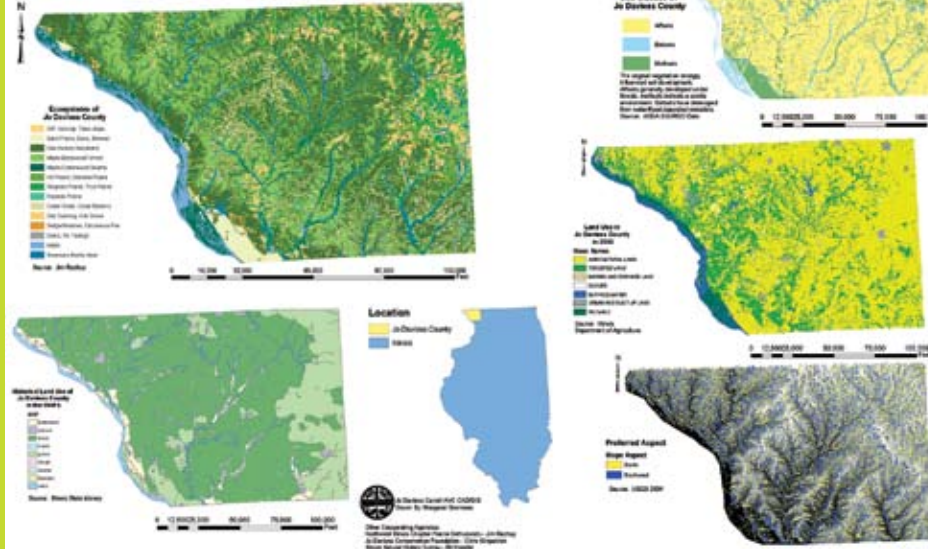


# NOITICOMPSTIGS GIS

## Jo Daviess County Prairie Site Evaluation

Many prairies once existed in Jo Daviess County in northwestern Illinois. However, this once beautiful grassland was destroyed when farmers discovered the nutritional value of the soil in the prairie compared to that of the forested areas. This destruction was accelerated after the Civil War when the railroad brought more farmers to the area.



## Isla Vista G.P.S. Cliff Project

Dynamic GIS - Science, Environmental Safety, and Technology

## GLIS announces 2006 GIS Competition Winners

— Gary Jeffress

In its first year, the GLIS-organized GIS Competition for High Schools boasted a number of excellent submissions. The three school projects selected as the 2006 winners are:

### FIRST PLACE

#### *Jo Daviess County Prairie Site Evaluation*

**School:** Jo Daviess Carroll  
Area Vocational Center,  
Elizabeth, Illinois

**Student:** Margaret Grommes

**Instructor:** Dan Harms



### SECOND PLACE

#### *Cliff Mapping in Isla Vista California*

**School:** Santa Ynez Valley Union High School,  
Santa Ynez, California

**Students:** Large class

**Instructor:** Ronald Chip Fenenga

### THIRD PLACE

#### *Peregrine Falcon GIS Project*

**School:** Essex High School  
Essex, Vermont

**Students:** Large class

**Instructor:** Mark Paul

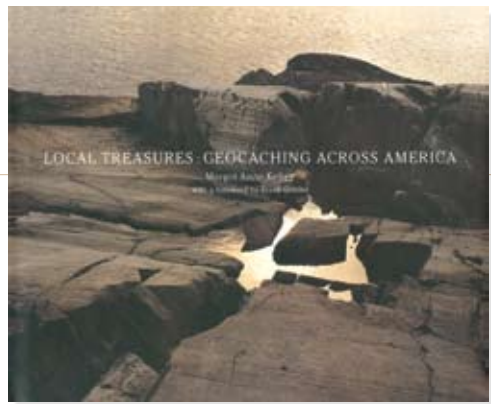


The winners received attractive GIS-related prizes from the sponsor of the contest, Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI), in addition to certificates and other awards.

The 2006 GLIS GIS Competition was judged by Sheila Sullivan, ESRI, San Antonio, Texas; Coleen Johnson, GIS Committee Chair for Texas Society of Professional Surveyors, Dr. Joseph Loon, GIS Professor, Texas A&M, and editor of *Surveying and Land Information Science*. The competition was organized and coordinated by Prof. Gary Jeffress, Texas A&M. Thank you!

*To participate in the 2007 competition, visit  
<http://www.glismo.org> to read about the  
competition and get the form.*

*Deadline for submissions is January 8, 2007!!!*



### LOCAL TREASURES GEOCACHING ACROSS AMERICA

Margot Anne Kelley's *Local Treasures* will be reviewed in-depth in *Cartography and Geographic Information Science* later this year. I have long been intrigued by the game of "geocaching"—and puzzled by its name—, so when the book arrived in the mail, I could not resist but leafing through. Here is what caught my eye during my sneak preview.

"Like geocaching itself," writes Frank Gohlke in his Foreword, "this book can be approached on many levels. It is a travel log, a diary, a book of pictures, a cultural investigation, an instruction book, and a meditation on the persistence of community, love of place, generosity, and personal encounter in the Digital Age. It is an ideal vehicle for one whose gifts are visual and literary in equal measure."

Gohlke's description of the book as a "vehicle for one whose gifts are visual and literary" can be extended to the game the book attempts to chronicle. Geocaching is an ideal vehicle for enhancing geographical knowledge through those whose gifts are visual, exploratory, and technologically savvy.

The technology is the GPS receiver, and the game, "like any art form, is a tangible model of another situation that is less accessible."

Geocaching gives people an opportunity to learn how to maintain a connection to the natural world while also participating in the informational and social world the Internet and other virtual technologies permit. The game also lets us explore how community might work in the future, living in close proximity to one another.

Geocaching was born in 2000, when an Oregon man hid a box of toys in the woods, posted the geographic coordinates on a web site, and issued a challenge for others to find it. People used GPS receivers to find his treasure. Today, more than a million people worldwide participate in geocaching, hiding stashes of trinkets in challenging and unusual locations—and then inviting others to find them, leave a note, and swap a treasure of their own. [Ilse Genovese, after Frank Gohlke.]