“Every man is a debtor to his profession.”
Even though the forecasters on Channel 6 had predicted a cold and rainy morning, the survey gods would have nothing of it. Saturday 19th March, 2011 was going to end up beating all predictions (much like the current NCAA Final Four VCU Rams...GO RAMS!) and would be a glorious spring morning that allowed everyone to assemble at the State Capital Building where we prepared to celebrate the start of National Surveyors Week 2011.

Many thanks must go to those folks and their firms that have made this celebration possible. First, to those engineers and support staff within the Virginia Commonwealth Division of Engineering and Buildings, including: Mr. David McGreevy, Mr. Bruce Brook, Mr. Bert Jones, and especially to Ms. Kristy Martin all of whom have worked hard on our behalf to ensure we would be able to observe our GPS station in front of the state capital building. They helped ensure that all permits were in order and no one would be arrested by the capital guards that morning!

Secondly, we must thank the generous team over at Luck Stone, especially Mr. John Blackmore, Mapping Specialist and Mr. Scott Taylor, Division Manufacturing Manager, for “delivering on their promise” and making it possible for this Surveyors Association to have a granite monument in the correct color and size needed so that it would fit within the brick soldier coarse of the capital steps.

Thirdly, to the fine artisans at A.P. Grappone, stone engravers, who generously offered to cut our stone at no charge with the layout we have shown here.

Lastly, but by no means least, to all the volunteers who turned up to take part in this event, especially folks like Mr. John Aaron from VDOT who showed up extra early to help me set the NSPS stone within the brick of the capital’s steps and Alison Hanson, Les Burnside, and John Claytor for the use of their equipment but more importantly, the donation of their time with those members of the public that had good questions during our observation.

As you can see from the photos taken that day, we were not only blessed with great weather but GREAT surveyors who were willing to share their knowledge and passion for this “second oldest” profession with those folks that attended our event.

A great big thank you goes out to all those that made this first national event to help kick off National Surveyors Week a resounding success.

—Mr. Stephen C. Letchford, LS VAS Central Chapter President

—Mr. David Holland, LS NSPS Governor for Virginia
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope this letter finds you well. The 63rd Annual Convention held in Williamsburg was a success! After a long hiatus, we were back at the Williamsburg Lodge where the space and staff could not have been better. Thanks to all those involved in setting up the convention, seminars, Exhibit Hall, and everything associated with the weekend. The Lodge is a great place to hold a convention and I think most were pleased to be back.

Secondly, the weather is turning (finally) and business will hopefully follow suit. That being said, we’re all getting out more to work on interesting jobs in interesting places. The Old Dominion Surveyor is a magazine designed for you, the surveyor, and depends on input from you. If you have any really good stories to tell, articles to report or comments to make, please contact either me or Judy to make sure they make their way into the magazine.

I want to thank Will Nash and Judy Hite for their work last year on the Old Dominion Surveyor. I look forward to providing the Association with a magazine they can learn from and enjoy in 2011.

EDITOR’S NOTE

First, let me start off by saying that the 2011 Annual Surveyors Convention held in Williamsburg was a success! After a long hiatus, we were back at the Williamsburg Lodge where the space and staff could not have been better. Thanks to all those involved in setting up the convention, seminars, Exhibit Hall, and everything associated with the weekend. The Lodge is a great place to hold a convention and I think most were pleased to be back.

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When I’m 64
Will Nash, Convention Committee Chairman

With the average age of a surveyor somewhere in the 50s now, most of you will make the connection between the Beatles and our 64th Convention. Just like the Beatles, our convention continues to evolve to meet the needs and wishes of the members of VAS. We will be returning to the Williamsburg Lodge on January 25th through January 28th, 2012.

This year’s feature is lower pricing for social events and a schedule change that should make it more convenient and affordable to come out and have a little fun with your fellow surveyors while supporting your representatives at the officers’ installation. Details such as entertainment and menu are yet to be worked out, but we will endeavor to make that Friday evening fun and tasty.

As always the education committee will have timely and useful seminars featuring great speakers to fill our continuing education needs. Our affiliates and vendors will have the latest equipment and innovative products to help all of us keep up with industry standards.

I believe the answer to my question above is yes. We do still need our association and we will continue to support and feed her. The Convention Committee appreciates the support you have shown in recent years in the face of diminishing revenue and we hope to show our appreciation in January by giving you the most we can for your money.

Will you still need me, will you still feed me, when I’m sixty-four?
The Plat Contest was held in conjunction with the 63rd Virginia Association of Surveyors, Inc. Annual meeting held in Williamsburg, Virginia January 27-29, 2011. This year seven firms entered plats in the five announced categories.

Our judges this year were: Joe Baird, National Society of Professional Surveyors Area 3 Director; Rick Dreist, Jr. from the District of Columbia Association of Surveyors, John Campbell from the Maryland Society of Land Surveyors, and Allan Witschi from the West Virginia Society of Professional Surveyors.

Special thanks again this year for the assistance provided by the students from East Tennessee State University.

THE WINNERS

Subdivision Plats
1st  The Engineering Groupe— William Flynn
2nd  Bay Design Group—James Pruett

ALTA/ACSM Land Title Surveys
1st  MSA, P.C.—Jeffery Vierrether
2nd  Land Design Consultants—Daniel Andrews

Boundary/Cadastral Surveys
1st  MSA, P.C.—James Latimer, Jr.
2nd  Shoreline Surveys—Michael Starling

Topographic Surveys
1st  Land Design Consultants—Daniel Andrews
2nd  Gay & Neel—Ralph Clements

Miscellaneous
1st  The Engineering Groupe—Ned Marshall
2nd  Shoreline Surveys—Michael Starling

by John K. Sehl, Chairman, Awards Committee
When Was a Road a Road?

A challenge that frequently faces surveyors in the Commonwealth is determining the status of a road. Is it a VDOT road? Was the path through the woods ever a VDOT road? When did a road become a VDOT road? When did a road leave VDOT? Did you ever try to get this information from VDOT? Well, Virginia Surveyors Foundation may have found a way to help you.

Recently the Foundation acquired complete sets of VDOT official County highway maps (including the insert maps) for the years 1932, 1935, 1950, and 1965. 1932 is critical because this shows all the roads taken into the state highway system immediately after the “Byrd Act” legislation and all of the original road numbers. 1935 is important because many changes to the status of roads happened in those first three years. 1950 and 1965 show a nice progression of the status of roads in Virginia. All together there are 476 maps in this collection covering the entire state.

The Foundation has been told we may not sell copies of these maps, but we can solicit donations to support the activities of the Foundation and reward the generosity of our friends by providing a CD with these maps as a token of our appreciation. The primary activities of the Foundation involve supporting education in the form of scholarships, grants, and equipment purchases that are needed by schools (i.e. The John Foster School, East Tennessee State University, etc.).

So, the question is how can you support the Foundation? If you would like to make a donation please send a check made out to the Foundation to:

Virginia Surveyors Foundation, LTD
140 Old Bridgewater Road
Mount Crawford, Virginia 22841

As a token of our appreciation, any donation received that is $30 or larger will receive a CD with the 476 map images in PDF format. We are positive that you will find uses for these in the coming years—especially as it becomes more and more difficult to find someone from within VDOT that knows where to find them. We trust the activities of the Foundation are worthy of your support.

Finally, your officers would be remiss if we did not ask you to consider becoming a member of the Foundation. While many perceive us as an exclusive group of old guys, membership in the Foundation is open to all and the dues are very modest at $125 per year. And our membership application couldn’t be easier. If your name and address are on your check, that is all we need in the way of an application. Please consider becoming a member.
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  - Utilizes phase measurements
  - Mobile instrument featuring a wide field of view

- Trimble CX 3D Scanner
  - Civil, Survey, Industrial & Architectural applications
  - Ideal for Building Information Modeling
  - Trimble WAVEPLUS Technology utilizes time of flight & phase measurements

**Data Collection:**  
- Trimble TSC3 Data Collector
  - Integrated Camera, GPS, Compass, WiFi, Bluetooth & Modem
  - Windows Mobile
  - Geotag pictures & use GPS to navigate to points

- Trimble Tablet Rugged PC
  - Integrated forward & reverse camera for video conferencing
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• Bluetooth and USB port communication

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CERTIFICATE of RECOGNITION

By virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution in the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, there is hereby officially recognized:

SURVEYORS' WEEK

WHEREAS, George Washington, the first President of the United States, founding father of our nation and a native Virginian, was a renowned land surveyor, as well as a distinguished military and agricultural engineer; and

WHEREAS, North American land surveying began in Virginia during the 17th century, and the College of William & Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia became the first institution in Colonial America to license land surveyors; and

WHEREAS, our Commonwealth’s earliest surveyors chartered our nation’s westward expansion, and many of Virginia’s surveyors, including America’s first President, also enjoyed careers as great statesmen; and

WHEREAS, surveyors are professionals who rely on special education, training, experience and knowledge of mathematical principles and related physical and applied sciences to successfully perform their jobs; and

WHEREAS, surveyors are uniquely qualified and licensed to determine and describe land and water boundaries for managing our natural resources and protecting private property rights; and

WHEREAS, Virginians recognize the valuable contributions surveyors have made to the history, development and quality of life in our Commonwealth and throughout these United States;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Robert F. McDonnell, do hereby recognize March 20–26, 2011 as SURVEYORS' WEEK in our COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA, and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.
The Virginia Surveyors Foundation works quietly, and in some cases anonymously, to pursue its goal of supporting surveying education on many fronts. Over the years a small group of people dedicated to the improvement of the profession of surveying have raised money and carried on specific projects such as the commissioning of the book “Surveyors and Statesmen,” reprinting the book “The George Washington Atlas,” and the preparation of a career slide show entitled “Time for a Man.” While these three projects were important, a significant part of our mission is to provide funding for surveying education on many fronts.

Over the last 15 years, the Foundation has made financial commitments to education that total almost $187,000. A breakdown of these dollars reveals a philanthropy by its members that demonstrates the Foundation’s efforts towards achieving our goals. During these 15 years we:

- Endowed the John Foster Scholarship at Old Dominion University................................ $30,000 (Transferred to ETSU to double the ETSU endowment)
- Endowed the John Foster Scholarship at East Tennessee State University...................... $30,000
- Made educational grants to Old Dominion University’s surveying program................. $29,973
- Made educational grants to East Tennessee State’s surveying program....................... $29,175
- Awarded thirty-one individual scholarships ................................................................ $29,000
- Contributed to the library fund at the Museum of Surveying................................................. $18,500
- Contributed to the operating fund of the Museum of Surveying............................................. $11,500
- Contributed to the ACSM / Library of Congress exhibit..................................................... $500
- Support student travel to VAS meeting.. $4,054
- Contribution to support Foster school start-up ........................................................................ $5,000

While some might look at this as a remarkable effort by a small, but dedicated, group of individuals, the members see this as only a beginning. Continuing efforts by our members and support from our friends can only lead to bigger and better project support in the future.
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And the Certificate of Recognition Goes To . . .

David L. Ingram received the Certificate of Recognition from the VAS which is the highest honor of the Association. It was awarded to him at the Foundation luncheon on Friday, January 28, 2011.

Memoriams

William “Bill” W. Dickerson, Jr.

Bill Dickerson passed away on February 20, 2011. He was a member of the Southern Chapter and the VAS for many years.

Marvin L. Crutchfield

Marvin passed away on May 14, 2010. He was also a member of the Southern Chapter and the VAS.

Both Bill and Marvin will be missed by their fellow surveyors and families.
JOHNSON CITY—At a recent ceremony, East Tennessee State University, Surveying and Mapping students Bryan Dean of Chucky and Matthew Orrison of Clear Brook, Virginia, were named the 2011-2012 recipients of the John Foster Memorial Scholarship.

David Ingram, Secretary of the Virginia Surveyors Foundation, commented, “The future of the surveying profession will be in good hands with scholars such as these two to lead us through the 21st century.”

Ingram and Steve Douty of the organization’s scholarship committee also presented a $30,000 check to Dr. Keith Johnson, Chair of ETSU’s Department of Engineering Technology, Surveying and Digital Media, to increase the scholarship’s endowment within the ETSU Foundation.

Ingram explained, “The Virginia Surveyors Foundation has been very impressed with the way the ETSU Foundation operates and manages its holdings. Adding to the endowment was an easy decision for us.”

Established in 2000, the scholarship honors John Foster, a Virginia surveyor who was dedicated to the advancement of the surveying profession and surveying education. He was the first president of the Virginia Association of Surveyors and an inaugural member of the Virginia Surveyors Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to furthering surveying education. The organization has donated $187,000 over the past 15 years to educational endeavors, including $120,000 to the ETSU surveying and mapping program, faculty, and students.

The ETSU program is the only one of its kind at an institution of higher learning in the southeastern United States. For more information, contact Johnson at (423) 439-7813 or Ingram at (540) 828-2778.
Calendar of Events for 2011


VAS Spring Seminar & Board Meeting — April 22 & 23, 2011, hosted by the Bull Run Chapter.
VAS Summer Seminar & Board Meeting — June 17 & 18, 2011, hosted by the Appalachian Chapter.
VAS Fall Seminar & Board Meeting — September 16 & 17, 2011, hosted by the Tidewater Chapter.

Central Chapter — General Membership Meetings May 17, July 12 (Trig-Star Awards Banquet), September 23 (Picnic and Crab Feast), November 15, and December 9, 2011 (Christmas Party). Contact: Jamie Pruett, jpruett@baydesigngroup.com.

Mount Vernon Chapter — Board Meetings: May 18, July 20, September 7, and October 19, 2011. General Membership Meetings: June 16, 2011. Apprentice Dinner and Board Meeting at the Hilton, Route 28 at McLearen Road; September 21, 2011, dinner and seminar; and December 7, 2011, Holiday dinner and seminar at Alto Plaza in Centreville.

Peninsula Chapter — General Membership Meetings: September 14, membership meeting and seminar; October 12, dinner meeting and election of officers. Contact: Dwayne Potts, dpotts@adpotts.hrooxmail.com.

Rappahannock Chapter — Board of Directors Meetings May 19, July 21, and November 17, 2011. Dinner Meetings June 23, August 18, September 24 (Crab Feast), and December 8, 2011. Contact: Daniel Dorton, ddorton@g-and-o.com.

Tidewater Chapter — General Membership Meeting May 19, 2011. Contact: Wayne Barrett, wbarrett@sbballard.com or Michael Starling, shorelinesurveyors@verizon.net.


LSIT Exam Schedule — Exam Date, October 29, 2011; Application & fee due, 6/21/2011; Exam fee due, 9/9/2011.