





Learn more about nuts and bolts of Bing Maps <http://www.microsoft.com/maps/>, including the amazing Photosynth technology <http://photosynth.net/>, or browse an interesting but unofficial blog <http://bingmapswatch.blogspot.com/>

... and, of course, go to the main Bing Maps site <http://www.bing.com/maps/>

## Laugh Lines

A few groaners for the end of summer, courtesy of About.com:

- What is the tidiest element on a map? *The neatline*
- What do John Wayne and a map key have in common? *Both are legends*
- Why was longitude boiling mad? *Because it was 360 degrees*
- Why was the map gesturing wildly? *It was an animated map*
- Why are maps like fish? *Both have scales, of course!*

## GreenInfo Sites:

[www.greeninfo.org](http://www.greeninfo.org) 

[www.mapsportal.org](http://www.mapsportal.org) 

[www.parkinfo.org](http://www.parkinfo.org) 

[www.landtrustgis.org](http://www.landtrustgis.org) 

[www.calands.org](http://www.calands.org) 

[www.protectedlands.net](http://www.protectedlands.net) 

Got great tips for us to put in Map Lines? Send 'em.

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San Diego. GIS Blogger James Fee captured the main plenary presentation minute by minute in [this post](#). To get the videos of the main plenary sessions visit the ESRI web site <http://www.esri.com/events/uc-videos/agenda/plenary.html>.

## Place Research Tip

Wikipedia has quite an extensive store of information about places. For example, choose a county of interest (eg. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orange\\_County\\_California](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orange_County_California)) and get links to all cities in the county (and often to unincorporated places and even planned communities), along with much else (demographics, transportation, culture, etc.). Crowdsourced data has limits, but it's generally pretty reliable at this level. Protected areas data lacks, however - go to [www.ParkInfo.org](http://www.ParkInfo.org) for the best info on these lands in California!

## Email Newsletter/Contact Service Provider Comparison

[Groundwire](#) has done a nice job summarizing different providers of email newsletter and contact services - including Vertical Response, which is what GreenInfo uses. Read the article (<http://groundwire.org/support/articles/email-service-provider-comparison-report-2010>) and download the free PDF report.

## GIS Geek Corner

**Simplifying Shapes** <http://mapshaper.org/>

Too much detail in your shapefile? If you need to simplify a shapefile easily and see what it will look like before you export it (i.e., no setting tolerance) Go to <http://mapshaper.org/> and launch the MapShaper Demo. Upload your shapefile and choose a simplification method, then use the slider at the bottom to see how much simplification you want. Next export the .shp and .shx, copy the rest of the files from the original shapefile that are missing for your new simplified shape and rename them so they all have the same name. It's as simple as that!



**Happy mapping from the GreenInfo Team!**

Larry Orman, Amanda Recinos, Tim Sinnott, Jennifer Strahan, Rhonda Friberg, Alex Barnish, John Kelly, Jason Jones, Stephanie Ding, Maegan Leslie Torres, Zach Erbe and Aubrey Dugger



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564 Market Street, Ste. 510, San Francisco, CA 94104 | 415-979-0343 | [gin@greeninfo.org](mailto:gin@greeninfo.org)

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