

Wednesday, January 22, 2025

9:30-10:10am (0.4 PDH)

Keynote: Bridging the Gap: Developing and Engaging with the Next Generation of Land Surveyors

Speaker: Trent Keenan

This session will dive into the changing landscape of the land surveying profession and focus on ways to attract and engage the next generation in the field. We'll highlight the importance of mentorship and guidance as we discuss the need for talent development and take a closer look at workforce trends for surveyors. I'll share practical strategies for collaboration to help bridge the gap and build a sustainable future, offering a roadmap for surveyors, firms, and organizations to drive meaningful change and keep the profession thriving.

10:20-Noon (1.8 PDH)

Session 1: Mapping the Path for the Next Generation

Speaker: Trent Keenan

This presentation offers a deep dive into the critical need for mentorship in the land surveying profession. Attendees will gain a comprehensive understanding of the current workforce projections, and the challenges posed by the talent gap. The session will highlight the immense value of mentorship, showcasing how it benefits individuals and professions. Participants will explore collaborative strategies and actionable solutions that can be implemented to nurture the next generation of land surveyors. The session aims to provide a clear roadmap for both individuals and the profession to initiate meaningful change, ensuring the profession's continued growth and sustainability. By the end of the session, attendees will be inspired to take an active role in shaping the future of land surveying through mentorship and collaborative efforts.

Session 2: Automated Machine Guidance (AMG) Technology and 3D Modeling

Speaker: Dean Teska

AMG technology has cut down on construction labor costs, improved the quality and ride of completed roadway construction projects, and has changed the quality and movement of data throughout a project. It has also changed the way surveyors can serve large projects. In this session, we will explore how engineering inspection teams get closure when there isn't a string-line or subgrade stakes, some of the procedures and pitfalls of using 3d models to build the job when there isn't survey layout provided or needed, and some unique experiences that turn into lessons learned.

Session 3: Navigating Judicial Privacy: Impacts of 2023 WI Act 235 for Surveyors

Speaker: Cheryl Berken and Staci Hoffman

The 2023 Wisconsin Act 235 introduces significant measures to protect the personal information of judicial officers and their families. For surveyors, this legislation carries specific implications, particularly regarding access to land records, property data, and public information systems. This session will break down the key provisions of the Act and explore how it affects workflows, access to records, and compliance responsibilities. Attendees will gain an understanding of the Act's practical impacts, strategies for adapting processes, and how to navigate challenges while respecting privacy safeguards. This is an essential discussion for surveyors and professionals handling sensitive public data.

Session 4: Complex Title and Legal Description Issues

Speaker: Duane Wunsch

1. A Closer Look at Wisconsin's Statutory Requisites
 - a. Subdivision Plats
 - b. Certified Survey Maps
 - c. Condominiums
2. Overlaps and Gaps: Reconciling GIS
3. The Not-So-New Wisconsin Access Easement Law, 2021 Act 174
4. Best Choice for Fixing Errors and Omissions: Affidavit, Correction Instrument or Litigation?
5. Guess Who's Coming to Dinner: The Bankruptcy Trustee

Session 5: Twinkies, Cockroaches, and Contract Risk Management

Speaker: Karen Erger

Some things are reliably likely to endure forever — Twinkies, cockroaches, and classic rock. Another thing that never seems to change is advice about design professionals' professional services agreements. Since (almost) the dawn of time lawyers and risk managers have been advising design professional clients that their contracts should have a good scope of services, exclude things that ought to be excluded, and be reviewed by their lawyer when the client proposes changes. People have been saying it forever, but it nonetheless remains true: While bad contracts don't cause claims, they can make claims much worse and harder to resolve. In this session we'll review the must-haves, red flags, deal killers, along with case stories and bad examples that illustrate the importance of a carefully considered contract.

Session 6: Young Surveyor's Meeting

Speaker: Connor Christopherson

Young Surveyors are the future of our profession. We encourage those who are new to the institute, students, young surveyors, past and current YSN Members, and supporters of the YSN to attend and participate in our annual meeting.

1:30-3:10pm (2 PDH)

Session 7: Principles of Adverse Possession

Speaker: Jerry Mahun

Discussion of the elements necessary for adverse possession, tacking and tolling, requirements for Wisconsin's different time periods, and effect of adverse claims on other boundaries. What are the surveyor's responsibilities in potential adverse possession situation.

Session 8: I just want to record a CSM...

Speaker: Jeanette (Netty) Harley

When an email rejection of seemingly routine proposed land division results in the County recording documents of questionable enforce-ability, it derails not only the project at hand but condemns a previously recorded map within the same original subdivision. What is our ethical responsibility to our client and past client? What is our response when local government officials

violate statutory principles and practices? We will explore this situation together with a presentation of the facts and discussion on the ethical implications of what occurred.

Session 9: TIF and TID Districts

Speaker: David Kittle

Session 10: Best Field Practices for the Field Surveyor

Speaker: Kevin Slottke

Much of how we do things in the field is based on "generational wisdom" and passed along from surveyor to surveyor. We'll share crowd sourced tips and tricks that you may or may not already know! Ranging from equipment use and maintenance to how to dig a proper plug! You'll have an opportunity to share your own tip or trick as well. This session is geared toward the "newer" surveyor, but all are welcome!

Session 11: TBD – Vendor Session

Session 12: TBD – Vendor Session

3:30-4:30pm (1.2 PDH)

Session 13: Omitted Lands and Erroneous Original Survey

Speaker: Dave Tlusty

A discussion of some of the original government survey work done by Hiram C. Fellows, deputy surveyor. The session will include details of several areas of Langlade and Oneida Counties, including areas where prominent topographic features were omitted from the original survey notes and examples of lakes that were "surveyed" considerably larger than they actually are today. Did they all shrink? Did he fudge the notes a bit? Did he really do what he said he did?

Session 14: Navigating Careers - The Power of Mentoring

Speaker: Nathan Vaughn

This presentation explores the pivotal role of mentoring in fostering career development. Delving into the definition and various models of mentoring, the session emphasizes the numerous benefits it offers, including personal growth, skill development, and expanded professional networks. Attendees will gain insights into the mentorship lifecycle, discovering how to initiate, build, and successfully conclude mentoring relationships. The presentation also addresses the responsibilities of both mentors and mentees, offering practical tips to overcome common challenges. The session aims to inspire the creation of a mentoring culture within organizations, fostering continuous learning and professional growth.

Session 15: Part 107 & Beyond - The Future of Drone Regulations

Speaker: Dan Schwartz

Join us for an informative session that explores the key aspects of current commercial drone regulations under FAA Part 107, including operational limitations, certification requirements, and safety protocols. We will also dive into the highly anticipated Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS) regulations under Part 108, examining how these forthcoming rules could revolutionize the industry by enabling expanded use cases, greater operational flexibility, and increased opportunities for commercial drone applications. Stay ahead of the curve with insights on the evolving regulatory landscape and what to expect as BVLOS becomes a reality.

Session 16: 2022 Datums – Next Steps

Speaker: Richard Kleinmann

Now that the 2022 coordinate system zone parameters have been defined, what is next? Learn when the datums are expected to be approved on a federal level and what the WSRS2022 Task Force sees as the next step to consider on the journey towards implementing the datums. We only have an hour, so we will stick to the high level “need to know” items to keep you and your organization on track for a successful implementation. We will touch on timing, legislation (state & local), NGS tools, Wisconsin tools, project control for future conversion, what you can do now and learning resources available.

Session 17: TBD – Vendor Session

Session 18: TBD – Vendor Session

Thursday, January 23, 2025

8:20-10:00am (2 PDH)

Session 19: Tribal Lands

Speaker: Cheri Hipenbecker

This is a redux and update from Cheri's presentation at the 2023 Institute. At the end of January 2023, the Lac du Flambeau Tribe erected barricades over 4 roads within the reservation territory blocking access to the homes of 70+ property owners. Why? Join Cheri in a history tour regarding the Tribe, Indian Lands, Easements over Indian Lands and the current state of Federal Litigation involving the Lac du Flambeau Tribe, the Town of Lac du Flambeau and these 70+ property owners. The end of the story has yet to be told...

Session 20: Title Boundary & Field Evidence 101

Speaker: Kevin Slottke

Surveyors often encounter differences between deed descriptions and field evidence. We will discuss reasons for differences and where to look for potential solutions. This session will concern itself with the basics. We will review laws, lore, sources of error and interpretation of evidence, among other things.

Session 21: Wisconsin Department of Transportation Updates – Highway Access Management & Utility/ Real Estate - Right of Way

Speaker: Norman Pawelczyk

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation will provide some recent updates and additional information related to access management and setbacks on state highways, the introduction of a new utility property interest acquisition process, and a new utility exhibit incorporated into the current WisDOT highway platting procedure.

Session 22: Legislative Update

Speaker: Bob Welch

Join to discuss recent changes to WI statutes and regulations that affect surveyors and their clientele. He will also discuss how WSLs gets involved to make policies better, and how individual surveyors can get involved and make a difference that affect surveyors and their clientele. He will also discuss how WSLs gets involved to make policies better, and how individual surveyors can get involved and make a difference.

Session 23: Exam Prep

Speaker: Connor Christopherson

An overview of licensing exams required to become a Professional Land Surveyor in Wisconsin from the prospective of a 2020 licensee. Reference materials, study techniques and the importance of licensure will be covered.

Session 24: TBD – Vendor Session

10:20-12:00pm (2 PDH)

Session 25: Ethics and the Multi-Generational Workforce

Speaker: Nathan Vaughn

This presentation explores the dynamics of managing a multi-generational workforce, with a focus on the specific ethical and professional standards outlined in Chapter AE-8 of the Wisconsin Statutes. We'll examine the unique characteristics and values of Baby Boomers, Generation X, Millennials, and Generation Z, discussing how understanding these differences and promoting collaboration aligns with professional ethics, integrity, and public accountability. Addressing challenges such as communication barriers and differing work expectations, the presentation offers strategies for effective leadership that emphasize inclusivity and respect, key tenets in upholding the ethical standards of the profession.

Session 26:

Speaker: Jessica Shrestha

Session 27: Ground to Grid / Grid to Ground - Simple, Right?

Speaker: Jerry Mahun

Basic principles of grid system development and the distortions created. Formal grid systems in Wisconsin and their advantages/disadvantages. How, and when, to convert measurements between ground and grid with some practical examples.

Session 28: The Complexities of Subdividing Sections - Part 1

Speaker: Laurence Johns III and Corey Hughes

In this session, we'll explore the subdivision of sections, from standard breakdowns to the challenges of locating previously recorded or unrecorded monuments. Special focus will be given to sections with natural water features—lakes, rivers, and streams—as well as the complexities of closing sections along correction lines and offset corners on township boundaries.

Session 29: Exam Prep

Speaker: Connor Christopherson

An overview of licensing exams required to become a Professional Land Surveyor in Wisconsin from the perspective of a 2020 licensee. Reference materials, study techniques and the importance of licensure will be covered.

Session 30: TBD – Vendor Session

2-4pm (2.4 PDH)

Session 31: ALTA/NSPS Land Title Surveys

Speaker: Jerry Mahun

What is an ALTA/NSPS Land Title Survey? Ever done one? What are the required elements, and which are negotiated? Interpreting the positional standard - what does it mean? What if the ALTA/NSPS standards conflict with State or Local standards?

Session 32: The Complexities of Subdividing Sections - Part 2

Speaker: Laurence Johns III and Corey Hughes

Building on the first session, we'll address unique and challenging cases, including partial sections, federal re-surveys, and irregular closing sections. We'll also discuss how newly discovered evidence can alter section corner locations, impacting previously subdivided sections.

Session 33: Diversity and Discrimination: Same Same, but Different

Speaker: Andy Wible

This workshop will examine the importance of diversity in the workforce and some of the ways discrimination hinders a just workplace. Methods of moral analysis will be developed and applied to various cases of diversity and discrimination common in the profession.

Session 34: WSLs Membership Meeting

Speaker: WSLs President and Bob Welch

Session 35: TBD – Vendor Session

Session 36: TBD – Vendor Session

Friday, January 24, 2025

8:20-10:00am (2 PDH)

Session 37: How to Deal with Public Review Boards

Speaker: Steve Sorenson

What are the biggest difficulties surveyors experience when dealing with governmental agencies, attorneys, and title companies and how those difficulties can be avoided. This session will examine the numerous opportunities a land surveyor has to be in front of a governmental board representing a client. We will look at the duties owed by the land surveyor to the client, to the governmental body and to the profession. As an audience you will be given the opportunity to pose your own challenges, and the solutions will be developed and explained. This session will be very much a hands-on practical approach to a rather frustrating topic. Interaction and questions will be encouraged.

Session 38: Evolving Business Ethics - From AI to You and I

Speaker: Andy Wible

This interactive workshop will look at new ethical issues related to AI and other emerging digital technologies and explore how they affect professional and business ethics. Similarities and differences between AI and human ethics will be presented, and we will finish with a discussion of how to morally evaluate new technology.

Session 39: Land Surveying Safety

Speaker: Chris Dietz and Jeremiah Hall

Safety for land surveyors is paramount. By adhering to safety protocols, using proper PPE, site safety awareness, staying aware of environmental conditions, and fostering effective communication, surveyors can minimize risks and perform their duties efficiently and safely. Regular safety training, hazard assessments, and a proactive approach to safety can ensure the protection of surveyors on the job.

Key Safety Areas Covered:

1. Site Safety Awareness
2. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
3. Hazards from Weather and Environmental Conditions
4. Surveyor Specific Traffic Safety
5. Communication and Teamwork
6. Emergency Response and First Aid

Session 40: What makes a document recordable? Inconsistencies with counties

Speaker: Cheryl Berken and Staci Hoffman

This session will explain the statutory requirements for recording documents while taking a deeper dive into recording large documents. We will also touch on the inconsistencies within the Wisconsin Register of Deeds Association.

Session 41: TBD

Session 42: CST Exam

10:20-Noon (2 PDH)

Session 43: State Specific Court Cases

Speaker: Steven Sorenson

This session will examine court cases throughout the state of Wisconsin that address the issues of Land Surveyor duties and responsibilities. Special attention will be given to questions of competence and thoroughness. Case law suggests that the expectations of the Courts are moving to levels that challenge the realities of field work by surveyors. The session will also look at trends in waterlaw, boundary disputes, government regulation, and the effects of technology. Specific cases and general trends will be a part of the presentation that as always will involve a great deal of audience interaction.

Session 44: 1852 Mile Posts and the State Line Meridian between Wisconsin and Minnesota

Speaker: Tony Lueck

On June 4, 1852 George Stuntz accepted a contract from the Surveyor General of the General Land Office to survey the Boundary Line between the State of Wisconsin and the Territory of Minnesota. On October 20, 1852 George Stuntz would survey a meridian running South of the first rapids above the Indian Village on Nicollet's Map. The terrestrial State Line would run due South a distance of 40 miles 75 chains 84 links reaching the St. Croix River on November 10, 1852. The Surveyor General had specific instructions for the survey of the State Line and the Mile Post Line monuments. A Diagram of Survey for the State Line was filed by the Commissioner of the General Land Office on January 3, 1853. The 1852 Mile Post monuments have nearly disappeared completely from recovery. A general history of the State Line survey and map will be presented; along with a review of survey records after the original survey. An analysis of past and recent recovered Mile Post monuments for the State Line will be made in regard to protecting the original Boundary Line.

Session 45: Diseases in the field: a survey of risk in the Midwest

Speaker: Dr. Angelo Kolokithas

There are many diseases that make the Midwest their home, while others come from different places. This presentation will cover diseases that are commonly acquired while outdoors, with special focus on diseases carried by ticks and mosquitos. Topics include disease spread, risk factors, signs and symptoms, treatments and prevention.

Session 46: County Surveyor's Meeting

Speaker: Ryan Duckart

This session provides a unique learning opportunity on a wide variety of land surveying topics. While this session serves as the annual membership meeting for the Wisconsin County Surveyors Association, all WSLs members are invited to join in on the discussions and ask questions on the various topics. Representatives from the State Cartographers Office, National Geodetic Survey, and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation will be in attendance to deliver reports and

answer questions. The "Friend of Wisconsin Land Surveying Award" will be presented along with recognition of WCSA members accomplishments.

Session 47: TBD

Session 48: CST Exam