



Southside GIS Users Group

SSGISUG 2006

After much discussion, the SSGISUG committee members feel that we should alter the path of the organization slightly from previous years. SSGISUG is 3 years old and will continue to have a presence and influence within Southside Virginia. We had a very successful Fall Expo in Danville and want to thank all that attended and sponsored this event. We have identified, based on feedback received, that we might better serve the area by having a presence at State conferences. Therefore, the following changes have been made.

Our quarterly meetings will be replaced with semi-annual meetings that will be held at the Spring VAMLIS conference and Fall Virginia State GIS Conference. SSGISUG will redirect its support and focus on these conferences in an effort to bring recognition and state support to our area. SSGISUG will be present at each conference to represent Southside and ask that you do the same. It's also anticipated that presentations might be given at future conferences from the group itself to showcase our efforts.

We will also periodically distribute newsletters like this one giving updates on the organization and other various GIS information. As a special section in each newsletter we would like to highlight one locality within Southside. If you have a project that you would like everyone to know about or if you just want to brag about your Staff members please contact Renee to discuss a feature in the next newsletter.

We believe SSGISUG is an organization that can make a difference in the Southside and the GIS community. We ask that you will continue to support the organization through conference and meeting attendance. Also we are always looking for additional committee members to join us and help out in these efforts. If interested please contact any of the committee members. Thank you for your support and we look forward to seeing you at the Fall conference.

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SSGISUG Mission Statement:

Promote and educate Southside, VA on the importance and impact of GIS to our community and to foster GIS educational opportunities.

SSGISUG Goals

1. Educate GIS users on the importance of GIS and promote the development of GIS in Southside, VA.
 - a. Distribute quarterly SSGISUG newsletters.
 - b. Provide e-mail notification to all members on upcoming GIS events, promotions, educational opportunities and new GIS developments on a regular basis
2. Support VAMLIS and the state GIS Efforts
 - a. Serve as a presence at the annual VAMLIS conference.
 - b. Serve as a presence at the annual VAPDC GIS Conference
 - c. Educate Southside, VA on existing and pending state GIS issues.
3. Foster the further development of GIS in Southside, VA
 - a. Support and promote data sharing among localities and schools.
 - b. Increase collaboration between localities.
 - c. Promote communication among localities on GIS issues

GISP

It was not until I came to the City of Danville in 1997 that I became engulfed in the GIS arena and the endless possibilities that encompassed GIS in the future technological growth in Southside, VA. As professionals, we face a daily dilemma of justifying our experience with our educational background as the idea of degree's in GIS is still new and developing. As professionals we are also caught in the conflict of weighing future educational development with professional growth and time constraints. That is where the GISP program fits in. Developed by the GIS Certification Institute, "A GISP is a certified geographic information systems (GIS) Professional who has met the minimum standards for ethical conduct and professional practice as established by the GIS Certification Institute (GISCI)". Created to establish GIS as a profession and meet the criteria of a 'profession', the GISP gives validity to our work and educational experience. Certification is based on three achievements: (1) Educational attainment, (2) Professional experience and (3) Contributions to the profession. Certification also provides the ability to (1) Classify bad and good practice, (2) Outline the education and work experience necessary to establish good GIS practices and (3) Implement a professional code of ethics that identifies bad practices and upholds good practices. Over one thousand one hundred and sixty seven (1,167) GIS professionals have been certified by the program with new members becoming certified every month. The GISP program has been endorsed by North Carolina and Oregon and maintains a partnership with various organizations including the Virginia Association for Mapping and Land Information Systems (VAMLIS), the Association of American Geographers (AAG) and the National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC). For more information about the GISP program, visit: <http://www.gisci.org/>

Inez Pollock, GISP
SSGISUG Chair



New Website and Coordinator

SSGISUG is proud to announce our newest committee member Susan Moore as the User Group's website coordinator. Susan was very active in our preparations and execution of the GIS Expo at the Institute last fall and has been instrumental in many of our meetings.

Susan Moore with Anderson & Associates, Inc. is designing a website for SSGISUG. The site will be used to post upcoming events, information about the committee and members, goals of the group and links to GIS information. Future development will include message boards and a members section to communicate advancements with GIS in South side.

Upcoming Events

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| * August 7-11, 2006 | Twenty-sixth Annual ESRI International User Conference San Diego, CA |
| * August 16, 2006 | USGS Metadata Training Workshop Danville, VA www.conted.vt.edu/usgsmt/ |
| * September 18-20, 2006 | GITA's 15th Annual GIS for Oil & Gas Conference Houston, TX |
| * October 23-26, 2006 | Homeland Security GIS Summit Denver, CO |
| * October 23-26, 2006 | Health GIS Conference Denver, CO |
| * October 23-24, 2006 | Virginia GIS Conference Roanoke, VA |
| * October 29-November 2, 2006 | Caribbean GIS Conference Bahamas |
| * November 15, 2006 | GIS Day |
| * March 4-7, 2007 | GITA's Annual Conference 30 San Antonio, TX |
| * May 20-23, 2007 | GIS in Public Health Conference New Orleans |
| * August 20-23, 2007 | URISA's 2007 Annual Conference |