News and Announcements

Proceedings Geographic Information Systems Conference Available


Cosponsors included the USDA-SCS, U.S. Geological Survey, Univ. of Rhode Island Dep. of Natural Resources Science, Connecticut Dep. of Environmental Protection, Rhode Island Dep. of Environmental Management, Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, Univ. of Connecticut Dep. of Natural Resources Management and Engineering, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The conference was designed to increase awareness of GIS technology among planning departments and commissions of local and state governments, state legislators, corporations, consulting firms, and utility companies concerned with land use.

Copies of the proceedings (36 pp.) are available for $8.00 each, prepaid. Abstracts of the conference’s 20 presentations are included. M.A. Thomas and W.R. Wright are the editors. Send requests and make checks payable to: SNEC-SWCS; P.O. Box 262; Storrs, CT 06268. For more information call Edward Sautter at (203) 487-4047.

Urka Retires from Government Service

Martin C. Urka, Natural Resource Specialist with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), at Cedar City, UT retired on Nov. 1, 1988 with more than 40 yr of government service. This included 9 yr with the BIA, 28 yr with the USDA-SCS, and 2.5 yr with the Infantry with overseas service in Italy in the 85th Infantry Division during World War II.

Urka was honored for the many things he was involved with during his colorful career in Natural Soil Resources Management. He said he is the most proud of the unit citation to the Soil Survey Team at Jackson, MI in 1978 and for the special recognition by James G. Watt, Secretary of the Interior, for the hydrologic study on the Owyhee River and Wildhorse Reservoir in Nevada, during 1981.

Urka also worked in South Dakota, Nebraska, and Arizona. Since retirement, he and his wife, Peggy, have been living in Florida.