



GIS Connection

Whiteside County GIS Office

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- The GIS office is current with parcel splits/combinations for the year.
- The new aerial photography is being utilized by the County along with the Cities of Morrison, Rock Falls, and soon, Sterling.
- The 2012 National Geographic Bee will take place May 22-24.

GIS Office News

- Updating the land use and address layers pursuant to the new aerial photography will be a large continuing project throughout the year.
- We are exploring new options of how we deploy instances of ArcGIS desktop and possibly upgrading to ArcServer to meet the needs of both GIS & E911 services.
- Blackhawk Hills Resource Conservation and Development has begun facilitating regional GIS/IT meetings. The recent meeting held February 23rd addressed Freedom of Information Act requests in regards to GIS data.



Comparison of 2003 aerial photography to 2011 aerial photography.

Beacon Website Tip



The “Measure” tool can be used to find both the length of a segment and the area inside a boundary. The tool is located in the middle of the toolbar and is indicated by a ruler with a question mark.

Once the tool is clicked you can select from dropdown menus the units of measurement such as feet, meters, acres, etc. The measured dimensions will automatically appear along the line as you sketch in the map. To measure an area, sketch until you come back to the starting point and double-click to finish. The area measurement will appear inside the boundaries drawn.

To clear the sketch, click the “Clear Selection” tool indicated by the pink eraser.

The Beacon GIS Website is located at www.beacon.schneidercorp.com. The map portion is subscription only.

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Our GIS Website is:
<http://www.whiteside.org/assessor/gis.html>

“A map is the greatest of all epic poems. Its lines and colors show the realization of great dreams.” - Gilbert H. Grosvenor, Editor of National Geographic (1903-1954)

- The following two links are clickable in your PDF newsletter. If you currently receive a hard copy of the newsletter but wish to receive the emailed PDF copy, please forward your email to llee@whiteside.org.
- Highest Resolution Image of Earth Ever (captured by VIIRS on Suomi NPP satellite): <http://bit.ly/xCOMA2>
- Fun Map: 3D San Francisco (requires Google Earth Plug-in): <http://bit.ly/xK2ySd>

Geocaching: The Worldwide Geography Game

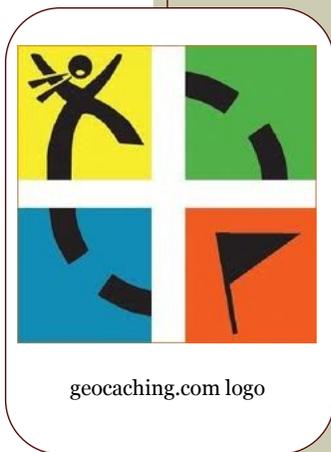
Geocaching (pronounced geocaching) is a popular and creative activity that rose out of the continued uptick of GPS use.

Imagine it as basically a worldwide scavenger hunt. You navigate using your GPS enabled device (most cellular phones are) to a specified set of coordinates and then locate the hidden container. Most containers contain a logbook to sign and some even have “treasures” that are meant to be swapped. In essence, you would leave something in return for taking

something. The first “cache” was even hidden the day after selective availability was turned off on May 2, 2000. This is when civilians

were able to receive readings ten times more accurately than before. If you are thinking there are probably not be many caches nearby, think again. According to a search at [geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com), there are over 50 caches within 10 miles of Morrison! Check out www.geocaching.com for lots more information. I personally can't wait to explore some of these with my children when they are a little older.

Source: www.geocaching.com



geocaching.com logo



Flicker photo by Bob-n-Renee