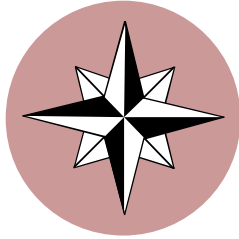


CATALIS News

March, 2000

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Welcome



The CATALIS Logo

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Special points of interest:

- CATALIS; Clinton County's GIS Solution
- The Building of a strong foundation: How did we get here?
- What comes first in building a GIS Database?



Welcome to the first CATALIS Newsletter!

CATALIS is an acronym which stands for **C**linton **A**utomated **T**opographic **A**spatial **L**and **I**nformation **S**ystem. Automated, since many of the processes and procedures within the GIS will be done programmatically (with a computer program); Topographic, the root word of which is topography, meaning "lay of the land"; Aspatial, meaning all data that does not occupy space, i.e., data about something. A good example of Spatial data would be the county courthouse, since it

does exist in space; aspatial data about the courthouse would be the address of the courthouse, or the number of people that work within the courthouse. Finally, a **L**and **I**nformation **S**ystem is, in essence, what we will be creating with GIS.

It is our intention that this newsletter serve three primary purposes.

One: Expand the knowledge of GIS to the community.

Two: Keep the community informed of the goings-on within the GIS Department so that they may best be served by it.

Three: Be a tool for two-way communication between the community and the GIS department by offering up topics of discussion and education.

Through this communiqué we are opening a door to using GIS; all you have to do is come on in!



How Did We Get Here?

Building a strong foundation for a GIS Program is crucial to its success. In Clinton County, this foundation was built from a vision, which began with the County Auditor's Office and the County Engineer's Office. Later, this foundation expanded to include a GIS Committee. The GIS Committee consists of members from key departments and offices that will experience direct benefits from the GIS program. The GIS Committee members, and respective offices, are as follows: Wanda Armstrong, Auditor's Office; Jeff Linkous, Engineer's Office; Melodee Hilderbrant, Tax Map Office; Ken Schaublin, Regional Planning; Matt Johannes, Health Department; Danny Delawder, Building Department; Mark Brooker, County Administrator; Mike Johnson, City of Wilmington; Shawn Pandorf, EMA; Bob Coblenz, Soil and Water Conservation; Jeff Wright, Bar Association; Don Rauch, Realtors Association. Part of the function of this com-

mittee is to serve as a steering mechanism, which ensures that the GIS Manager has a sounding board for ideas, thoughts, and plans, always keeping the Enterprise Wide deployment plan in mind. The first priority of the committee was to establish the direction of the project and prioritize the needs of the county. A needs study resulted from this, justifying the cost of GIS to obtain the desired benefits. With this goal accomplished, the next step challenging the committee was how to fund the project. After all options were considered, the committee, as a recommended means of funding,

adopted a user fee concept. After receiving the support of the Commissioners, it was decided that a part of the Conveyance Fee would fund the GIS program. Having the foundation laid, we are proceeding into the first phase of our project with a contract in place for digital orthophotos and a pilot project for parcels. We look forward to continued cooperation with all of the parties currently involved to ensure the success of our GIS Program.

- Jeff Linkous



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**The future is
now!**

**Feel free to
contact us
anytime!**

The image to the immediate right shows the bronze cap for monument number 11. The image to the far right is a view showing the survey marker adjacent to the cap. This marker will assist future surveyors who would like to use this location in finding the cap should it become buried or covered.



What Comes First?

Clinton County is in the early stages of developing its GIS database. What comes first?

The question of what comes first in GIS is a very important one. Let's assume, for a moment, that we already have all of the necessary hardware (computers, printers, plotters); we have the software needed (ESRI's ArcInfo and ArcView); and we have the personnel needed. What happens then? First, we need to develop a base layer of information, the key ingredient of which is a digital image of the entire county. This is called an orthophoto, and is derived from aerial photographs. Aerial photography is obtained through flying precise flight lines over the county, taking photographs of the terrain beneath. For our county there will be several thousands of photographs, at either 200

mapping scale or at 100 mapping scale. The mapping scale refers to the size of paper that each photo can be printed at, so that features on the map are readily discernable. With 100 scale photography, features as small as a manhole will be detected; with 200 scale photography, features as narrow as sidewalks (4 feet in width) will be seen. Converting aerial photography to digital orthophotography is a lengthy process, which we will review in greater detail in future articles. Part of that process includes being able to "tie" the photos to real-world coordinates. This requires the placement of either permanent monuments and / or just "targets" on the ground, in such a way that they can either be seen from the air or their coordinates are used within

the airborne cameras. A permanent monument consists of concrete poured into a three foot deep hole, with a rebar in the middle, the top covered with a cap and flush with the ground. At the writing of this article, our consultants have finished placing the monuments and will be surveying (using GPS) each location over the next few weeks. The coordinates derived from GPS will assist them in the process of developing Digital Orthophotography.

