



GISCorps Newsletter

GIS Professionals Volunteering for a Better World

February 2010

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URISA

GISCorps Partner Agencies

EWB

GSDI

MMEX

UNDP

UNHCR

UNJLC

UNOSAT

IMMAP

Volunteers for Prosperity

Relief Agency Links

Relief Web

global hub for time-critical humanitarian information on Complex Emergencies and Natural Disasters

Data/Information Links

Earthwatch Institute

Earthwatch Institute is an international non-profit organization that brings science to life for people concerned about the Earth's future.

Service at Sea

A Message from the Core Committee

A belated Happy New Year to you all!

We have been pretty busy since the December newsletter, as the Deployment and Partnership section of this newsletter can attest. We have been working at deploying volunteers on missions with a few UN agencies in response to the earthquake in Haiti. Many of you stepped forward to volunteer your services for the missions in Haiti, and for that we truly thank you. We have worked with Pictometry, who has agreed to make their oblique imagery available to our volunteers in post disaster situations; our volunteers for Haiti and the UN missions are now using that imagery. We will soon be launching a mission for a flood stricken region in Albania. And we have already launched projects for Vietnam, Nigeria, and New Orleans. 2010 has started out with a bang!

The Membership of the Core Committee changed again in December. Ingrid Bruce, previous URISA Board member and long-time GISCorps supporter, indicated that she could no longer participate on the Core Committee due to other personal commitments. We are sorry to see Ingrid leave our committee, but we thank her for her dedication to the cause over the years, and we wish her all the best.

While we cannot foresee the future, and know which agencies may request our services in 2010, we can plan for some upcoming conferences and events. We will be at the URISA conference in Orlando in September, and planning is already underway for the sessions that will take place there. We understand the economy will impact our ability to travel to these events, but we hope to see you there if at all possible.

GISCorps Core Committee,

Dianne Haley, Allen Ibaugh, Mark Salling, Shoreh Elhami, Heather Milton, Ray DeLeon

P.S. Please email info@giscorps.org if you want to be removed from this list.

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Deployment and Partnership News

Missions in Progress:

- **Mission with UNOOSA / UN-SPIDER – Haiti:** In January 2010, a request for ArcGIS Server specialists came to GISCorps from the UN

Service at Sea is a ship-based technology assistance program that will begin a circumnavigation of the earth in August, 2007, with a goal to assist conservation organizations who are using GIS technology to meet goals of their communities.

Society for Conservation GIS
A non-profit organization supporting individuals using GIS and science for the conservation of natural resources and cultural heritage

GISCorps Core Committee

Dianne Haley, Chair
Allen Ibaugh, Vice Chair
Shoreh Elhami, Co-founder
Mark Salling
Heather Milton
Ray DeLeon

Contact Us

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Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), as implementing Office for the UN Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER). The search resulted in the selection of two volunteers. They are Graham Smith from Cambridge, Ontario and Chris Markuson from Pueblo, Colorado. They are now in direct contact with UNOOSA/UN-SPIDER representatives.

- **Mission with [CartONG](#) - Vietnam:** In December 2009, CartONG; a French based non profit organization requested the assistance of a remote sensing specialist. The Final objective of the project is to develop a carbon sink model for a region in central highland of Vietnam. An email broadcast was sent to the volunteer database and 15 individuals from 10 countries applied for the project. The review of the resumes and interviews resulted in selecting Jason San Souci from Colorado. Jason is now in contact with CartONG' Sandra Sudhoff.
- **Mission with [Geographical Resources for Development Centre \(GRDC\)](#) – Nigeria:** In late 2009, Geographical Resources for Development Centre (GRDC), a non profit organization in Nigeria, requested a volunteer to assist them in establishing a metadata clearing house node. The recruitment resulted in deploying Alison Fischer. Alison is from BC, Canada and currently lives in Tokyo, Japan. She is now in direct contact with GRDC.
- **Mission with [Neighborhood Housing Services \(NHS\)](#)- New Orleans, LA:** In October 2009, Michelle Thompson, A professor at the University of New Orleans – Department of Planning & Urban Studies (UNO-PLUS) contacted GISCorps and sought the assistance of an ArcGIS Server Programmer for the NHS; a non profit organization in New Orleans, Louisiana. NHS was interested in creating a dynamic web site to share their data and build surveying capacity in other neighborhoods. Following a thorough search Rafael Ferraro, a GIS Programmer with Science Application International Corporation ([SAIC](#)) in Virginia was selected for this project and is now working with a team of experts from NHS and UNO-PLUS.
- **Mission with ([iMMAP/WFP](#)) - North Korea:** In late 2007, [iMMAP](#) in partnership with the [World Food Program](#) (WFP), Bureau for Asia sent a request for volunteers to compile features such as settlement points, transportation (roads, foot path, and railroads), rivers and lakes (complete with attributes) from 405 map sheets in North Korea. Following their request, GISCorps posted the information on its website and was then contacted by Karen Payne of University of Georgia's Information technology Outreach Services ([ITOS](#)) who expressed interest in assisting with the project. During the first phase, she conducted tests to determine the best options for rectification of scanned maps and forwarded the results to WFP. She then continued the test by investigating various methods for extracting features from those scanned maps. Recently, another volunteer, Chris Zumwalt, a GIS Manager with WRA Inc. CA, joined the team to run a pilot project to determine the best methodology for compiling these features. Read more [here](#).
- **Mission with [Ministry of Tourism](#) – Mozambique:** In March 2009, a request for a remote sensing specialist came to GISCorps. The Ministry of Tourism has several Quick Bird imageries of Chimanimani National Reserve from 2005 and 2008 and is interested in having the volunteer conduct a change detection to identify changes in land use pattern. This

is expected to help the reserve management team to locate the areas where more attention is required to control illegal activities currently occurring in the Reserve (e.g. gold panning). Stephanie Lassieur, a remote sensing specialist with the NATO Command Control Consulting Agency in the Hague (Netherlands) has been recruited for this mission. She has provided preliminary results to the Ministry staff. She is now in the process of conducting full analysis.

- **Mission with [South Luangwa Conservation Society](#) – Zambia:** In March 2009, GISCorps received a request from South Luangwa Conservation Society, a NGO in Mfuwe, Zambia, for a GIS Specialist to analyze their historic data and conduct trend analysis and also assist the NGO with their GIS needs on an ongoing basis. The recruitment resulted in deploying Lisa Matthies, a GIS and Geography Instructor at Erie Community College in Williamsville, NY. She has been supporting SLCS in both capacities; analysis of their historic data as well as providing ongoing GIS support. Another volunteer, Ember Crouch, a GIS Specialist with Urban Mapping Inc. in California joined the team later on to assist in developing a better base map for the project. Read more [here](#).
- **Global Spatial Data Infrastructure ([GSDI](#)) Small Grants Program's 2009-2010 Projects:** GISCorps first participated in the review of 2005/2006 Small Grants projects in 2005 and most recently has participated in the 2009/2010 projects. The team has reviewed over 61 applications. The announcement of awards is expected soon and we are investigating the potential role of GISCorps volunteers for a dozen of those proposals. The 2009/2010 efforts are currently spearheaded by Mark Salling, a GISCorps Core Committee member. Read about previous projects [here](#).

Read more about completed projects [here](#).

Read more about projects in progress in [here](#).

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URISA Announcements

Upcoming Conferences

[14th Annual GIS/CAMA Technologies Conference](#) - Register Today!

March 8-11, 2010 - Little Rock, AR

[2010 URISA/NENA Addressing Conference](#) - Abstracts Due February 18

August 16-18, 2010 - Charlotte, NC

[GIS-Pro 2010: URISA's 48th Annual Conference for GIS Professionals](#)

Abstracts Due February 23

September 28-October 1, 2010 - Orlando, FL

[URISA Leadership Academy](#)

June 14-18, 2010 - Baltimore, MD

What's New

[Draft Address Standard Submitted to FGDC](#)

[URISA Debuts New and Improved Member Publication](#)

[Nominations Sought for URISA's GIS Hall of Fame](#)

[Announcing GIS-Pro 2010: URISA's 48th Annual Conference for GIS Professionals](#)

[2010 Exemplary Systems in Government \(ESIG\) Awards Process Opens](#)

[URISA Journal Marks 10 Years of Open Access Publishing](#)

[Donate to URISA's 50/50 Fund](#)

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Shop for GISCorps Stuff!!

Do you find yourself in need of a new T-shirt, coffee mug, ball cap or tote bag? Do you want to advertise GISCorps and your association with the organization? Well, you are in luck! You can now find various GISCorps items at our online shop at: <http://www.cafepress.com/giscorps>

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Featured Project: Two Volunteers From Calgary Assist In A Project In Panama

The [Fuguay-Varina Rotary \(FVR\)](#) club sought GISCorps volunteers' assistance to develop an online questionnaire to conduct a survey in poor neighborhoods of Panama. The objective was to locate and collect detailed information about the staggering number of orphans in Panama City and beyond. The online questionnaire (see below) will eventually enable FVR to geo-locate those who will be surveyed.

GIS Corps in Panama
Insert a new record

*Child's identification number:

Child's first name:

Child's last name:

Nick name:

Present Address/Location:

Latitude N (WGS1984): E.g. 8.98765

Longitude W (WGS1984): E.g. -79.56789

Province of residence:

Gender:

Ethnic group:

Birth date (if known): 01 01 1968

Birth Certificate/Documentation?:

Place of Birth:

Mother's first name (if known):

Mother's last name:

Nationality of mother (if known):

Father's first name (if known):

Father's last name:

Nationality of Father (if known):

Religious Affiliation:

Name of Church:

Figure 1: a snapshot of the questionnaire

In April 2009, two GISCorps volunteers were deployed to this mission. Jill Hume, a GIS Analyst for the Alberta Energy Resources Conservation Board and Steve Tsuida, a graphic designer and web developer with Kyros both in Calgary, Canada. The two volunteers are currently working on deploying the questionnaire to an I-Phone platform and also developing a Spanish version of the survey.

FVR is working with [EquipoGIS](#), a 4H program that creates opportunities for the youth by using the GIS technology, on this project. In 2009, members of EquipoGIS gave a fantastic presentation at the ESRI User Conference in San Diego. The following photo was taken at that event.



Figure 2: Miguel and Clara Mandujano giving a presentation at the ESRI UC, Esther Worker, of ESRI moderating.

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Featured Project: K-12 Project - GISCorps Volunteer Helps 4-H Youth To Identify Invasive Plants, Hamilton County, TN

In February 2009, the UT-TSU Extension office in Chattanooga, TN requested a GISCorps volunteer to help them install the ArcView software onto their new computers and facilitate group sessions on registering waypoints, downloading it into the computers, and creating printable maps for display. Andrew Carroll, the GIS Manager at ARCS, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, was selected for this project. Andy has been working with the 4-H youth and the 4-H Extension Agent, Dorothy Simmons, since then. The following is a report on the progress of the group on their recent project.

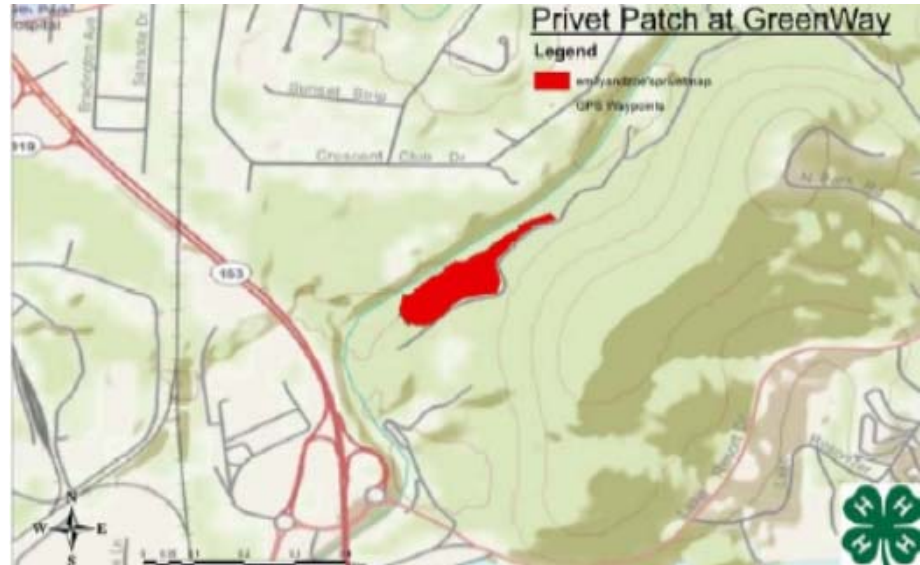
4-H G.I.S. Tech Team Project Summary

The 4-H GIS Tech Team of Hamilton County, Chattanooga, TN's project is identifying areas of invasive plants (oriental privet varieties) on a Tennessee Valley Authority property. They worked in pairs and clocked waypoints of their first excursion to find privet-dense areas on the property and created their maps with title, legend, etc. to show one location of the invasive plant; *Ligustrum* spp., commonly called "privet."



Jameson and Chad's privet patch at Greenway

The 4-H'ers are happy about their success of creating their first maps from scratch with Mr. Andy Carroll's help. We have a team of six new members (6); 4 girls and 2 boys who have completed their maps, especially for exhibit on the November 18th GIS Day celebration. They are hoping to recruit more new members to the team after GIS Day to help with the magnitude of this project. The GIS Day celebration is planned to be a great learning event for the community. The Hamilton County Mayor has issued a GIS Day proclamation to be read during the celebration at Eastdale Recreation Center, 1314 Moss Drive, Chattanooga, TN., 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. There are activities for all ages, including play dough for the young ones to make their world and GPS games for the older youth.



Privet patch at Greenway

The 4-H'ers have learned so much about using GPS units to clock waypoints and the ESRI software to create maps under the direction of Mr. Carroll, affectionately known as Andy by the 4-H'ers. We are so fortunate and appreciative for Mr. Carroll's willingness to help young people by his volunteer efforts through the GISCorps. Mr. Carroll even invited the Tech team to his GIS classroom at the University of Tennessee, Chattanooga campus and they enjoyed every minute of the time spent in UTC campus environment. Yes, we thank Mr. Carroll for his teaching role to help our 4-H GIS Tech Team have success in creating their very own maps. Hats off to Mr. Carroll!

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