



The Cornerpost

Journal of the Vermont Society of Land Surveyors

Volume 45, Number 3 | Winter 2014

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The Cornerpost

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Patricia S. Kules, Director

EDITOR

David A. Mann, L.S.
(603) 357-5904
mannlls@ne.rr.com

SUBMITTING MATERIALS

Direct correspondence or any materials for submission to:
Kelly Collar, Administrator
P.O. Box 248
Montpelier, VT 05601-0248
kelly@vsls.org

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About The Cornerpost

The Cornerpost is the official publication of the Vermont Society of Land Surveyors. It is published three times each year for the betterment of the surveying profession. The society assumes no responsibility for statements or opinions made or implied by the editor or any contributors. The editor welcomes contributions for publication.

The Cornerpost is mailed to members and to similar organizations on a complimentary basis. Articles may be reprinted with due credit, unless written permission of the author is required. The VSLS is affiliated with the National Society of Professional Surveyors.

On The Cover: The picturesque Sheraton Burlington Conference Center was the setting for the VSLS's 50th and NESS's 4th anniversary conference in September. Also shown on the cover: Vaughn Button and Harris Abbott at the conference.

Our New Look: You may have noticed we've updated *The Cornerpost* to add a splash of color. Keep your eyes open for more changes to our website and email communications.

Special thanks to the following individuals for providing all the photos for this issue of *The Cornerpost*: Barb Cormier (NHLSA), Kathy Kurland (CALS), Toni Mann, Meg Shields and Kelly Collar.



President's Message

BY BRADFORD HOLDEN, L.S., VSLs PRESIDENT

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE opened with Bill Creamer playing the bagpipes as he led Leroy Carlson, the first president of the society, Vaughn Button, our guests from the Northeastern States and Canada and me into the exhibit hall. After a brief opening, pledging our allegiance to the flag and recognizing our charter members and those members no longer with us, the conference was officially underway. We were very pleased with the attendance for the opening ceremony as well as the overall attendance throughout the three days. There was a great line-up of speakers as well as a diverse selection of topics to choose from.

I would like to thank our sustaining members as well as the other companies that joined us and displayed their wares in the exhibit hall. Many of the vendors made generous donations to our silent and live auctions. With their donations and the gracious help from our guests and membership, we were able to raise nearly \$5,000 for the scholarship funds. I would also like to recognize the program committee for all the hard work that went into collecting, organizing and rotating the many auction items over the entire three days. A lot of work happens behind the scenes, not only during the event but for months prior, and it showed as a result. Thanks to Bill Kules for being our program chair, and we wish him well on his new adventures in life.

The University of Vermont Special Collections library loaned us its John Johnson display, which included scanned images of Johnson's work. Everyone enjoyed the display, and it was an excellent addition to the conference.

Thursday night's dinner was well attended. Curt Sumner, Executive Director of the National Society of Professional Surveyors, presented VSLs with a beautiful plaque commemorating the society's 50th anniversary. It was then the opportune time to recognize Meg Shields. Amongst our colleagues and friends from New York, the place where Meg started, we thanked her for all the effort she put into getting the society where it is today. Meg put her all into this last event and what a wonderful way to sail off into the sunset. We also welcomed Kelly Collar as our new Administrator. It was great to have some transitional time with both Meg and Kelly. After dinner we were all very entertained by the one and only Rusty DeWees. Acting, storytelling, singing and just being his usual goofball self. He kept us all laughing for nearly two hours.

It was great to reconnect with a few people that we haven't seen in a long time. Please don't be such strangers, and we'll see you in December at the roundtables. The registration for the December meeting is included in this edition of *The Cornerpost*. 🇺🇸

Thanks,

Brad



Brad Holden, far right, cuts the ribbon before leading the procession into VSLs's 50th annual conference. Also pictured, from left to right, Greg Copeland (MSLS); first VSLs president Roy Carlson; Vaughn Button; and bagpiper Bill Creamer.



David Mann teaches "The History of Surveying" during the fall conference.

Letter From the Editor

» BY DAVID MANN, L.S.

THE SUMMER IS FADING into memory. The warm beach weather has moved south until further notice. All the Snow Bird folks will soon migrate south with the geese. It has been a busy summer survey season. Calls were on the increase through the spring and continued through the summer.

We have been bidding each job as though it might be the last one, for the last several years. The bids in this economy do not leave a lot of meat on the bone if some issue arises. It is difficult to renegotiate the scope of work after the project has begun. Often, though, the true scope of work is not known until you're well into the project. Some folks insist that they are able to work on an hourly basis and don't provide an estimate for their services. I have not had much luck, in my little corner of the world, getting prospective clients to give me a blank check for my services.

A couple weeks, ago an engineer asked me to provide an estimate for doing an as-built survey for a project we had worked on in 2008. The owner hired a lowball contractor who built the project by the seat of his pants. We don't think the plans ever left his truck. We know that nothing was built as designed. The engineer met with the owner and told him that he needed an as-built survey to design a new addition. The owner told him to get the survey done. The engineer told me to go ahead with the survey. A week later, I got a call from the engineer asking if I had started yet? Of course, with my current work load, I hadn't. He said that the company's bean counter canceled the survey. The bean counter told the engineer he had to design the project based on the original site plan. Such is the life and times of surveying. Luckily, I was happy to not have the job; it has been over eight years since I had that experience.



Hopefully the robust economic activity will continue, at least at a level a bit more profitable. I am at a point where we could use another employee to get the work done; however, I've thought this before and the work load subsided back into the doldrums. I don't dare put anyone else on payroll for fear that I would just need to lay them off in a few weeks. Perhaps this is the problem with the economy: it just needs a little faith. 🍀

David

P.S. My job for the engineer is back on again.

Celebrating the
VSL 50th & NESS IV

Scenes *from the* Fall Conference





▲ Top row, from left: Terry Eldredge and Bob Smith (NHLA); Christopher Reed at the live auction; Brad Holden, Malcolm Shaw (NYSAPLS past president), and Gary Thompson. Middle row, from left: official bagpiper Bill Creamer; Scott Taylor and Nate Yager at the silent auction; Doug Henson, Richard Brooks, and Patricia Pauli Brooks. Bottom photo: a full house during Kristopher Kline's class, "What Did You Really Mean?"

◀ Opposite page: David Coleman, David Rose, and Alexandra Fogg, VELCO.

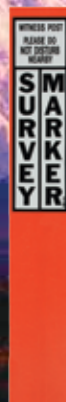
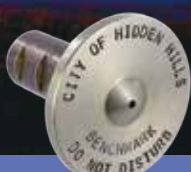


At left, Wayne Harrison, past president of NSPS, at the registration table. ▲ Top left: Barb Cormier (NHLA) and Laura Clark, Cardno. Top right, Ian Jewkes and Ryan Ward. Bottom left: Larry Swanson, Gary Hamilton and Bob Holt. Bottom right, Malcolm Shaw (NYSAPLS), Dasha Page (AOLS), and Curt Sumner (NSPS).

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Passing the Torch

At the end of the fall conference, and after a meeting of the North East Surveying Societies, President Brad Holden passed the NESS torch to CALS President David Palmberg. Connecticut will host the next NESS Conference in 2017, during its own 50th anniversary celebration.

In the photo, Brad stands with the NESS state presidents: from left: Bob Smith (NHLSA); David Palmberg (CALS); Joe Malinowski (NYSAPLS); Brad; Ed O'Brien (RISPLS); Greg Copeland (MSLS); and Richard Gosselin, (MALSCE).



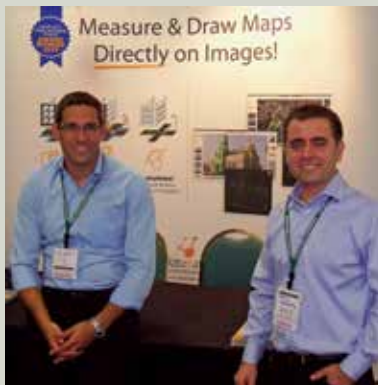
Clockwise from top left: Bill Kules, Tim Kowan and Keith Van Iderstine talk with speaker Kris Kline; Terry Eldredge and Gayle Burchard; an exhibit of equipment; Harris Abbott, Tim Rockwood and Brad Beeler; and comedian Rusty Dewees during his evening show.

Special Thanks to Our Exhibitors

- Alfred State College
- Berntsen International
- Cadnet Services
- Cardno
- Carlson Software
- Connecticut Association of Land Surveyors
- Datumate
- ESRI
- Geomatics Society of New England
- Insure Care Broker
- Keystone Precision Instruments
- Maine Technical Source
- New Hampshire Land Surveyors Association
- Paul Smith's College
- Repro VT
- Spiller's
- Subsurface Utility Imaging
- SUNY ESF Ranger School
- VELCO
- Waypoint Technology Group
- Wentworth Institute of Technology



▲ Sandy Sears and Doug Churchill, Keystone



▲ Top left: Ilan Solel and Haim Zelikovsky, Datumate. Top right: Tim Klaben, Berntsen. Bottom: Daniel Marvin with Russ Desjardins (center) and Cody Asselin, Spiller's.

▲ Top: Gary Rosen, Carlson Software, and Donny Sosa, Esri. Bottom left: CALS President David Palmberg (center) chats with others at the CALS table. Bottom right, Greg Hunt and Harry Schultz, Waypoint Technology.

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An in-depth class on boundary law in both public lands and metes and bounds states. It has proven helpful in mastering boundary law issues for the FS examination.

Instructors: Jay Doody, PLS & PE (CT) and Jason Racette PLS (CT, MA, ME), who has 12 years of experience with BLM.

Henson Wins Pacing Contest

Congratulations to Doug Henson, who won this year's pacing contest at the fall conference. Doug's measurements in the parking lot topped the list of nearly two dozen pacers. The top five entrants are shown below.



Pacer Name	Distance A-B	Distance B-C	Distance C-A	Total
	42.12	188.26	194.90	425.28
Doug Henson	43.26	192.45	187.24	422.95
Bill Creamer	41.80	186.30	199.90	428.00
Bob Holt	42.20	189.70	196.50	428.40
Allan Hopkins	40.00	190.00	192.00	422.00
Brad Herring	43.00	191.00	198.00	432.00

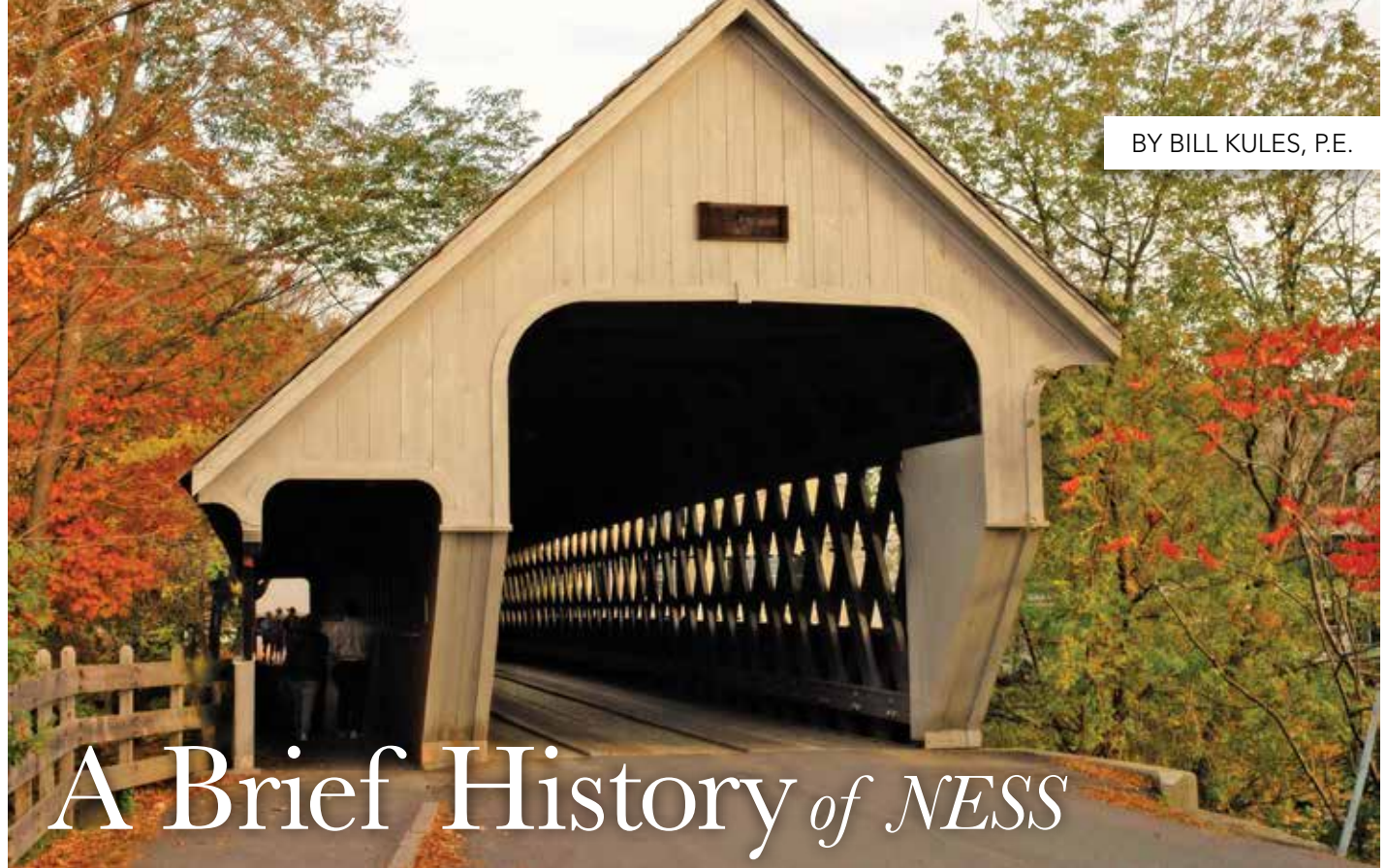
Meg Shields Retires After 12 Years with VSLS

After spending more than a decade with VSLS and two decades with NYSAPLS, Meg Shields has finally hung up her administrator's cap for good. Organizing the amazing fall conference was her last hurrah and a fitting example of all she has done for VSLS over the years.

Pictured here: top, Meg poses with the other state executives; from left, Bruce Bourgoine (MSLS), Barb Cormier (NHLA), Rich Keenan (MALSCE), Kathy Kurland (CALS), and Kelly Collar, the new VSLS administrator. Bottom left, VSLS President Brad Holden presents Meg with a gift during the conference dinner. Bottom right, Judi Button consoles Meg about her impending retirement.

We wish Meg all the best with her new adventures. 🌍





A Brief History of NESS

North East Surveying Societies is the brainstorm of John Libby, PLS, Rhode Island. In 2008, the Rhode Island Society of Land Surveyors, through the diligent efforts of John, put on a survey conference in central Massachusetts for all the New England States including New York.

The intent of the conference was to begin a period of communication among the colonial states in which common issues could be discussed in hopes of providing more uniform regulations throughout the neighboring states that might allow for some license transportability and possibly attract more surveyors in the profession. The following is the incentive for the Memorandum of Agreement presented at that meeting:

» Surveyors provide a vital function to the orderly development and growth of our local and statewide communities. Historically, surveyors have functioned as individuals generally focusing on their local environs. But times have changed and our “local” environs have been growing with considerable overlap with our neighboring communities as well as neighboring states.

» Surveyors cannot and should not think of just their local communities any more. They need to be aware of the impact their local boundary will have on their neighbor. In the days of GIS and GPS, the overlap of our services can create conflicting or questionable issues. Ideally if everything was standardized it would make our jobs easier and cost affordable; i.e., a power pole is a power pole, not an electric or telephone pole. This detailed standardization is not the intent of NESS. We are looking at the broader scope of our profession. It is to develop some cohesion in regulations, education, experience and licensure for the northeast states. We are all colonial states, and the basis of most of our boundaries is similar.

» It is the intent of NESS to start licensure boards, educators and regulators discussing what changes

could be made to enhance the survey profession, streamline the licensure process and simplify the interstate regulations.

The Memorandum of Agreement was circulated to all the state societies, and eventually the societies agreed to it, voted on it and signed it through their respective presidents. The original Memorandum is posted on the VSLS website, and signed copies are securely filed in the respective society papers. The Mission Statement shown here was prepared and approved in September 2012. 🌐

NESS MISSION STATEMENT

To nurture the Land Survey Profession by enriching, educating and empowering surveyors throughout the northeastern United States. The member societies will identify issues of mutual interest and work cooperatively to address these issues to foster the betterment of the surveying profession.

Meeting Minutes

Vermont Society of Land Surveyors
General Membership Meeting
September 12, 2014
Sheraton Conference Center, Burlington, Vermont

Present: Brad Holden, Ryan Cloutier, Keith Van Iderstine, Kelly Collar, Mark Day, Pete Chase

11:15 AM meeting called to order.

Secretary's report:

Motion to accept the minutes from the general membership meeting on April 11, 2014, seconded and passed.

Treasurer's report:

Accepted treasurer's report prepared August 31, 2014: VSLs Net Income equals \$19,493.90 and Gross Net Worth equals \$85,445.33. Income from membership dues is at 100% of the budget!

Administrative Secretary's Report:

It was discussed to publish *The Cornerpost* on-line and in color print at no additional cost. Members would have the choice to go paperless.

New Business:

Brad has been working with UVM in hopes of developing a partnership to scan old survey plats and records. Brad also talked about access to files already scanned. One option would be for a member to provide a hard drive.

The Plat Law was discussed and the need for rules and standards for recording Plats electronically. It might also be time to bump up the fine for the removal of survey monuments.

Motion to adjourn: 12:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted, Ryan R. Cloutier, Secretary

Slate of Officers 2015

- Bradford Holden, L.S., *President*
- Mark Day, L.S., *Vice President*
- Ryan R. Cloutier, L.S., *Secretary*
- Keith Van Iderstine, L.S., *Treasurer*
- Gayle Burchard, L.S., *Director*
- Ian A. Jewkes, L.S., *Director*
- Lisa Ginett, L.S., *Director*

VSLs Annual Membership Meeting

Dec. 19, 2014 at 1 p.m.
Capitol Plaza, Montpelier

To Adopt the Proposed 2015 Budget

INCOME

Cornerpost	\$600.00
Executive Committee	\$400.00
Membership	\$18,555.00
Program	\$35,000.00
Publications	\$200.00
Public Relations	\$100.00
Member Directed Funds	\$0.00
Carry Forward	\$0.00
Transfer from Savings	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$54,855.00

EXPENSE

Cornerpost	\$4,500.00
Executive Committee	\$20,070.00
NSPS Director	\$2,100.00
Legislative	\$350.00
Membership	\$350.00
Program	\$20,400.00
Publications	\$265.00
Public Relations (web)	\$2,000.00
NSPS Dues	\$3,320.00
President Expenses	\$1,500.00
Preservation	\$0.00
Special Projects	\$0.00
Member Directed Funds	\$0.00
Capital Investment	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$54,855.00

profit/(loss) \$0.00



The seminar will be held at Vermont Tech's Red Schoolhouse, shown above.


Exam Writing Seminar Scheduled for February

» BY JOE FLYNN, L.S.

The Vermont Society of Land Surveyors is hosting an Exam Writing seminar on February 27, 2015 at Vermont Technical College.

The seminar will cover the basics of writing quality exam questions, the current status of how the exam is administered, and the future of the exam and NCEES involvement with testing. After this, attendees will break into groups for the actual writing of questions.

Only currently licensed Vermont land surveyors will be allowed to attend, and registration is limited to 40 people. Those attending will need to sign an affidavit in regard to confidentiality.

Continuing Education Credits will be offered for attendance. Registration information will be made available as we move closer to the date. 

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December Roundtables

Friday, Dec.19 • Capitol Plaza Hotel & Conference Center • Montpelier, Vt.



PROGRAM SCHEDULE

- 7:15 AM** Registration & Continental Breakfast
8:00 AM Roundtable Discussions
12:00 PM Lunch
1:00 PM VSLs Annual Business Meeting
2:30 PM Bakersfield/Fairfield Town Line Presentation and Open Forum
4:30 PM Concluding Remarks

FEE FOR REGISTRATION	Through Nov. 30	After Nov. 30
Member	\$115.00	\$140.00
Life Member	\$86.25	\$105.00
Non-member	\$140.00	\$165.00
Non-member Staff Attending w/Member	\$86.25	\$105.00

Payment will be refunded in full if cancellation is received at least 72 hours prior to the event. Substitutions are allowed.



This event has been approved for 6 PDH credits by the Vermont Board of Land Surveyors.

MORNING ROUNDTABLES

The roundtable discussions will focus on topics including:

- Unlicensed Practice
- NCEES and Land Surveyor Board issues
- Vermont Center for Geographic Information
- National Geodetic Survey
- Vermont Plat Law
- National Society of Professional Surveyors
- Large Scale Construction Layout
- Business Practices
- Licensure Examination question ideas

Each table will have a moderator to guide the discussions and present conclusions reached during the recap. Each "round" will consist of 50-55 minutes of discussion and then each participant should change to a different topic.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Business Meeting will include a recap of the roundtable discussions, the 2015 budget vote, and the election of VSLs Officers.

AFTERNOON PRESENTATION

Peter Cross, L.S., P.E., will provide information specifically pertaining to the Bakersfield/Fairfield Town Line, the research involved, and issues discovered. This will provide the background for an open forum discussion regarding town boundaries and the roles which surveyors, the state and GIS practitioners all play in the resurvey of town boundaries. The presentation will help us gain a better understanding of how these professionals should interact.



REGISTRATION (complete this form and mail with your payment, or register online at www.vsls.org)

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Please return form with payment to: VSLs, Box 248, Montpelier, VT 05601-0248. Questions? kelly@vsls.org

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