surveyor says!

THE NSPS BULLETIN

APRIL 2026

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WELCOME

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Hey Surveyors,

What a month it has been. If you've been anywhere near your phone, inbox or LinkedIn feed in the last week or so, you'll already know, NSPS took Washington, D.C. by storm.

From the 25th Annual Student Competition on the National Mall to a packed day of meetings on Capitol Hill, April 13-17 was a full-throttle week for the profession. The turnout was strong, the unified message was clear, and the energy was second to none.

Now we're back at our desks (and in the field), but the momentum doesn't stop. There's a May event to mark in your calendar, a podcast backlog worth a binge, a certification program with registration closing fast, and, as the weather warms, a timely reminder to check your tick prevention setup before you head out. Here's your round-up of what you need to know this month.

SPRING MEETING RECAP

This year's Spring Business Meeting, along with the 25th Annual National Student Competition and annual "Day on the Hill" event, was well attended and continued the progress NSPS has been making in advancing the profession through advocacy, awareness, and education. While the weather was a bit sticky for the student competitors, YSN volunteers, and attendees on the Hill, it could not deter the great atmosphere of camaraderie and professionalism. A big thank you to all who attended and participated, as well as those who volunteered with Student Competition.

RECENT NEWS

RECENT NEWS

The 25th Annual Student Competition was a milestone moment

Twenty-four teams. Two days at the National Mall and across the DMV. One historic Monument Hunt.

The 25th Annual NSPS Student Competition, held alongside the Spring Business Meeting and Day on the Hill, brought together the next generation of professional surveyors for one of the most dynamic events on the NSPS calendar. Presented by Control Point Associates and supported by Trimble, On the Mark Surveying, QK4, Dioptra, and Ralph Gromley, this year's competition was a showcase of talent, teamwork, and the future of the profession.

To every student, advisor, sponsor, and volunteer who made it happen, thank you.

Here are the winning teams per division:

Baccalaureate:

- Penn State University
- University of Akron
- University of Florida

Associate:

- Parkland College
- Clark College
- Klein Collins High School

Congratulations to all teams for competing at a high level, as the scoring was closer than ever. Thanks again to Trimble for their generous donation for awards and prize monies for the winning teams.

Student Competition, presented by

Thank you!

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RECENT NEWS

RECENT NEWS

Pictures from the Student Competition

RECENT NEWS

RECENT NEWS

Tick season is here. Is your prevention strategy up to date?

As field season ramps up, so do the ticks and if you're still relying on standard prevention guidance, you may be less protected than you think.

Most tick prevention advice was developed with black-legged ticks in mind, but the lone star tick, now the most prevalent species across much of the U.S. and the primary cause of alpha-gal syndrome, is an aggressive hunter that detects carbon dioxide, heat, and movement from a distance. Standard methods often aren't enough.

We've put together a field-surveyor-specific guide on what's changed and what to do about it.

Read the tick prevention guide >

Celebrity Sightings!

While attending the recent Virginia Association of Surveyors annual conference, we happened to run into an old friend:

It was great to spend time with Curt Sumner, our past NSPS Executive Director, while taking in the fellowship and networking in Richmond, VA.

Curt is still full of stories and laughter while enjoying retirement in western Virginia with his wife, Sandra. They are busy babysitting their two great-grandchildren so keeping up with the little ones is now their priority. Curt also wanted to say “Hello” to all his friends and contemporaries across the nation and wish them all well.

(Not sure who the guy on the left is; he kept muttering something about updated coordinates and geodesy. To his credit, he did seem to know his stuff.)

ADVOCACY

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Day on the Hill 2026: Mission accomplished

On April 14th, NSPS members from across the country gathered on Capitol Hill to meet directly with Congressional representatives and make the case for our profession.

The three priorities on the table were workforce development for military veterans, geodetic framework infrastructure, and health legislation for field surveyors. Attendees brought a united voice from every corner of the country, and the scale of the turnout made its own statement: surveyors are essential, and we're organizing around the issues that shape our future.

Thank you to every member who travelled, every state society that showed up, and every representative who attended the meeting. This is what advocacy looks like.

Day on the Hill may be behind us for another year, but advocacy is a year-round effort. NSPS continues to engage with lawmakers, agencies, and regulators at both the federal and state levels, from workforce policy to geodetic infrastructure funding to the Alpha-gal Allergen Inclusion Act.

If you want to stay involved between Capitol Hill weeks, your state society is the best place to plug in. Local participation is what gives our national message its weight.

EVENTS

EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

Boise Meridian Initial Point Celebration: Idaho
May 1–2, 2026
Boise, Idaho

A state-led event you don't want to miss. The Bureau of Land Management (Idaho) has partnered with the Idaho State Historical Society and the Idaho Society of Professional Land Surveyors for Surveying the Past, Mapping the Future, honoring the cadastral surveyors behind the Public Land Survey System established by Thomas Jefferson in 1785.

A fitting tribute during America 250 year.

Learn more >

CST Program: Take the next step in your career

The Certified Survey Technician (CST) program offers a nationally recognized pathway for surveying and mapping technicians to validate their skills.

With four levels across field and office tracks, there's a CST level to match every stage of your career, whether you're starting out or building toward licensure.

Find out more >

ANDFINALLY

PODCAST: SURVEYOR SAYS!

This month's episodes are a celebration of the people who make the profession tick.

Live from the Student Competition
Host Tim Burch took the mic to the National Mall to capture the energy of the 25th Annual Student Competition, sitting down with students, advisors, and sponsors to reflect on what the event means for the future of surveying. A must-listen if you missed the action in D.C.

Kennedy Williams: Finding surveying mid-degree
Recorded live at the Western Region Survey Conference in Las Vegas, Tim chats with Kennedy Williams, a senior at Cal Poly Pomona who discovered surveying during her sophomore year and hasn't looked back. A dynamic conversation about education, experience, networking and a fitting listen as we closed out Women's History Month.

Todd Horton: Why technician training matters now
In the age of one-person crews and fast-moving technology, technician training is more important than ever. Todd Horton, lead instructor for survey technician training nationwide, joins Tim to talk about why training is the foundation of the modern profession and where he's taking the program next.
Listen on Podbean or Spotify >

ALTA/NSPS Land Title Survey Standards – 2026 Edition
Unless you have been under a rock, one should have seen the announcement and ongoing promotion of the latest version of the ALTA/NSPS Land Title Survey Standards. We have it all covered for you; from links to the latest documents and FAQ's to podcasts and videos with the Land Title Survey Chair Gary Kent, we are your one stop shop for the latest information. Check it out today and stay on top of your game!

SURVEYOR SONGS, BY SURVEYORS

Ever wanted a soundtrack that actually gets the job? Kentucky Director Ben Shinabery and his crew have released two albums of surveyor-inspired songs under the name Acres in Chains, now streaming on Spotify, Apple Music, and YouTube. From Blame it on the Crew to The Meanders, it's the most survey-specific playlist you'll build this year. You're welcome.

Search "Acres in Chains" on your platform of choice.

CONTACT & SUPPORT

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Need help or have questions? Our friendly, helpful team are here to serve

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Useful links:

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