



FACM FACTS

Semi-annual Publication

Summer, 2008



Message from our President

By John Bausola, 2008 President

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It is hard to believe that nine months have gone by since you gave me the opportunity to serve as President of FACM. During this time, the Executive Board has been working hard to put together the MCF review committee. We have made great strides into this area and hope to extend participation to interested MCF designees in the near future.

The Board is planning to expand the Education Committee to have a co-chair and additional volunteers to serve as committee members.

The DOR has been auditing the courses we provide and has made some constructive recommendations for improvement. Your Executive Board has also been reviewing the courses and is looking to modernize, rewrite and improve the content and quality of the courses. If you would be interested in participating with the Education Committee, please contact me via email, jbausola@co.st-lucie.fl.us.

This has truly been a year of change; declining real estate values and the passage of Amendment One have had a dramatic impact on budgets across the state. The implementation of Amendment One has presented many new technical challenges for Florida Property Appraisers. I am sure a greater number of offices have filed for extensions this year, "Just in case...!"

On top of all the changes to the 2008 roll submittal, some offices are faced with an in-depth audit. St. Lucie County, where I hang my hat, is one. We did file for an extension, but thankfully, due to the professional staff I work with, "we got'r done!"

Funding for the DOR's Aerial Photography Program has been pushed down to the local level for counties with populations greater than 25,000. We are now required to deposit with the DOR a third of the cost of the project each year, so that after three years the funding is available for the project. However, counties which are scheduled to be flown this winter must come up with the full amount. The DOR has sent each office a letter outlining the individual responsibilities. Any office may choose to opt-out of the program. If this is done, the office must complete the appropriate forms and demonstrate the imagery they will be acquiring meets the DOR's standards.

I have saved the best news for last. We are in the final stages of preparing for the Annual Meeting and Workshop. The tentative agenda and registration form can be found later in this newsletter. They will also be posted to the FACM website. For this outstanding event, we have chosen the Hilton Cocoa Beach Oceanfront, October 12th-15th.

I have had a wonderful and interesting time serving as your President. Thank you for giving me this opportunity. At our annual meeting, I will be moving to the Past President's position and hope to continue service on the Conference and Modernization committees.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the Annual Meeting.

Don't forget!!!

FACM Fall Mapping Conference & Workshop

Hilton Cocoa Beach Oceanfront

Cocoa Beach, Florida

October 12th – 15th, 2008

See pages 4 –7 for complete details or go to our website www.FACM.com

Visit the FACM Store

New to the FACM web site is an on-line store to purchase your favorite FACM products. The "store" features all the items currently for sale including FACM apparel such as the popular hoodie, useful business items such as pad folios, card cases and pen sets and cartographic items like the compass and Land section Triangle. To view all the items for sale visit the FACM website at www.facm.org/store.htm. Simply download the order form, fill it out and send a check in the correct amount to the FACM Treasurer as indicated on the form. Allow two weeks for delivery.

Your purchase helps FACM by providing additional funds for conferences and training. You can buy your items now or at the upcoming Fall Conference.



Announcements

Michael Prestridge, Chief of Staff Orange County Property Appraiser was promoted to **Assistant Property Appraiser**. Michael was the FACM Secretary from 2000 to 2006. This is what Bill Donegan, CFA Orange County Property Appraiser had to say about Michael;

"Michael began his career at OCPA as a Contract Mapper in 1990 then in October of 1991, he officially joined OCPA as a Computer Cartographer III. He served as the Mapping & Graphics Supervisor from November of 1995 until he was promoted to Mapping & Research Manager in April of 1998. Michael was promoted to Director of Real Estate Services in October of 2004 and to his most recent position as Chief of Staff in March of 2006. He holds both the CFE and CCF Designations.

As the Assistant Property Appraiser, Michael will continue to oversee the operation of the Property Appraiser's Office. He will directly supervise the operations of the Real Estate Assessment, Real Estate Services, Tangible Personal Property and Customer Service/Exemptions Departments.

Michael's responsibility will be to ensure the production of a fair and equitable Tax Roll each year. He will be responsible for the DOR Statistical Guidelines and the Analysis of the Tax Roll. He will carry out the instructions and policies of OCPA in compliance with the policy and procedure manual, the regulations of the Department of Revenue and the Florida Statutes and Constitution.

Please join me in congratulating Michael on this promotion."

Congratulations Michael!

Letter to the President

From Tom Canter MCF, CFE, Florida Dept of Revenue (Tom Canter is a former FACM President)

To: John Bausola, FACM President

From: Tom Canter, MCF

I read with interest about the criticism of the MCF program in the March edition of *FACM FACTS*. I sincerely hope the criticism was truly constructive in nature, especially if it was presented by a member of the organization.

I believe not only a review of the MFC program objective is necessary before considering any changes, but also of the objectives stated in FACM's By-laws as well as that of the CCF designation program.

Sections 3, 4 and 5 of the By-laws fairly well seem to direct the organization's education efforts:

SECTION 4.. To advance property ownership mapping knowledge and practice through education.

SECTION 5. To encourage a high standard of expertise as a means to more effectively serve the public.

SECTION 6. To work toward the improvement of the technical quality of property ownership maps available to the public.

Quoting from the CCF Designation Program Objective, "Realizing that the fair and equitable administration of property tax requires a high level of competence in many areas..."

I think the goal when the designations were developed was to certify that a Cadastralist was well-rounded in all aspects pertaining to cadastral mapping. In other words, not everyone who works in cadastral mapping would be conferred a designation indicating a "high standard of expertise" or a "high level of competence".

You correctly stated in the newsletter that the task of reviewing the courses, exams and developing a support workshop is costly. The original four courses and examination were created entirely by the volunteer efforts of members. Cost for that effort was borne by either the members or their employers, or both.

That FACM is in the position as a provider of certification-supporting course material (and qualified instructors) dictates that there is a higher level of expectation. I believe it would be appropriate for a qualified team of members to provide direction, oversight and review to a paid editor of the material.

I question whether a new support workshop is necessary. DOR currently offers several workshops in both the "analog" and digital environments. I encourage you and those who believe a support workshop would be needed to take a look at the list and descriptions of those workshops at: <http://dor.myflorida.com/dor/property/mapwrk.pdf>. It's likely that some tweaking to an existing product could meet the need. If that is the case, we welcome any suggestions.

In response to the charge that the four courses don't fully cover all the material on the exam, perhaps consider providing candidates a list of key subject areas together with recommended study material.

I am in a fairly unique and possibly precarious position as a FACM member and an employee of the agency contracting for the courses. I have begun a review of the four courses with the primary goals of ensuring that the material and instruction meet expectations and, that our own workshops provide a foundation for the certification courses.

An obvious by-product is the detailed review of each course presentation that has been provided to FACM. The reviews are meant to provide constructive evaluations. I trust they have been received in that way by the Board, education committee and the instructors.

I commend you and Jeff for all your hard work. If there's any way I can further help in this process let me know.

Upcoming FACM Events

- **August 4 - 8, 2008 FACM Course 01: Mathematics for the Cadastralist—**
Rosen Plaza Hotel, Orlando

FACM Fall Mapping Conference & Workshop

Hilton Cocoa Beach Oceanfront

Cocoa Beach, Florida

October 12th – 15th, 2008

FACM Proudly Presents

CONCURRENT EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS



Advanced Cadastral Editing in the ArcMap Environment

By Frank Conkling of Panda Consulting

Panda Consulting will provide a two day course entitled "Advanced Cadastral Editing in the ArcMap Environment". Regardless of your current data model or software being used in your office, this course will provide powerful insights into how to develop a thorough understanding of the underlying structures and tools available for Cadastral Mapping in ArcMap. Among the many topics being covered are the fundamental elements of sample Cadastral Data Models, a quick review of the standard ArcMap editing environment and how to optimize your productivity while editing. Using ArcMap 9.3, the course will include a quick review of standard techniques, implementing some mildly advanced features such as extended labeling techniques and some truly advanced features including feature class archiving and 3d modeling.

This course is truly for those people that know how to work in the standard ArcMap environment, but are looking for ways to perform the tasks such as fixing topology errors, integrating CAD files and handling conflation problems more efficiently. A review of developing a map series or map atlas will be included for final map production and a final review of shortcuts, tips and tricks will be provided. Please ensure that you have the prerequisite knowledge about the software before signing up for this course.

Introduction to FACM Course 02

**By Ellen Edwards CCF CFE, Carol A. Walker CCF CFE,
& Matt Kalus MCF CCF R/W-AMC**

This is a workshop introducing the history and development of the Public Land Survey System in Florida. The student will be introduced to township layout, section breakdown, fractional sections, Government lots, land grants, exceptions, etc. You will be given the opportunity to work on sample questions and problems and have plenty of time for questions. Course 02 is tentatively scheduled to be offered by DOR during December of 2008. If you are planning to take the course at that time you should consider this outstanding workshop.

Special Informational Sessions

ArcGIS 9.3 Desktop ESRI Update on New Release, by Artie Robinson ESRI

In this session you will be presented with an update on the latest and greatest in the ArcGIS 9.3 release. Artie will focus on desktop software and the new parcel editing features.

DOR Update Mapping/GIS and Aerial Photography Program, by DOR Staff

DOR Mapping/GIS section staff to present latest developments in support and services. Changes in Aerial Photography Program and educational workshops are just a few of the important topics to be covered.

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

SUNDAY OCTOBER 12, 2008

1:00 - 5:00 REGISTRATION

MONDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2008 Workshops

8:00 - 5:00 Registration

8:00 - 8:30 Coffee Break

**8:30 - 10:00 ArcGIS 9.3 Desktop Update on New Release,
by Artie Robinson, ESRI**

In this session you will be presented with an update on the latest and greatest to be found in the 9.3 release of ArcGIS. Artie will focus on the desktop software and the new parcel editing features.

10:00 - 10:15 Break

**10:15 - 12:00 Advanced Parcel Editing in the ArcMap Environment,
by Frank Conkling, Panda Consulting**

This course will provide powerful insights into how to develop a thorough understanding of the underlying structures and tools available for Cadastral Mapping in ArcMap. Among the many topics being covered are the fundamental elements of sample Cadastral Data Models, a quick review of the standard ArcMap editing environment and how to optimize your productivity while editing. Using ArcMap 9.3, the course will include a quick review of standard techniques, implementing some mildly advanced features such as extended labeling techniques and also some truly advanced features including feature class archiving and 3d modeling.

This course is truly for those people that know how to work in the standard ArcMap environment, but are looking for ways to perform the tasks such as fixing topology errors, integrating CAD files and handling conflation problems more efficiently. A review of developing a map series or map atlas will be included for final map production and a final review of shortcuts, tips and tricks will be provided. Please ensure that you have the prerequisite knowledge about the software before signing up for this course.

**10:15 - 12:00 Introduction to FACM Course 02 - Concurrent Session
by Carol A. Walker CCF CFE, Ellen Edwards CCF CFE &
Matt Kalus MCF CCF R/W-AMC.**

This is a workshop introducing you to the history and development of the Public Land Survey System in Florida. The student will be introduced to township layout, section breakdown, fractional sections, Government lots, land grants, exceptions, etc. You will be given the opportunity to work on sample questions and problems and have plenty of time for questions Course 02 is tentatively scheduled to be offered by DOR during December of 2008. If you are planning to attend the course at that time you should consider this outstanding workshop

12:00 - 1:30 Lunch on your own

**1:30 - 3:00 Advanced Parcel Editing Using ArcGIS 9.3 - Continued
Intro to FACM Course 02 - Continued**

3:00 - 3:15 Break

**3:15 - 5:00 Advanced Parcel Editing Using ArcGIS 9.3 - Continued
Intro to FACM Course 02 - Continued**

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2008 Workshops

8:00 - 12:00 REGISTRATION

8:00 - 8:30 Coffee Break

8:30 - 10:00 Advanced Parcel Editing Using ArcGIS 9.3 - Continued

Intro to FACM Course 02 - Continued

10:00 - 10:15 Break

10:15 - 12:00 Advanced Parcel Editing Using ArcGIS 9.3 - Continued

Intro to FACM Course 02 - Continued

12:00 - 1:30 Lunch on your own

1:30 - 3:00 Advanced Parcel Editing Using ArcGIS 9.3 - Continued

Intro to FACM Course 02 - Continued

3:00 - 3:15 Break

3:15 - 5:00 Advanced Parcel Editing Using ArcGIS 9.3 - Continued

Intro to FACM Course 02 – Continued

6:00 - 7:00 President's Reception

7:00 - 9:30 Annual Awards Banquet

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2008 Workshops

8:00 - 12:00 REGISTRATION

8:00 - 8:30 Coffee Break

8:30 - 10:00 DOR Update Mapping/GIS and Aerial Photography Program

DOR Mapping/GIS section staff to present latest developments in support and services. Changes in Aerial Photography Program and educational workshops are just a few important topics to be covered.

10:00 - 10:15 Break

10:15 - 12:00 FACM General Membership Meeting and Closing Remarks

This is your chance to bring your ideas and suggestions to the table. Some topics for consideration are:

- Future FACM Meetings, Workshops and Conferences
- Does FACM want to have a 2009 Joint GeoSpatial Conference?
- Expansion of the Education Committee
- MCF Review Committee

12:00 Adjourn

FACM FACTS

FACM Fall Mapping Conference & Workshop Registration Form Hilton Cocoa Beach Oceanfront Cocoa Beach, Florida October 12th – 15th, 2008

Please send this form along with a check payable to FACM, Inc to the following:

Jeff Maasch 308 Granada St. Fort Pierce, FL 34949-3224

Name: _____

Employer/Organization: _____

Title: _____

Nickname: _____

Address: _____

Phone (office): _____ (cell): _____

Email: _____

Early Registration \$105 (Before 9/15/08) *	\$
Full Registration \$135 (After 9/15/08)	\$
Advanced Parcel Editing Workshop \$75	\$
Student & Retired Members Registration \$40 **	\$
Extra Banquet Ticket \$35	\$
FACM Membership Fee \$40	\$
Total Enclosed	\$

Advanced Parcel Editing Workshop is limited to the first 30 paid registrations. Attendees must have ArcGIS computer mapping experience. If you wish to attend, you must indicate it here.

- I have ArcGIS mapping experience & wish to attend the Editing workshop.
- I have included the additional \$75 registration fee, see above.
- No, I do not plan to attend the ArcGIS workshop.

* Each registration includes 1 Banquet Ticket.

* Must be postmarked by 9/15/08 to receive this rate.

** Students must include proof of fulltime enrollment in an accredited school with registration form. Student registration includes one banquet ticket.

Hotel Reservations: Call the Hilton Cocoa Beach Oceanfront Hotel directly at (800) 526-2609 or (321) 799-0003 by 9/15/08 or visit their website at www.hiltoncocoabeach.com. Hotel Room Rate is \$105 per night plus tax. To insure you receive the special group rate you MUST identify the group name, Florida Association of Cadastral Mappers when making reservations. These special rates will be honored by the hotel, rooms go fast so don't wait to the last minute.

2008 Annual Southeast Regional User Group (SERUG) Conference

4/14/08 - 4/16/08 (Jacksonville, FL)

By Matthew Kalus, 2008 FACM Secretary

As the Spring 2008 Florida Joint GeoSpatial Conference was not able to be held this year, the Board of FACM decided to convene at the SERUG conference in Jacksonville for its spring meeting. This was my first time to this conference and I was not disappointed! The conference was held at the Jacksonville Hyatt Regency, on the St. Johns riverfront. ESRI held the opening session discussing the latest roll out of ArcGIS 9.3, and also highlighted several success stories from various Southeast users who have applied GIS concepts in a unique way to solve a specific challenge. A special Thank You to ESRI for facilitating this conference, and the vendors who stepped up and sponsored breaks and events!

There are always more than enough different tracks to attend, and I usually try to hit something a little different at each conference I attend. I sat in on a session held by **Wardell Edwards** from **State of Alabama Office of Water Resources (OWR)** who was charged with acquiring digital imagery of several seacoast areas for natural disaster preparedness. What was a little different about this session was not that he contracted out the aerial photography services, but that his organization had their own plane, and digital photographic equipment! Talk about hands on! If you have never thought about where your images came from, and how they become as accurate as they are (or not, as the case may be) then this session revealed start to finish, a useable product created in-house.

I sat in on several cadastral & mapping sessions that I found helpful as well. Frank Conkling's presentation on how to obtain an economic PLSS layer gave me a few insights on completing the PLSS layer for Orange County (stay tuned for an upcoming presentation at a FACM workshop!). ESRI's technical sessions are typically well attended and give some of the latest tips & tricks.

One of the great things about regional conferences is meeting lots of new folks, making new friends, and renewing old acquaintances. The Tuesday night social was held across the river at the River City Brewing Co., www.rivercitybrew.com; a good time was had by all!!

The most entertaining part, in my humble opinion, was the Closing Session and Hosted Lunch. If you missed it, and you like shows like CSI, then you missed an fantastic look into the forensic investigation of the suspicious death of King Tutankahmun. Using long standing detective methods but with a current high tech twist, the two detectives: Gregory Cooper (former FBI agent, chief of police and civil defense director of Provo, Utah) and Mike King (former director of the Utah criminal Tracking and Analysis Project at the Attorney General's office, Salt Lake City), were given special access to the off-limits lower chamber of Tut's tomb, and the actual X-rays of his body taken in the 1960s. They treated the case as they would a present-day death investigation, systematically considering potential causes for Tut's demise, including accident, natural causes, suicide and murder. To build their case, they examined the scene of the crime by visiting tombs and cities in Egypt; looked at the victim's body via actual X-rays and autopsy reports; recorded circumstantial evidence before, during and after the victim's death; viewed crime-scene photographs; conducted interviews with living "witnesses" (scholars); and utilized criminal profiling and crime scene analysis. With the help of leading Egyptologists, forensic psychiatrists, medical examiners, neurologists, defense attorneys and criminologists, the detectives methodically established both manner and motive for Tut's death.. It is amazing how even after 3000 years, there were still clues left to be uncovered to the trained eye!

Nominations for Awards

These awards are presented annually at the FACM Fall Conference. Nominations will be accepted from employers and peers, with the Awards Committee reviewing the applications and forwarding them to the Board. The nominations are presented to the Executive Board for their decision. The awards presentation is made at the FACM Annual Conference. Cadastralist of the Year and Outstanding Achievement Award winners receive a complimentary registration to next year's conference in addition to a handsome plaque recognizing their achievement. Lifetime Achievement Award winners receive a life time FACM membership, a complimentary registration to next year's conference and a handsome plaque recognizing their achievement.

Please keep in mind that the nominees for awards are not required to hold any mapping designations. The person making the nomination should write a brief statement why he/she feels the nominee merits the award. Cadastralist of the Year and Outstanding Achievement Awards nominations are for performance within the preceding calendar year, July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008. DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS IS September 1, 2008.

CADASTRALIST OF THE YEAR AWARD _____

Outstanding performance by a FACM member in the work area during a single project or event completed within the last calendar year as noted above.

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD _____

Distinction gained outside the association to further the mapping profession OR a person or group who has made a significant contribution to the association or to the mapping profession through their participation in FACM activities, goals and objectives. The recipient need not be a member of FACM.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD _____

Outstanding performance by any FACM member with 20 or more years of mapping related service who made a significant contribution to the development of high professional mapping standards, and who motivated and inspired their colleagues throughout their mapping career.

(Current FACM Executive Board members are eligible for these awards if the nomination comes from the general membership and not from another FACM Board member.)

Name of Nominee:

Nominee's Employer:

Employer's Address:

I believe this person/these people should be nominated for the award indicated above for the following reasons: (Attach an additional sheet of paper if need)

Send to: Connie Rossman, Awards Chair

c/o City of Lakeland

228 S Massachusetts Ave

Lakeland, FL 33801

Or FAX To Connie Rossman@ 863/834-8432

Florida Association of Cadastral Mappers



FACM FACTS
 c/o Connie Rossman
 228 S Massachusetts Ave
 Lakeland, Florida 33801



ADVERTISING IN THE FACM NEWSLETTER

If you place your ad in the newsletter, it is posted to our website also at no extra charge.

RATES

AD TYPE	APPROXIMATE SIZE	FULL YEAR	PER ISSUE
Business card	2" x 3½"	\$ 25.00	N/A
1/4 Page	5" x 3¾"	\$75.00	\$50.00
1/2 Page	5" x 7½"	\$150.00	\$100.00
Full Page	8½" x 11"	\$300.00	\$200.00

Contact Connie Rossman for information about advertising in the *FACM FACTS*