

From the Chair

By Annette Theroux, GIS/LIS Consortium Board Chair

Temperatures are heating up as we move into the beautiful Minnesota summer and the GIS/LIS Consortium activities are heating up right along with the temperature! We are jump-starting the spring with a series of workshops that will meet the interests, location and needs of most Mn GIS/LIS Consortium members.

Spring workshops are well underway with the first one, the "Due North Spring Workshop", held May 17 at Bemidji State University. This workshop presented an "Overview of ArcGIS 9.x" for beginning and intermediate students. It is still too early to tell, but registrations for the workshop looked good and how could we go wrong with a workshop overlooking Lake Bemidji in the spring?

The next spring workshop, scheduled for June 1, is the ["Forum on Imagining Possibilities: The Next Frontier for Geographic Information Technology"](#). It is held in conjunction with MetroGIS and others. This should be a very interesting and informative workshop with some of the top speakers in the geographic information technology field. We are very fortunate to have an event of this caliber in our own backyard! Register online today at www.mngislis.org

The third in the series will be held at Mankato State University on June 9. This workshop will also present an ["Overview of ArcGIS 9.x"](#) to interested beginning and intermediate attendees. This workshop includes some of the basics and tips and tools to make ArcGIS easier and more fun. Download a .pdf flyer with specifics about the workshop and registration from the Consortium's home page: www.mngislis.org

Planning for the [2006 Annual Conference](#) is proceeding very well. As always, the conference committees welcome any volunteers to help with planning, preparation and staffing. The conference will again be held in **St. Cloud on Wednesday-Friday, October 4-6**. We expect this to be one of the best conferences yet as attendance increases with each passing year. Workshops and presentations are tailored to the needs of the Consortium members and strive to present the most up-to-date information in Geographic Information Technology. To volunteer to serve on one of the conference committees, please contact Sally Wakefield, swakefield@1000fom.org

The [2007 Annual Conference](#) will be held in Rochester on October 10 - 12 (Wednesday through Friday) at the Mayo Civic Center. The area has a lot to offer for entertainment and top rated facilities. Rebecca Foster, the 2007 Conference Chair, is working out the details and beginning the planning for a successful event. Contact Rebecca if you want to offer your time or ideas for the Rochester event: rfoster@ci.edina.mn.us

Last but certainly not least, Jane Mueller, Consortium Board representative for Local Government and GIS Coordinator for Beltrami County, has been appointed the Professional Development Committee Chair for the GIS/LIS Consortium. Jane is responsible for organizing events and information to further the professional pursuits of Consortium members. Jane is doing a great job with planning and assisting committee members to provide the spring workshops. Be sure to congratulate Jane or offer to volunteer for the committee: jane.mueller@co.beltrami.mn.us

Thanks for your continued support of Consortium activities and the annual conference. We all are looking forward to a full year.