

UPCOMING EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

MACA & IAAO Fall Conference/Workshop

October 28-31, 2013
Workshop-MAB Approved 7 Hrs.
Report Writing
Melissa Bond, Instructor
Jackson, MS
Hilton Hotel

Certified Appraiser School

March 3-7, 2014 (Week 1)
March 17-21, 2014 (Week 2)
Starkville, MS

IAAO Course 500

Assessment of Personal Property
March 17-21, 2014
Starkville, MS

IAAO Course 101

Fundamentals of Real Property Appraisal
April 7-11, 2014
Jackson, MS
Cabot Lodge

Recertification 2014

April 8—Bay St. Louis
April 10—Hattiesburg
April 15—Meridian
April 17—Raymond
April 22—Batesville
April 23—Verona
April 24—via Distance Education
(Starkville, Stoneville, Raymond)



MS CHAPTER OF
INTERNATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF
ASSESSING OFFICERS
P.O. BOX 462
GULFPORT, MS 39502

Congratulations to the Assessors/Collectors that have 25 or more years of service as the Tax Assessor and/or Collector!

Kempe Hodges, Sr., Tax Assessor/Collector—Attala County

33 YEARS

Mary McGee, Tax Assessor/Collector—Holmes County

31 YEARS

Joey Treadway, Tax Collector—Desoto County

25 YEARS

Ramona Blackledge, Tax Assessor/Collector—Jones County

25 YEARS

Gerald Barber, Tax Assessor—Madison County

25 YEARS

Emmett Mickens, Tax Assessor/Collector—Noxubee County

Welcome MS Chapter IAAO New Members

Virginia Coulter, Deputy Tax Assessor
Covington County
Frieda Whiddon, Deputy Clerk, Bookkeeper
Covington County

G. Kirk Neill, Mapper
Hinds County

Nicole Mann, Appraiser
MDOR

Across County Lines

August 2013

MS Chapter of International
Association of
Assessing Officers
2012-2013 Officers

Gerald Barber.....President
Charles Williams...Vice President
Ramona Blackledge.....Treasurer
Paula Ladner.....Secretary
Tal Flurry.....Exec. Director
Delbert Dearman....Exec. Pos. 1
Jimmy Donald.....Exec. Pos. 2
John Lewis.....Exec. Pos. 3
Jason Camp.....Exec. Pos. 4

About Our Staff

Editor:

Paula Ladner

Editorial Office:

Tal Flurry, Tax Assessor

Harrison County

P.O. Box 462

Gulfport, MS 39502

To submit an article contact us:

pladner@co.harrison.ms.us

228-865-4075



***The MACA Distinguished Service Award was presented to
Charles Williams, Tax Assessor-Collector of Stone County.
This award is presented to the Assessor &/or Collector who
has made the most outstanding, un-selfish contribution to
MACA while serving with leadership, vision and ability.***

The MS Chapter of IAAO welcomes Jason Camp, Terence Norwood and Patrick Miller to the Mississippi State University Extension Service, Extension Center for Governmental and Community Development.



Jason Camp is originally from Banner, MS and now resides in Starkville. As an Extension Associate with GCD, Camp plans and delivers educational programs for county and municipal officials; particularly tax assessors and collectors.

Camp received his Bachelor’s degree in Agricultural Information Science with a minor in Public Relations and Master’s in Public Policy and Administration from Mississippi State University.

As an Extension Instructor with GCD, **Terence Norwood** plans and delivers educational programs for county and municipal officials.

Mr. Norwood received his Bachelor’s in Secondary Education-Speech Communications and Master’s in Public Policy and Administration from Mississippi State University. He is currently pursuing a PhD in Agriculture and Extension Education, also from MSU. Prior to joining the staff at GCD, Mr. Norwood served as an Extension Agent in Jefferson Davis County.



As an Extension Associate with GCD, **Patrick Miller** assists in the planning, development, implementation, evaluation, and documentation of educational programs for local governing authorities and the general public.

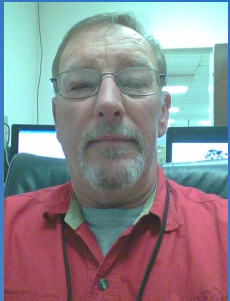
Mr. Miller was born and raised in Ocean Springs, MS and received a Bachelor’s degree in Secondary Education from Mississippi State University in 2012. At MSU, he served as Activities Chairman, Recruitment Chairman, and Vice-President of the Mississippi Beta Chapter of Phi Delta Theta Fraternity

A man walked into the Tax Collector’s office and sat down and smiled to everyone. “May I help you?” said the clerk in charge. “No,” said the man. “I just wanted to meet the people I have been working for all these years.”



Caring for your GIS Tree

By Bob Jackson, MAE



When my boss asked me to submit an article on the GIS (Graphical Information System) tree structure my first thought was, we really don’t relate GIS to trees. The tree analogy is usually reserved for organizational or ancestry relationships. But as I pondered the approach and realized,” the boss is always right”; I started seeing how the tree analogy really can work in the GIS world as long as I did not have to grow (write about) the whole tree. So this will hopefully be a series of articles that will bring the whole GIS tree to full growth by looking at a series of branches, fertilizer and a lot of watering from multiple authors.

As in any great landscaping project you have to do some homework. What kind of tree will best suit your climate, and is its growth rate right for your needs? Do you want an evergreen, or a tree that will lose its leaves periodically and grow new ones in their place? In my little cadastral garden I think I like the idea of a tree that never goes dormant, always full of data and the ability to grow at a reasonably moderate rate. Since my tree may become significantly large over time, I want a tree that has a very good root system to support what may become a giant someday. I know all the discussion seems to center on the ESRI type tree. But the fact is, there are a multitude of choices, spanning the very expensive and complicated to the completely free and easy to use.

So how are you going to plant your GIS tree? Most of us are using the ESRI tool. Very effective, and can handle many different gardeners working in the soil at one time. With ESRI your Data roots can and typically will go very deep, supporting a robust growth rate and many branches. But like any state of the art application, ESRI software comes with a premium price and your growth rate is limited to how robust your knowledge base is. The advantage to a premium product is the availability of industry wide “how to” articles that can make you look like a seasoned GIS gardener. So the ESRI approach will yield an almost immediate result with a very good looking data garden and substantial GIS tree growth out of the box.

Some other tools to consider are AutoDesk’s software, which will be a bit pricey also but will give nice results in a garden that many are familiar with. Less familiar, but growing in popularity, are the more “DIY” type choices that fall into new category called Open Source Software. We used to call this “Shareware”. Programs currently available are Quantum GIS and GvSig. Both are very capable GIS tools. Since they are both in the “DIY” category, your results may be a little slower and garden pests may become problematic. But both can grow a very nice GIS Tree. So if your garden needs are smaller or less complicated, one of these may be the tool of choice.

Every tree is only as healthy as its trunk. For our GIS Tree we will use the cadastre layer as the tree trunk. Cadastral mapping has been the base layer for most modern day maps. As you look at the trunk rings you can see year to year data structures that have fed all of the branches from our GIS Tree. Knots on our GIS tree occur when data is input but insufficient to sustain growth in that branch. Strong healthy branches result when good data flow from the trunk sustains the data being taken in by the branch. For example, a city branch takes in its own data, (street, subdivision, terrain etc.), but unless that is matched with existing data from the trunk the data is almost meaningless. Just like the tree needs water and sunlight taken in from the branch to feed nutrients in the trunk from its roots, the GIS tree is dependent on its branches for healthy growth.

In future articles we will look deeper into what that GIS tree trunk really looks like and then how the branches begin to grow from the main data stream. And of course, all of this is useless unless there is a tie in to day to day work. How will this GIS tree make my life better? If I don’t get shade, or maybe some fruit from the tree why plant it? I hope to show you how your GIS tree will be productive to you and not just look really nice in the yard.

2013 (MAE) Mississippi Assessment Evaluator Recipients

Stevie Gee, Dept. of Revenue

Carlos Roberson, Leflore County

Christina Hewitt, Dept. of Revenue

Dawn Oakes, Jackson County

Kay Jerome, Madison County

Joy Clark, Harrison County

Victor Langley, Lauderdale County

Alice Simpson, Madison County

Alicia Cothen, Harrison County

Steven Williams, Lauderdale County

Kerri Spann, Monroe County



2013 MACA CONFERENCE





Harrison County GIS Cooperative Effort

By: Paul Barnes, GISP

Harrison County GIS Director



Creating useful maps for county departments and public requests requires quality geographic information that comes from several different sources. Parcels are often cited as required features in map requests, but there are many supporting map layers that need to be maintained and frequently updated for the best possible representation of what really exists. In addition to our assessment base maps, many county mapping efforts support our Board of Supervisors, City Councils, and departments such as Code, Emergency Services/E-911, Engineering, Planning and Zoning, and others. In order to create useful maps for our departments we have to gather geographic information from these departments and multiple other sources to maintain and update the information as map layers to produce accurate maps. Collecting and updating geographic information can be quite labor intensive. There are occasions during geographic information management when we discover that the information has already been created, or our information

does not "fit" with existing information. Duplication of effort and creation of incompatible geographic information needlessly consume labor hours and lead to frustration. We recognized the need for better coordination with our local, regional and state geographic information professionals.

On May 13, 2013, the Harrison County Board of Supervisors approved an order to establish the Harrison County Geographic Information Systems Coalition (HCGISC). The purpose of the HCGISC is to improve communication concerning county and city GIS data updates, data maintenance procedures, best practices, coordination of technology, standardization, data sharing, education and outreach. A County GIS Coalition also facilitates, through a unified cooperative, the effective development and sharing of geographic information to coordinate with regional and state agencies to facilitate GIS objectives, standards and data sharing. The Coalition includes members from Harrison County, City of Biloxi, City of D'Iberville, City of Gulfport, City of Long Beach, City of Pass Christian, Gulf Regional Planning Commission and Southern Mississippi Planning and Development District. Through our unified cooperative we engage in discussions concerning best practices, methodologies and standards so that we can share the benefits of complete and accurate geographic data sets. Our partnership of agencies also benefits from objectives such as strategic planning, GIS advocacy, GIS governance, seeking funding, collaboration, education, training and outreach. Actions are taken by majority vote and committees are formed to address specific needs based on the approved actions of the Coalition.

By communicating as a cooperative group, the HCGISC has already identified some collective information needs, and has also set forth in an effort to support our statewide GIS initiatives by endorsing the Mississippi Coordinating Council for Remote Sensing and GIS' State GIS Strategic Plan. Our Coalition has also begun the tasks of creating a Land Use update methodology to keep a current county wide land use inventory, and adoption of an Addressing Standard to maintain a county wide coordinate layer of all physical addresses. The Address layer will be created in such a way that it can be seamlessly integrated into a planned database serving the same purpose at the state level. Collectively, our Coalition members are committed to the reduction of effort duplication, data duplication, and time consuming data modifications required to share our geographic information. Our initiatives and practices are supported by a unified effort to maintain useful and consistent information while providing more accurate information for our local governments, regional and state agencies, and our tax paying public.