(GSA Special Paper 492):

Google Earth and Virtual Visualizations in Geoscience Education and Research

edited by Steven J. Whitmeyer, John E. Bailey, Declan G. De Paor, and Tina Ornduff

Abstract of Chapter 24:

Moving NYSGA Guidebooks into Google Earth

The Introductions and Road Logs from field trips offered by the New York State Geological Association (NYSGA) over the last 55 years are being transformed into kml files. These files are maintained as Google Fusion Tables, accessible to the public.

This paper begins by briefly summarizing the kinds of data being transformed, their strengths and limitations.

It then details the procedures used to accomplish the transformation, from scanning the original document to uploading the data to Fusion Tables. By using a subset of available kml fields, and establishing a numbering convention for the placemarks, an efficient system has been developed where sufficient metadata is embedded within each placemark to permit mixing and matching of any of the placemarks. Using this system, additional field trip guides (GSA, AAPG, NEIGC, etc.) might be transformed, increasing the size and value of the Fusion Tables database. The information provided will permit others to do this, producing kml files which will be consistent with those already done.

Finally, the capabilities of the Fusion Tables interface are reviewed. Some of the educational possibilities are explored and others are suggested.