



News & Views

May 2009

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From the NSPS president

As I continue to visit with surveyors from across this country, the strength of their convictions is absolutely inspiring. Even in the states hit the hardest from the poor economy (as my own state of Michigan), surveyors are working as hard as ever to maintain as much as possible. I haven't spoken with anyone who hasn't made sacrifices. But they remain firmly supportive of the profession they have chosen and understand the ups and downs of what we do. I am continually uplifted by the class of folks who are surveyors. Unlike many others who throw up their hands and walk away, surveyors seem to put the same perspective on adversity that they do on projects. This perspective is one of "it may be tough, but I am the one best equipped to get it done." This isn't the first time our economy has slipped and won't be the last. Those of us who can make the best of it will survive and come out stronger when the economy improves. In the meantime, look for opportunities that you may not ever have thought of before to help you get through and know that on the national level, NSPS will continue to protect and expand what we do to serve our profession. — *John Matonich, NSPS president*

short takes

NCEES Participating Organizations Liaison Council (POLC) meeting in Atlanta, GA, March 2009 addressed several issues of importance to NSPS members. Licensing issues were high on the agenda, with discussion addressing the continued support by ACSM/NSPS for the four-year degree (plus surveying core curriculum) requirement for licensure; the need to study the Body of Knowledge for Surveying; pending or in-place legislation in seven jurisdictions related to licensure of mapping services; hydrographic surveying certification; and potential non-compliance with licensing laws in the current practice of Building Information Modeling (BIM) and Machine Control surface modeling. Other topics included access to U. S. Department of Labor Publication Issue 5 ("In Demand") online at <http://www.careervoyages.gov>, and the approval by the NCEES Board of Directors to contribute \$75,000 to the National Museum of Surveying in Springfield, IL. — *James R. Riney, ACSM POLC representative*

Greulich inducted

Gunther H. Greulich, past ACSM president, was inducted, on May 9th, in University of Maine's Francis Crowe Society. Greulich was honored with Distinguished Membership in the society "in recognition of his long-standing service to the University and his many accomplishments and achievements in his professional career." — *Scott Dunning, PhD, PE, College of Engineering, University of Maine*

Vannozzi accepts tenure-track position at U of NH

A. Richard Vannozzi, MS, PLS, accepted a tenure-track position at the University of New Hampshire. He will start at U of NH in the fall and will teach with Prof. Bob Moynihan. — *Rich Vannozzi, NSPS*

FEMA Certificates released

The much anticipated Revised FEMA Elevation Certificate and Instructions, and the Floodproofing Certificate, have been released. Links to these documents, and the letter outlining changes to the Elevation Certificate, can

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be found on the ACSM website (http://www.acsm.net/documents/RevisedElevationCertificateandFloodproofingCertificateApproved_000.pdf), and on the NSPS website (<http://www.nspsmo.org/documents/RevisedElevationCertificateandFloodproofingCertificateApproved.pdf>). ACSM and NSPS are proud of their involvement with FEMA in the review of these documents, and the improvements that occur as a result. We wish to thank Wendy Lathrop for her longtime service as our primary representative for these efforts.— *Curt Sumner, ACSM Executive Director*

Note: An editable template of the Elevation Certificate can also be found at: http://www.fema.gov/doc/nfip/elevcert_template.dot. —Jeffrey K. Murphy, P.S.M., Johnson Engineering, Inc.

AUSTRALIA IN 2010!

Timed for attending the F.I.G meeting in Sydney, April 11-16, 2010, and by arrangement with Qantas, the Australian International Airline, we are assembling a group of interested people to take advantage of group rates to visit the great people of Australia and see the sights of the country. You've probably heard from others how great was their reception by Australian surveying and mapping professionals on previous visits. This is your chance! Basic airfare from LA to Sydney is expected to be about \$ 1600.00 plus taxes, which includes one Australian domestic flight. Total fares for complete tours of Australia and New Zealand will depend on the interests of the majority of responders. We hope to have options in time and extent of tours available. Please respond quickly to **Gerry Curtis at fax 817-334-0381**, or email gerry.gcasurveyors@att.net. — *Gerry Curtis, past NSPS president*

2010 Scholarships

Do you know a college student who's interested in surveying and mapping? If so, then please share the link to the 2010 ACSM/NSPS Scholarship application: <http://www.nspsmo.org/documents/scholarship2009final.pdf> Details on the 2010 scholarship program are now available on the NSPS Web site. Over \$22,000 in scholarship money is available this year. **Applications are due by 5 p.m. EST on November 2, 2009.** Please spread the word about this very important program. — *Dawn James, MO Administrator*

2010 Map/Plat Competition

Details on the 2010 NSPS Map/Plat Contest are now posted on the NSPS Web site: http://www.nspsmo.org/documents/ACSM_NSPS_EntryForm_2010.pdf. New this year – applicants have the option of submitting their entries on CD using JPEGs or PDFs. Rolled map copies will still be requested from winners for display at the ACSM Annual Conference in Phoenix in April 2010. **Map/Plat applications are due by 5 p.m. EST on November 13, 2009.** — *Dawn James, MO Administrator*

You report

Where Oregon's surveys began

The Professional Land Surveyors of Oregon (PLSO) invites you to a historical re-enactment on May 30th of the first survey of Oregon, at the Initial Point, now marked by Willamette Stone in the western hills of Portland. The Initial Point was established in 1851 by John B. Preston, the first Surveyor General of the Oregon Territory. The surveys completed from this location promoted settlement of the Northwest and began the transfer of land from government to private ownership. The Initial Point is located in the Willamette Stone State Heritage Site, an Oregon state park approximately four miles (6.4 km) west of downtown Portland. As part of the celebrations, a new bench will be

dedicated near the Initial Point.—Gary Anderson, Westlake Consultants

TwIST workshop

Teaching with Spatial Technology (TwIST), organized at Chemeketa Community College, June 22-26, 2009, in Salem, Oregon, is a special workshop designed to teach K-12 educators how to use GIS and GPS in the classroom to create meaningful and challenging lesson plans for students. The \$500 workshop is limited to 24 registrants. Deadline for registering to participate is June 5th. Application forms are posted at www.plso.org; they can also be obtained by calling 503-585-4551. — Tim Kent, PLSO

Greening the world

With concerns about the health of our environment continuing to grow, a great deal of attention has focused on reducing waste and minimizing our carbon footprint. Here are a few simple steps you can take to make your office and business greener:

1. **Reduce paper consumption and waste**—print and copy double-sided, use one network printer, and edit documents online;
2. **Install compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFL)**;
3. **Subscribe to a service to eliminate or reduce junk mail delivery**—try www.Obviously.com/junkmail, www.41pounds.org, and www.greendimes.com;
4. **Purchase recycled office paper**; and
5. **Recycle shredded documents.**

Matt Vernon, the author of the “greening the world” article is senior associate of RBF Consulting, and, as of February 2009, president of California Land Surveyors Association.

F a c t s h e e t

How many surveyors are there in the U.S.? According to the statistics published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics at <http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos040.htm>, surveyors, cartographers, photogrammetrists, and surveying technicians held about 148,000 jobs in 2006. The distribution by occupational specialty was:

Surveying and mapping technicians	76,000
Surveyors*	60,000
Cartographers and photogrammetrists	12,000

*It is assumed that the “Surveyors” category is intended to be “licensed surveyors.” — Curt Sumner, ACSM Executive Director

S t a t e s u r v e y i n g N E W S S C A N

TSPS Educators' Retreat

The 3rd Annual High School Educators' Retreat for Surveying, Mapping and Geospatial Awareness will take place on June 16-18, 2009, on the campus of Lone-Star College—Montgomery, Texas. The retreat is limited to 35 participants. TSPS Chapters, companies, and individuals are invited to sponsor teachers from their communities. Applications to participate are available online at www.tspso.org. — William M. (Bill) Coleman, RPLS, GISP; TSPS

Surveying Merit Badge Day in Connecticut

On Saturday April 25th, 2009, 101 scouts, 15 surveyors, some of whom are also scouters, numerous scout leaders, parents, and siblings met at Sleeping Giant State Park in Hamden Connecticut for Surveying Merit Badge Day. The event was organized by a joint effort of The Connecticut Association of Land Surveyors (CALs) and The Housatonic

Council BSA of Derby Connecticut. Scouts from around the state attended; we also had two scouts from New Jersey. — *Richard Contois, CALS*

NYSAPLS Call for Presentations

The 2010 annual conference of the New York State Association of Professional Land Surveyors will take place at the Turning Stone Resort Casino, Verona, NY, on January 13-15, 2010. **Presentation submissions** for this prestigious, comprehensive surveying education and networking event **are now due!** Select from the following topics: GIS/Geospatial topics; Field-to-Finish/DTM; Total Station Data Collection; Business Management; Machine Control Guidance in the Surveying Profession; "Taking Back the Fort" Subdivision Design; Land Planning, Municipality Development/Zoning Rules; Planning Board Presentations; Stormwater/Wetland Delineation; Legal Aspects of Real Property; Ethics and Professional Conduct; and Field Training for Technicians. For more information, visit <http://www.nysapls.org> or contact Jennifer Mauer at jmauer@nysapls.net. — *Jennifer Mauer, CAE, NYSAPLS Managing Director*

CLSA awards

Four awards were presented at this year's CLSA annual meeting. The **Sacramento Chapter** was named ***The Chapter of the Year Award*** and its Focal Point Newsletter (edited by **Annette Lockhart**) won ***The Chapter Newsletter of the Year*** award. The 2009 recipient of ***The CLSA Member of the Year Award*** is **John Wilusz, PLS**, editor of the *California Surveyor* magazine, whose hard work has helped to give national recognition to CLSA in the form of two consecutive National Journalism awards from NSPS. Finally, ***The CLSA Distinguished Service Award*** was presented to **Howard Brunner, PLS**, past president of CLSA and long-term liaison to the National Council of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors (NCEES).— *Dorothy Calegari, CLSA Executive Director*

ASPS Hall of Fame Award

George Strother, P.E., P.L.S., tireless contributor to Alaska land development projects and the advancement of surveying and mapping over the past 30 plus years, was presented with ***The Hall of Fame Award*** at 43rd Alaska Surveying and Mapping Conference earlier this year. Strother has been a mentor and a volunteer, giving of his time and knowledge at the local, state, and national levels, including as Alaska Governor to the National Society of Professional Surveyors, on the board of the NSPS Foundation, and on the NSPS Trig-Star Committee.— *Vicky Sterling, ASMC Executive Assistant*

i n m e m o r i a m

Our condolences are extended to the family, friends and colleagues of **Richard Ladd**, LLS 490, who passed away on April 27 after a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer. Mr. Ladd was a long-time NSPS New Hampshire Governor and former treasurer of the NHLA. Services were held on May 1 in Raymond, NH. Memorial donations may be made to the NH Land Surveyors Association.

Save the date!!

**South Carolina Society of Professional Land Surveyors—
SCSPLS 40th Annual Convention**, Kingston Plantation Resort Hotel and Conference Center, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, **June 10-13, 2009**. Awards for the Plat Contest will be awarded at this conference

along with the results of the SCSPLS Surveyor of the Year. For more information, visit the SCSPLS web site at www.scspls.com. For more information, contact Brenda Smith at 803-750-7524.

North American Surveying and Mapping Educators – Bi-annual Conference, East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, TN, **July 8-10, 2009**. Contact Marian M. Clark, PhD (mmclark@etsu.edu) or Jerry D. Taylor, JD (taylorjd@etsu.edu) for information.

Minnesota Society of Professional Surveyors—
MSPS Summer Meeting, Winona, Minnesota, **July 23-24, 2009**
MSPS 2010 Annual Meeting, Saint Cloud, Minnesota, **January 27-29, 2010**. Check www.mnsurveyor.com for registration as it becomes available. For further information, call Eric P. Ewald, CAE, at 651-290-6266 or fax him at 651-290-2266.

Alaska Society of Professional Surveyors—
2010 Alaska Surveying and Mapping Conference, the last week of February, Sheraton Anchorage Hotel. Information will be posted as it becomes available at www.aksmc.org.

American Congress on Surveying and Mapping
ACSM/MOs Fall Meetings, Gaithersburg Holiday Inn, Gaithersburg, Maryland, **September 23-28, 2009**
Lobby Day Prep Meeting, Wednesday, September 23
Lobby Day, Thursday, September 24, 2009
ACSM / MOs Meetings, September 25-28, 2009