Multinational Geospatial Co-Production Program, a five-year, international program, has been set up. The MGCP will produce a set of higher resolution vector data sets.

### **Introduction to ArcGIS 9.X for Land Management Agencies**

Course materials and handouts developed to teach a class on use of GIS for land management are available on the National Park Service web site at: <http://www.nps.gov/gis/outreach/arcgis9.html>. The course materials emphasize National Park Service (NPS) programs. The course contains seven modules and three exercises. Solutions to each of the exercises are also provided.

### **NASA Direct Readout Project**

NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center is developing software, systems, and standards to make remote sensing data from satellites and other platforms more readily accessible through real-time Direct Broadcast (DB).

This project is being funded to help the public acquire and use data from the National Polar-orbiting Operational Environmental Satellite System (NPOESS) Preparatory



Project (NPP), which is joint mission of NASA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the Department of Defense. The NPP is scheduled to launch in 2006. For more information, see the NASA Direct Readout web site at: <http://directreadout.gsfc.nasa.gov/>.

#### **USGS National Earthquake Center Goes 24/7**

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) National Earthquake Center in Golden, Colo. announced the implementation of a new 24/7 operation center and seismic event processing system, HYDRA, in January. The round-the-clock on-site personnel and new technology are expected to halve the amount of time required to report information about earthquakes around the globe.

HYDRA is a new seismic event processing system that identifies, locates, and measures earthquakes; these changes are already speeding up and improving delivery of earthquake notifications. The state-of-the-art system is working in a provisional mode and will become fully operational in March, 2006. The USGS also introduced a new website and notification service for earthquake information at the end of January. The URL will for the earthquake site will remain the same (<http://earthquake.usgs.gov>).

#### **SPOT Image Awarded USGS Contract**

The USGS has contracted with SPOT Image Corporation to purchase satellite imagery products and services. The SPOT satellite constellation collects imagery ranging from 2.5m to 20m, from any location on Earth. SPOT imagery can be used to update maps, create 3D models, map land-use, perform environmental analyses, and plan disaster response.

#### **Landsat 5 Resumes Operations**

Landsat 5 operations were temporarily suspended due to technical difficulties with the solar array drive in November, but returned to operation in late January. U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and NASA engineers were able to adjust the operating procedures for the solar array drive mechanism, to provide enough power to resume normal operations. Acquisition operations have begun over the conterminous U.S.; international stations will be brought on line in the coming weeks.

Landsat 5, launched in March 1984, has performed well beyond its three-year design lifetime and has continued to collect global land surface coverage. Over 620,000 images, illustrating events from the Chernobyl disaster to Hurricane Katrina, have proven invaluable for identifying the impact of natural and human-induced changes. Landsat 5 and Landsat 7 together provided full global coverage of the Earth's surface.

The Landsat Program is the longest running civilian program providing vital images of the Earth's surface from space. The first Landsat satellite was launched in 1972 and since then, Landsat satellites have been providing a constant stream of moderate-resolution images. In 1999, the Landsat

Program took a giant leap forward technologically with the launch of Landsat 7. The instruments on the Landsat satellites have acquired millions of images of the surface of the planet, providing a unique resource for scientists who study agriculture, geology, forestry, regional planning, education, mapping and global change research. Updates and further information are available at <http://landsat.usgs.gov/>.

#### **LizardTech Appealing Patent Ruling**

Lizardtech, Inc. is appealing a US Federal Court Order, which ruled that its US patent #5,710,835, which was developed by Los Alamos National Laboratories, and licensed by Lizardtech, was invalid. Lizardtech sued Earth Resource Mapping (ER Mapper), claiming that its image compression format infringed on LizardTech's proprietary compressed image format. LizardTech has also sued other companies, including Mapping Science, a company that had been committed to JPEG 2000, alleging that Mapping Science's system infringed on Lizardtech's patent. Supporters of the JPEG2000 standard should consider asking the US Federal Appeals Court for permission to file a 'friends of the court' brief on ER Mapper's behalf. For more information on defending against Lizardtech's appeal, email [DefendJPEG2000@ermapper.com](mailto:DefendJPEG2000@ermapper.com).

#### **New Maps Identify Bay Area Liquefaction Risk**

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) is releasing two new digital maps of the San Francisco Bay region showing liquefaction risk. The maps were developed to give the first responders and the general public, the information to assess potential risk from earthquake shaking damage.

One of the digital maps contains information on the location of young geologic deposits in the low-lying sections of the Bay Area, which could be subject to liquefaction in the event of a strong earthquake. The second map, which was derived from the map showing young geologic deposits, shows the potential for these young deposits to liquefy in the event of a strong earthquake. The highest liquefaction hazards are in areas with man-made landfill. Then new map products are the latest in a series of new tools and events that showcase the lessons learned with the 100th anniversary of the 1906 San Francisco earthquake fast approaching. Both of the maps are available free online at: <http://earthquake.usgs.gov/regional/nca/qmap/>

These two maps are part of a collection of resources commemorating the Centennial of the 1906 San Francisco Earthquake. For more information on the 1906 Centennial Alliance Events, exhibits, lectures, and publications, see <http://1906centennial.org/activities/>.

#### **Schoolyard Geology**

Schoolyard Geology (<http://education.usgs.gov/schoolyard/>) is the newest U.S. Geological Survey education website. The site provides lesson plans and activities for teachers and science students to use to take a geologic field trip in their own backyard.

Lessons and activities on the new site include mapping your schoolyard using the National Map, locating and identifying rocks, and learning about geologic concepts such as glacial striations, layers and sinkholes. The web site shows teachers how they can lead field trips within their own schoolyard using building materials and urban landscapes to introduce students to geologic processes while opening up and expanding their curiosity about the world around them.

#### **Federal Aid Highway & Public Land Survey Maps**

Two popular USGS maps have been reprinted. They include the U.S. Federal Aid Highway map and the Public Land Survey. The U.S. Federal Aid Highway map shows the National System of Interstate and Defense Highways and the Federal-Aid Primary Highway system. Information on this map was compiled by the Federal Highway Administration with the assistance of state highway departments. The map also shows international and state boundaries and names, state capitals and major cities, rivers, lakes and national parks. Insets at various scales show the road systems of Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico. The map scale is 1:3,168,000 (1 inch = 50 miles).

The Public Land Survey map shows the original thirteen colonies, and outlines of past land purchases, grants and annexes. The map also shows all the States and their cities, the hydrology, remaining public land, national forests, Indian reservations and national parks and monuments. The scale of the Public Land survey map is 1:3,000,000.

Both maps are large wall maps, approximately 64 by 40 inches. The U.S. Federal Aid Highway (order #101400) and Public Land Survey (order #101208) are available from the USGS Store (<http://store.usgs.gov>, 1-888-ASK-USGS) for \$7.00 plus \$5.00 handling. Contributed by Sheryle Girk-Jackson, [sjjackson@usgs.gov](mailto:sjjackson@usgs.gov)

#### **EROS Discontinues CD-ROM Media**

On January 2, 2006, the USGS Center for Earth Resources Observation and Science (EROS) discontinued CD-ROM media for Digital Line Graphs (DLG's), Digital Raster Graphics (DRG's), and Digital Orthophoto Quarter Quadrangles (DOQQ's). The Digital Orthophoto Quadrangle (DOQ) County CD's are also discontinued as a product. FTP and DVD media options will still be available for individual Digital Line Graphs (DLG's), Digital Raster Graphics (DRG's), and Digital Orthophoto Quarter Quadrangles (DOQQ's) through Earth Explorer.

Full national coverage of the most recent DOQQ's are available for download at no charge from the Seamless Data Distribution System (SDDS). In addition, the Seamless Data Distribution System (SDDS) offers 24K and 100K decolored DRG's for 90% of the nation for download at no charge. Contributed by Sheryle Girk-Jackson, [sjjackson@usgs.gov](mailto:sjjackson@usgs.gov)

#### **Historical Aerial Photography Access through EROS Data Center**

On December 27, 2005, Earth Explorer released three new options in the historical aerial photography collections. The release is designed to improve access to the aerial film archives. The new options are Aerial Photos – Non USGS Agencies, Aerial Photos – USGS, and Aerial Photos – USGS Photo Reference Mosaics (Photo Index Mosaics). Before this release, access to the 69,000 photo mosaics was limited to USGS Business Partners and Earth Science Information Centers. With this new release, the public can now browse digitized photo mosaics and order imagery. This marks a significant advance in making the EROS historical photographic archive readily accessible to the science community and general public.

EROS is now in the second year of its long term plan to digitize all of the aerial photography in the USGS archive. To date, over 2.25 million frames have been digitized creating a nation-wide baseline for the conterminous U.S that includes completed National Aerial Photography Program (NAPP) and National High Altitude Photography (NHAP) collections. Digitizing efforts are currently focusing on the historical USGS aerial projects. For more information on the nation's aerial photography see <http://earthexplorer.usgs.gov>. Contributed by Sheryle Girk-Jackson, [sjjackson@usgs.gov](mailto:sjjackson@usgs.gov)

#### **Geologic Guide to Saguaro National Park**

The Arizona Geological Survey recently released *A Guide to the Geology of Saguaro National Park*, by John V. Bezy, as part of their Down-to-Earth series (no. 18). This booklet is a field guide to the geology of this magnificent desert and mountain landscape for both the East (Rincon Mountains) and West (Tucson Mountains) Districts. Because of the relatively sparse vegetation in the lower elevations of the park, most of these features are easy to recognize, view and photograph. Most of the geologic features described can be reached by short hikes from the tour roads of the park. This booklet is written for visitors who are interested in geology, but who may not have had formal training in the subject. It may also help ensure that the visiting geologist does not overlook some important geologic features. The 36-page booklet is in full color in an 8.5" x 11" format and sells for \$7.95 plus shipping and handling. The guide can be purchased at the AZGS office or from AZGS Publications, 416 W. Congress St., Suite 100, Tucson, AZ 85701. All mail orders must be prepaid by a check or money order payable in U.S. dollars to the Arizona Geological Survey or by Master Card or VISA.

#### **New California Regional Geologic Map**

The California Geological Survey recently published a new map in their Regional Geologic Map series. The map, Regional Geologic Map 5A, shows the geology of the San Francisco - San Jose Quadrangle at a scale of 1:250,000. It was compiled by D. L. Wagner, E. J. Bortugno and R. D.

McJunkin. It is available for \$20.00 plus \$4.00 shipping and handling from the California Geological Survey, Publications Sales, 1059 Vine Street, Suite 103, Sacramento, CA 95814-0321, Fax: (916) 324-5644, Phone: (916) 445-6199.

#### **Colorado Ground Water Web Site**

The Colorado Geological Survey has developed a web site that features a synopsis of the *Ground Water Atlas of Colorado*. The web site contains introductory chapters on the state's ground-water resource, as well as specific discussions on each of the state's major aquifers. The web site version consists of 3-4 pages of text and graphic materials for each of the original 7 chapters of the publication. In addition, the web site contains the complete glossary, and download capability of high-resolution graphic files displayed as figures on the web pages. The synopsis of the Ground Water Atlas of Colorado can be viewed at <http://geosurvey.state.co.us/wateratlas/>.

#### **New Idaho Digital Geologic Maps**

The Idaho Geological Survey has released 17 new maps in their Digital Web Maps series and one new map in their Geologic Map series. All of the maps can be downloaded for free through their Publications web site (<http://www.idahogeology.org/Products/PubList.asp>). The recently released digital web maps cover the Shoshone Quadrangle, Lincoln County, Idaho, Shoshone SW Quadrangle, Jerome and Lincoln Counties, Idaho, Falls City Quadrangle, Jerome County, Idaho, Niagara Springs Quadrangle, Gooding and Twin Falls Counties, Idaho, Jerome Quadrangle, Jerome and Twin Falls Counties, Idaho, Thousand Springs Quadrangle, Gooding and Twin Falls Counties, Idaho, Hagerman Quadrangle, Gooding and Twin Falls Counties, Idaho, Tuttle Quadrangle, Gooding and Twin Falls Counties, Idaho, Twin Falls Quadrangle, Jerome and Twin Falls Counties, Idaho, Bliss Quadrangle, Gooding and Twin Falls Counties, Idaho, Wood River Valley Area, Blaine County, Idaho, Hailey Quadrangle, Blaine County, Idaho, Sun Valley Quadrangle, Blaine County, Idaho, Bellevue Quadrangle, Blaine County, Idaho, Trout Peak Quadrangle, Bonner County, Idaho, Derr Point Quadrangle, Bonner and Shoshone Counties, Idaho and the Cabinet Quadrangle, Bonner and Shoshone Counties, Idaho. The recently published map in the Geologic Map Series is GM-41, *Geologic Map of the Potlatch 30 x 60 Minute Quadrangle, Idaho*, by Reed S. Lewis and others. These maps can also be ordered by mail or telephone from Publication Sales, Idaho Geological Survey, University of Idaho, PO Box 443014, Moscow, ID 83844-3014, (208) 885-7991, Fax (208) 885-5826.

#### **New Earthquake Maps for Montana**

The Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology recently released Special Publication 117, *Probabilistic Earthquake Hazard Maps for the State of Montana*, by Ivan Wong and others. The maps in the publication display ground motions for two site conditions: soft rock and the ground surface. In

addition to the ground shaking maps, a set of 6 maps have been developed to help the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation and engineers analyze the possible site response and liquefaction potential in areas with dams. These maps are not intended to be a substitute for site-specific studies for engineering design nor to replace standard maps commonly referenced in building codes. The publication is available for \$10.00 plus \$3.50 shipping and handling from Publication Sales, Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, Montana Tech, 1300 West Park Street, Butte, MT 59701-8997, Telephone 406/496-4167.

#### **Reno Area Geologic and Natural History Tours**

*Geologic and Natural History Tours in the Reno Area* (Expanded Edition) by Joseph V. Tingley, Kris Ann Pizarro, Christopher Ross, Becky Weimer Purkey, and Larry J. Garside, 2005, is a new expanded edition of the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology's Special Publication 19. The new publication is being published in the 8.5- by 11-inch, landscape, spiral-bound format used in the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology's recently published guidebooks. The new edition more information about the geology, history, plants, and animals of the area which complement detailed logs of each of the trips, as well as new maps and sketches.

Four trips are offered in this book. The first explores the Truckee River along the route of old Highway 40 from Reno to Verdi and the California state line. The second trip highlights the mineral formation and mining history of the Comstock Lode at Virginia City. A third trip follows the Mount Rose Highway over the Carson Range to Lake Tahoe and travels south along the eastern shore of the lake, viewing spectacular glacier-carved Sierra landscapes and miles of scenery featuring one of the world's most beautiful alpine lakes. The fourth trip begins in Sparks, follows the Truckee River east through the river canyon, then turns with the river and continues north to Pyramid Lake. *Geologic and Natural History Tours in the Reno Area* is available from NBMG Publication Sales- Mail Stop 178, Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology, University of Nevada, Reno, NV 89557-0088, 775-784-6691 ext. 2 or Fax 775-784-1709. It can also be ordered online at: <http://www.nbm.unr.edu/sales/pbs.htm>

#### **New DOGAMI Reports**

The Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries recently released several reports and data sets. They include the *Geoanalytical Information Layer for Oregon* (GILO), by Mark L. Ferns and Vicki S. McConnell, Oregon Dept of Geology & Mineral Industries, a spatial database with geochemical (whole rock and trace elements) and geochronological data. This data set contains geochemical information for 1141 samples collected during regional geologic mapping projects in central and eastern Oregon.

Also released was a set of GIS data of beach morphodynamics derived from 1997, 1998, and 2002 LIDAR data for the central to northern Oregon coast. The objective of this study is to develop a coast-wide GIS database containing

information on the morphology of beaches and dunes along the Oregon coast from an analysis of Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) data that were measured jointly by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in 1997, 1998, and 2002.

The final report released evaluates the coastal change and erosion potential at Crissey Field, southern Oregon coast. These reports are available on CD-ROM for \$10. They can be purchased from the Nature of the Northwest Information Center (NNW), 800 NE Oregon Street #5, Portland, Oregon, 97232. Printed copies of the GILO – Release 1 map are available for \$15.

### **New Utah Geologic Map**

The Utah Geological Survey recently released a new geologic map covering the west part of the Traverse Mountains between Salt Lake and Cedar Valleys. Together with recently released geologic maps of the adjacent Jordan Narrows and Lehi 7.5' quadrangles, this map covers part of the fast-growing metropolitan area that straddles the boundary between Salt Lake and Utah Counties.

The map, *Geologic Map of Tickville Spring 7.5' Quadrangle, Utah* (Map 214), by Robert F. Biek and others, provides geologic information useful to city and county agencies, consulting geologists, and developers to address geologic hazard and resource issues. It would also be of interest

to educators and others simply interested in learning about the fascinating geology of this area. The work to map the area funded through a cooperative agreement between the Utah Geological Survey and the U.S. Geological Survey under the National Geologic Mapping Act. The map sells for \$12 at the Natural Resources Map & Bookstore, located at 1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, (801) 537-3320 or 1-888-UTAHMAP, <http://mapstore.utah.gov>.

### **Washington Geologic Map Wins Design Award**

The new *Geologic Map of Washington State* won first place in the environmental category at the ESRI Northwest GIS Users Conference. The environmental category was the largest category and had many beautiful maps entered. ESRI is a company that makes GIS (geographic information systems) software. The *Geologic Map of Washington State* (GM-53) is the first new 1:500,000-scale geologic map of Washington since 1961. It is a 55.5 x 36-inch full-color map and may be purchased flat or folded. The flat map is printed on heavy, coated white stock and is suitable for framing. This map and the geologic quadrant maps that preceded it may be ordered from the Washington State Department of Printing at <http://www.prt.wa.gov>, click on General Store/Shop by Agency/Department of Natural Resources (Geology Division)/Geologic Maps/. The PDF may be viewed and downloaded at <http://www.dnr.wa.gov/geology/pubs/pubsol.htm> under GM-53.



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GEOSCIENCE  
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# newsletter

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