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President's Column

By Linda Zellmer

I want to begin with a formal word of thanks to Richard Huffine, our publications manager, who managed the printing and mailing of two volumes of the *Proceedings of the Annual GSIS Meetings* (41 and 42). In addition, I would like to thank the editors of those *Proceedings* volumes which most of us have now received: Janet Dombrowski, (2010) and Rusty Kimball (2011). All of you deserve a round of applause and thanks for your work.

Hannah Winkler is organizing the Technical Session for the Geological Society of America Annual Meeting this year. If you are doing any research related to geoscience information, please prepare to submit an abstract and present your work at the meeting. This meeting, the 125th Annual Meeting of the Geological Society of America, will be held in Denver, Colorado. See GSIS Vice President Amanda Bielskas' column on page 3 for more information.

Angelique Jenks-Brown sent out a positive Treasurer's Report in January (see page 5). At that time, we had not yet paid for the printing of the two volumes of the *Proceedings*, which now

has been done (below what was budgeted, too!). Angelique's work to manage our finances also deserves a note of thanks. We almost broke even on costs for the Annual Meeting, thanks to support from several sponsors including the AAPG, Elsevier, the Gemological Institute of America, Geological Society of London and Geoscience World. In addition, we saved some money on projector rental by borrowing a projector from the American Geological Institute for several of our sessions. Thanks to Sharon Tahirkheli and the AGI for the use of the projector.

Part of the discussion at the Business Meeting in Charlotte is the future of the *Proceedings*. We have several options to consider: making them openly accessible online (gold open access, for free), sending them out as electronic, rather than print, and continuing to print and mail them to members. A question to poll the membership on the future of the *Proceedings* will appear on the ballot to gather more input on these options.

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President's Column

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The PayPal account set up by Rusty Kimball and Angelique, has made it easier for people outside the United States to join GSIS. I hope that some of our international members will consider writing about the resources that they use to answer questions related to geoscience information for their country, province or region. Is there a resource that you regularly use to find information about your region? Please share it with the GSIS membership. One of the sources that I regularly use is the National Geologic Map Database available from the U.S. Geological Survey (see the reviews starting on page 12). If you see a book or web site that you find useful, consider writing a review for the *Newsletter*. Contact the *Newsletter* Reviews Editor, Lori Tschirhart (ltz@umich.edu) to inquire about review guidelines.

Geoscience Information Society has several committees, which are listed below. Please consider volunteering to serve on one of these committees. It is a way to become more involved in the organization and get to know others who share your interests. The committees are:

- Archives – Collects & preserves the Society's history. Needs Chair & Members
- Best Reference Work Award – Determines winner of the Mary B. Ansari Best Reference Work Award.
- Distinguished Service Award – Selects the winner of the Mary B. Ansari Distinguished Service Award.

- Exhibits – Plans, designs & arranges for GSIS exhibits & maintain booth materials.
- Guidebooks – Updates and maintains the Geologic Guidebooks of North America database.
- Information Resources – Plans and organizes the Information Resources forum at the Annual Meeting.
- Membership – Reviews and revises membership brochure; solicits new members; contact members who have not renewed and welcome back members who have renewed. Needs Chair.
- Nominating – Recruit and nominate candidates for elective office; prepare, mail and count ballots and report results.
- Preservation – Recommend GSIS' role in preservation activities and develop preservation guidelines for the geoscience community. Chair & members needed.
- Website – Advise on content and organization of the GSIS website and determine winner of the Outstanding Website Award.

If you are interested in joining one of these committees, please contact me (L-R-Zellmer@wiu.edu).

Ian Gordon, Lura Joseph and I will be developing a list of best regional geology books. If you know of a title for your area (state, province, country or region), or would like to help on the project, please let us know!

Vice President's Column

By Amanda Bielskas

I hope everyone is looking forward to the spring as much as I am. Both fall and spring had some crazy storms – especially here in the northeast. As spring approaches, I am looking forward to rolling up my sleeves and planning the GSIS Annual meeting in Denver, CO from October 27th-30th, 2013.

In my wanderings through the GSA conference website I stumbled across a neat timeline of GSA history available at:
<http://www.geosociety.org/125/documents/GSA-timeline.pdf> Check it out!

The theme at this year's GSA Conference is: *125th Anniversary of GSA: Celebrating advances in Geoscience*. In keeping with that theme, Hannah Winkler has done a great job coming up with the themes for the Topical Sessions for the GSIS hosted sessions. The themes that were approved by GSA are:

- Poster Session: *Global Vision: Geoscience Information for the Future*
- Technical Session: *Confronting Complexity: Rethinking the Future of Geoscience Information*

I'm looking forward to some great talks and topics this year! Calls for papers and posters will be out in the coming months, so start working on some ideas now, the submission deadlines will be here before you know it!

I'd be really interested to hear everyone's thoughts or ideas for this year's meeting.

Activities will likely include the following:

- Business Meeting
- GSIS Luncheon
- Reception and Awards
- Executive Board Meeting
- Field Trip
- Possible "no host" dinner
- Geoscience Librarianship 101
- Professional Issues Forum/Vendor Update Session

I'd really love to see some of these sessions be interactive. Please send me your ideas for sessions that you would like to see and think would be of interest to members. The conference has been held in Denver several times over the years, if anyone has suggestions for new places to go on a field trip, or have a favorite spot you would like to revisit, please let me know.

I will shortly be sending out emails about sponsorship opportunities for GSIS to our publisher and vendor supporters. If you represent a publisher or GSA vendor, please consider supporting the GSIS, support is essential to our success.

New Members

Glenda M. Brandon
Engineering Research and Development Center
Vicksburg, MS
glenda.m.brandon@erdc.dren.mil

GeoScienceWorld
c/o Alix Vance and Angie Anderson
Alexandria, VA
vance@geoscienceworld.org /
anderson@geoscienceworld.org

Membership Renewals are Due

By Cynthia Prosser, GSIS Secretary

It's time to renew your Geoscience Information Society membership for 2013. You have two options.

Option 1:

1. Pay your dues electronically via PayPal: <http://www.geoinfo.org/memberinfo.html>
2. Email me the updated membership form.

Option 2:

1. Print the membership form.

2. Write a check, made out to GeoScience Information Society.
3. Mail it to me (address on the form).

Please contact me if you have any questions (cprosser@uga.edu).

Thank you to all who have already renewed. I am looking forward to seeing you for another year of GSIS.

GSIS Treasurer's Year-End Report

By Angelique Jenks-Brown, GSIS Treasurer

The Society's income for 2012 was \$12,158.52. Expenses for the year were \$7,610.54. GSIS therefore had a net increase of \$4,547.98.

As of December 31, 2012 the balance in the checking account was \$15,206.87 and savings account was \$9,685.29. The Society also has three CD's with balances of: General Funds CD \$20,263.19, Ansari Best Reference Work Award CD \$5,876.22, and Ansari Distinguished Service Award CD \$3,533.73. All of these accounts total to \$54,567.60.

GSIS's 2012 ending balance of \$54,567.60 minus the beginning balance of \$50,019.62 equals \$4,547.98, which agrees with the net increase tallied

on the income and expense spreadsheets.

Income from sponsorships for the 2012 conference paid for most of the conference meetings. GSIS appreciates the work of GSIS President, Linda Zellmer, for assembling the vendor sponsorship.

In 2012, GSIS created a PayPal account allowing the Society to accept online payments and making it easier for the Society to accept international payments. Thanks go to GSIS member Rusty Kimball for implementing PayPal for the Society.

It should be noted that GSIS did not publish *Proceedings* in 2012 and will probably publish two *Proceedings* in 2013.

GEOSCIENCE INFORMATION SOCIETY 2012 Q4 (by Angelique Jenks-Brown 01/09/2013)					
	Income Budgeted		Income Actual	Expense Budgeted	Expense Actual
EXECUTIVE BOARD					
President				\$400.00	\$400.00
Vice-President				\$375.00	
Past-President				\$25.00	
Secretary				\$125.00	
Treasurer				\$75.00	
Subtotal	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$400.00

GEOSCIENCE INFORMATION SOCIETY 2012 Q4					
(by Angelique Jenks-Brown 01/09/2013)					
	Income Budgeted	Income Actual	Expense Budgeted	Expense Actual	
MEETINGS					
2012 Meeting (rooms and AV and Internet)			\$2,500.00	\$1,730.70	
2012 Business Meeting refreshments			\$750.00	\$243.84	
2012 Meeting Reception			\$2,000.00	\$3,216.59	
2012 Meeting Exhibit Booth (furniture & drape)			\$1,000.00	\$1,074.45	
2012 lunches			\$80.00		
2012 Invited speakers, abstract fees			\$135.00		
2012 Speaker Honorarium / Gift			\$300.00		
2012 Meeting: fieldtrip	\$0.00		\$0.00		
Sponsorship	\$3,500.00	\$3,488.70			
Subtotal	\$3,500.00	\$3,488.70	\$6,765.00	\$6,265.58	
DUES					
Institutional	\$900.00	\$600.00			
Personal	\$5,500.00	\$5,050.75			
First Year (New Personal)	\$225.00	\$264.39			
Sustaining	\$405.00	\$270.00			
Retired	\$260.00	\$160.00			
Student	\$80.00	\$58.52			
Pooled Sponsorship	\$100.00	\$50.00			
Subtotal	\$7,470.00	\$6,453.66	\$0.00	\$0.00	
PUBLICATIONS					
Publications Manager			\$200.00		
Mailing labels	\$150.00			\$43.37	
<i>Newsletter</i> : printing			\$380.00	\$111.68	
<i>Newsletter</i> : mailing			\$400.00	\$28.38	
<i>Newsletter</i> : subscriptions	\$120.00	\$165.00			
<i>Newsletter</i> : back issues					
<i>Newsletter</i> : cancellation refunds					
<i>Proceedings</i> , v.42 (2011)			\$3,000.00		
<i>Proceedings</i> , v.41 (2010)			\$3,000.00		
<i>Proceedings</i> , v.40 (2009)	\$500.00	\$135.00			
<i>Proceedings</i> , v.39 (2008)	\$500.00				
<i>Proceedings</i> , v. 38 (2007)					
<i>Proceedings</i> , prior volumes	\$200.00				
Copyright Clearance Center		\$92.38			
Delinquent Invoices & Stale Checks		\$1,440.00			
Subtotal	\$1,470.00	\$1,832.38	\$6,980.00	\$183.43	
GEOSCIENCE INFORMATION SOCIETY 2012 Q4					
(by Angelique Jenks-Brown 01/09/2013)					

GEOSCIENCE INFORMATION SOCIETY 2012 Q4				
(by Angelique Jenks-Brown 01/09/2013)				
	Income Budgeted	Income Actual	Expense Budgeted	Expense Actual
	Income Budgeted	Income Actual	Expense Budgeted	Expense Actual
REPRESENTATIVES/APPOINTEES				
AGI Member Council rep				
AGI Gov't Affairs Program rep				
Congressional Science Fellow				
CUAC (2 reps @ \$200 each)				
Publicity Officer			\$50.00	
Auditor			\$25.00	
Subtotal	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$75.00	\$0.00
COMMITTEES & SERVICE POSITIONS				
Archivist			\$150.00	
Award Certificates & Frames (Best Reference Work, Best Paper, Best Guidebook, Distinguished Service)			\$175.00	\$29.95
Best Paper Committee			\$25.00	
Best Reference Work Committee			\$25.00	
Collection Development Committee			\$25.00	
Distinguished Service Award (Committee expenses and gift)			\$75.00	
Exhibits			\$50.00	
New display case/Repairs			\$0.00	
E-Resources			\$25.00	
Guidebooks Committee and Subcommittees			\$50.00	
International Initiatives	\$500.00		\$75.00	
Membership			\$50.00	
Membership brochure			\$30.00	
Nominating			\$75.00	
Preservation			\$25.00	
Website Advisory			\$25.00	
Subtotal	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$880.00	\$29.95
MISCELLANEOUS				
AGI member society dues			\$270.00	\$270.00
GAP contribution			\$400.00	
GSIS International Fellow			\$500.00	
Ansari Best Reference Award			\$500.00	
Ansari Distinguished Service Award			\$400.00	
Geoscience Librarianship 101	\$500.00		\$500.00	\$208.79
Gifts (unrestricted)	\$200.00	\$274.26	\$100.00	
Gifts- Professional Develop Fund	\$100.00	\$35.00	\$100.00	

GEOSCIENCE INFORMATION SOCIETY 2012 Q4 (by Angelique Jenks-Brown 01/09/2013)					
	Income Budgeted	Income Actual	Expense Budgeted	Expense Actual	
Bank charges			\$25.00	\$48.79	
Survey Monkey			\$204.00	\$204.00	
Interest	\$120.00	\$74.52			
Subtotal	\$920.00	\$383.78	\$2,999.00	\$731.58	
TOTAL	\$13,860.00	\$12,158.52	\$18,699.00	\$7,610.54	

Member News

Lee Walking is retiring from her position as a librarian at DNR, Division of Geology and Earth Resources after 16 years. Her successor is Stephanie Earls.



Stephanie Earls has recently been hired as the librarian for the Washington Geology Library in Olympia. She has relocated back to the Pacific Northwest after three years as the Utah Department of Natural Resources librarian. She has

a B.S. in geology from University of Utah, and a M.S. in library and information science from

University of Washington. In addition, she worked as an environmental consultant for three years prior to graduate school. She is active in various professional organizations related to both geology and librarianship. In her free time, she loves rolling through the world self-propelled on two wheels, cooking, and dancing. Her vision for the Washington Geology Library is to spread the word about the amazing resources available in the library and make them as accessible as possible by way of an updated library catalog and a shift toward more digital information available online. Please contact her with any questions via email (stephanie.earls@dnr.wa.gov) or phone (360-902-1473).

Nominations Needed: GSIS Best Geoscience Website Award

By Bob Tolliver

The GSIS Website Committee would like your help in identifying candidates for the 2013 GSIS Best Geoscience Website Award. If you know of any geosciences websites that you think stand out from the rest and you would like to nominate them, please let us know. You can find information on the award criteria and a list of past winners on the GSIS website at: <http://www.geoinfo.org/websitecriteria.html>

If you have a website to nominate, please send me (rlt17@psu.edu) the name and URL of the website and a brief description of why you think it's the best by April 30, 2013.

Thank you on behalf of the GSIS Website Committee



Volunteers needed

The Geoscience Information Society is looking for people to volunteer to serve as committee members and officers. If you are interested, please contact Linda Zellmer (LR-Zellmer@wiu.edu) or Lisa Johnston (ljohnsto@umn.edu).

2013 Cartographic Users Advisory Council Meeting

By Clara McLeod

The 2013 Annual CUAC (<http://cuac.wustl.edu>) meeting will be held at the U. S. Census Bureau in Washington, D.C. on April 25 – 26, 2013.

CUAC is an organization of representatives of major library organizations interested in cartographic products that advocate for access to maps and spatial data produced by U.S. Government agencies. The meeting features representatives from federal agencies (e.g. Library of Congress, National Park Service, Forest Service, Geological Survey, Army Corps of Engineers, NOAA, Board of Geographic Names and the National Library of Medicine) who give presentations about cartographic products or services they provide.

This meeting gives GSIS members and constituents an opportunity to communicate with federal agencies about cartographic materials and their use and value to our geosciences community.

GSIS members should contact our CUAC representatives about any issues, concerns or suggestions:

- Clara McLeod (cpmcleod@wustl.edu)
- Linda Zellmer (LR-Zellmer@wiu.edu)



Notes from the 2012 Annual CUAC Meeting

By Clara McLeod

1. National Library of Medicine - TOXMAP - Darren Gemoets

- Interactive chemical release map, showing chemical releases by year and Superfund sites. The Mash-up allows for demographic overlays of census and health data. Can download shape files and csv files of data. <http://toxmap.nlm.nih.gov> New data is published once a year, about a year after it is released.
- New interface with better printing and base map is coming soon.

2. Census – Mike Ratcliffe

- What's new? Reference Maps for 2010 Census, Geographic area reference maps
- TIGERweb: http://tigerweb.geo.census.gov/tigerwebmain/TIGERweb_main.html (requires ESRI Silverlight) Plan to refresh content every 6 months. Most changes happening in the summer with results of ACS, another after boundary and annexation survey, as they are processed during the year.
- Coming at end of May 2012: Census Data Mapper Anticipated release end of May 2012 (“makes it hard to make a bad map”)
- <http://www.census.gov/geo/www/tiger/> Cartographic Resources
- Cartographic Boundary Files, limited set of KMLs (adding to these), “Help Me Choose...” is a helpful comparison table.
- Geographic change notes are collected during the boundary and annexation survey, some of this is online, but more will come with time.

3. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (Department of the Interior) - Doug Vandegraff

- Discussed the methodology used for marine cadastre mapping, and how the Bureau is working to make the data more accessible.
- <http://www.boem.gov/Oil-and-Gas-Energy-Program/Mapping-and-Data/Index.aspx>
- This bureau maps the continental shelf, submerged lands act boundary, limit of the “8(g) zone” boundary (seaward limit of the state’s jurisdiction).
- MarineCadastre.gov has data that is good for companies interested in developing renewable energy resources. <http://www.marinecadastre.gov/default.aspx>

4. Army Corps of Engineers - Lee Hadden

- Displayed highlights from their map collection, including rescue and captured maps.
- Available to the public:
 - Electronic Navigational Charts: <http://www.agc.army.mil/echarts/>
 - National Inventory of Dams: To query the database, users must request an account from the NID Website, <http://nid.usace.army.mil>, NID Login. After a short approval process, users will receive an email notification with username and password.
- Materials from Army Corps of Engineers are eventually given to the National Archives.

5. NOAA Digital Coast - Mark Finkbeiner & Gary Mayer, core team

- Is an online collection of information relating to coastal and watershed management.

- Have over 500 individual datasets. They also have a links page that goes to state level distribution node.
- <http://www.csc.noaa.gov/digitalcoast>

6. NOAA Coastal & Marine Ecological Classification Standard - Mark Finkbeiner & Gary Mayer, core team

- CMECS is a tool that brings the geospatial and coastal management communities together. <http://www.csc.noaa.gov/benthic/cmecs/>
- The collection of marine data happens at a small scale. This is an attempt to standardize the classification of data being collected of both the geology and the biology of coastal areas.

7. USGS - Richard Huffine

- The USGS Library is working to digitize plates in series (Working Papers), loaded at least ½ - Hayden, King, Powell & Wheeler (Not a lot of the maps (next year on the maps), but the books have been scanned).
- USGS part of a new group called: Core Science Analytics and Synthesis – new beta product integrating this called Science Base (sciencebase.gov).

8. USGS - Mark Demulder

- Reviewed the goals of the National Map, including updating and upgrading elevation data.
- The National Map Use Download Statistics: historic topographic maps – more than a million 250,000 a month, 5000/day. (exceeds the downloads for the new maps 50,000 – 100,000 a month).
- US topo -going back to first maps from 2009, replacing them, adding hydrography, also adding Puerto Rico.
- National Enhanced Elevation Assessment completed in December 2012.
- Beginning a us topo program for Alaska in 2013 (1:24000 or 1:25000) 36000 quads in Alaska at that scale.

9. USGS - Dave Soller and Nancy Stamm

- National Geologic Map Database – a progress report http://ngmdb.usgs.gov/ngmdb/ngmdb_home.html
- 1880 to present in the database. Scans of I-series. 65000 maps georeferenced. Mostly western states, but they are moving east.
- New interface will be rolling out in May.

10. Library of Congress Geographic and Map Division- Ralph Ehrenberg

- Min Zhang (cataloging division: <http://access.rdatoolkit.org/>) provided a brief overview of their cataloging procedures and goals.
- Bibliographic Framework Transition Initiatives <http://www.loc.gov/marc/transition/>
- Coleen Cahill – maps link off the main Library of Congress page: County land ownership maps are being scanned and 1,1000 maps will be online in September. Have County land atlases online. Can download JPEG 2000. CIA maps are online (8 ½ x 11).

- Jackie Nolan, Cartographer – can search the loc maps web page for Jackie Nolan to get her maps.

11. Board of Geographic Names – Jenny Runyon

- Provided a brief overview of the role and history of the Board.
- <http://geonames.usgs.gov/> GNIS (a gazetteer)
- The Board tracks all types of features, except road and highway names, and these feature names can be downloaded for a whole state.
- Can search for all the names on a specific topographic map by the name of the map.
- Name change decision cards and supporting documentation are now available through GNIS up to 1933.

12. Library of Congress National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program (NDIIPP) – Butch Lazorchak

- NDIIPP has created the National Data Stewardship Alliance. It is a membership organization, which is open to any interested parties. There is an active Geospatial Working Group. Membership in the NDSA is a requirement to participate in the Working Group. More information is available here: <http://www.digitalpreservation.gov/ndsa/>
- The Library of Congress sponsors Viewshare, which allows groups with digital collections to generate custom maps, timelines, facets and tag clouds for free. More information at: <http://www.viewshare.org>
- NDIIPP has underwritten the work being done by CIESEN at Columbia University to create the Geospatial Data Preservation site at <http://geopreservation.org/>. This is a clearinghouse for information about geospatial preservation, not a site to find data.

13. Forest Service - Everett Hinkley

- Discussed National Remote Sensing Program for fire detection and active fire mapping.
- – lat/long/level of confidence using MODIS data
- Working on making active fire information publicly available.

14. GPO - Laurie Hall, Director, GPO Library Technical Information Service

- A new system for FDLP choice was released in April 2012 with 900 new item numbers to create more selectivity. <http://fdlp.gov>

Reviews

Editor's note: The GISIS Newsletter publishes brief reviews of new or updated geoscience information resources. If you are interested in writing a review for the Newsletter, contact Lori Tschirhart (ltz@umich.edu) for additional information including review guidelines.

We are lucky to have two different perspectives on an important resource that has been recently updated, The National Geologic Map Database available at: <http://ngmdb.usgs.gov>, from Linda Zellmer and Louise Deis. You can get updates regarding the Map Database by following their twitter account, @UsgsNgmdb.

Review: National Geologic Map Database, including GeoLex

By Linda Zellmer, Western Illinois University

The United States Geological Survey recently redesigned the *National Geologic Map Database*. The main site contains links to four different resources. The *Map Catalog* is an index to published geologic maps throughout the United States. *Stratigraphy* provides access to *GeoLex*, also known as the *Geologic Names Lexicon*, an index to information on named geologic rock units in North America. *MapView* is a map interface to geologic maps in the Map Catalog. Finally, *Mapping in Progress* provides information on mapping work being done through the National Cooperative Geologic Mapping Program.

The newly redesigned *Map Catalog* is a free index to maps and geospatial data related to the geological sciences. It is a cooperative project of the Association of American State Geologists and the United States Geological Survey (USGS) that indexes maps and geospatial data on

geology, geophysics, marine geology, geologic resources and hazards for the U.S. and its Territories published from the 1880s to the present. The *Catalog* can be searched to find maps of a specific location by using a pull-down menu to select a state and county, entering keyword place names, or using a map to zoom in on an area of interest. The number of maps for that area is shown in a search count box at the upper right side of the page. Users can narrow the search topic by using pull-down menus in the Theme area of the site. When all selections have been made, results are retrieved by clicking the “Search” button. Results, which are displayed 100 at a time from large to small scale, include a list of maps, both separately published sheet maps and maps that were published in the pockets of US and state geological survey publications. The system also provides information on and links to geology related geospatial data on the area and topic of

The screenshot shows the homepage of the National Geologic Map Database. At the top, there are logos for USGS (science for a changing world) and AASG (Association of American State Geologists). To the right of the logos are links for USGS HOME, CONTACT USGS, and SEARCH USGS. Below the logos is a navigation menu with buttons for Home, Catalog, Lexicon, New Mapping, Standards, and Comments. The main content area features a large globe on the left and the title "The National Geologic Map Database" in large, bold, black text. Below the title is the tagline: "Developing a distributed archive of standardized geoscience information for the nation." At the bottom, there are four feature boxes, each with an icon and a brief description: 1. Map Catalog: Find over 90,000 products from over 600 publishers. 2. Stratigraphy: Find geologic names, charts, and guidelines. 3. MapView: Discover geologic maps through our map interface. 4. Mapping in Progress: Find out where geologic mapping is happening now.

interest and scanned geologic maps. These are denoted by a disk and an arrow. Once a map for an area is identified users can view digital maps online or determine whether they are available through the USGS Store. People using standard monitors can only view parts of a map, not the entire map.

In using the new site, I found two problems. The old site directed users to Regional Depositories to obtain maps; the new site no longer mentions that these maps and publications might be available in Libraries. The other problem is that the old site was more forgiving; results of a search on my home county used to include the USGS Folios in the area, but the new site does not.

The other major part of the *National Geologic Map Database* is the *Stratigraphy* section, which includes the *Geologic Names Lexicon* or *GeoLex* (<http://ngmdb.usgs.gov/Geolex/>) is a free index to publications about named geologic rock units in North America. It is the online equivalent of the print *Lexicon of North American Geology*. Most non-geologists are not aware that there are rules for describing and naming geologic units (the *North American Stratigraphic Code*, which is linked to the *GeoLex* site), just as there are rules for naming and describing animals, plants, fossils, planets and microbes. People who are researching a particular geologic unit sometimes need to find *all* of the information about a unit, such as when it was originally named and described, the location of the original type exposure and changes that have been made to its extent or age.

Review: National Geologic Map Database

By Louise Deis

The United States Geological Survey & the Association of American State Geologists have produced a redesigned, free web resource for geologic maps.

The National Geologic Map Database is a work

GeoLex provides just this information. It includes entries on over 16,000 geologic units (75% of all of the units) in the United States, and links to the lexicons for Canada and Mexico. *GeoLex* can be used to search for information on a rock unit by its name, age or the author of an article that described the unit. *GeoLex* provides information on a unit's age, location, extent (areal distribution), type locality (where it was first recognized and described) and history. The initial Unit Name History display provides a brief description about the content of each publication, with the word History hyperlinked. Clicking on this link connects users to a more extensive summary of the naming and revision history of the rock unit, which includes full citations to and a brief summary of each publication.

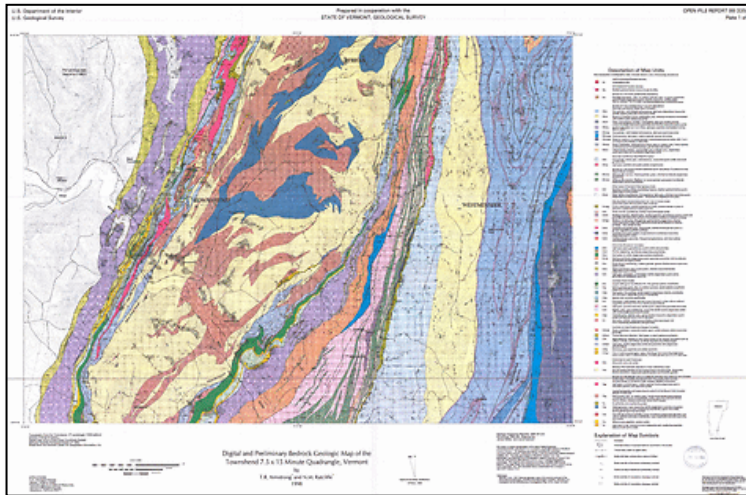
Although some of the information in *GeoLex* is available in *GeoRef*, results in *GeoLex* are much more focused. A *GeoRef* search may yield hundreds of results on the rock unit, but may also miss publications indexed in *GeoLex* because the unit name may not have been used as an indexing term in *GeoRef*. The *GeoLex* search provides more focused search results on the naming and description of the rock unit in a particular area.

The *National Geologic Map Database* and *GeoLex* are both essential resources for research in the earth sciences. They would be especially useful for people writing papers on a specific location, such as the geology, hydrology or natural resources of a town or county.

in progress. The help resources are excellent. Geographical locations are searchable by name, coordinates, and geographically via the index map. Search elements are numerous: author, title, map number, geologic theme, state, territory, county, bounding coordinates, map

scale, publication date, format and publisher. String searching of map numbers is possible. Abbreviations for map series and publishers' names are being developed.

Map data is available for several topics: geology (bedrock, structural, surficial, engineering), geophysics (magnetics, gravity, radiometrics), marine (geophysics, coastal, GLORIA), resources (metals, nonmetals, petroleum, coal, other energy, water), and hazards (earthquakes, volcanoes, landslides, environmental), geochemistry, geochronology, and paleontology. It's important to use the suggested search terms when they are available in drop-down menus. Results will differ if the state is used as a title word search, for example.



Sample map from search on GIS data available for Vermont, the 1st of 96 maps retrieved. Digital bedrock geologic map of the Townshend quadrangle, Vermont.

Only ~ 3% of the entries include GIS data thus far.

On the search page, there is a counter that tells you the number of maps in the database, and as soon as you specify an additional search parameter, the number reflects it.

The geologic mapping feature is still growing, as is

GEOLEX, the geologic names lexicon. See Louise Zellmer's review of this resource above.

High-resolution geotiffs and other formats are available for download from MapView.

The NGMDB is an excellent resource and is highly recommended.

Reed Gold Mine Tour

By Kay G. Johnson

On November 7, 2012, GSIS members Carol La Russa, Lisa Dunn, Clara McLeod and Cynthia Prosser piled into my car for an unofficial GSIS field trip to the Reed Gold Mine near Charlotte, NC. The Reed Gold Mine is a North Carolina Historic Site, and is the site of the first documented gold find in the United States. In 1799 Conrad Reed, 12-year-old son of Hessian immigrant John Reed, found a pretty gold rock estimated to weigh 17 pounds. The rock was used as a doorstep until 1802 when a jeweler paid John Reed a "generous" fee of \$3.50. Reed learned of his error and recouped another \$1000 before he



started mining operations on his property.

After a beautiful drive into the North Carolina countryside, we headed over to the Reed Mine visitor center. I had not expected much of a field trip experience at a free state

historic site, but was pleasantly surprised to be very wrong. We started out by watching an amusingly dated film about the Reed Gold Mine. It was informative, but downright funny in parts, especially when it came to portraying a slickly manipulative gold investor. The visitor center staff told us an updated film was in production.

The museum featured a chronological history of the Reed Gold mine with many artifacts of the mining industry. The real fun started when we headed outside on the self-guided mine tour. The landscape is typical North Carolina Piedmont, with rolling hills and new-growth hardwoods. We soon realized that the entire property had been excavated, mostly in small pits, but also in an underground mine that has been restored for visitors to tour. The mining evolved from many individuals carrying out placer mining to corporations digging shafts and tunnels to reach the lode.

We walked across the bridge over Little Meadow Creek and up a small hill past a shaft before heading down into the underground mine. The mine was well lit and had been deepened so that visitors did not need to crouch.



Inside the mine

We saw equipment, shafts and timbers. All we needed was a squeaky-voiced wizened miner to feel like we'd stepped into an old Western movie. After climbing timber steps that made our ascent much easier than the miners had it,

we appeared in the sun and continued our tour past the remains of a millhouse and engine house, and then over to an actual operating stamp mill, well, at least we think it operates. It was evident some visitors, probably from the GSA Conference, had been to the stamp mill



The Engine House

earlier in the week because we saw damp leftover gravel from gold panning. Unfortunately, our tour was not pre-arranged and was too late in the season to opt for gold panning. The lure of gold was pervasive, and we were a little tempted to do our own excavating.



The Stamp Mill



The unofficial GSIS Reed Gold Mine Trip was interesting, entertaining, inexpensive, and a short drive from downtown Charlotte. Should a future GSA be held in Charlotte, we recommend GSIS host an official field trip to the Reed Gold Mine.

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