

Speaker Bios

Ben Houston

Ben Houston has over 25 years of experience with mapping technologies ranging from military applications to environmental conservation and public works. A licensed Professional Engineer in New York, Ben has a broad background in public health engineering, utilities infrastructure, and storm water management. A former Army Officer, Ben spent 12 years as a Topographic Engineer, Public Health Engineer, and Special Operations Team Leader before returning to the private sector. He is a graduate of the US Army Combined Arms Services Staff School, the Defense Mapping School, and the JFK Special Warfare Center and School and he completed a tour in Afghanistan in 2002. He has worked as an engineer and a GIS analyst in both for-profit and non-profit consulting companies, as well as with various local government agencies including County Departments of Planning, Public Works, and Public Health. His focus the past 10 years has been using airborne LiDAR data for topographic mapping and terrain analysis, although he most recently began working with small drones to enhance their value as tools for surveying and mapping. He is a co-founder of Spatial Analytix. Ben is a certified Project Management Professional and a certified GIS Professional with a BS in Geological Engineering from the Colorado School of Mines, and an MS in Hydrogeology from NC State University.

Chris Branas

"Mr. Branas has over 19 years of experience in land surveying and related fields. His areas of expertise include laser scanning, 3D data processing/modeling, survey, hydrographic survey, information technology, and heavy/civil construction (design/build). Some notable projects that he has performed work on include The World Trade Center Forensic Recovery Project, Hurricane Katrina Recovery Effort, Secure Border Initiative (SBI-net), and the United States Holocaust Museum Structural Monitoring Project."

Lukas Duruttya

Lukas Duruttya earned a Master in Business Administration degree in 2002 while working for an architectural and engineering firm in Slovakia, after which he relocated to the United States. Lukas started working as a technical survey system support person and survey system trainer in 2004 at DiCarlo Precision Instrument in Salisbury, MD. He is a certified support person and trainer for Topcon, Sokkia, FARO and others and has been the GPS/RTK network administrator for DiCarlo Precision Instrument's regional network since 2005. Lukas is known for his ability to teach in a way that makes complicated systems and software useful, productive and easy to understand.

Matthew P. Marchioni

Mr. Marchioni is currently the Topcon District Sales Manager overseeing distribution of Topcon – Sokkia Geo-Positioning products in Central, Northeast US and Canada since June, 2010. He has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Communication from Seton Hall University, South Orange graduating in 1984. He followed his graduation by attending Morris County Community College in New Jersey for Surveying Technology and worked as a survey field crew chief until his hire as a salesman of survey equipment and supplies for retail store operation for 21 years. He has experience in the sales and technical support of all manufacturer brands of field hardware and field and office software and has witnessed the growth of the positioning products through present day technologies. He has been certified and trained on specific brands of product and has presented positioning technologies at local and regional Land Surveying events in the US and Canada, as well as various state DOT Design and Construction District offices and Technical Colleges and University Programs throughout the US. With almost 30 years of Survey Industry experience, he brings a strong knowledge base of providing insight, product presentation and training and technical consultation into every surveying – positioning application.