

# The Tarheel SURVEYOR

SPRING 2026 No. 26.1

Conference  
Highlights  
P. 18

The Final Point  
P. 14



## NCSS Marks Its New Home in Youngsville



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# The Tarheel SURVEYOR SPRING 2026

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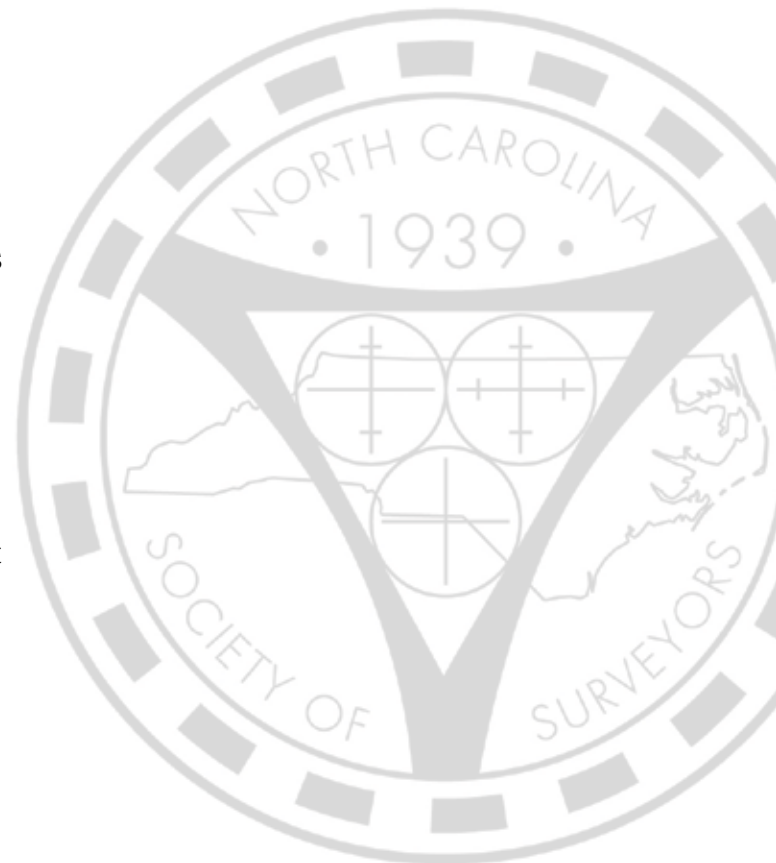
*Cover Image: NCSS New Office in Youngsville*

### ABOUT NCSS:

- Founded January 31, 1939
- Second oldest professional surveying organization in the United States
- Only professional surveying organization in NC
- Affiliated with the National Society of Professional Surveyors and, therefore, all Professional Members are also accounted as members of NSPS as of July 1, 2013

### OUR MISSION:

“A society of professional surveyors and their associates dedicated to enhancing professionalism, improving legislative awareness and promoting the profession of surveying.”



# WHO WE ARE



# NCSS 2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**YADKIN VALLEY CHAPTER PRESIDENT**

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**CHAPTER MEETINGS**

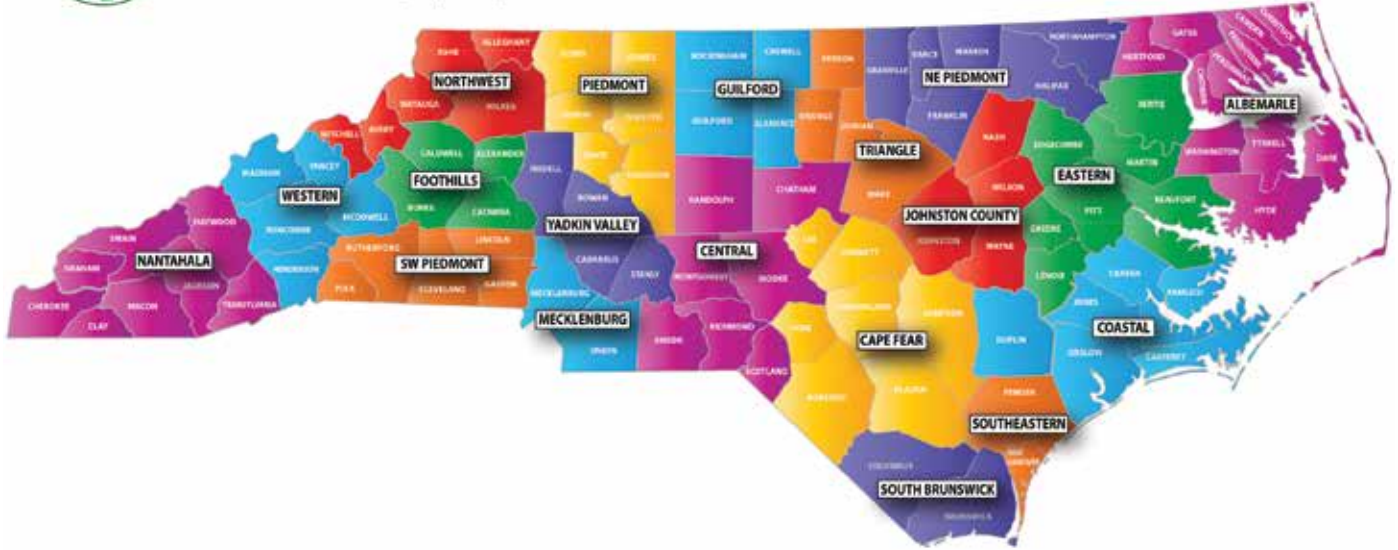
CHAPTER	DATE & TIME	LOCATION
Albemarle	4th Tuesday   6:30 pm	Various Locations, NE Counties
Cape Fear	Last Thursday   6:00 pm	Various Locations, Fayetteville
Central	Last Tuesday   6:00 pm	Blake's B-Que, Candor
Coastal	Last Monday   6:30 pm	Various Loc., Carteret & Craven Counties
Eastern	2nd Monday   6:30 pm	Parker's BBQ, Greenville
Foothills	2nd Tuesday, 7:00 pm	Timberwoods, Morganton
Guilford	3rd Thursday, 6:00pm	Various Locaitons, Greensboro
Johnston County	2nd Thursday   6:00 pm *no meeting Jun-Aug	Various Locations, Smithfield
Mecklenburg	1st Tuesday   6:00 pm *no meeting Jul-Aug	Dilworth Grille, Charlotte
Nantahala	3rd Tuesday   6:30 pm *no meeting Jun-Aug	Various Locations, Sylva
NE Piedmont	3rd Tuesday   7:00 pm	Johnny Bulls, Louisburg
Northwest	3rd Tuesday   6:00 pm *no meeting Dec.	Various Locations, Boone & Wilkesboro
Piedmont	4th Tuesday   6:00 pm	66 Grill & Taphouse, Winston-Salem
Southeastern	Last Wed., 6:00pm	Various Locations, Wilmington
South Brunswick	Last Friday   12:00pm	Starz, Grille, Shallotte
SW Piedmont	2nd Thursday   6:00 pm	Fisherman's Feast, Shelby
Triangle	3rd Tuesday   6:30 pm	Mason Jar Tavern, Fuquay Varina
Western	2nd Tuesday   6:00 pm	AB-Tech, Asheville
Yadkin Valley	2nd Wednesday   6:30 pm	Pancho Villa's, Salisbury

Please contact chapter president to confirm meeting details before attending.



# NCSS CHAPTER AREAS

There are 19 local chapters of NCSS located throughout the state of North Carolina that meet regularly. These meetings are a great way to stay up to date on the latest issues affecting surveyors in the state. If you are not currently attending your local chapter meeting, we would like to encourage you to get involved.



## NCSS STAFF

### NCSS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Sherri L. Barron  
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### MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

Anna L. Culiati  
aculiati@ncsurveyors.com

### NCSS OFFICE MANAGER

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# DIRECTOR'S NOTES



## We Are Growing - and Why It Matters

I am often asked why NCSS continues to grow when so many other associations do not. I hear this not only from within our membership but also from outside our organization, both about our overall growth and the rapid success of our Young Surveyors Network. People are paying attention and want to be part of, or even emulate, the success they are seeing within NCSS.

I do not believe it is just one reason. It is not a single program, event, or initiative. It is the result of many things working together, but more than anything, it comes back to you.

If you were to reduce our key to success down to an equation, it might look something like this: show up + connect + contribute = momentum.

You show up at chapter meetings, at seminars, and at events across the state. We have seen that in a very real way this year, with record attendance at our chapter partnership seminars, golf tournaments, and at our annual conference. That level of participation does not happen by accident; it reflects members who are engaged and invested.

You connect with one another, across firms, across regions, and increasingly across generations. And you contribute through your time, your experience, and your willingness to stay engaged. I see this especially with our Young Surveyors Network. More YSN members are attending chapter meetings, building relationships, and becoming part of the broader professional community. That creates an opportunity for all of us.

As experienced professionals, you have the opportunity to share knowledge and perspective that only comes with time in the field. At the same time, our younger members bring valuable skills, particularly in technology and emerging tools, that can benefit even the most seasoned surveyors. When those connections happen, they strengthen the entire profession.

At the chapter level, this is where it all comes together. Chapter meetings and chapter partnership seminars are not just events; they are where relationships are built, ideas are exchanged, and momentum is created.

That is why I would encourage each of you to do one thing. Attend a meeting. Invite someone new. Introduce yourself to a YSN member. Volunteer for a small role. It does not have to be a major commitment. Every action, no matter how small, adds to the equation. Because that is how this works.

Our growth is not accidental. It is the result of consistent participation by members who care about this profession and are willing to invest in its future. And the more people choose to engage, even in small ways, the stronger we become.



## Schedule at a GLANCE

**MAY 1, 2026**

### Surveyor Workshop

Youngsville, NC

8:00am-4:30pm

7.5 PDHs

**MAY 8, 2026**

### Spring Golf Tournament

10:00am Shotgun

Start

Troy, NC

**MAY 15, 2026**

### New Office Open House

12:00pm-8:00pm

Youngsville, NC

**MAY 16, 2026**

### Spring Board of Directors Meeting

8:00am

Youngsville, NC

**MAY 22, 2026**

### Nantahala Chapter Seminar

8:00am-4:30pm

7.5 PDHs

Mills River, NC

**AUG. 8, 2026**

### Summer Board of Directors and

### General Membership Meeting

8:00am

Wilmington, NC

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We will continue to advance initiatives, expand resources, and advocate on behalf of the profession. But the real strength of NCSS will always come from members like you.

Thank you for being part of that—and for contributing to what we are building together.

Sincerely,

Sherri L. Barron  
Executive Director

## **NSPS Memorandum of Understanding**

In 2012, NCSS agreed to partner with the National Society of Professional Surveyors (NSPS) to foster membership on both the state and national levels. As a result, your membership with NCSS now includes dual membership with NSPS. Read the MOU on our website at: [www.ncsurveyors.com/about\\_ncss/governing\\_documents/nsps](http://www.ncsurveyors.com/about_ncss/governing_documents/nsps)

# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



## Strength, Growth, Innovation, and the Future of Surveying in North Carolina

**A**s I reflect on the continued progress of our profession across the state, I am filled with a deep sense of gratitude and optimism. The surveying community in North Carolina is amazingly strong. This strength lies not only in our technical expertise, but also in the dedication, collaboration, and support we show one another every day. Ours is a profession rooted in precision and tradition, yet continually evolving to meet the demands of a changing world.

First and foremost, I want to extend my sincere thanks to our supporting members, chapters, and sponsors. Your commitment, whether through sponsorship, participation, or advocacy, provides the foundation that allows our Society to thrive. You make it possible for us to deliver high-quality educational programs, represent the interests of surveyors across the state, and invest in initiatives that ensure the long-term health of our profession. Your support does not go unnoticed, and it is deeply appreciated.

This year's annual conference in Charlotte was a powerful example of what makes our organization so special. The turnout, energy, and engagement exceeded expectations. From technical sessions and new equipment demos to networking events and a vibrant exhibitor hall, the conference showcased both the depth of experience within our membership and the exciting direction our profession is heading. It was particularly encouraging to see strong participation from younger surveyors and students, reinforcing that the future of our profession is in capable hands.

One of the most inspiring aspects of our work right now is the growing emphasis on mentorship across North Carolina. Through initiatives like the Young Surveyors Network, we are creating meaningful pathways for emerging professionals to learn, connect, and succeed. Mentorship is not just about teaching technical skills; it is about passing on the values, ethics, and pride that define our profession.

Experienced surveyors have a unique opportunity and responsibility to guide those entering the field. By investing time in mentorship, we strengthen the land survey profession. We ensure continuity of knowledge, uphold high standards of practice, and help young surveyors navigate the challenges and opportunities of a rapidly evolving industry. In return, these emerging professionals bring fresh perspectives, adaptability, and a strong familiarity with new tools and technologies that are reshaping how we work.

Indeed, one of the most exciting developments in surveying today is the rapid advancement of technology. From unmanned aerial systems (UAS) and LiDAR scanning to GNSS improvements and data integration platforms, surveyors now have access to tools that dramatically increase efficiency, accuracy, and safety. These innovations are not replacing the surveyor; they are enhancing our capabilities and expanding the scope of what we can deliver.

At the same time, emerging technologies such as reality capture, machine learning applications (AI), and cloud-based collaboration are transforming how we collect, process, and share data. As these tools become more integrated into everyday practice, it is essential that we continue to invest in education and training. Our Society remains

committed to helping members stay ahead of the curve, ensuring that North Carolina surveyors are leaders, not followers, in the adoption of new technology.

The intersection of mentorship and technology presents a unique opportunity. When experienced professionals share their knowledge while embracing new tools alongside younger surveyors, we create a culture of continuous learning and mutual respect. This collaboration strengthens not only individual careers but the profession of land surveying.

The future of surveying in North Carolina is strong and exciting. NCSS is just now seeing the fruits of our labor from ongoing efforts like the Education Foundation, legislative changes, and now YSN; but it depends on our willingness to stay engaged, support one another, and embrace change. Change is not necessarily bad, but it is inevitable. Whether you are attending meetings, mentoring a young surveyor, adopting new technology, or supporting our events, you are contributing to something larger than yourself.

Thank you again for your continued dedication to the North Carolina Society of Surveyors and to the profession we all take pride in. Those that have come before us have left a clearly blazed path for us to follow. I look forward to building on the current momentum of past leadership while also leaving the Society in a better position than I found it.

Respectfully,

J. Shane Strickland, PLS, CFS  
NCSS President 2026

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# NC A&T Update

by Dr. Jerry W. Nave, EdD, PLS



The Geomatics program at North Carolina A&T State University continues to demonstrate strong growth and engagement from both students and faculty. Enrollment remains high, with eighty-five students registered for the spring semester. This sustained interest reflects both the strength of the program and the continued demand for well-educated professionals in the surveying and geospatial sciences fields.

workforce of the profession.

We would also like to recognize Mr. Keith Johnston, who has contributed significantly to the program over the past several years through his teaching and mentorship. Mr. Johnston is retiring to spend more time traveling with his wife. His dedication to our students and the profession will be greatly missed, and we extend our sincere appreciation for his service.

As the program grows, we are actively seeking adjunct faculty to support instruction in key areas, particularly



This academic year also marks a significant milestone for the program in terms of student achievement. The May commencement will see our largest graduating class to date, with eighteen students earning their Bachelor of Science in Geomatics. In total, twenty-one students will graduate during the current academic year. These graduates are well-prepared to enter the profession, having completed rigorous coursework aligned with the profession's needs and licensure pathways. Notably, all of our recent graduates, and in some cases current seniors, are successfully passing the Fundamentals of Surveying (FS) exam on their first attempt, reflecting both student dedication and the rigor of the program.

The program continues to benefit from the support and collaboration of industry professionals. We encourage employers to maintain and expand this partnership by supporting employees who are pursuing their BS degree. Providing flexibility, such as time to complete coursework and assignments, can make a meaningful difference in student success. We also ask professionals to continue encouraging qualified technicians and AAS graduates to apply to the program, helping to strengthen the future

photogrammetry and computational analysis. Minimum qualifications include a master's degree in a surveying-related field such as civil engineering or geomatics. A professional license is preferred but not required. This is an excellent opportunity for experienced professionals to give back to the profession and help shape the next generation of surveyors.

Finally, we remain committed to outreach and engagement with industry partners. Faculty are available to speak with your employees about the opportunities available through our BS program, including the ability to transfer a significant number of credits from an AAS degree in Geomatics. We look forward to continuing to work together to advance the profession through education and collaboration.



*Dr. Jerry Nave is an assistant professor of Geomatics at NC A&T State University. He earned his BS and MS in Surveying and Mapping and his doctorate in Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis at East Tennessee State University. He received his PLS in 1993 and has over 21 years of experience in the private and public sectors.*



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# Education Foundation

by John Odom, PLS

Education Foundation President



**H**ere we are in the springtime wave of pollen, seeing new growth and hope for the upcoming year. Our conference this year was a huge success. It's encouraging to

see it grow in size each year. It is great to see new faces and so encouraging to see the Young Surveyors Network up and thriving. If you are a young surveyor or have them in your company, please get involved in the network.

Speaking of the conference, our raffle winners this year were as follows:

Rifle Winner – Cliff Johnson  
 Cash Raffle 1st place (\$2000) – William Ciccolella  
 Cash Raffle 2nd place (\$500)– David Lee  
 Cash Raffle first out (\$500) – Gary Thompson  
 Seller of winning ticket (\$100) – Jeff Allen

Thanks to all of you for your support through the raffles each year. It is through your support of the raffles that we are able to continue our support of geomatics students through scholarships. Please encourage students you know to apply for the scholarship. Scholarship applications open January 1 and close March 15, so they are closed for this year. We have 30+ applications again this year. This is great news, but it does make our job more difficult because we would like to give them all scholarships.

We would also like to give a big shoutout to the Johnston County Chapter. They announced at the Conference an \$18,000 donation to the Education Foundation in honor of Gary Thompson. In conjunction with that, the Education Foundation will announce a Gary Thompson scholarship winner each year. Make sure that you thank anyone you know from that chapter.

We continue to offer the Trig-Star package to any chapter

interested, and there is a new North Carolina Trig-Star Coordinator in place now. Matthew Roberts has agreed to take that position. The time is now if you are interested. Reach out to Matthew, and I am sure he can help you with the process.

We are always looking for opportunities to spread the word about our profession, so please reach out to any of our Foundation members or the NCSS office if you have an event coming up where surveyors should be represented. This is the time of year when we get busy with conferences going on. This year we are scheduled to attend the NC Technology Student Association state conference, the Home Schoolers Thrive conference, the CTE conference, the FFA conference, and the Public Charter Schools conference. There are only nine of us on the foundation, so we may be calling in some help. If you are interested in helping with any of these conferences, please reach out. Most are in the Raleigh or Winston-Salem area.

We are still promoting our license plates and encouraging every one of our members, and even non-members, to purchase one. We have a brochure that we will be handing out at the local chapter seminars that will explain the process. The process is very simple, and you can still have a weighted tag.

1. Order using the form found at <http://www.ncsseducationfoundation.com/images/LicensePlate/ApplicationMVR-27PPA.pdf>
2. Order when renewing online: <https://www.ncdot.gov/dmv/title-registration/license-plates/pages/specialty-plates.aspx>

\$15 of each plate goes back to the Education Foundation and helps support our scholarships to geomatics students across the state. Our next goal is to completely fund a full scholarship for an up-and-coming future surveyor for a full year. We know we can achieve it based on the support of our fellow members.

If you ever have any questions, would like to donate, or know of a future surveying student that we can reach out to, please don't hesitate to contact any one of us. Our committee members: Mike Adams, Jeff Allen, David Lee, Robin Lee, John Odom, Jared Ownbey, Clay Pate, Gary Thompson, and Jamie Watkins

Thanks for your time and support!!  
 John Odom

# HOLMES

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# NSPS Report

by Jim Craddock, PLS  
NSPS North Carolina Director



From October 2025 through January 2026, I've had the opportunity to participate in a series of NSPS Directors Town Halls. I want to share a few takeaways with North Carolina surveyors—not as formal minutes, but as reflections from a seat at the table.

These town halls were different from what many of us think of as “board meetings.” They were not scripted, not rushed, and certainly not rubberstamp sessions. Instead, they were working conversations—sometimes uncomfortable, often candid, and ultimately productive. As a state director, I found them valuable precisely because they allowed real discussion about where NSPS is doing well, where it's struggling, and how it must adapt if it's going to remain relevant to practicing surveyors.



One of the most consistent themes was engagement, or more accurately, the lack of it. Low participation in national elections, uneven attendance by state executives, and gaps between national initiatives and state awareness were all discussed openly. Rather than pointing fingers, leadership focused on why this is happening and what structural changes might help. From my perspective, that willingness to self-examine is a healthy sign.

The town halls also spent significant time on external pressures facing the profession. Legislative advocacy, geodetic infrastructure, and the impacts of government shutdowns on services like NGS were not treated as abstract policy issues. These are practical concerns that affect surveyors in North Carolina just as much as anywhere else. NSPS leadership is clearly trying to position surveying as essential infrastructure—not just a profession seeking attention, but one that underpins public safety, property rights, and reliable data.

Technology was another recurring topic. No one is arguing against innovation—we all rely on it. But there was real concern about how survey-grade tools are being marketed and who is portrayed as qualified to use them. The message coming out of these discussions was clear: technology does not replace licensure, professional judgment, or accountability.

From a governance standpoint, the most important discussion centered on proposed bylaw changes. In particular, the proposal to grant the Young Surveyors Network a voting seat on the NSPS Board of Directors generated thoughtful debate. As it was presented and discussed, this is not about symbolism; it's about representation. Many boards and committees already have a voice at the board level through state directors who wear multiple hats. Young surveyors, despite being formally organized, do not. Bringing them into the voting structure recognizes the reality that they will inherit the consequences of today's decisions.

Another key proposal, the creation of a new Article XIII, addresses something many of us may not have realized was missing: a clear framework for how NSPS boards and programs are created and governed. Formalizing this structure improves transparency, accountability, and consistency, all of which strengthen the organization.

I came away from these town halls encouraged not because every issue is resolved, but because the right conversations are happening in the open. NSPS is

clearly trying to modernize its governance while staying grounded in the needs of working surveyors.

As North Carolina surveyors, we benefit when our national organization is strong, credible, and engaged. These town halls showed me that NSPS leadership understands that and is willing to do the work to get there.



Sherri Barron, Jeff Allen, and I will be attending the Spring Directors Meeting in Washington DC from April 13-17, 2026 and the “Day on the Hill” lobby day advocating for the following positions with members of Congress:

1. Co-sponsoring the “Alpha-gal Inclusion Act,” which will enact legislation that amends the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to add Alpha-gal to the definition of major food allergens.
2. Urging Members of Congress to add a provision to the 2026 Highway Bill authorizing the National High Definition Map in the Bureau of Transportation Statistics. This will improve highway safety, increase economy for road users, and prioritize geodesy and GPS in the future.
3. Asking Congress to include a provision in the 2027 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) that would authorize a pilot program in DOD’s Transition Assistance Program (TAP) to target members of the Armed Services who have relevant skills sets, training and military surveying, mapping, and geospatial experience to encourage their transition into applicable career opportunities available in civilian sector surveying.

## WELCOME NEW LICENSEES

---

Jacob P. Buczynski

Troy M. Carriker

Michael J. Curcio, Jr.

Matthew T. Dickson

Joel K. Ferguson

Jeffrey W. Hasenmayer

Gregory E. Hawkins

Ryan A. Hellweg-Brown

Ronald Leroy Jackson Jr.

Seth G. Jarrett

Triston M. Lovette

Justin Tyler Lucas

William H. Martin

Michael T. McSwain

Brandon Z. Murray

Jarod M. P. Rossi

Phillip C. Rushing

Juan F. Sanchez Vaca

Matthew J. Stone

Robert Burns Utsey

Matthew R. Vaughn

Loren Michael Ward

James Clay Whitehead

Aaron E. Worley

Logan Woodie

Joseph Maynard

Craig Black

Keegan Lumley

Timothy Malley

Kristopher Schmidt

# The Final Point

by Bill Beardslee, PLS, PE, PP



We are all part of a surveying family – colleagues with whom we work, play, and commiserate. Our surveying families expand and contract as do our related families. A new licensee is the equivalent of a birth, while the passing of a beloved colleague is a great loss.

Several years ago, the National Society of Professional Surveyors (NSPS) Foundation began a program called “The Final Point.” It is a way for the local chapters and the state societies to honor members who have passed on. The memento given to commemorate this is a beautiful brass disc bearing the NSPS’s moniker, the name of the surveyor, the surveyor’s license number, their date of passing, and the latitude and departure of the surveyor’s final resting place.

The disc is made in a form that can be attached to a headstone or mounted on a display. To my knowledge, twenty-three of these markers have been handed out for North Carolina surveyors thus far. The information for ordering this wonderful tribute is available through NSPS.

The presenting of this remembrance to the surveyor’s

family is also an honor, even though it may be one which a person would rather not receive. The preparation for this presentation may bring back memories of days in the field, brainstorming an analysis, and chapter meetings. If you were also social friends, you have fond memories of dinners, family events, phone calls, and years of laughter.

Unfortunately, I have had the honor of presenting “The Final Point” to the family of a fallen comrade. It caused me to remember endless occasions in the last fifty years when this surveyor and I spoke, laughed, and shared family events. My wife and I sat next to him and his wife at his daughter’s wedding. He read one of the passages at our wedding. We fished in the rain for bass in Mexico, for walleye and pike in Canada, and for tarpon in Costa Rica.

As most of you are aware, I am a seminar leader who teaches, among other things, public speaking and presentations. I know all the rules and tricks. However, on the evening of this particular presentation, most of that escaped me. As I held “The Final Point” in my hand to present to my friend’s wife and children, my intellectual self lost the battle to my heart. My eye contact with the audience was limited to the disc, and my voice projection was very weak.

Everyone survived the evening. The next day, I remembered the event and felt the sorrow of our loss but indeed also felt the honor of making the presentation. While I am very proud of having been president of a chapter, President of a State Society, and a “Surveyor of the Year,” this event rivaled those honors.


I would always pray that none of you have to make such a presentation. But if you do, appreciate the honor and smile at the memories.

A fond remembrance of my good friend Robert M. Reitsem, PLS.

And many other good friends and recipients of The Final Point in North Carolina include Larry Wayne Massengill,



Hoyt S. Bradshaw, Lonnie S. Peacock, Henry C. Harris, Jr., Nathan W. Odom, James Lee Wright, Dennis Ray Blackmon, Timmons H. Gordon, Raymond T. Buckner, Donald P. Wilson, Webb A. Morgan, Thomas M. Moore, W. Stanton Massengill, Leland Dewey Strother, Michael Eugene Plummer, William Carl McIlwain, Jr., George Thomas Paris, Terry M Dennis Jr., Terry C. Faircloth, Bryant E. Hardison Jr., Thomas Lester Stancil, Jonathan Chris Witherspoon, and David Edward Vaughn.



*William E. Beardslee, PLS, PE, PP, is a licensed Professional Land Surveyor, Engineer and Planner with over 45 years of experience in the field of land development. He is known for his excellent presentation and writing capabilities, along with being one of the leading technical experts on land development in the engineering and surveying arena. This is one in a series of articles produced by the Education Committee that will appear in The Tarheel Surveyor.*

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# NCSS Marks Its New Home in Youngsville

## A New Chapter in Ownership, the Same Commitment to Our Mission



Significant upgrades were completed prior to the move, including roof repairs to ensure the integrity of the building for years to come. Inside, new flooring, paint, and lighting have refreshed the space, creating a clean, professional environment.

One of the most practical enhancements was enclosing a former back entrance and closet to replace the walk-up attic space we relied on in our previous office. This provides more accessible and usable storage for daily operations. Custom cubbies were also added to house the growing collection of donated maps that support the MAPS database, an investment in preserving and organizing valuable resources for our members.

**T**he North Carolina Society of Surveyors has officially opened the doors to its new office in Youngsville at 307 E. Main Street, marking an exciting milestone that began with a vision and is now a reality.

NCSS closed on the property on October 21st, and over the following weeks, necessary repairs and improvements were completed to prepare the space for its next chapter. On January 2nd, the move from Wake Forest was complete, and operations officially began in the new office.

What began as a strategic decision to address parking challenges and rising costs has resulted in something even more meaningful: a space we now own that supports our daily operations and strengthens NCSS's long-term future.

### A Space Designed for Purpose

While the new office is smaller, the improvements made during the transition have created a space that is more functional, efficient, and tailored to our needs.

Additional exterior improvements have further enhanced the property. New landscaping has improved both the appearance and functionality of the site, and recently added concrete sidewalks and improved entrances make the office more accessible and welcoming.

And sometimes, it is the everyday improvements that make the biggest difference. Alison now has a dedicated office with walls, allowing her to work more efficiently





without the constant background noise of the copier or the added heat it generated during peak education season. Small changes like this make a meaningful difference in day-to-day productivity.

### Location Matters

The location in Youngsville is not only practical but also a strong investment in the future of NCSS. As the area continues to grow, property values are expected to follow, positioning this purchase as both a functional and sound asset for the organization moving forward.

In addition to its investment potential, the property offers immediate and tangible benefits. For the first time, NCSS has its own dedicated parking that is not controlled by the town. This eliminates one of the biggest challenges we faced in Wake Forest and makes visiting the office significantly more convenient.

The combination of ownership, location, and surrounding growth creates an opportunity that supports



both the current operations and the organization's long-term financial strength.

### Recognizing the Effort Behind the Move

This achievement would not have been possible without the dedication and leadership of the Building Search Committee: Jerry Callicutt, Cliff Johnson, Shane Strickland, and Christy Davis, working in partnership with the Executive Director. Together, they guided this project from initial concept through purchase, renovation, and finally moving in.

At the winter Board of Directors meeting, a new Building Maintenance Committee was established to oversee the property's ongoing care and stewardship. Cliff Johnson will serve as chair of this committee, continuing his involvement from the building search process as we move into ownership.

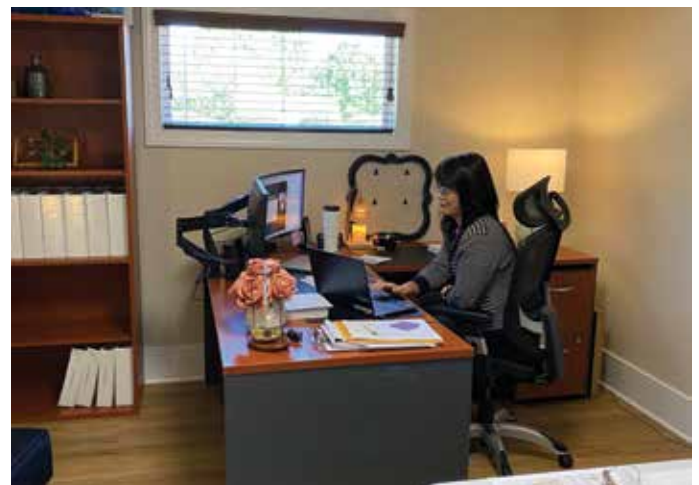
### Looking Ahead

As we settle into our new home, one thing remains unchanged: our commitment to serving our members and advancing the profession of surveying across North Carolina.

This move is not just the completion of a plan; it is the beginning of a new chapter.

### Open House

We invite you to join us for an open house on May 15th from 12:00 PM to 8:00 PM at our new office located at 307 E. Main Street in Youngsville. Stop by at any time during the afternoon or evening to tour the space and enjoy refreshments with fellow members.





In February, surveying professionals from across North Carolina gathered at the Hilton University Place in Charlotte for the NCSS Annual Conference and Trade Show, united by a shared commitment to growth, innovation, and the continued advancement of the profession. This year's theme, "Keeping Pace: Evolving with Tools, Tech, and Terrain," set the tone for a conference centered on adaptability and forward-thinking in an ever-changing landscape.

The land surveying profession continues to move

at an unprecedented pace. New tools, advancing technology, and changing environments require professionals who are not only skilled but also prepared to adapt, lead, and innovate. This year's conference delivered a focused, future-driven experience designed to help attendees stay current, adaptable, and prepared for the profession's evolving demands.

Educational sessions were a central highlight, with content specifically geared toward the tools and technologies reshaping surveying today. Attendees explored how artificial intelligence is being applied to

feature extraction, quality control, and data analysis. Sessions also provided clarity on Building Information Modeling (BIM) and its growing influence on surveying workflows, while others examined SLAM scanning as a fast and flexible solution for modern data collection. Real-world case studies demonstrated how integrating today's tools can improve accuracy, efficiency, and overall project outcomes.

A longstanding highlight of the conference is the Plat Contest, which continues to showcase the exceptional skill and professionalism of NCSS members. Each year, a different chapter takes on the responsibility of judging the entries, and we sincerely appreciate the time and effort required for this important task. This year, the Mecklenburg Chapter served as the judging chapter, and we extend our gratitude to all who participated in the review process and to everyone who submitted plats.

Congratulations to all of this year's winners, with special recognition going to the Overall Winner, Michael Branson, for his As-built Survey of Salvation Army Property, which will go on to be entered in the National Plat Contest by NSPS. In the Boundary category, first place was awarded to Jason O. Wall, second to Brandon Preslar, and honorable mention to William Ciccolella. In the Topographic category, Abdel Boho received first place, Jason O. Wall earned second, and Brandon Simpson received honorable mention. In the As-built Commercial category, Michael Branson placed first, Brandon Simpson second, and Logan Breese received honorable mention. In the As-built Residential category, Pierre Abbat received first place, and Brandon Simpson second. In the Non-Conforming category, Edward Jordal earned first place, Brandon Simpson second, and William Ciccolella received honorable mention. In the ALTA category, Brandon Simpson was awarded first place, A. Ty Cooley second, and Jason O. Wall received honorable mention.

The energy continued in the exhibit hall, where this year marked a major milestone. Not only did the conference achieve record attendance, but also the exhibit hall was completely sold out. We extend our sincere appreciation to all of our exhibitors for their continued support and investment in the profession. Their presence provides invaluable opportunities for attendees to





engage directly with the latest tools, technology, and services that are shaping the future of surveying.

Congratulations are also in order for this year's grand prize winners. Michael Tackett won a Native Hammer fishing kayak, and Andy DeGroat won two Aventon electric bikes.

Beyond professional development, the conference also emphasized the importance of community and purpose. This year's President's Charity was the Alpha-Gal Alliance Action Fund. Alpha-gal syndrome has a direct and personal impact on land surveyors and other outdoor professionals. It is a serious, sometimes life-threatening allergy caused by tick bites, with more than sixty percent of affected individuals experiencing anaphylaxis and documented fatalities. The Alpha-Gal Alliance Action Fund supports those affected through awareness, education, research, and advocacy. Those who wish to contribute can learn more or donate at [alphagalaction.org](http://alphagalaction.org).

We also extend a special thank you to those who

sponsored students to attend this year's conference. Their participation was made possible through the support of the SW Piedmont Chapter, the Cape Fear Chapter, the Northwest Chapter, and Duncan-Parnell. Supporting students is an investment in the future of our profession, and their presence continues to bring energy and fresh perspective to the conference.

The conference concluded with the Presidential Awards Banquet on Friday evening, where members gathered to recognize achievements and celebrate the profession. The evening's awards recognized individuals and groups who have gone above and beyond in service to the profession, the organization, and the communities served.

During the evening, the Johnston County Chapter announced an \$18,000 donation to the Education Foundation to establish a scholarship in honor of Gary Thompson, which will be funded through this contribution and awarded annually by the Foundation. This thoughtful gift recognizes his lasting contributions to the surveying profession in North Carolina while





creating a meaningful and enduring way to support and inspire future surveyors for years to come.

President’s Award presented to the Building Search Committee, including Shane Strickland, Cliff Johnson, Christy Davis, and Jerry Callicutt.

The President’s Awards provided an opportunity to personally recognize outstanding service. This year’s recipients included the Shining Star Award presented to Clifford C. Johnson, the Polaris Award presented to Daniel W. Tanner, and the

Daniel Abrams was recognized as Young Surveyor of the Year, honoring his contributions and leadership among the next generation of professionals; he also serves on the YSN Committee (learn more about



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Daniel by reading the member profile on page 31). Tim Guisewhite received the prestigious Surveyor of the Year Award, one of the highest honors presented by the North Carolina Society of Surveyors, recognizing a career defined by professionalism, leadership, and lasting impact. The evening also marked an important leadership transition, with the passing of the gavel from outgoing President Dean Exline to incoming President Shane Strickland, as the newly elected Board of Directors was officially installed, setting the stage for continued leadership in the year ahead.

David Turner also looked ahead, announcing that the 62nd Annual Conference will be held February 18th–20th at Harrah’s Cherokee Casino Resort. Building on

the momentum and strong attendance of this year’s event, the Society will return to a familiar and well-received location that supports both the educational program and the connections that make the conference a success. Members can expect another opportunity to come together, continue the conversations started this year, and further strengthen the relationships and engagement that continue to move NCSS forward.

The evening concluded with entertainment by Old Man Mafia, bringing a celebratory close to a memorable conference, as attendees enjoyed the music and spent time on the dance floor together. The grand prize included two complimentary nights for two in a deluxe room at Harrah’s Cherokee

Casino Resort. The package also featured a \$250 dining credit, redeemable at any Caesars Entertainment-owned restaurant, along with a \$100 gift card to Ruth’s Chris Steak House.

A sincere thank you to the Conference Committee for their dedication and hard work in delivering an outstanding event. The time, effort, and attention to detail invested by Shane Strickland, Cliff Johnson, John Story, David Turner, Jim Strome, Rusty Douglas, Sherri Barron, Anna Culiati, Alison Olwell, and Mike Withers did not go unnoticed. Their

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collective efforts created a well-organized, engaging, and memorable conference experience that reflects the strength and professionalism of the organization.

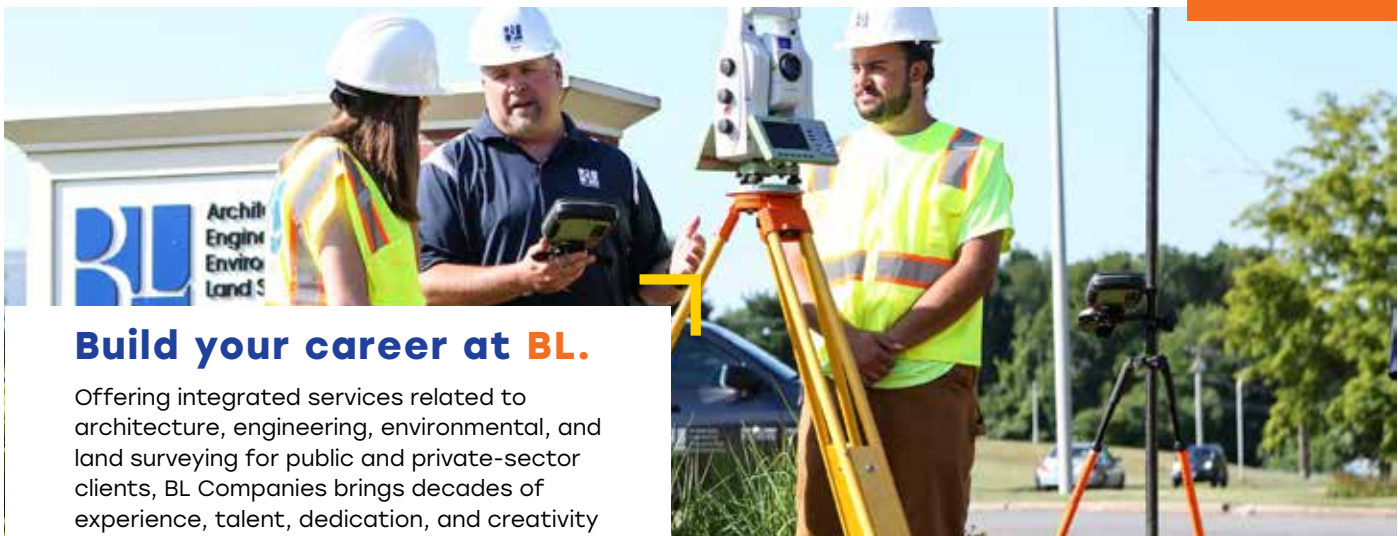
Finally, this event would not be possible without the generous support of our sponsors. We extend our sincere appreciation to Duncan-Parnell, Foundation Risk Partners, the SW Piedmont Chapter, the Northwest Chapter, the Yadkin Valley Chapter, Spatial Data Consultants, Taylor

Wiseman Taylor, CS4, All Points Surveying, iGage Southeast, Holmes Geospatial, and BL Companies.

As the profession continues to evolve, one thing remains constant: the surveying community's strength and commitment to excellence. This year's conference reinforced that while tools and technology may change, our dedication to precision, integrity, and progress continues to guide the path forward.



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# Maintaining Integrity

by William Ciccocella, PLS

**W**e are now required to spend an hour every year in the verifiable study of ethics and another hour on the Standards of Practice. Two whole hours. If I hear anyone griping about this, I think they probably need more than those two hours, for our integrity (which flows from our ethics and adherence to the law) is what makes us valuable as surveyors. There are many things you can do to make it easier for you and others to adhere to a high ethical standard.

My insurance adjuster and the annual insurance audit I am currently working on make me acutely aware of the first way: do not let one client constitute too high a percentage of your annual billings. Fifty percent is too much unless you want that client to start telling you when to do (or not do) what. You may start hearing things like “Don’t set the lot corners until Phase 2,” or “Use the calls and areas provided on a subdivision plan prepared atop your overall boundary by someone else.” “This has been approved, can we get it recorded this week?” should be met with “No, I have to check all the numbers and set the corners first.” If their response is “The other surveyor we use nine counties away does it that way for us,” then you should say, “You’ll have to get him to do it because I will not.” And if that actually happens, then report that other surveyor to the State Board for using your boundary on “his” map and supplanting your employment at the same time. In short, don’t let any client become your boss, and don’t risk your license to save someone else money that they should simply be paying to you.

When we have “easy” jobs like staking well designed parking lots or retracing interior lots in newer subdivisions, we are probably competing with one another on price and timing, and integrity is not the issue. Mentally, those jobs are relatively easy, and having to spend “extra” time getting it right is not anticipated. But when the job is creating or retracing parcels on and near the middle of a very long, very old line, to compete on price and timing probably means you plan on using existing irons near your site to establish the old line and not tracking down the actual endpoints. If you properly

explain to the potential client what you must do and they say that they don’t care for that (and so don’t want to pay for it), then you don’t want them as clients anyway because they just showed a lack of integrity, and who wants to do business with that?

Helping your client maintain integrity can help your reputation, especially with them. When given plans for a new parking lot, do you make sure the Handicap Parking area designed is ADA compliant? I have found that many times they are designed with 2% slope one way and then 2% perpendicularly, yielding as much as 2.8% cross slope. Tell the client as soon as you catch this and they should be grateful because if the pavement is laid according to plan and then is inspected as built, they will likely have to tear a bunch out and do it over. I don’t think checking the cross slope is necessarily our job as the stakeout company, and so I don’t see this as a liability issue per se, but it is our job as human beings and since your success depends your client’s success, spend those forty-five seconds and verify.

Lastly and perhaps most importantly, show nothing but ethical behavior to your employees in everything you do. You need them to understand that integrity is doing the right thing even when no one is looking, something they cannot embrace when they know you do otherwise, even when others are looking.

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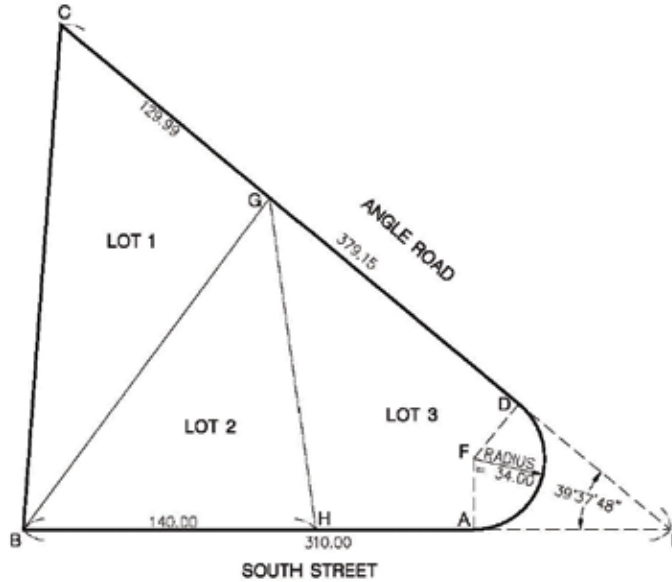
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# PROBLEM CORNER

A father divided a tract of land as shown by figure A, B, C, D, and arc DA into lots for his three children. The time has come for the children to determine who gets which lot. They decide to draw from a deck of cards for first and second choice. The children would like more information before they make their choices.



**Find:**

- Distance BC = \_\_\_\_\_
- Distance BG = \_\_\_\_\_
- Distance GH = \_\_\_\_\_
- Arc Distance AD = \_\_\_\_\_
- Area Lot 1 = B, C, G, B = \_\_\_\_\_
- Area Lot 3 = A, H, G, D, Arc DA = \_\_\_\_\_

Required Answer Format

- Distance: nearest hundredth
- Area: nearest whole unit

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I give (specific or identified property, possessions, percentage or residue) to the NCSS Education Foundation, Inc. (a tax-exempt organization located in Wake Forest, NC) for the purpose of supporting its education-stewardship programs.



you will find links to their social media platforms and upcoming events. <https://www.ncsurveyors.com/young-surveyors-network>. Through these efforts, North Carolina's YSN is building momentum, strengthening relationships, and supporting the next generation of surveyors across the state.

The North Carolina Young Surveyors Network (YSN) continues to thrive, creating meaningful opportunities for connection, education, and professional growth. Most recently, YSN hosted another successful Tech Day on March 20th in Gastonia at Rankin Lake Park, sponsored by Duncan-Parnell, offering hands-on learning and valuable industry insights.

To stay connected and learn more about upcoming opportunities, visit the YSN page on the website, where



## YSN MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



### Keegan Lumley

Keegan's path into surveying reflects a combination of early responsibility, strong technical foundation, and a commitment to continuous growth. He began his career as a Survey Field Technician and quickly stepped into a one-man Party Chief role after only a few months, an experience that accelerated his development and forced him to take ownership of his work early on. Rather than following a traditional, gradual progression, Keegan learned by doing, embracing challenges as opportunities to grow.

Before entering the private sector, Keegan served as an Engineering Technician in the U.S. Air Force, where he gained hands-on experience with Trimble equipment and developed the discipline to work with precision under pressure. Combined with AutoCAD skills developed in high school, this background helped him stand out early in his career.

Keegan credits mentorship as a critical factor in his success, particularly the guidance of his mentor, Sean Leggett, PLS, who invested time in teaching, correcting, and challenging him throughout his development. He also emphasizes the importance of accountability, reliability, and a strong work ethic, qualities that employers value just as much as technical ability.

In addition to his professional work, Keegan is actively involved in the profession as the YSN liaison for the Southeastern Chapter, helping connect young surveyors with opportunities for engagement and growth.

Throughout his journey, Keegan has learned that accuracy and documentation outweigh speed, and that failure is an essential part of growth. Today, he defines success not by perfection, but by integrity, sound judgment, and the impact he has on others. His advice to young surveyors is simple: show up, stay curious, and take ownership of your development, because experience, combined with effort, will ultimately guide your path.



like NOAA CORS: passive marks appear on the Geodetic Mark Page, while NCN CORS appear on the Geodetic Station Page. An updated NGS Map page is another new feature.

**A Redesigned NGS Map Interface —** (<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/e5ab6fa8134a4135a7fe6faffe547e9b>) will serve as an improved DDS landing page. The updated map will provide better access to geodetic control data, CORS stations, and other layers and will enhance visualization and query tools for surveyors, GIS professionals, and the public.

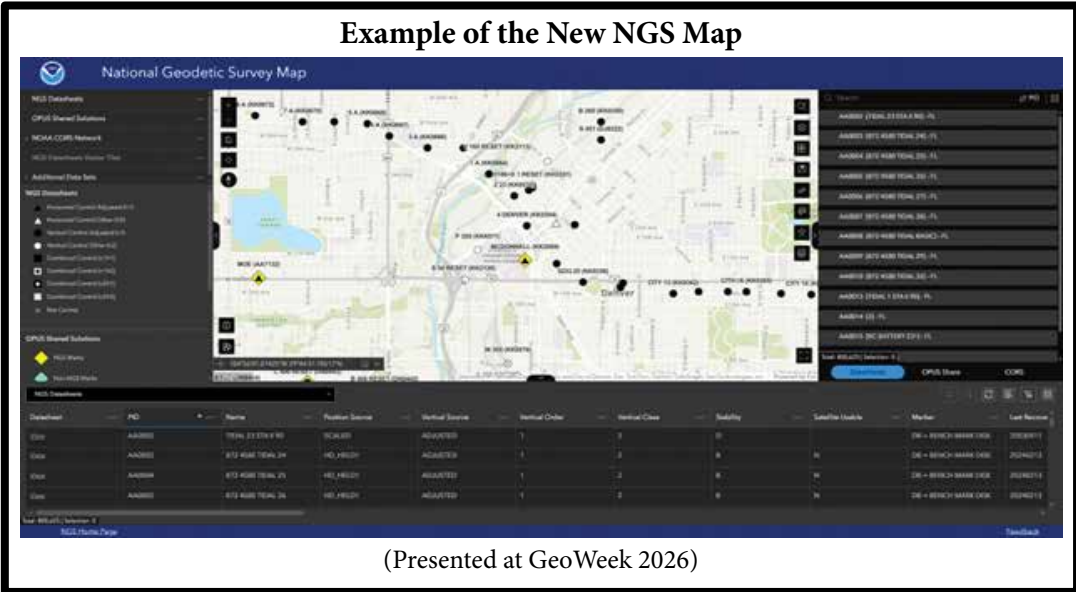
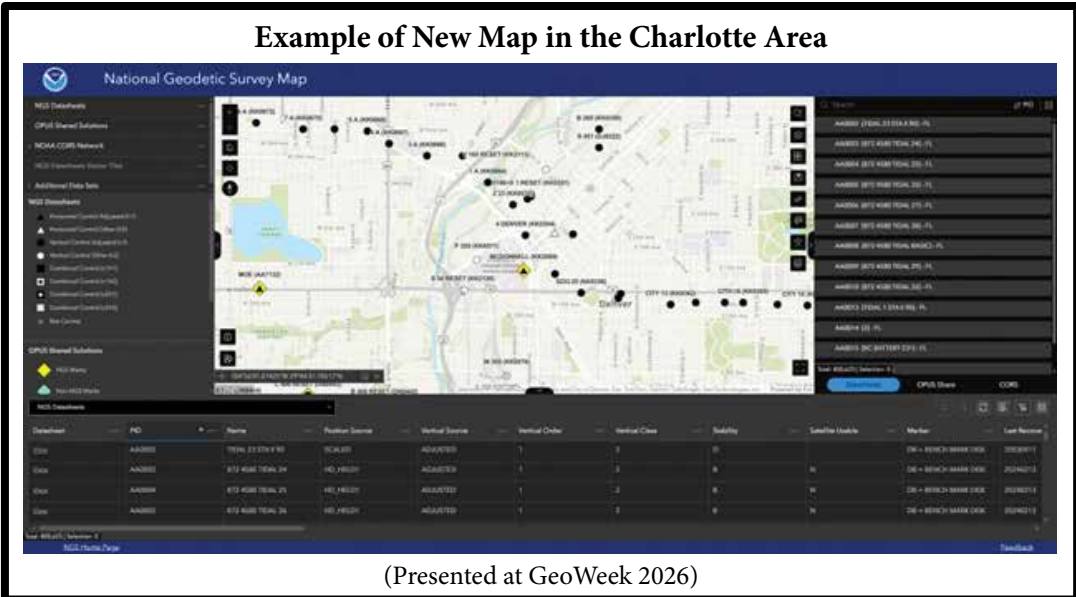
The application will provide access to the Geodetic Mark Page, Geodetic Station Page, and OPUS Share results. I've included an example of the proposed new map

for the Charlotte area, which displays NOAA CORS, OPUS Share points, and passive marks. Users can click an icon to view all information for that location.

During the GeoWeek session, NGS also provided an update on their OPUS products. Most of the enhancements will not be available until after the new NSRS has been adopted. I will address updates to OPUS products in a future Tarheel article.



*David B. Zilkoski served as Director, National Geodetic Survey, from 2005 - 2009 and was the Project Manager of the New Adjustment of the North American Vertical Datum of 1988. He currently works as a geodetic consultant on NGS' modernization of the National Spatial Reference System. He is Chair of North Carolina Geodetic Survey Advisory Committee and a member of the North Carolina 2022 Reference Frame Working Group.*



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## MEMBER PROFILE

### Daniel Abrams



Daniel Abrams, PLS, was born on December 26, 1997, in Wilmington, North Carolina. During his early childhood, his family relocated to Winston-Salem, where he attended Forsyth Country Day School through middle school before moving to Garner, North Carolina, where he graduated from Wake Christian Academy in 2016.

Leadership and service have been important parts of Daniel's life from an early age. In the summer of 2014, he attended the General Hugh Shelton Leadership Academy Camp at North Carolina State University, an experience that strengthened his interest in leadership and community involvement. The following year, he earned the rank of Eagle Scout, reflecting years of dedication to discipline, service, and personal responsibility.

Daniel's first exposure to the surveying profession came during a visit to the Tennessee Society of Professional Surveyors, where he met two National Park surveyors who described being helicoptered into remote wilderness areas, camping for days at a time, and surveying their way back out. The adventure they

described captured his imagination and sparked curiosity about the profession.



In May 2016, Daniel began his surveying career with Stewart Engineering and enrolled in the Geomatics Technology program at Wake Technical Community College that fall. His early days in the field quickly revealed that surveying sometimes looked very different from the adventurous picture he had imagined. One of his earliest memories was working alongside his party chief and mentor, Nash Hall, who showed him how to open a sanitary manhole and use the face of his watch to reflect sunlight down to the invert to check pipe material. Daniel often jokes that he originally imagined surveying would involve helicopter rides into national parks—not opening sanitary manholes and sticking his face down into them.



Despite that humbling introduction,

Daniel quickly developed a deep appreciation for the profession. Working alongside Nash proved especially influential, both professionally and personally, and he remains one of Daniel's closest friends and greatest inspirations in the field. Frank Mundy also played a pivotal role in Daniel's early career through Stewart Engineering, providing him the opportunity to survey in Saint Lucia, where he contributed to multiple sports complex projects across the island, including a cricket stadium, soccer stadium, and proposed Olympic swimming facilities.



Daniel graduated from Wake Technical Community College in 2019 with an associate's degree in Geomatics Technology and continued to gain experience with Stewart Engineering. Over the years, he progressed through several roles, including Instrument Man, Senior Party Chief, and Office Technician, gaining valuable experience in both field operations and office production.

After nearly a decade dedicated to the craft, Daniel earned his North Carolina Professional Land Surveyor license (NCPLS L-5644) in November 2024. Shortly thereafter, he joined Bartlett Engineering & Surveying in Wilson, North Carolina, where he now serves as a Professional

Land Surveyor.

Throughout his career, Daniel has been fortunate to learn from mentors who helped shape both his professional development and his perspective on the profession. Among those who have had the greatest influence are his father, Paul Abrams; his grandfather, Dr. Dan Crocker; Frank Mundy; Tony Bartlett; and Nash Hall, as well as many others who generously shared their knowledge and guidance.

Daniel has been actively involved with the North Carolina Society of Surveyors (NCSS) since 2015, volunteering his time assisting with seminars and other society functions,

and serving as Master of Ceremonies for the annual NCSS Conference.

In recognition of his dedication to the profession and service to the surveying community, he was honored with the NCSS Young Surveyor of the Year Award for 2025, which was presented in February 2026.

Daniel's professional interests include boundary surveying, topographic mapping, and subdivision layout, and he is especially passionate about mentoring young surveyors entering the profession.

Daniel is engaged to Anne McCray Joseph, an occupational therapist

with Nash County Public Schools. The two have been together for eight years and will be married on May 30, 2026. Daniel credits Anne McCray as the love of his life and the most supportive person throughout his career, encouraging him through long hours, challenges, and milestones along the way.

Outside of surveying, Daniel enjoys camping, backpacking, fishing, and hunting, particularly turkey, duck, and upland birds. Above all, he considers his faith in Jesus Christ to be the most important part of his life and the guiding principle behind both his personal life and professional endeavors.



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# NCCSS SPRING GOLF TOURNAMENT

May 8, 2026 - 10:00AM Shotgun Start  
Densons Creek Golf Course in Troy, NC



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