



Journal of the Vermont Society of Land Surveyors  
Volume 52, Number 3 | Fall 2021

# The Cornerpost

## PAINTING LINES IN THE NORTH WOODS

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## The Cornerpost

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## SEND IN YOUR NEWS

The success of *The Cornerpost* depends on all of our members. Please consider making a contribution to an upcoming issue. Send your articles, news and photos to [kelly@vsls.org](mailto:kelly@vsls.org). Everything is welcome that may be of interest to your fellow surveying professionals.



## ON THE COVER

This issue's cover photo comes from Kevin LaRose, L.S., who sent in these photos from a survey on Lake Dunmore. "We were trying to locate a bit of shoreline," he explains, "so we set up on the deck as we couldn't set up on a boat."

If you see any interesting scenes in your travels, or even everyday scenes that show the life of a surveyor, please snap a shot and send it to [kelly@vsls.org](mailto:kelly@vsls.org).

## President's Corner

**T**he changing of the seasons is reminding me of how much I have to do before the winter weather sets in. It feels a little overwhelming to be honest. With the workload that our profession has seen this year, we are left very little time to accomplish all the other things in our lives. Good problem, I guess!

It was a pleasure to see so many faces at the Fall Conference that I haven't seen in quite a while. And what was great was that there were so many new faces. It seemed that the conference was well attended by young surveyors. Thank you to those of you who took the time to attend, and I also thank those employers who allowed their staff the time to do so.

A quick takeaway from the conference: It seems that the more you hear and learn about roads and rights of ways, the muddier the topic gets. Listening to Paul Gillies talk about some of his recent experiences makes me ponder what I think I know about them. Some of the new precedents seem to do away with previous case law that many of us have relied on for a very long time. This job never gets boring, does it?!

As my term as president of the VSLs winds down, I am left with mixed emotions. I truly enjoy being involved, albeit to

a limited degree from time to time. However, I look forward to welcoming some renewed energy to the society and hopefully some new ideas on what we can do to promote and support our wonderful profession. I personally will be looking for the next opportunity to get involved and hopefully make a difference in some way.

I cannot close out these thoughts without mentioning how helpful (and patient) Kelly has been with me over the last four years. Thank you, Kelly! And I hope you'll all join me in welcoming our new president, who begins as of the December Round Tables: Randy Otis, L.S. Best of luck, Randy! As for the rest of you, I hope to see you on Friday, Dec. 17 at the Capitol Plaza. 🇺🇸



Sincerely,

*Mark Day*

VSLs PRESIDENT



### Kudos...



The VSLs office recently received a note from a very happy client of Mark, who asked that we share his kudos. This is the abridged version:

"I recently had a difficult land survey done by Mark Day, L.S. Mark is a knowledgeable, courteous, and 'user friendly' guy, and we were pleased not only with his survey work but his ability to make a difficult situation look easy, despite the mess of chicken wire, questionable past-placed survey points and misplaced fencing he had to contend with. Mark and his firm will accept nothing except what all of the ground factors and town records point towards that not only creates a readable plat but a document that withstands the test of time. To have him as the 'front-man' of VSLs says a lot about the aspirations, direction and goals of your very worthy organization."

— GEOFFREY R. MACDONALD

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BY GAYLE BURCHARD, VERMONT NSPS DIRECTOR

# NSPS News:

## a retirement, an anniversary, and a practical focus on the future

In September, the National Society of Professional Surveyors had its first in-person meeting since fall 2019 in Oak Brook, Illinois. It was well attended, although some people were still not able to attend in person due to company policies regarding COVID.

aware of the surveying profession, and also trying to attract more people to the profession. Because the best way to reach young people

is through social media, we created a Social Media Subcommittee, with the Young Surveyors Network in charge.

We also discussed our social media policy and whether we need to have a full- or part-time person handling social media.

On Friday morning, I attended the Certified Flood Surveyor Committee. We discussed how FEMA is now accepting LiDAR-generated elevations for LOMAs and elevation certificates. They do have a buffer if accepting LiDAR, but as surveyors we don't feel that this is accurate enough and plan to reach out to FEMA about this issue. Also of concern is that non-licensed people are submitting LOMAs, and FEMA is accepting them.

The Political Action Committee (PAC) met and is doing very well. I became a member of the Jefferson Club and encourage everyone to donate to the PAC, since there are many bills that directly or indirectly affect our profession. JB, our lobbyist, does a great job making sure that we are heard on Capitol Hill.

Our next meeting will be in April in Arlington, VA. We will hopefully be able to do a day on The Hill in person this coming year.

Don't forget about all the benefits you get as members of NSPS. 🌐



Curt Sumner will be retiring from NSPS at the end of this year, after serving as its executive director for the past 23 years.

➡ See the story on page 8.

This year is NSPS's 40th Anniversary, so the meeting was a little more festive than our normal meetings. There was a dinner cruise on the Chicago River on Thursday night and a Friday night dinner that celebrated the retirement of Curt Sumner, NSPS's longtime executive director. Curt has been a wonderful administrator, guiding NSPS through some difficult times, and the organization has really grown under his leadership. The Executive Committee is interviewing two candidates to replace Curt, and we will hopefully have a new director by the beginning of 2022.

I'm chair of the Public Relations committee, and we met on Thursday morning. The first item discussed was whether NSPS should help with the restoration of the mural honoring Andrew Ellicott and Benjamin Banneker, which is being dedicated to the memory of Chas Langelan, a Maryland surveyor who was extremely active in the profession. The committee decided to donate \$1,000 from the PR budget. We would also like to have the donation be a PR event, taking a photo of the check presentation and posting it on the NSPS Facebook page and other social media.

The second item discussed was our goal of focusing on making the general public more

“This year is NSPS’s 40th anniversary, so the meeting was a little more festive than our normal meetings. There was a dinner cruise on the Chicago River on Thursday night and a Friday night dinner that celebrated the retirement of Curt Sumner, NSPS’s longtime executive director.”



1) Tim Burch, NSPS president-elect, gives a presidential citation and honorary NSPS membership to Richard Bales, an Illinois attorney who has been instrumental in the ALTA/NSPS Land Title Survey Standards for almost 30 years. 2) John Chagnon, New Hampshire NSPS director, during the dinner cruise. 3) Gayle Burchard receives the New England Surveying Societies torch from Donald Dostie, president of the Maine Society of Land Surveyors. 4) Richard Vannozzi, UMaine surveying professor and NSPS student competition chair.



# Stepping Down

Surveyors Sorry to See  
NSPS Executive Director  
Curt Sumner Retire

Reprinted with permission from *xyHt Magazine*  
Article by Jeff Thoreson, Editor in Chief

AS WORD filters throughout the surveying community that National Society of Professional Surveyors executive director Curt Sumner is stepping down, accolades for the job he's done over more than two decades in the position come pouring in.

"Curt has been a friend and colleague for more than 30 years and client for nearly a decade. We've shared many good times, mourned the death of mutual friends together, and worked as a team to advance and promote the profession of surveying," said John Palatiello, partner at Miller/Wenhold Capitol Strategies. "His impact on NSPS and surveying will be lasting. I've always enjoyed his good nature and folksy Southwest Virginia persona. I hope he continues to be involved in the profession, but his everyday advocacy will be missed."

Sumner, 73, has been a licensed surveyor for more than 40 years. He began his service to the broader surveying community with the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping (ACSM). He served a term as



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“His impact on NSPS and surveying will be lasting. I’ve always enjoyed his good nature and folksy Southwest Virginia persona. I hope he continues to be involved in the profession, but his everyday advocacy will be missed.”

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— JOHN PALATIELLO, PARTNER AT MILLER-WENHOLD CAPITOL STRATEGIES

president of NSPS in 1997-98, and as his term was ending he was asked to fill in for the executive director of ACSM, which eventually merged with NSPS.

So for 23 years, Sumner has led the organization, guiding it through a time of technical evolution with that down-home country charm Palatiello referenced.

“Curt has been an amazing executive director, and it’s clear he loves the surveying profession and the people who are in it,” said Shaheed Smith, a surveyor based near Philadelphia. “The hard work and dedication that Curt has put into serving the interests of the surveying community at large cannot be overstated. We are a stronger and more unified national community because of his leadership, and I am grateful to have gotten to know him a little over the last decade.”

Sumner was born and raised in rural southwestern Virginia. He played high school football with eventual Virginia Tech legendary coach Frank Beamer. He lives outside of Washington, D.C., but plans to return to his roots in retirement. He and his wife are building a house where they can be close to his children, grandchildren, and now great grandchildren.

“I started working as executive director, and I got to know more and more people. I soon learned that doing this job was something I really wanted to do,” Sumner said in a video message posted on social media to announce his retirement. “I felt it was important to give back to my profession, and so I began to do the job and it’s just been an unbelievable ride.”

Sumner credits surveyors themselves with growing NSPS during his time of leadership. “NSPS is like in no other organization I’ve been involved in. Part of that is because everybody has a common goal and that is to enhance our standing as a professional organization,” he said.

NSPS has initiated the process of finding a replacement for Sumner, something many feel won’t be an easy task. Sumner feels strongly that the next executive director, like him, should be a surveyor.

“I have never met Curt in person but listening to the stories he has told about the way things used to be done compared to the way things are done nowadays, has always been compelling to me,” said William Wing, owner of Infinity Land Surveying in Arizona. “I think it’s in the way he conveys his messages, you know, he just has that calming voice.

“That voice and calming attitude just makes you feel like he could be your uncle or a longtime friend, someone you could call to ask a question that other people might think is dumb. He would always answer with a thought-provoking example and never leave you hanging.”

Maybe it’s Sumner’s country charm that has served him well as a negotiator, mediator, and leader at NSPS. Whatever formula created his success, it’s almost impossible to find any-one who says anything negative about him.

“Curt Sumner has provided leadership and representation for the surveying profession at the national level for many decades,” said Scott Martin, a surveyor who serves as California Geodetic Coordinator. “He is the consummate country gentleman and professional.

“One of the highlights of my career was being asked by Curt to join him on the NSPS Radio Hour in 2016. Unfortunately, I also had to follow him as a presenter at the 2019 NGS Geospatial Summit. Talk about a tough act to follow. Our profession has benefitted greatly from his tireless efforts and will for decades to come. I wish him only the best as he returns to his beloved family and community. Thank you very much, sir.” 🇺🇸



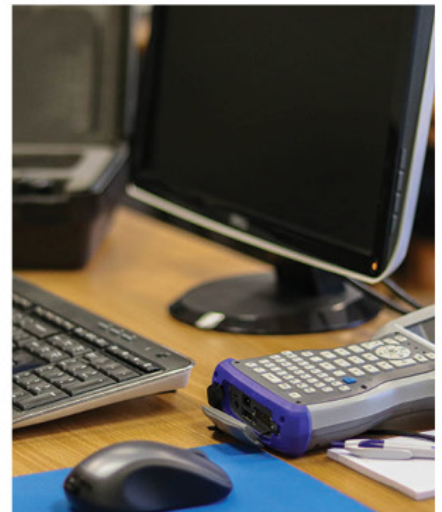
Curt Sumner in a rare moment of rest. At left, Curt speaks at an event in March of 2019.



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# ODE TO A GEODESIST

*VSLs member pays tribute to inspirational college professor*

**W**HEN I FIRST MET DR. FAREED NADER IN 2002, I DIDN'T THINK MUCH OF HIM. He was a standard nerdy professor. A "slacks with tennis shoes" kind of guy. He was soft spoken and obviously very smart. I got to know him better over the following few years, and when I caught word of his passing 19 years later, I felt compelled to send him off with a remembrance in my local land surveying journal, and here we are.

For 30 years, Dr. Nader taught classes in the Geomatics Engineering program at the California State University in Fresno. That is where I got to know and appreciate him. His personal story was compelling: he was the son of Lebanese immigrants, born in Arizona in 1938. He was brilliant and highly qualified to teach us, having earned a B.A. and Master's Degree in Civil Engineering from Arizona State University and a PhD in Surveying and Mapping from Purdue University.

Dr. Nader made the dry subject of Geodesy as interesting and exciting as anyone possibly could. Geodesy was his strong suit. He wove history and exciting tales into his teachings. After all, most early geodesists were explorers, adventurers and sometimes heretics. Early geodesists were using primitive tools to accurately measure the Earth, and at great personal peril.

Dr. Nader was fascinated by their methods and procedures for measuring the Earth, and his excitement was contagious. He taught us of Eratosthenes, the Greek mathematician who calculated the circumference of the Earth over 2000 years ago. Eratosthenes measured the angular difference between two shadows cast, about 500 miles apart, on the summer solstice. He hired a professional surveyor to accurately pace the 500 miles between said shadow locations, for his calculations. I assume the surveyors' legs were properly calibrated beforehand. I'm sure they were, since Dr. Nader taught us that professional surveyors back then were specifically trained to walk long distances with equal length steps and were regularly hired for that specific skill. Not much has changed there.

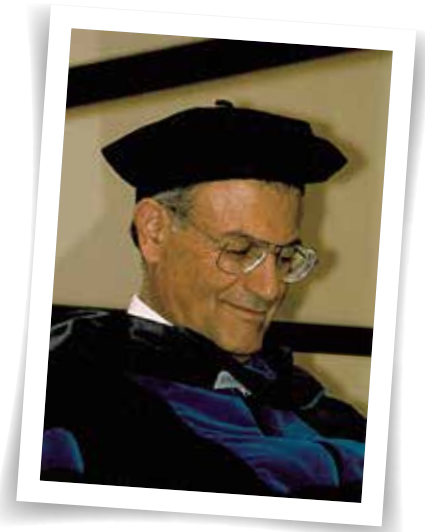
We learned of the academic battle between the French and British at the end of the 16th century, to prove whether the Earth was prolate (egg shaped) or oblate (flattened at the poles). To prove their assertions, worldwide expeditions were launched. Surveyors were dispatched to Peru, Sweden and Finland to take measurements in giant triangulation networks. As it turns out, the English were correct, the Earth is actually an oblate spheroid (take that King Louis XIV!). We were instructed to correct anyone who told us the Earth is simply round, thank you Dr. Nader.

When not teaching complex coordinate conversion calculations and writing endless geodetic equations on the board, he would give us a history lesson on the names of our celestial neighbors and origins of geodesy terms. I was interested to find out the enormous contributions the Arabic world made to the early sciences of Astronomy and Geodesy. I'm sure Dr. Nader was excited to share the Arabic origins and contributions given his Lebanese heritage, and I appreciated hearing it. As it turns out, many well-known star names and astronomic/geodetic terms are in Arabic, such as Betelgeuse, Deneb, Aldebaran, nadir, azimuth and alidade. Dr. Nader advised us to use these little facts to impress our partners the next time we were out "dancing." He would mimic ballroom dancing at the front of the class while casually dropping geodetic "fun facts." That may be the only bad advice he ever gave us, but it sure kept our attention.

I would be remiss to not mention Dr. Nader's teachings on the Sun. He was a great and early advocate of using solar energy. He regularly promoted the students' solar energy club at Fresno State. He bragged about his "solar powered" clothes drier (a clothesline). He also advised us that the sun actually hates us and will do everything in its power to kill us. He provided detailed handouts on identifying skin cancers. He always advised us that one of a surveyor's most important tools is a "giant sombrero" to block harmful UV rays. "Do not forget to bring your giant sombreros!" he would tell us before our field exercises. Many a Fresno grad will always refer to their field hat as their "giant sombrero" because of him.

The Fareed Nader I knew was always cool, always collected and always thoughtful. He always made time for his students and excelled in his craft. His craft was teaching curious minds how to measure the Earth and teaching how our curious ancestors figured it out in the first place. It's a fascinating story if told well, which he did. I know I speak for thousands of his past students when I say farewell and thank you, Dr. Nader. 🌍

— BY CODY HUSTEAD, L.S., VT & CA



# Faculty Licensure

» BY KNUD E. HERMANSEN, P.L.S., P.E., PH.D., ESQ.

I HAVE REACHED THE AGE WHERE I HAVE a great many opinions and no fear of sharing them. I have no employers that would take umbrage at my opinion. Perhaps some current or past clients might object, but they are free to seek others to perform their services should they wish. If this is the first of several articles I plan to write, I can introduce myself thoroughly in this article and be reticent about an introduction later.

I am retired after 30 years of teaching, though I still do contract teaching for surveying and engineering programs. I have also retired from the military where I was a surveyor and engineer for over twenty years. I have been licensed in several states as a surveyor, engineer, and attorney. I still have an active license for each profession in at least one state. I have consulted in a wide variety of roles offering surveying, engineering, and legal services. I have surveyed many miles of boundaries. I was a member of a licensing board at one time. On numerous occasions I have served as an expert witness, trial attorney, appeals attorney, arbitrator, mediator, boundary commissioner, and, of course, a professor and instructor. Old age, experience, and my varied

and unique practice I hope gives me a perspective that will generate some thought, no doubt some controversy, and perhaps some changes.

In this missive I will focus on surveying faculty qualifications. I will not and never claim to be among the best faculty. I am sure there are some former students that will claim I am not even a satisfactory faculty for I had hard standards and high expectations that left some students disgruntled and unhappy that I chose to apply these standards to them. As I said, I am too old to change or even give much care to what a young student, lacking experience, may believe. To put it simply, their opinion is seldom my reality. After the graduate has practiced in the surveying profession for fifty years and still

wishes to maintain a low opinion of my instruction, I will welcome their thoughts and give them worthy consideration.

The point I wish to make in this missive is to give my opinion on faculty licensing. I do not believe a quality surveying program must require every faculty to be licensed to practice the profession of surveying. However, I do believe a majority of faculty should be licensed to practice the profession. I will offer three reasons for my opinion.

First and most importantly, I am of the firm opinion that no amount of education and research in surveying or 'geomatics' (as some programs prefer to use), allows a faculty to provide the impactful presentation experience allows. Of course, any person wishing to become faculty and claim they have experience outside of academics should have enough experience to be able to qualify and sit for professional exams in at least one state.

I am mindful that some faculty may have experience in areas of surveying practice that their state of residency will not accept toward licensure. Yet, that person will not be prevented from applying and being licensed in some other state that does accept their experience for licensure. (There is no state, by law, that can demand residency in the state before being licensed.) By way of example, I would refer the reader to some states that require a license for and therefore must accept experience in areas of remote sensing and GIS when applying for professional licensing.

**"I do not believe a quality surveying program must require every faculty to be licensed to practice the profession of surveying. However, I do believe a majority of faculty should be licensed."**





## Why should most faculty be licensed surveyors?

- 1 Experience provides a more impactful presentation than education and research.
- 2 It's important to set an example that will encourage students to seek licensing.
- 3 Licensed faculty seem more inclined to be active in their state and national societies.

Second, I believe it important that faculty set an example that will encourage students to seek professional licensing in the surveying field. This is done most effectively by the faculty themselves being licensed to practice the profession of surveying. I have seen numerous articles in professional magazines that lament the aging of the licensed surveyor population and how few young persons are entering the profession. Many employers lament the difficulty of finding young persons interested in filling employment openings. Young adults are not given a good example by allowing surveying instructors to be unlicensed.

Third, I believe faculty are much more inclined to have been or become active in their state and national professional societies when licensed. I am of the very firm belief that a successful college surveying program must enjoy the support of state surveying societies. To enjoy that support, there must be continuous interaction and familiarity between the academic program and the professional society. The interaction and familiarity are often absent or tenuous at best when faculty are not licensed. Lacking a license, the faculty can't be a full member of the professional society.

I have such a firm opinion on the importance of requiring licensed faculty, that I would demand licensing as a prerequisite for a faculty member even at the sake of academic qualifications. If the only choice to fill a faculty position was between a licensed individual and one with a Ph.D. of similar temperament, I would always take the licensed individual.

Many universities that host surveying programs require a Ph.D. These same surveying programs do

not require professional licensing of faculty. For some reason which I cannot comprehend, even after 30 years in college teaching, university administrators think it much more important to hire a Ph.D., without practical experience, often without experience as a resident, to teach surveying topics. The administrator will not accept someone without the Ph.D. that would have many years of relevant experience, relevant license, and familiarity with the residency where a graduate is likely to seek employment.

Having given my opinion, I now offer advice by suggesting ABET and professional societies make strenuous and consistent requests of administrators of surveying programs to demand current faculty become licensed and new faculty to be licensed prior to employment. The line is very clear. If a person wishes to teach in a surveying or geomatics program, they should have a professional license. 🌍



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# PAINTING LINES

## in the North Woods

BY FRED COWAN, VT L.S. #321, 1918-2015  
(Contributed by son Tim Cowan, L.S.)

**I**n much of the northeastern United States, and perhaps other parts of the country, property lines through the woods are usually marked by blazes on trees standing on or adjacent to the line. These blazes are made by chopping a patch of bark and a little wood from the trunk of the line trees with an axe. However, blazes on trees in the woods might mean any number of things, such as someone's shortcut home, or the way back to where Joe or Pete shot a moose last fall.

To prevent confusion, property lines and Township lines are usually not only blazed but painted. In most localities where I have worked, each property owner had a particular color of paint which he used after blazing or re-blazing his line. A Township line passing through a property is sometimes marked with some other color. Although a property line defines a bound of two parties, the party doing the marking usually uses his color for the job. In the upper Connecticut Valley, for example, Brown Company and its successors always used blue paint. The old Connecticut Valley Lumber Company and its successor St. Regis always used red, and the original International Paper Co. lands were marked with yellow paint. The color on mutual bounds were that used by the party which had "touched-up" the line most recently.

Because the bark around a blaze will gradually grow out and over it if just applied to the exposed wood, paint was usually generously slopped over the adjacent bark, where it could be visible

for many years. Here was where the two colors of the adjacent landowners could be seen, which often helped identify just where one was in the woods. The wooden posts at property corners were treated in a similar fashion. If a post was repainted without being replaced, it might end up with the scribed sides facing different properties painted different colors. Rocks piled about the foot of a post were usually liberally painted to help identify the corner in case the post rotted away before being replaced.

It is one thing to sit where I am writing this, it is another thing to actually paint some of the property lines through the woods. In the area of northern Maine where I began my practical woods education, we were dealing with many miles of Township and property lines and many gallons of red paint, the color traditionally used in that locality by the Great Northern Paper Company, my employer. I have no idea just how many blazes I painted. There must have been, on the average, a tree on or near the line





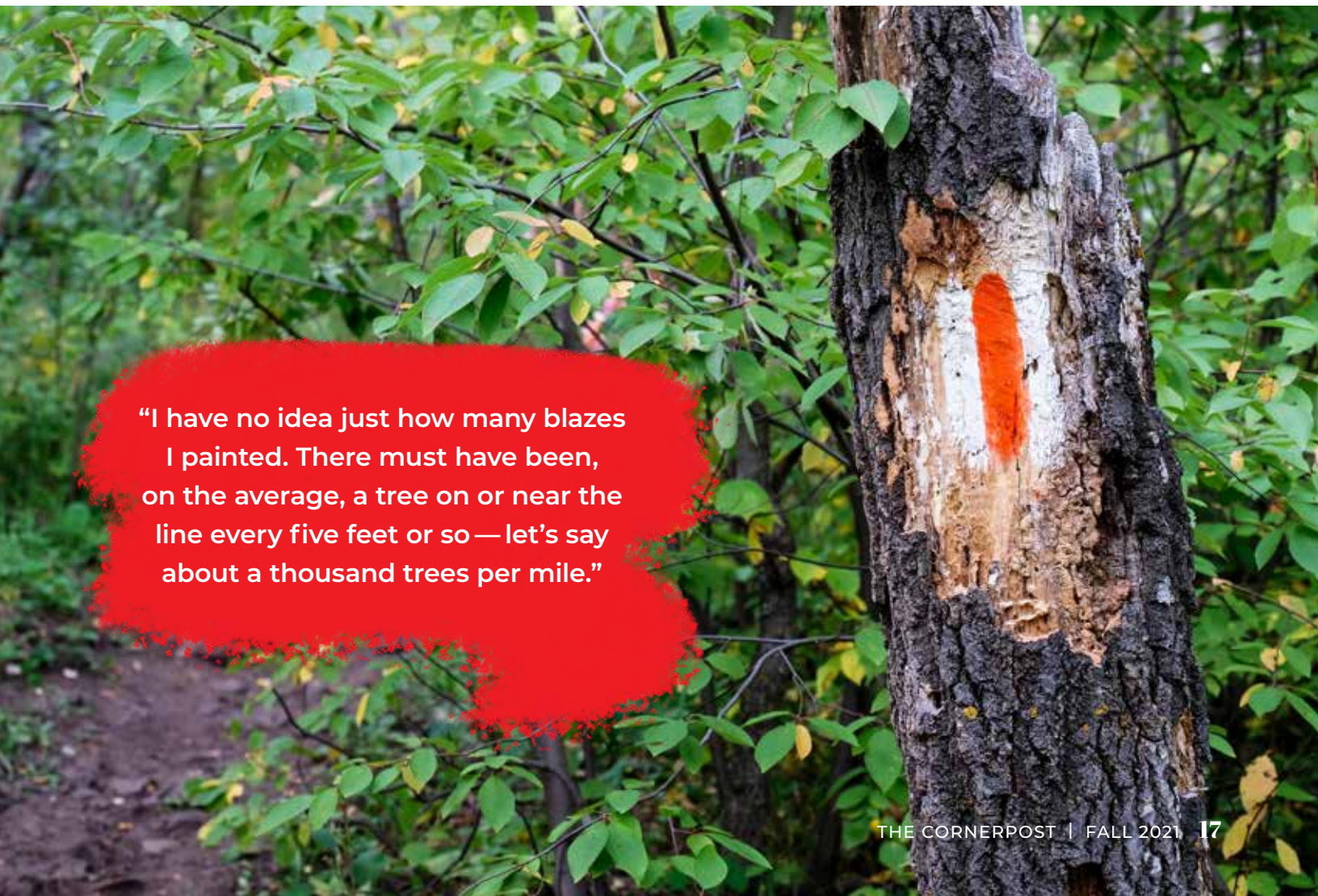
every five feet or so—let's say about a thousand trees per mile. Most trees had two blazes to paint. That comes to about two thousand times per mile that my brush went into the bucket and out to dab a generous paint mark on and around a blaze. It was assumed on a typical day I would paint about six miles of line.

Now this doesn't sound too bad. But the truth was on most days I might have to walk six miles or more before I began to paint. These were "woods miles," along trails and lines which had been swamped out just enough to permit sighting of a compass and the measurement with a steel tape. And the ground was not flat or all dry walking. Streams and beaver swamps had to be crossed or waded. Old blown-down tree trunks and half-decayed cull logs, some four feet in diameter, felled and left behind on logging jobs fifty years before, had to be crawled over. Rocks and wet slippery debris of all sorts, hidden under low thick brush, sometimes

made every step an adventure.

Walking with both hands free for balance or to grab at bushes while climbing over obstacles while getting to a starting point was one thing. The paint was safely in closed gallon cans and the brush was wrapped in a rag, all riding in my backpack or basket. It was when the painting started that the real fun began. Then the can was opened, the pail clutched in one hand and the brush in the other. Only the can's cover and perhaps another half-filled can were safely in the pack with my lunch.

It is interesting to contemplate the forces of inertia and gravity that play a part in the sudden movement of a liquid such as red barn paint. Imagine what happens when one suddenly trips over a hidden obstacle, tries to catch one's balance while watching about half a gallon of the paint stay in the air for a moment. The can suddenly drops down, along with the person who is carrying



"I have no idea just how many blazes I painted. There must have been, on the average, a tree on or near the line every five feet or so—let's say about a thousand trees per mile."

**"Imagine what happens when one suddenly trips over a hidden obstacle, tries to catch one's balance while watching about half a gallon of paint stay in the air for a moment."**

it, while that person tries to regain his balance and, at the same time, catch as much of the paint as possible as gravity overcomes the forces of inertia. It was sometimes very difficult to make a gallon of paint cover the blazes on six miles of line and very easy to cover the clothes and skin of the painter.

Which leads me to recall a more recent incident, in the 1960s, and in the Town of Lemington, Vermont. I had driven two young men to different starting points on a series of property lines. They were to paint the recently-blazed lines and expected to meet, near the end of the day, somewhere on a long straight line not far from and running parallel to a town road. Here I would pick them up for the trip home.

At the appointed hour I arrived at the area to pick them up. Here I found two very excited boys and a farmer who was just recovering from a real scare. They had a story to tell. It seems that one of the painters had almost reached the point where he expected to meet the other. In fact, he could hear him coming, making quite a bit of noise as he came along the roughly swamped out line. Then, as he completed brushing paint onto one side of a large tree and walked around to get at the other side, he glanced ahead and saw, not his fellow painter, but a large bear coming toward him. Startled, he threw his bucket of paint up into the air. A great deal of the remaining red paint flew from the can and landed on his head, face and clothing. The bear, also startled by the resulting noise and perhaps the rank smell of paint, retreated off the side into the woods.

The painter, left with practically no

paint, walked the short distance out of the woods to a field where he, in turn, startled a farmer. This poor fellow, winding up and down the field raking hay, all of a sudden was confronted by a man coming out of the woods, apparently bleeding badly about the head. He stopped his tractor, rushed over to help, and then found out that things were not quite as bad as it appeared.

A few minutes later they were joined by the second painter, also half out of breath, and a bit concerned. It seems, as he had been painting along the line, he had noticed the occasional track of a large bear which had, at some recent time, been walking down the swamped-out line ahead of him. He didn't give it much thought until, all of a sudden, he came upon a place where there was paint splashed all around. Otherwise there was no sign of the man he was expecting to meet! After dutifully painting the last few trees, he too went out to the hayfield, where he found his partner still alive, and a farmer trying to remove some of the paint with a couple of oily rags. 🐻







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## SEEN BETTER DAYS ...

Tim Cowan, L.S., sent in this photo of tatty publications housed in the Lyndon land records. "It's a pretty sad set of books," he remarked.



## NICE IDEA FOR YOUR MORNING CUP OF JOE

Doug Henson, L.S., found the perfect Christmas gift for a land surveyor. If you're so inclined, you can order it online at [www.teepublic.com](http://www.teepublic.com).



## MATHEMATICIAN DISCOVERS APPLIED GEOMETRY ON ANCIENT TABLET

An alert member sent in this photo from The Guardian website. An Australian mathematician has discovered what may be the oldest known example of applied geometry, on a 3,700-year-old Babylonian clay tablet. The tablet bears a field plan measuring the boundaries of some tract of land. It dates from the Old Babylonian period between 1900 and 1600 BCE and was discovered in the late 19th century in what is now Iraq. It had been housed in the Istanbul Archaeological Museum before Dr Daniel Mansfield from the University of New South Wales tracked it down.

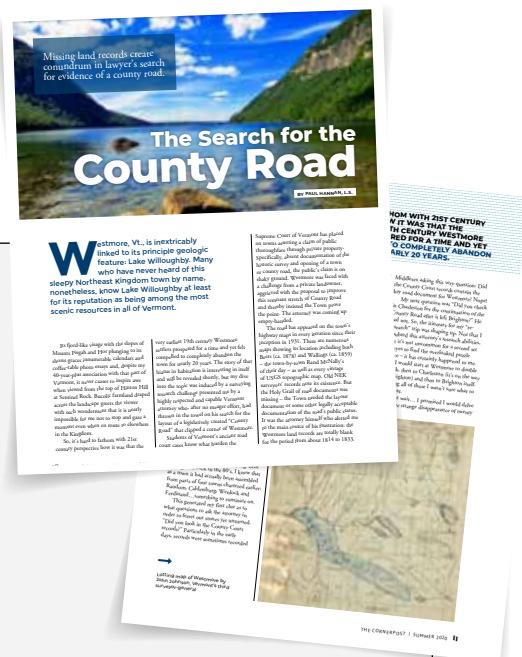




## JUST ANOTHER DAY ON THE JOB

A land surveyor's travels can sometimes seem like a treasure hunt. Kevin LaRose, L.S. sent in this photo of a fireplace he discovered in the woods, part of the Lake Dunmore site that's featured on the cover of this issue. "It was on the same property, across the 'camp road' and down into the woods," Kevin said. "It seemed a bit random, as it was in a depression."

➡ Send pictures of your unusual finds to: [kelly@vsls.org](mailto:kelly@vsls.org).



## HANNAN WINS NSPS AWARD FOR BEST FEATURE ARTICLE

Paul Hannan, L.S., won top recognition in the 2021 NSPS Excellence in Journalism Competition. His article, "The Search for the County Road," published in the Summer 2020 edition of *The Cornerpost*, received First Place in the Best Original Feature Article category.

NSPS recognized the winners in the respective categories during the Fall 2021 NSPS Board of Directors meeting held in Chicago, Illinois Sept 23-25, 2021.

Paul will receive a plaque acknowledging his award during the December Round Tables. Congratulations, Paul!

➡ Send your article for The Cornerpost to: [kelly@vsls.org](mailto:kelly@vsls.org).

**August 19, 2021, 6 p.m., McCain Consulting, Waterbury**

This meeting was held in the conference room at McCain Consulting in Waterbury. The meeting was called to order at 6:06 P.M. In attendance were, Randy Otis, Nate Yager, Lisa Ginett, Keith Van Iderstine, Paul Hannan and our Administrator: Kelly Cochrane-Collar. Absent: Mark Day and Becky Gilson.

**Secretary's Minutes**

Minutes for the Executive Committee meeting for May 20, 2021 were reviewed. The motion was duly made and seconded and the vote was unanimously: to approve the minutes of the May 20, 2021 Executive Committee meeting. Notes taken by Kelly at the under attended meeting on July 21, 2021 were also reviewed but as there was no quorum at that meeting there were no formal minutes to review.

**Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer's report for the period of Jan 1st to August 16th 2021: total income for the period is \$32,043.08, total expenses were \$26,418.26, for a net income of \$5,624.82. Bank Account Total = \$60,978.99. Keith (VSLs Treasurer) notes that the membership dues are almost caught up and that the Program Expenses for the Spring Seminar were very low due to it being a webinar.

**Administrator's Report:**

Kelly reports that the Fall Conference is still planned to be in person at Okemo Mountain on September 17. We lost some presenters due to Covid, and their space will be filled by Joe Flynn. Dan Martin's employer has said he can't speak in person, so he will be presenting virtually on a screen. So far 20 people have registered for the conference, which is not unusual so far in advance of the date. There are notes on the VSLs Website about Covid (for the conference) as we need to follow state guidelines.

There was a question regarding whether we would be recording the meeting so that others who could not attend would be able to view the conference seminars for credits. Kelly says that this would be a logistical nightmare, as well as being expensive, so that possibility is off the table. This will be our Annual Meeting and we will be hosting four New England society presidents. Mark will be hosting these

guests for breakfast before the conference.

The group discussed the Round Tables, which will be held on Thursday, December 9 at the Capitol Plaza in Montpelier. Kelly says that it is very difficult to book a Friday at the Capitol in December due to the holiday season. She checked in with the Stoweflake but found that the same basic services would be much more expensive, so the group decided to stay with the Capitol Plaza on the Thursday date.

The group is uncertain whether we will be able to have the meeting in person and discussed how we might handle the Round Tables format in a webinar event. Keith says that organizing multiple break-out meetings can be difficult online. Kelly will look into whether the NSPS webinar site can handle break out rooms.

The group also briefly discussed promoting and perpetuating the profession. There has been no answer from Vermont Dept. of Labor or the Vermont School Counselors Association regarding the VSLs inquiry about setting up an apprenticeship program for Land Surveyors. Several of the members who work in larger firms mentioned that they use interns for extra help in the summer season. It was discussed that perhaps we could ask members to speak about the profession at local technical schools or to VTC's Civil Engineering program.

There was also discussion about where the Executive Committee could meet. The VSLs pays some dues each year to be a member of AIV, but they no longer have an office space in Montpelier, so we do not have a meeting place. While AIV is looking for another office space, Keith mentioned that McCain Consulting (his employer) will allow us to use their conference room to meet and Randy thought he could provide a location also in Waterbury if necessary.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Ginett  
VSLs Executive Committee Secretary

**HANDS UP!**

Much of VSLs's work is managed by a small group of volunteers. Please give us a hand, even if you have just a little time to spare. Email [kelly@vsls.org](mailto:kelly@vsls.org) to volunteer.



**Friday, Sept. 17, 2021, 12:30 p.m.,  
Okemo Mountain Resort, Ludlow**

This meeting was held at the Okemo Mountain Resort in Ludlow, Vermont and was called to order at 12:30 P.M. In attendance were Executive Committee Members Mark Day, Paul Hannan, Randy Otis, Keith Van Iderstine, our Administrator, Kelly Collar, along with the general membership.

**Secretary's Minutes**

There were no minutes to review.

**Treasurer's Report**

The treasurer's report covered the period January 1 to September 15, 2021. Total income for the period was \$42,575.15, total expenses were \$30,515.63, and net income was \$12,059.52. Total assets for the period were \$67,659.73. The report was approved by the membership.

**New Business**

President Mark Day called for a moment of silence for the land surveyors we've lost in the past two years: Gary Croteau, Dick Bohlen, Wayne Lawrence, Allen Newton, Ralph Michael, Terry Harris and Martin Hanley.

Cody Husted then stood to share news of the death of a college professor and mentor who had been very influential in his own career, Dr. Fareed Nader, from California State University in Fresno. We recognized the death of Dr. Nader.

President Day then asked the members to acknowledge Paul Gillies' work in updating the Vermont Survey Law Manual, and Scott Taylor's work in indexing thousands of maps that VSLS had scanned years earlier. Both of these extend the resources we offer to members. The membership applauded in recognition of their efforts.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Collar  
VSLS Administrator



## attention members

Executive Committee meetings are held on the third Thursday of every month and all are welcome. Send an email to [kelly@vsls.org](mailto:kelly@vsls.org) for more info.

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Allentown, PA



# 2022 Budget & Officers

## 2022 Proposed Budget

### Income

|                   |             |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Advertising       | \$1,000.00  |
| Donations         | \$1,000.00  |
| Interest          | \$800.00    |
| Membership Dues   | \$22,000.00 |
| Program Revenues  | \$38,000.00 |
| Publication Sales | \$100.00    |
| <hr/>             |             |
| TOTAL             | \$62,900.00 |

### Expenses

|                        |             |
|------------------------|-------------|
| Accountant Fees        | \$500.00    |
| Association Dues       | \$3,900.00  |
| Bank Fees              | \$1,500.00  |
| Donation Expense       | \$750.00    |
| Insurance              | \$800.00    |
| Memorial Contributions | \$200.00    |
| News Magazine          | \$3,300.00  |
| Office Supplies        | \$1,500.00  |
| Payroll Expenses       | \$22,100.00 |
| Postage                | \$300.00    |
| Program Expenses       | \$21,750.00 |
| Public Relations       | \$900.00    |
| Rent                   | \$2,250.00  |
| Telephone              | \$150.00    |
| Travel                 | \$3,000.00  |
| <hr/>                  |             |
| TOTAL                  | \$62,900.00 |

## 2022 NSPS Director

Gayle Burchard, L.S.

## 2022 Slate of Officers

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| PRESIDENT      | Randy Otis, L.S.  |
| VICE PRESIDENT | TBD   |
| SECRETARY      | Lisa Ginett, L.S.   |
| TREASURER      | Keith Van Iderstine, L.S.   |
| DIRECTORS      | Mark Day, L.S.<br>Paul Hannan, L.S.<br>Rebecca Gilson, L.S.<br>Nate Yager, L.S. |

## 2022 Program Committee

Doug Henson, L.S., Chair  
Gayle Burchard, L.S.  
Harris Abbott, L.S.  
Aaron Fuller, L.S.  
Gerald Stockman, L.S.

## 2022 VSLS Education Foundation Directors

### MEMBERS AT LARGE

Scott Taylor, L.S.  
Robert Holt, L.S.  
Ethan Gilmour, Surveyor in Training

### VSLS OFFICERS

Randy Otis, L.S.  
TBD  
Lisa Ginett, L.S.  
Keith Van Iderstine, L.S.

# Dog Tails

by DICK BOHLEN, L.S.#7 (1926-2020)

No matter the breed, man's best friend makes a tough job easier.

**I** do like dogs, and so does my wife, Nancy. We lived on Rocky Ridge in St. Johnsbury, where we had a lot of open land and woods to roam. So we enjoyed having two black Labrador Retrievers as our pets. They were both black pure bloods, but the male had white paws and a white tip of tail. So, we named him Tippy. We breed them two times, and found it amazing to see both black and yellow puppies in the same litter.

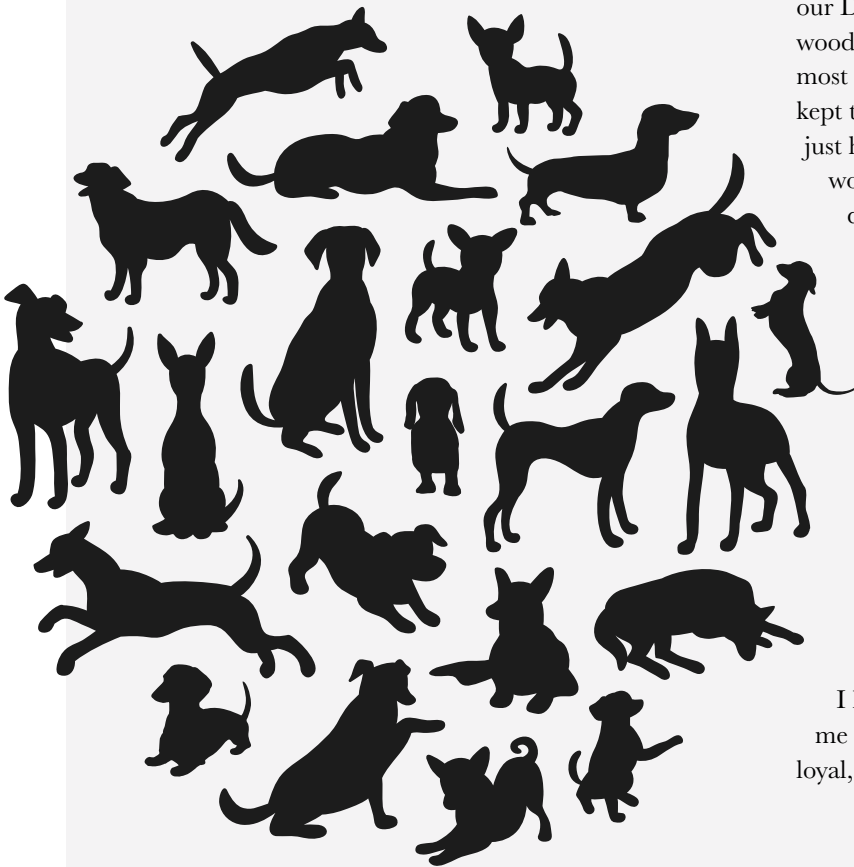
Tippy was pretty much my dog, and I took him with me on every survey where we were in the woods, or far from any roads or houses. He was with us on the Interstate survey when we crossed a fence into a horse pasture. We were soon visited by one of the horses, and we watched as Tippy chased him over a hill. Enough of that horse, we thought. No...soon over the same hill came Tippy with the

horse hot on his tail! Of course, Tippy came and laid down between the legs of the transit tripod, and the horse kept trying to get at him. Not very good for survey work! We finally put Tippy back in our vehicle and the horse soon lost interest in us.

Al Roy was one of us at the time of the Interstate work. He greatly enjoyed Tippy, and liked to dress Tippy in his clothes while riding in the back seat of our vehicle. He had Tippy dressed in his red wool coat and a red hat one time when I stopped the vehicle to chat with one of the drillers from Massachusetts that was working on the same job. We noticed that the driller kind of jumped back and looked startled when he looked in the back seat. Guess he never saw a surveyor that looked like that!

In my later years, after our Labs went to doggie heaven, we got a Shih Tzu puppy that we called Dina: Di for Dick, and Na for Nancy. As soon as our Dina reached near maturity, I took her into the woods with me on surveys. She loved the woods, was most inquisitive, stayed pretty close to me, and always kept track of me. There were those folks that were just horrified that I would take that little dog into the woods with me. "No, no!" they said, "That's a lap dog, always to be kept in the house, never in the woods!"

Not my Dina! I did a lot of back woods reconnaissance back then, alone, except for my faithful dog. She was with me when I was flagging the lines of a 100-acre tract in Barnet. All side-hill woodland. The lines were marked with old, on the ground, wire fence, and some stone walls. We were working up the hill when we came to a huge face of ledge, very steep and extensive. I thought that there was no way that little Dina could get up on that ledge! I will have to carry her around it. As I was pondering a battle plan, I looked up and there was Dina, staring down at me from on top of that ledge. She was one tough, loyal, faithful little dog. 🐾







# December Round Tables

Friday, Dec. 17, 2021 • Capitol Plaza Hotel  
100 State Street • Montpelier, Vermont

6 PDH

## SCHEDULE

- 7:15 AM Registration and Breakfast**
- 8:00 AM Round Table Discussions**
- 12:00 PM Lunch and Business Meeting**
- 1:30 PM Panel Discussion:  
The Life Cycle of a Land  
Surveying Business**
- 3:30 PM Final Announcements**

| FEES*   | THROUGH<br>DEC. 10 |
|---|--------------------|
| Member in good standing of<br>VSLs or kindred society         | \$140.00           |
| Life Member   | \$105.00           |
| Non-member technical staff<br>attending with member           | \$119.00           |
| Group rate (3 or more from same<br>firm; must include member) | \$119.00           |
| Non-member  | \$190.00           |

\* \$25 late fee after Dec. 10, 2021

## Morning Round Table Discussions

We'll have four sessions of round tables that last for 50 minutes each, and we'll take a 10-minute break between sessions. Below are some of the topics we plan to cover at the tables.

- **Tools, Resources and Special Projects at VTrans**, Lloyd MacCormack, VTrans Survey Manager
- **Managing Landowner Confrontations**, Vermont Law Enforcement Representative
- **GPS Capabilities and Workflow**, Harry Schultz, Waypoint
- **Online Land Records**, Gerald Stockman, TCE Consulting
- **Original Lotting Plans**, Tim Terway, VCGI
- **Equipment Check and Calibration Methods**, Aaron Fuller, Vermont Land Integrity
- **Underground Locating**, Jonathan Higgins, Vermont Underground Locators

## Afternoon Panel Discussion: The Life Cycle of a Land Surveying Business

We will have a panel discussion with surveyors representing the various stages of a land surveyor's career—from the newly licensed surveyor who is just building their business, to the experienced land surveyor running a survey department or small business, to the career surveyor who is thinking about retirement or already retired. The group will talk about the challenges and opportunities posed by each of these stages, and then we'll open up the floor to discussion.

**COVID Note:** We plan to follow the Capitol Plaza's guidelines for masking on Dec. 17. We'll keep you updated.

## REGISTRATION (please complete this form and mail it with your payment, or register online at [vsls.org](http://vsls.org))

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