



2026

SURVEYORS' Conference

AGENDA

Sunday, January 11

3:00PM – 5:00PM.....	EXHIBITOR REGISTRATION (OUTSIDE OF EXHIBIT HALL)
4:00PM – 6:00PM.....	REGISTRATION OPEN (CONFECTION HALL OFFICE)
5:00PM – 7:30PM.....	EXHIBITS OPEN (EXHIBIT HALL)
5:00PM – 9:00PM.....	SOCIAL GATHERING (EXHIBIT HALL)

Monday, January 12

7:00AM – 5:30PM.....	REGISTRATION (CONFECTION HALL OFFICE)
7:00AM – 8:15AM.....	BREAKFAST (EXHIBIT HALL)
7:00AM – 5:45PM.....	EXHIBITS OPEN (EXHIBIT HALL)
8:15AM – 11:45AM.....	CONCURRENT SESSIONS

- **101: Resolution of Boundary Disputes Through the Use of Junior/Senior Deeds & Surveys.....AZTEC**
 - **Presenter:** Kevin Norris, PLS, Esq., Kevin Scott Norris Law, LLC
 - **Description:** Surveyors understand the priority of evidence and what to hold when determining boundaries. However, the application of these principles must be viewed in light of what property has senior rights. Courts in Pennsylvania have a long history of establishing case law that governs junior/senior rights as they pertain to deeds and surveys. This course will review some of those significant cases and apply their findings to determine the effects of junior and senior rights on boundary lines.
 - **Credits:** 3.5
- **201: Field to Finish with Autodesk Civil3D.....MAGNOLIA AB**
 - **Presenter:** Justin Brooks, PE, PMP, Corporate Design Technology Manager, Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc.
 - **Description:** In this workshop, we will discuss the tools and workflows within Autodesk's Civil3D for processing survey data and creating survey drawings. Some of the topics discussed will be survey setup, importing and working with points, entering and creating linework, and the Field to Finish process. We will also discuss working with point clouds using Autodesk Recap Pro.
 - **Credits:** 3.5
- **301: Exploring Hydrographic Surveying: Technologies and Applications.....WILD ROSE A**
 - **Presenter:** Matthew Sharr, Pennsylvania State University, Wilkes-Barre Campus
 - **Description:** In February of 1807, President Thomas Jefferson signed "An Act to provide for surveying the coasts of the United States," laying the groundwork for what would become the discipline of hydrographic surveying in the United States. More than two centuries later, surveying our nation's streams and waterways remains essential—though the tools and techniques have advanced significantly. This workshop offers a comprehensive introduction to hydrographic surveying. Participants will understand the early motivations behind coastal and hydrographic surveys, then gain exposure to current technologies such as single and multibeam sonar, GNSS positioning, and topobathymetric lidar. Through practical examples and interactive discussion, the session will demonstrate the value of hydrographic data in support of engineering, navigational safety, shoreline management, and environmental management. This workshop is well-suited for land surveyors and geospatial professionals seeking a practical understanding of hydrographic surveying and its alignment with traditional topographic surveying practice. By the end of the session, participants will recognize that, although working on water may differ from land surveying, the principles remain closely related.
 - **Credits:** 3.5

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Monday, January 12 Continued...

- **501: Ethics, Standards of Conduct and Professional Responsibility**.....EMPIRE AB
 - **Presenter:** D. Robert Davidson, Esq., PLS, SEO, Hummel Lewis, & Davidson, LLP
 - **Description:** This session will review legal and ethical considerations faced by surveyors in their practice. Historical context of professional standards of conduct and ethics in general will be considered. The legal requirements and obligations related to standards of conduct and ethics for licensed surveyors and penalties for violations will be reviewed. State Registration Board enforcement cases will be discussed regarding violations of these standards. The unauthorized practice of law will be examined, along with malpractice and general and professional liability. Other topics will include, Federal and State laws related to the practice of surveying. The program will include case studies where attendees will participate in evaluating various ethical situations encountered by surveyors.
 - **Credits:** 3.5
- **FULL: 601: Tree and Wood ID (Part 1 of 2)**.....MAGNOLIA CD
 - **Presenter:** Leon Mallow, PS; Leon G. Mallow Surveying, Inc.
 - **Description:** This is a 2-part series. **It is preferred that attendees attend both parts, but that is not required.**
 - Part 1 includes: Introduction and use of A Leaf using provided leaf samples, Use of the Leaf Key and combined use of a Tree Identification Book, Identification and matching leaf samples with provided bark samples, and summary, using blank number forms, to see how many samples participants can identify, without the key.
 - **Credits:** 3.5
- **801: 2026 ALTA/NSPS Land Title Surveys (Part 1 of 2)**.....CRYSTAL A
 - **Presenter:** Gary Kent, PS, Meridian Land Consulting, LLC
 - **Description:** Attendees can take both parts or just one part. This program will cover Sections 1 through 4 and part of Section 5 of the new 2026 Minimum Standard Detail Requirements for ALTA/NSPS Land Title Surveys. An outline of the process of revising the ALTA/NSPS Standards will be provided. A focus on the relationship between the title industry and the ALTA/NSPS Land Title Survey will be addressed during the Section 1 discussion. The content of the Section 2 discussion will emphasize the importance of a written contract. The Section 3 discussion will address the various subsections including a change to the Relative Positional Precision measurement requirement. The discussion of Section 4 will explain the purpose of the reordering of the list of research and provide for clarification of those requirements. An important change to the introduction to Section 5 (fieldwork) will be explained.
 - **Credits:** 3.5

8:15AM - 9:45AM.....**CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

- **401: Locating Liberty - The Search for the State House Observatory**.....EMPIRE CD
 - **Presenter:** Todd Babcock, PLS, Babcock Surveying & Mapping, LLC
 - **Description:** This presentation traces the effort to rediscover the site of the 1769 State House Observatory in Philadelphia—where the American Philosophical Society observed the Transit of Venus and where the Declaration of Independence was read aloud publicly for the first time in 1776. In anticipation of the 250th anniversary of that historic event, surveyors are combining archival research, deed analysis, and modern technologies, including GPS and Ground Penetrating Radar, to pinpoint the observatory's original location. This multidisciplinary investigation highlights the enduring importance of metrology, curiosity, and humility in surveying practice and historical preservation as we prepare to commemorate a defining moment in American history.
 - **Credits:** 1.5
- **701: Different Tools. Different Rules. Same Map**.....WILD ROSE B
 - **Presenter:** Joe Livoti II, Director of Geospatial Information & Technology, Union and Snyder Counties
 - **Description:** This workshop explores how GIS and surveying tools can tell different parts of the same story. Participants will examine how data sources, tools, and professional standards vary, but also how GIS and surveying ultimately align on location, accuracy, and purpose. The goal is to improve collaboration by understanding each tool's strengths and rules, and how they map onto shared spatial goals.
 - **Credits:** 1.5

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Monday, January 12 Continued...

10:15AM - 11:45AM.....CONCURRENT SESSIONS

- **402: Historical Survey Maps and Plats.....EMPIRE CD**
 - **Presenter:** Eric Gladhill, PLS, Director of Survey Services, KERAMIDA
 - **Description:** Various survey maps and plats will be reviewed and discussed - from some of the remaining and available ancient maps, to some of the more recent "modern" plats. The aesthetics of the maps and plats will be discussed, as well as the relevancy of the information shown upon them. Surveyors can always learn from the past, and this workshop will emphasize how the drawings from the past can help improve the maps and plats that we produce.
 - **Credits:** 1.5
- **702: About PA's State Geospatial Coordinating Board & our Statewide Mapping Initiatives.....WILD ROSE B**
 - **Presenter:** Scott Drzyzga, Ph.D., GISP, Executive Director, PA State Geospatial Coordinating Board
 - **Description:** Pennsylvania's State Geospatial Coordinating Board is an important venue that allows geospatial professionals from all sectors and all levels of government to discuss geospatial data, policies, standards, trends, and workflows. Established by legislation in 2014 and supported by 9 state agencies, the 'GeoBoard' provides advice and recommendations to the Governor and the citizens of our Commonwealth. The Pennsylvania Society of Land Surveyors has a seat on the GeoBoard. This session will provide a more detailed summary the GeoBoard, outline its major "PA BaseMap 2030" and "3D PA" initiatives, and highlight the places where surveyors and GIS professionals are working together to accomplish common goals.
 - **Credits:** 1.5

11:45AM - 1:00PM.....LUNCH (EXHIBIT HALL)

1:00PM - 4:30PM.....CONCURRENT SESSIONS

- **102: An Actual Boundary Dispute & Resulting Court Case.....AZTEC**
 - **Presenter:** Donald Housley, PLS, Retired, and David Housley, PLS, Harshman CE Group
 - **Description:** This session will present an actual Commonwealth Court case of a boundary dispute between two landowners. The presentation will reveal multiple surveys through the years for both the plaintiff and defendant. In this case, a major question developed about what "a point in the road" in title (or lack thereof) represents and how that in part solved the case, yet also left an important topic for the court to decide. A minimum of 10 surveys were performed on these two properties (2 on parent tract(s), 3 for plaintiff, 5 for defendant) We will discuss how these drawings were classified in the trial. Group discussions with attendees will reveal how these surveys were utilized, and perhaps more importantly, memorialized in title to re-establish the location of the boundary today. Written survey reports will also be discussed. A discussion of the qualification of a "professional" as a witness through the court will take place. Also, we'll discuss what boundary questions still remain and will have to be dealt with by both the plaintiff and the defendant after the boundary dispute case is "resolved."
 - **Credits:** 3.5
- **202: Error Propagation in Laser Scanning.....MAGNOLIA AB**
 - **Presenter:** Dimitrios Bolkas, PhD, Associate Professor, Pennsylvania State University, Wilkes-Barre Campus
 - **Description:** Bring a laptop with Excel on it for this class. One of the major technologies that has revolutionized surveying is laser scanning, which utilizes light detection and ranging (lidar) to rapidly generate 3D point clouds. This workshop explains the main uncertainties in terrestrial laser scanning (TLS) measurements, their propagation in the scanning coordinates, and provides numerical examples, and practical considerations for survey planning with laser scanning technology. As part of the workshop attendees will perform error propagation computations in practical examples. For simplicity, the workshop will show computations for a single point in most examples. A single scan can contain tens to hundreds of millions of points; hence, efficient computation techniques are needed to apply these computations to the entire point cloud. Surveyors attending this workshop will gain an understanding of the main laser scanning error sources, their impact on the laser scanning coordinates, and how to use error propagation theory for survey planning and to satisfy project accuracy requirements.
 - **Credits:** 3.5

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Monday, January 12 Continued...

- **302: Waterway Boundaries**.....EMPIRE AB
 - **Presenter:** Michael F. Brinkash, PLS, President, Brinkash and Associates, Inc.
 - **Description:** In order to Determine the Location of Water Boundaries the Surveyor Should Understand the Following: Definitions Associated with Water Boundaries, Classification of Waterways (Navigable or Non-Navigable), Commerce Clause vs. Title Test (Navigability), Where is the Boundary Line Along Navigable Waters?, Deed Calls and Phrases Along Waterways, Evidence to Determine Water Marks (High & Low), Where is the Boundary Line Along Non-Navigable Waters?, Canals, Riparian Rights, River Story, Different Water Rights, Survey Problem – You be the Judge, Frequently Asked Questions
 - **Credits:** 3.5
- **FULL: 602: Tree and Wood ID (Part 2 of 2)**.....MAGNOLIA CD
 - **Presenter:** Leon Mallow, PS; Leon G. Mallow Surveying, Inc.
 - **Description:** This is a 2-part series. **It is preferred that attendees attend both parts, but that is not required.**
 - Part 2 includes: Introduction of common terms for wood identification, characteristics of some common hardwoods with hands-on identification of provided samples, demonstration of boundary line marking and tips on corner marking, and summary, using blank number forms, to see how many many common wood samples participants can identify using the covered class information.
 - **Credits:** 3.5
- **802: 2026 ALTA/NSPS Land Title Surveys, (Part 2 of 2)**.....CRYSTAL A
 - **Presenter:** Gary Kent, PS, Meridian Land Consulting, LLC
 - **Description:** Attendees can take both parts or just one part. This program will cover Sections 5 through 8 and Table A of the new 2026 Minimum Standard Detail Requirements for ALTA/NSPS Land Title Surveys. For those who may not have attended the Part One of the program, a brief outline of the process of revising the ALTA/NSPS Standards will be provided. The Section 5 (fieldwork) discussion will include an explanation of changes to the introduction of the section together with detailed information on each individual field requirement. The numerous requirements related to the preparation of the plat/map in Section 6 will be probed in detail including substantive new requirements. A brief outline of Sections 7 (certification) and 8 (presentation) will be followed by a detailed explanation of each of the 19 Table A requirements.
 - **Credits:** 3.5

1:00PM – 2:30PM.....**CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

- **403: Expert Witness - Federal Court**.....EMPIRE CD
 - **Presenter:** Eric Gladhill, PLS, Director of Survey Services, KERMIDA
 - **Description:** Appearing as an expert witness can be somewhat intimidating for a surveyor. This workshop will discuss the interesting survey that was completed for the National Park Service and how the boundaries of various tracts of mountain land were determined. The preparation for the trial held in federal court, as well as the actual court proceedings will be presented.
 - **Credits:** 1.5
- **502: Surveyor Communications**.....WILD ROSE A
 - **Presenter:** Scott Reeser, PLS, Director of Surveys, Hunt Engineering Company
 - **Description:** Communication in today's multi-generational workplace can be challenging for everyone. Changes in technology, communication styles, and expectations make getting messages across a challenge. Office closures during COVID noticeably changed professional communication methods and techniques. This session will explore the various means of communication in the workplace. It will provide suggestions for improving communications and identify common technology used for workplace communication.
 - **Credits:** 1.5

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Monday, January 12 Continued...

- **703: GIS Basics for Surveyors**.....WILD ROSE B
 - **Presenter:** Jeffrey Horneman, PLS/GISP, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Pittsburgh District, and Honor Engineering Co.
 - **Description:** The class is designed to enable surveyors to better understand the role of GIS both within Architecture and Engineering (A&E) projects and outside of these traditional standards. Students will gain a grasp of usage and limitations of existing data, and creation of their own GIS datasets to include definitions, sources of data, lessons learned, limitations, and ongoing court cases/legislative updates. Real world empirical data will be used to show actual examples. There will be a question-and-answer period afterwards and information for on-site class availability
 - **Credits:** 1.5

3:00PM – 4:30PM.....CONCURRENT SESSIONS

- **404: Frank Brown's Deadly Dream**.....WILD ROSE B
 - **Presenter:** Don Teter, PS, Assistant Professor of Surveying, Fairmont State University
 - **Description:** In 1889, railroad company president Frank M. Brown, Engineer Robert Brewster Stanton, and several workers embarked upon a railroad survey down the Colorado River to the Gulf of California in Mexico. This was the first major exploration of Grand Canyon since Major John Wesley Powell's expeditions in 1869 and 1871-72. The expedition's six boats soon proved to be fatally inadequate. Abandoning the remaining boats and caching their equipment, they trudged out of Marble Canyon. Returning with much improved boats, they successfully floated and portaged through the Grand Canyon. Eventually abandoning the idea of accurately surveying a complete route, they made a detailed reconnaissance supplemented with hundreds of photographs, several of which are used in the presentation. The rough terrain and raging river limited the amount of measuring done with a chain, and the seminar includes discussion of the triangulation and stadia surveying methods used.
 - **Credits:** 1.5
- **503: Building the Future: Effective Mentoring in Surveying**.....WILD ROSE A
 - **Presenter:** Taylor Shepley, PLS, Technical Sales Consultant, Keystone Precision Solutions
 - **Description:** This workshop is all about how mentoring can support people in the surveying field. Whether you're new or experienced, you'll learn easy ways to build strong mentoring relationships that help everyone learn and grow. We'll cover tips for good communication, how to set up mentoring programs, and ways to get the most out of these connections. The session will also include a review of the NSPS Young Surveyors Network (YSN) Mentoring Program pilot, sharing lessons learned and success stories from this nationwide effort. Join us to see how mentoring helps individuals and the whole surveying community succeed.
 - **Credits:** 1.5
- **704: Survey, Tax Maps and GIS**.....EMPIRE CD
 - **Presenter:** Kevin Zelinsky, GISP, CMS, Tax Map/GIS/CADD Department Manager and Senior Associate, Remington & Vernick Engineers
 - **Description:** The presentation provides insights into various aspects of GIS, surveying, and mapping. It covers topics such as the importance of surveyors in property delineation, the integration of GIS and CAD systems, the utilization of different data types and sources, including DEP resources and LiDAR technology. It also discusses the impact of utility legislation on water systems and stormwater management. The presentation emphasizes the need for accurate map projections, metadata, and the maintenance of GIS databases for effective planning and decision-making. Additionally, it highlights the role of municipal projects, public notification, zoning designations, and the incorporation of GIS data into CAD systems for comprehensive mapping solutions.
 - **Credits:** 1.5

5:00PM - 5:45PM.....RECEPTION & NETWORKING (EXHIBIT HALL)

6:00PM - 8:15PM.....DINNER & EVENING PROGRAM (EXHIBIT HALL)

AWARDS & SWEARING-IN OF OFFICERS/GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

8:15PM - 10:30PM.....MEMBER APPRECIATION PARTY (COCOA BALLROOM)

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Tuesday, January 13

7:00AM – 5:30PM.....REGISTRATION (CONFECTION HALL OFFICE)
 7:00AM - 8:15AM.....BREAKFAST (EXHIBIT HALL)
 7:00AM - 5:45PM.....EXHIBITS OPEN (EXHIBIT HALL)
 8:15AM – 11:45AM.....CONCURRENT SESSIONS

- **FULL: 203: From Drone to CAD...with Carlson Software.....WILD ROSE B**
 - **Presenter:** Michael Hyman, Regional Director, Carlson Software
 - **Description:** This course will discuss and show the growing use of technology around Photographic, as well as LiDAR drone usage, and what to do with the data. We will discuss how drones are being used for a multitude of projects for the Land Surveying professional. We will discuss the workflow and how to use point cloud deliverable as well as orthophotography data into Carlson Software for mapping and deliverables. We will then get into a presentation highlighting industry-leading software from Carlson, producing several deliverables like Field-to-Finish Mapping, Automated Feature Extraction, Moving your 'data' into CAD for Topographic Mapping, as well as point cloud use and clean up from the data collected from drones.
 - **Credits:** 3.5
- **303: Engineering Land Surveys per the Registration Act # 367MAGNOLIA CD**
 - **Presenters:** Donald Housley, PLS, Retired and David Housley, PLS, Harshman CE Group
 - **Description:** This session will explore through discussions the role of a Professional Land Surveyor in performing Engineering Land Surveys as defined by the Engineer, Land Surveyor & Geologist Registration Act # 367 and as amended by Act 87. This shall include discussions on what the Act(s) permits and what a surveyor's limitations are in performing such services. The discussion will cross over into the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code and the implications the two Acts have over one another.
 - **Credits:** 3.5
- **803: Guidelines for Writing a Surveyors Report.....AZTEC**
 - **Presenter:** Gary Kent, PS, Meridian Land Consulting, LLC
 - **Description:** Several states, including Pennsylvania, encourage a Surveyor's Report. Indiana law requires one, and many surveyors are considering the benefits of using Surveyor's Reports, but most have not written one. The concept of a Surveyor's Report has been the topic of a number of published articles and columns over the years. In this program, we will review the purpose of a Surveyor's Report, outline possible and important content, discuss how a Surveyor's Report might be formatted, provide suggestions, and review examples from complex to typical and simple.
 - **Credits:** 3.5

8:15AM – 9:45AM.....CONCURRENT SESSIONS

- **103: Knick v. Township of Scott: How SCOTUS Raised the Importance of the Land SurveyorEMPIRE AB**
 - **Presenter:** Kevin Norris, PLS, Esq., Kevin Scott Norris Law, LLC
 - **Description:** In Knick, the Supreme Court held that a person could bring a federal claim when the government took their land without compensation. This case involved the zoning policies of a township, and those policies rendered a person's land substantially unusable. Thereby causing a taking. You will learn how to spot the disparate impact zoning can have on individual property owners. You will also discover the elevated role the surveyor has in takings cases and how you should help an attorney prepare your client's case.
 - **Credits:** 1.5

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Tuesday, January 13 Continued...

- **FULL: 405: Drawing Fire: Surveying, Mapmaking, & Engineering in the American Civil War.....MAGNOLIA AB**
 - **Presenter:** Don Teter, PS, Assistant Professor, Fairmont State University
 - **Description:** Civil War topographers overcame enormous obstacles in providing the armies with usable maps. They also produced many elegant battle maps, drawing after fire had ceased, but were often in position to "draw fire" themselves. Despite sometimes working in hazardous conditions, the Engineers often quickly achieved remarkable results. In addition to the maps and drawings used in the PowerPoint, several reproductions of period maps will be displayed, including Jed Hotchkiss' famous map of the Shenandoah Valley, drawn at the behest of Stonewall Jackson.
 - **Credits:** 1.5
- **504: State & Federal Legislative Issues Impacting Surveying.....EMPIRE CD**
 - **Presenters:** John "JB" Byrd, Miller-Wenhold Capitol Strategies and Bob Regola, PLS, Regola Consulting
 - **Description:** Impactful policy and the political process coming from Harrisburg and Washington, DC have never been more important to the surveying profession. Learn more about pending national legislation affecting the profession, as well as the process for influencing legislation to assure that the interests of surveyors, and the public health, welfare, and safety are served. At the state level, PSLS is working on many legislative initiatives such as Right-of-Entry, updating the Registration Law, and updating the State Plane Coordinate System Law. PSLS members need to be aware of these efforts and mobilize as needed.
 - **Credits:** 1.5
- **FULL: 603: Navigating UAV's Into Tomorrow: FAA UAS Regulatory Changes.....WILD ROSE A**
 - **Presenter:** Bryan Hazelwood, Chief Pilot/Senior Field Service Manager, Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc.
 - **Description:** During this session, we will quickly discuss the FAA's progress to today's UAS regulations, which will then lead us into our current needs and wants as an industry. The remainder of our time will be spent looking into some potential considerations for slow progress and missed deadlines. We will look towards understanding the risks to the National Airspace System (NAS) each of our needs create and how they approach safely solving these risks. We will end by looking at some ways we can prepare ourselves and our companies for potential upcoming changes in the FAA's next UAS regulation chapter.
 - **Credits:** 1.5
- **CANCELLED: 705: 3D Modeling in GIS.....CRYSTAL A**
 - **Presenter:** Steve Kocsis, GISP, GIS Specialist, Cambria County
 - **Description:** GIS data, 3D components and generation. Attendees will have an opportunity to review several workflows and different applications. This will be an open discussion with the group to better understand what is available and what can work together.
 - **Credits:** 1.5

10:15AM - 11:45AM.....CONCURRENT SESSIONS

- **104: Computer Aided Boundary Resolution (CABR).....EMPIRE CD**
 - **Presenter:** Amy Hopkins, PLS, Owner, Urban Terrain, LLC
 - **Description:** This interactive session will enlighten Surveyors, Party Chiefs, Techs, and Drafters to some tips and tricks to aid them in resolving boundaries with the use of CAD functions. This session is for the master and novice alike. Participants are encouraged to bring a laptop with their preferred drafting software.
 - **Credits:** 1.5

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- **406: The Fairfax Stone and the Deakins Line: How WV Put a Whuppin' on MD.....MAGNOLIA AB**
 - **Presenter:** Don Teter, PS, Assistant Professor, Fairmont State University
 - **Description:** The Fairfax proprietary, or Northern Neck of Virginia, encompassed lands between the Potomac and Rappahannock Rivers, with the Fairfax Stone marking its western boundary, established in 1736. The Deakins line, set around 1788, extended from the Fairfax Stone north to the Mason-Dixon line, but its location was disputed by Maryland, leading to U.S. Supreme Court litigation in the 1890s. The 1910 decision solidified West Virginia's claim over 30 square miles of disputed territory. The principles established in this case, particularly acquiescence, remain relevant for current private boundary retracements. Additionally, the Maryland-instituted Potomac Stone in 1897 aimed to support its claim. Don will conclude with the 2012 discovery of this long-forgotten monument by the West Virginia Affiliate of Surveyors Historical Society.
 - **Credits:** 1.5
- **505: Contract Basics 101.....EMPIRE AB**
 - **Presenters:** Kevin Norris, PLS, Esq., Kevin Scott Norris Law, LLC and Mark Amirault, Equity Partner, Foundation Risk Partners
 - **Description:** During this course, the attendees will take away some keys to open and honest communications with their clients and prospects, along with tips on contract reviews and negotiations. Through review and examination of some onerous client drafted contracts, this open forum course will allow for attendees to discuss ways the surveyor can confidently modify these contracts. This session will provide basic tips on what should be included in a land surveying contract.
 - **Credits:** 1.5
- **604: Ensuring Safe & Effective Utility Access in Confined Spaces: Best Practices & Innovations....WILD ROSE A**
 - **Presenter:** Bryan Hazelwood, Chief Pilot/Senior Field Service Manager, Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc.
 - **Description:** General overview of confined spaces, dangers of confined space, minimum requirements, recommended requirements, procedures and methods for entry, and alternate means of data collection, and innovations.
 - **Credits:** 1.5
- **706: Bridging the Gap: GIS and Surveying.....CRYSTAL A**
 - **Moderator:** Timothy Burch, PLS, Executive Director, NSPS
 - **Panelists:** Joe Livoti II; Jeffrey Horneman, PLS, GISP; Kevin Chappell, PLS, PE; Scott Drzyzga, Ph.D., GISP
 - **Description:** This session explores the evolving relationship between GIS technology and the Land Surveying profession. While concerns exist about GIS infringing on professional surveying, many agencies have successfully integrated GIS into their practices, transforming data collection and analysis. This panel will discuss the synergy between GIS and traditional surveying, covering topics like land surveying definitions, accuracy, data interoperability, and enhanced decision-making in land development and environmental projects. Attendees will gain insights into collaboration strategies and current trends to benefit their communities.
 - **Credits:** 1.5

11:45AM - 1:00PM.....LUNCH (EXHIBIT HALL)

1:00PM - 4:30PM..... CONCURRENT SESSIONS

- **CANCELLED: 105: Forensic Surveyors.....MAGNOLIA CD**
- **204: TBC: Back to Basics - Processing GNSS & Optical Data.....CRYSTAL A**
 - **Presenter:** Richard Johnston, Keystone Precision Solutions
 - **Description:** This course is a guide through the TBC Survey Tab highlighting how to import and process conventional survey data. This includes GNSS, Total Station (Optical) & Digital Level data.
 - **Credits:** 3.5

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Tuesday, January 13 Continued...

- **506: Contracts In Depth.....EMPIRE AB**
 - **Presenters:** Kevin Norris, PLS, Esq., Kevin Scott Norris Law, LLC & Mark Amirault, Equity Partner, Foundation Risk Partners
 - **Description:** In many projects, land surveyors are hired by design firms rather than directly by property owners. While these clients may understand your technical expertise, the relationship can present unique challenges. We invite you to an insightful and interactive course that will help you: Negotiating contracts effectively, advocate for your role throughout the project, and set clear expectations and boundaries for smoother collaboration. A key focus of the session will be on managing client expectations—one of the most powerful drivers of project success. Through open discussion, we'll explore what makes a great client and how surveyors can build lasting relationships that contribute to their firm's long-term growth. The tools are simple, but mastering their execution can make all the difference.
 - **Credits:** 3.5
- **804: Pennsylvania Easements & Rights of Way.....AZTEC**
 - **Presenter:** Gary Kent, PS, Meridian Land Consulting, LLC
 - **Description:** What exactly is an easement? How does it differ from a license and a profit? What is an appurtenant easement versus an easement in gross? How are easements created and what does it take to terminate an easement? What constitutes an easement by necessity or an implied easement? How does adverse possession impact easements? Where do railroad, road and highway rights of way fit in? This program will answer those questions and more as the types, elements and nature of easements, both written (express) and unwritten are explored. The program will include case law regarding easements specific to the state of Pennsylvania.
 - **Credits:** 3.5

1:00PM – 2:30PM.....CONCURRENT SESSIONS

- **304: The Topographic Survey.....EMPIRE CD**
 - **Presenter:** Amy Hopkins, PLS, Owner, Urban Terrain, LLC
 - **Description:** In this interactive session, the land surveyor will walk away with confidence in their ability to read and interpret contours and determine if aerial mapping data was processed properly with regards to breaklines and physical features on the ground. We will discuss both the field and office aspects of topography in an attempt to get everyone working together to create a thoroughly accurate product. Field staff will gain a better understanding of the requirements and procedures that the offices staff goes through when producing a topographic map. Drafters will gain a new respect for the data our crews collect. Practical application exercises to practice drawing contours by hand and learn to interpolate elevations.
 - **Credits:** 1.5
- **407: Measuring Ancient Works: Examining the Accomplishments of the Moundbuilders.....MAGNOLIA AB**
 - **Presenter:** Don Teter, PS, Assistant Professor, Fairmont State University
 - **Description:** Who were the "Moundbuilders," and how did they plan and guide their projects? Ancient earthworks and faint remnants of wooden structures provide evidence of cultures with extensive astronomic and geometric knowledge. The seminar looks at three aspects of measuring the works of the Moundbuilders: How the ancient builders likely planned and laid out their work; The methods and mapping of the "discoverers" during the 1800s; and What modern measurement and mapping can reveal about the builders and the discoverers. Among the sites discussed are the Grave Creek Mound, Mound City at Chillicothe, the Great Serpent Mound, Fort Ancient, and the Cahokia Mounds.
 - **Credits:** 1.5

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- **605: Optimizing Operations with Autonomous Monitoring Solutions.....WILD ROSE A**
 - **Presenters:** Ken Fronheiser, PLS, Keystone Precision Solutions, and Taylor Shepley, Technical Sales Consultant, Keystone Precision Solutions
 - **Description:** How much is that building moving? How often does it move? When does it move? As a surveyor, have you ever been asked that question by a client? Monitoring a building, bridge, foundation, or a wall can be a complicated task, but also reporting the collected data can be just as complicated. During this session, we will take a look at what tools are available to monitor a site not only accurately, but also efficiently. We will conclude this session by looking at customer stories (case studies) and how they implemented different monitoring techniques to determine... What's Moving...
 - **Credits:** 1.5
- **707: Response to Resilience: Unlocking the Power of Imagery, AI, and GeoAI.....MAGNOLIA CD**
 - **Presenter:** Scott Zubek, GISP
 - **Description:** This workshop explores how advanced imagery and emerging GeoAI approaches can strengthen disaster response and long-term resilience. Drawing on Tioga County's recovery after Tropical Storm Debbie, we'll discuss how drone inspection data informed debris removal and erosion mitigation efforts under tight timelines. Participants will examine lessons learned from sequential imagery analysis, the role of emerging GeoAI in enhancing assessments, and practical strategies for applying geospatial technologies to operational challenges. Emphasis is placed on real-world experiences, collaborative problem-solving, and the potential of GeoAI to support more effective decision-making in disaster recovery and mitigation planning.
 - **Credits:** 1.5

3:00PM – 4:30PM.....CONCURRENT SESSIONS

- **305: Private Utility Location for Subsurface Utilities.....EMPIRE CD**
 - **Presenter:** Kate McKinley, Senior Geophysicist and Vice President, THG Geophysics
 - **Description:** An overview of locating and marking subsurface utilities using passive and active electromagnetic methods, and the use and limitations of using ground penetrating radar (GPR) for subsurface utility locations. This course will review utility location products and their associated horizontal and vertical accuracies. The surveyor's role and appropriate references will be reviewed.
 - **Credits:** 1.5
- **408: The Darling Line and Four Corners.....MAGNOLIA AB**
 - **Presenter:** Don Teter, PS, Assistant Professor, Fairmont State University
 - **Description:** Putting the Darling Line in the wrong place, which became right; Then putting it in the right place, which was wrong; And putting it back in the right wrong place; And why the Four Corners monument is in exactly, though not precisely, the right place. A look at the Colorado and New Mexico boundary, first run by Ehud Darling in 1868, and at the famous Four Corners monument, which was placed by Chandler Robbins in 1875. The U.S. Supreme Court's 1925 ruling in favor of holding the somewhat haphazardly run original Darling line meant that Four Corners would also remain in its original location. The legal principles behind the Court's decision, especially acquiescence, are relevant to the retracement of private boundaries today.
 - **Credits:** 1.5
- **606: Mastering UAS Data Processing with Pix4D.....WILD ROSE A**
 - **Presenter:** Taylor Shepley, Technical Sales Consultant, Keystone Precision Solutions
 - **Description:** This workshop will focus on the field-to-finish workflows required to process UAS data using Pix4D products. The session covers best practices for importing data, processing workflows, troubleshooting, delivering high-quality 2D maps, 3D models, and point clouds tailored to surveying, construction, and more.
 - **Credits:** 1.5

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Tuesday, January 13 continued...

- **708: Accessing Data, Services, & Applications on PASDA, PA Mine Map Atlas, & Penn Pilot.....MAGNOLIA CD**
 - **Presenter:** Maurie Kelly, PhD, Director, Pennsylvania Spatial Data Access (PASDA)
 - **Description:** This workshop will focus on the data, services and applications related to Pennsylvania Spatial Data Access. It will include information about the PASDA site and data, map services, and apps such as the PA Imagery Navigator and Lidar Navigator. It will also cover additional apps such as the PA Mine Map Atlas and the historic aerial photo site, Penn Pilot. Data sharing and access initiatives will also be discussed.
 - **Credits:** 1.5

5:00PM - 5:45PM.....RECEPTION & NETWORKING (EXHIBIT HALL)

6:00PM - 8:30PM.....DINNER & EVENING PROGRAM (RAFFLE & AUCTION) (EXHIBIT HALL)

Wednesday, January 14

7:00AM - 11:45AM.....REGISTRATION (CONFECTION HALL OFFICE)

7:00AM - 8:15AM.....BREAKFAST (EXHIBIT HALL)

8:15AM - 11:45AM.....CONCURRENT SESSIONS

- **106: Do I Own What I Possess? or...Hey - Give Me Back My Land!.....AZTEC**
 - **Presenter:** Kevin Norris, PLS, Esq., Kevin Scott Norris Law, LLC
 - **Description:** We are going to take a look at a situation that is becoming more and more concerning: Think of it as the difference between surveying and "putting the math on the ground". A major part of forensic surveying activities today deal with the boundary line disputes between some (sometimes unfortunately, very hostile) neighbors. With the advent of Internet and Google searches, the age-old saying "a little knowledge is a dangerous thing" is becoming more and more of a problem. We are not going to look at the problems that are caused by improper or even fraudulent surveys, but rather the application of differing attitudes toward positioning lines of ownership. For the most part, the title is very clear. You either own the property or you do not. Title is what you own, I will be discussing how you survey to mark it on the ground and it doesn't always agree with the title. This will be a different kind of course since you will have input based on your knowledge, information and belief. What great attributes for a professional land surveyor to have! We will look at a couple of cases where this very thing happened.
 - **Credits:** 3.5
- **205: Using Laser Scanning to its Fullest with Trimble Business Center.....MAGNOLIA CD**
 - **Presenters:** Charles Biretz, AWK Consulting Engineers, and Nicolette Szymanski, AWK Consulting Engineers
 - **Description:** This session covers the following:
 - 1) Understanding Point Clouds: Using Laser Scanning for the SR 849 job. AWK had a historic Bridge replacement client who wanted to keep the replacement the same. AWK scanned this bridge. AWK scanned piping in a water tank. It was faster and less expensive. SR 611 piping in a parking garage. Overhead wires- AWK had a job for SEPTA with overhead wires they scanned, because they couldn't gain right of entry.
 - 2) Explaining why it is better to use Laser Scanning on Roads and Intersections for Safety- Scanning of SR-1 of Paint markings in roads and ADA curb ramp scanning in Philly.
 - 3) Don't be afraid of point cloud data, understand the software and what the tools can do for you. Slice a bridge into parts to pick points- I feared doing bridges. Did I choose the right point under the bridge? I sliced the bridge so I could see all parts and then pick the points.

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Tuesday, January 13 continued...

- **306: Bridge and Structure Surveys**.....MAGNOLIA AB
 - **Presenter:** Stephen Reisinger, PLS, Retired
 - **Description:** Discussion about types of structures, the methods of surveying those structures, and what needs to be surveyed for different types of projects
 - **Credits:** 3.5
- **409: The Jigsaw Puzzle: Pennsylvania and Her Neighbors**.....EMPIRE AB
 - **Presenter:** Don Groesser, PLS, Vice President, CEC
 - **Description:** This session is an overview of how the boundaries of Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, New York, Ohio, and West Virginia were defined, defied, deviated, and determined.
 - **Credits:** 3.5

8:15AM – 9:45AM.....CONCURRENT SESSIONS

- **507: Units of Measure**.....WILD ROSE A
 - **Presenter:** Scott Reeser, PLS, Director of Surveys, Hunt Engineering Company
 - **Description:** This session will take a look at various units of measure. While the focus of the session will be aimed at units encountered by a surveyor in their work, we will discuss other various units. Session discussion will include how units of measure have developed in various periods of history.
 - **Credits:** 1.5
- **607: Stop the Bleed**.....WILD ROSE B
 - **Presenter:** Amy Bollinger, BSN, RN, TCRN, Trauma Education, Outreach, & Injury Prevention Nurse Coordinator, Penn State Hershey Medical Center
 - **Description:** Uncontrolled bleeding is the #1 cause of preventable death from traumatic injury. The more people who know how to control bleeding in an injured citizen, the greater the chance of surviving that injury. A person can bleed to death in a matter of minutes. In this education session, non-medical bystanders will learn three ways to effectively stop life threatening bleeding and save lives: holding pressure, packing a wound, and applying a tourniquet. This session includes a presentation, followed by hands on skills stations. Following this session, the learner will receive a Stop the Bleed certificate.
 - **Credits:** 1.5
- **709: Advanced GIS for Surveyors**.....EMPIRE CD
 - **Presenter:** Jeffrey Horneman, PLS/GISP, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Pittsburgh District, and Honor Engineering Co.
 - **Description:** The class is designed to enable surveyors with a better grasp of GIS to extend those capabilities and take a role of a GIS practitioner. This will be a hands-on workshop for GIS data. Various platforms (Carlson Survey, AutoCAD Map 3D, ArcGIS, Google Earth, etc.) will be used to show how to acquire, insert, and work with GIS datasets. Real world empirical data will be used to show actual examples. Students are welcome to bring their own laptops and GIS software to follow along and troubleshoot. GIS Basics for Surveyors (on Monday) should be taken prior but is NOT a pre-requisite. There will be a question-and-answer period afterwards and information for on-site class availability.
 - **Credits:** 1.5

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Wednesday, January 14 continued...

10:15AM – 11:45AM.....CONCURRENT SESSIONS

- **508: Basis of Bearing.....WILD ROSE A**
 - **Presenter:** Scott Reeser, PLS, Director of Surveys, Hunt Engineering Company
 - **Description:** This session will review the different types of Basis of Bearings used by geomatics professionals. The session will blend discussion on the different methodologies along with a brief review of the mathematical processes used in each method. Potential errors in each methodology will be discussed. Attendees to this session are encouraged to participate in the discussion on the viability of each method as well as share their personal experiences in dealing with different methods. This session is intended to be a review for the experienced surveyor as well as the up-and-coming surveyor.
 - **Credits:** 1.5
- **608: First Aid for Surveyors.....WILD ROSE B**
 - **Presenter:** Amy Bollinger, BSN, RN, TCRN, Trauma Education, Outreach, & Injury Prevention Nurse Coordinator, Penn State Hershey Medical Center
 - **Description:** This presentation will describe common mechanisms of injury associated with land surveying. In addition, the presentation will include basic first aid and basic trauma care concepts, as well as ways to intervene while awaiting first responders to arrive on scene. A case study will be included.
 - **Credits:** 1.5
- **710: GIS for Property Research: Less Guesswork, More Ground Truth.....EMPIRE CD**
 - **Presenter:** Joe Livoti II, Director of Geospatial Information & Technology, Union and Snyder Counties
 - **Description:** Property research doesn't have to be tedious or imprecise. This workshop shows surveyors how to use GIS to access valuable context, from historical records and aerial imagery to parcel overlays and topographic layers. The focus is on practical tools that reduce guesswork, enhance due diligence, and connect the field to a broader spatial narrative.
 - **Credits:** 1.5

11:45AM.....ADJOURNMENT

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2026

SURVEYORS'
Conference

GUEST PROGRAM

Monday, January 12, 2026

9:00am - 10:30am.....Breakfast at hotel
10:30am - 11:30am.....Games at hotel
11:45am - 1:00pm.....Lunch at hotel
1:40pm.....Meet in hotel lobby for Splat Art Studio - Mosaic Making
2:00pm - 3:30pm.....Splat Art Studio - Mosaic Making
• For more information visit: www.splatfamilyart.com
3:45pm.....Return to hotel
5:00pm - 10:30pm.....Reception, Dinner, Evening Program, Member Appreciation Party

Tuesday, January 13, 2026

8:30am - 9:30am.....Breakfast at hotel
9:30am - 10:30am.....Candle making at hotel
10:45am.....Meet in hotel lobby for Hershey History Center Tour & Lunch Out
11:00am - 12:00pm.....Hershey History Center Tour
• For more information visit: www.hersheyhistory.org
12:15pm - 1:30pm.....Lunch out at Savory Cafe
(Note: you must be going on the History Center Tour to attend the lunch out)
1:45pm.....Return to hotel
5:00pm - 8:30pm.....Reception, Dinner, Evening Program

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2026

SURVEYORS' Conference

Exhibit Hall is located in the White/Blue room of the Great American Hall on the main level

Tower Level

Main Level

KEY	
	Business Center
	Restrooms
	Telephone
	ATM



Confection Hall Level

