

Merritt to speak at conference on GIS

Clinton County GIS Manager Joe Merritt will speak at a top conference on GIS (geographic information systems) in Ohio.

Merritt's topic is "LIDAR: Practical Uses for a Powerful Product". LIDAR stands for laser imaging detection and ranging.

LIDAR data are used to generate three-dimensional imagery and to create contours, which are lines showing the lay of the land.

"It's relatively new technology, and I've been using it since its inception, a few years ago," said Merritt. "I've spoken at this conference, among others, a number of times over the past eight years, and I always consider it a privilege to represent our efforts here in Clinton County in such an auspicious setting.

"Our auditor, the Tax Map Office, the Engineer's Office, and the Clinton County Commissioners are all offices that have been extremely supportive of efforts to bring this kind of technology to Clinton County. There have been countless maps printed and data downloads over the past couple years. Well into the thousands of requests," continued Merritt.

The Clinton County Auditor's Office has opened up an online mapping Web page for those doing property research. It gets several hundred hits per week, Merritt said.

"Clinton County has become one of the best GIS success stories in Ohio, and we intend to get better as time goes on, constantly updating and upgrading our data and our methods to serve the people of Clinton County," he said.