The VAS Winter Seminar, "Resiliency: Dealing with Sea Level Rise and Subsidence -- Challenges and Opportunities for Land Surveyors" will not only provide valuable education and information for surveyors in coastal Virginia and major watersheds, but those in the mountains and valley in the inland western parts of the Commonwealth will benefit from this session as well.

Subsidence is a phenomena that is evident in the mountains and affects surveying practices. As reported in 2020, a major pipeline project was impacted by land level change.

Regardless of where in Virginia you're based, the VAS Seminar will be relevant to your surveying practice, procedures, and data collection.

This session will be hosted virtually as a webinar
Earn 8 CEU/PDH Credits

CLICK HERE to Register

From the President
by Kevin Wood, LS

I am writing on the weekend of the NFL Wild Card playoffs. The NFL has come under fire in the past year for certain views and related actions concerning diversity. Is this a matter that affects the survey community. If it is part of our communities then it is part of our survey world. Our communities are at odds on how to deal with diversity. This has led to different responses from members of the community. The fact is that the survey community will not survive without diversity. We cannot just sit on the sidelines. We must be part of the game. The question is what does that really mean?

It means that we cannot turn a deaf ear to careless remarks. We must set an example to others that words matter. Each of us is sending crews or technicians into the community for boundaries, construction layout, research, or other tasks. How they react to diverse members of your community creates an image about you and your office. It provides an example to those that might be entertaining the idea of working at or with your office.

Gone are the days that your work is isolated to only members of your immediate community. You are dealing with developers from all over, coming in to work on projects in your area. They are not the one size fits all community member. How you react to them may determine how much future work you obtain. How your office presents itself as a diverse setting may make a difference.

The above reasons are great business reasons for bringing diversity to your office, but they are not why you should consider it in your future. You should consider it because it
is the right thing to do. The Survey community needs to be more inclusive of all parts of
the community.

Kevin Wood, VAS President (72nd), 2020-2021

Editor's Column
by Chris Jensen, LS

Happy New Year!

As we move into 2021, it could seem hard to believe it will be much different than 2020 (at least in the beginning), but time marches on and so must we. President Wood wrote an excellent article this month about diversity in surveying and it makes me think of the saying "Think globally, act locally". What can we do in our small corner of the world to incorporate some of the things Kevin talks about?

I look forward to going back to the days when we could attend career fairs and visit schools to teach students about surveying. We need to reach out to young people and let them know of the great career surveying can be. We have many different aspects-technology, history, inside and outside working conditions- that there really is something for everybody. We can also promote surveying among people looking for a career change or second career. I worked with a retired Air Force Lieutenant Colonel for 10 years, and he was one of the best Party Chiefs I’ve ever known. His military leadership and attention to detail skills translated well into running a survey crew. Let’s keep our eyes open and think outside the box at times; you never know when your next hire might be your best hire!

Thank you to Khea Adams of the VAS staff for the hard work on this month’s edition of ODS, and I hope you find it informative and entertaining.

Take care and be safe,
Chris

Chris Jensen, LS, is VAS Second Vice President and Editor of ODS

Need Continuing Education Credits? Check Out the VAS Convention Webinar Archive

In 2020, in the midst of the COVID pandemic, the Virginia Association of Surveyors (VAS) replaced in-person continuing education seminars with virtual webinars. The Annual Convention was converted from on-site events to remote, distance learning.

This has enabled VAS to create an archive of continuing education classes. This archive consists of recordings of webinars originally presented live. For those who were unable to attend the original, live presentation of any class, the archive of sessions is available for purchase.

These archived webinars meet the requirements for continuing education credit established by the APELSCIDLA licensing board.

Please avail yourself of these continuing education opportunities. Select and purchase
the sessions that are of interest to you and meet your professional and business requirements. You will be provided a link to the purchased webinar, as well as "quiz questions" that the licensing board requires for archived continuing education.

Moving Toward Diversity; Ensuring the Future
by David Acosta

To read article from xyHt Magazine - click here

Editors Note: This article was submitted to ODS by Steve Douty who is a member of the NSPS Diversity in Land Surveying Committee along with the author Mr. David Acosta, Chair of the NSPS Diversity in Land Surveying Committee.

Through January 2021, you will receive a 25% discount on all advertisement rates. Purchase your ads today!! If you are interested in taking advantage of the advertising discount please contact khea@vasurveyors.org

More than 400 members of the surveying profession in Virginia read The Old Dominion Newsletter. Advertising in the magazine is a great way to reach that audience! Our online publication allows us to link your ad to your website.

Below are the listed advertising rates before the 25% discount

Advertising Rate for ODS

Full Page
(7.5" wide x 10" high)
One Issue - $400
Annual - $3,000

Half Page
(7.5" wide x 4.74" high)
One Issue - $250
Annual - $1,500

Half Page
(3.5" wide x 10" high)
One Issue - $250
Annual - $1,500

Quarter Page
(3.5" wide x 4.75" high)
One Issue - $150
Annual - $800

Business Card
(3.5" wide x 2.0" high)
One Issue - $75
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Advertising Rates for VAS Website

**Banner Ad**
(1000px wide x 320 high)
One month - $500

**Subpage Ad**
(75 px High)
One month - $200

- Submission Deadlines: The first day of the month of the issue(s) selected
- Preferred Formats: Ads may be provided in black/white or color; please send a layout-ready copy (compatible electronic files include .eps or .pdf files with all fonts and graphics embedded). All ads must be digital. Please send ads via email to Khea Adams at khea@vasurveyors.org
- All advertisements are non-refundable
- If purchasing an Annual ad, you can change your ad monthly.

ETSU's Virtual CBAT Career Fair 2021

VIRTUAL CBAT CAREER FAIR 2021
Wednesday, February 17
9:30 AM - 1:30 PM

ETSU is extending an invitation to attend the Virtual CBAT Career Fair 2021. Engage with students regarding jobs and internships/co-op work experiences. Brand your company. Plan for future hiring. Due to COVID-19, the virtual career fair will be using the Career Fair Plus platform. Students will be able to sign up for one-on-one 10 minute meetings with employers of interest. Career Fair Plus will provide information on company profile setup as well as other details as well as be available for help.

CBAT majors expected to attend:

- Engineering, Engineering Technology (including Electronics, Manufacturing, Construction, Products Development, Industrial, Biomedical), Surveying, Interior Architecture
- Computing: Computer Science, Information Technology, Information Systems, Cybersecurity
- Business: Accounting, Finance, Economics, Marketing (including Data Analytics), Management (including HR, Logistics, and International Business)
- Digital Media: Animation Visualization, Game Design, Visual Effects

**General Registration: $250, due no later than January 20, 2021.**

[Click here](#) to pay by credit card or by invoice. **Note for employers registering/paying by invoice:** the total for the invoice will remain 0.00 throughout the registration process. An invoice will be emailed to your company contact for $250.
Don’t Forget About Connecting Your Data Collector!
by Mike Jiantonio, Carlson Survey Supply

For years now Microsoft has been neglecting to acknowledge their Windows Mobile platform as a device that should be able to communicate with their desktop operating system. This has been more than just an inconvenience for surveyors as the majority of Data Collectors are still using the Windows Mobile operating system. Data collector manufacturers are catching on and slowly migrating to the Android platform. Not a moment too soon in my opinion. Will that solve all of our connection issues? I think not. At best we can hope for less trouble and more options from an open source O/S. Until then we need to keep connecting our Data Collectors to our Windows P.C.’s and may need help doing that.

Here is a short list of solutions that I have encountered that may help:

WINDOWS MOBILE DEVICE CENTER (WMDC)
Discontinued by Microsoft after its Vista O/S WMDC is the updated version of ActiveSync which worked O/S’s up to XP. WMDC is still available for download and has been the go-to source for solving connection issues. But of course, Microsoft can’t leave well enough alone so who knows how long this will last.

CARLSON SOFTWARE
Their technical support group offers some support for those who want to use Mobile Device Center. The process involves installing a patch that fixes the connectivity between WMDC and Windows 10.
Trimble’s most popular data collector, the Ranger, also needs a way to connect to a P.C. Mobile Device Center is Trimble’s recommendation and they offer a patch to help you make it work.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

**JUNIPER SYSTEMS**
One of the most popular manufacturers of ruggedized hardware, Juniper, is a leader in quality and support. In response to user feedback they created their own Communication Utility called Mobile-Connect. Juniper Mobile-Connect is a simple inexpensive option that should work with most Windows Mobile devices.

**USB thumb drive**
All of the premium models of data collectors have a USB (A) host port that will recognize a thumb drive for transferring files. Data collector software like Carlson SurvCE/PC has a built-in utility that allows you to transfer all job related files to the thumb drive quite easily. For other brands of software simply use Windows Mobile File Explorer and copy/paste into the thumb drive.

**WIFI**
WiFi connection to your office Network would be ideal if you know how to make it work. Imagine your crews connecting their data collectors from anywhere in the office! Call your IT people to help with this and check the MS App store for utilities that may make this easier.

**BLUETOOTH**
Bluetooth file sharing has been an option for a number of years now but many overlook it as the primary method as it is not the most convenient. If you want your field crew to be able to send & receive files using their Android Phone BlueTooth file transfer is a good option. The receiving device must have the Bluetooth set as DISCOVERABLE. Keep in mind that Bluetooth has a limited radio range, less than 10 feet for many devices.

Want to send a file from your Windows Mobile Data Collector? Use File Explorer and Click and HOLD on the file to access the popup menu. Look for an option like: BEAM, send via BlueTooth, etc. It will scan for available Discoverable Bluetooth devices. Select the device you want to send to and the file will be sent. On the receiving device a message will appear (for a short time) asking you to accept the transfer. Pay attention to where the file is saved as you cannot pick the saved location (as of the last time I tried this).

**EMAIL**
Assuming that you have the data collector connected to the internet you can use email to transfer files. I have used my Yahoo account by accessing it from the browser and I have heard that Gmail works as well. You can also setup a Gmail client on the device to make this more convenient.

**CLOUD**
Cloud everything.. so why not? Carlson Software offers Cloud File Transfer from their SurvCE/SurvPC devices to their survey (2018 or newer) office software. Simply setup a FREE account and move files from Field to Office and vice versa. Of course, the data collector must be connected to the internet for this to work. Trimble/Spectra Precision has a cloud service for their Survey Pro product called Spectra Precision Central Sync.

**ANDROID**
I think that all of us in the product stream are looking forward to what the Android platform can offer in the way of cost savings, options, and convenience. The “open source” operating system is popular with Techies in the Maker Space as they can easily write their own programs and share them freely. The down side may be the seemingly endless variations of the O/S and security issues with open source software.

**Where Do We Go From Here?**
We have all heard the saying: “history repeats itself” and I think we may see that first hand. Manufacturers may get so frustrated with the readily available operating systems that they revert back to making their own dedicated systems. Remember the SDR33 and Topcon FC-1?

Click the following link to our web page with links to helpful documents and web sites.  
www.carlsonsurveysupply.com

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**Safety Minute**

The United States is currently reporting more deaths from Covid-19 than at any other time.

Please remember to take proper safety measures and precautions including:

- Self-observe for fever, new cough or shortness of breath each day.
- Do not report to work or attend events if you display symptoms consistent with COVID-19.
- Communicate with your supervisor, family, and friends, and take leave as a result of illness, quarantine, or positive COVID-19 test results.
- Keep at least six feet between yourself and others; remind others to practice social distancing as warranted.

Wear a face covering or mask:

- In spaces where the six-foot social distancing cannot be maintained.
- While in an assigned work site or while conducting job functions.
- Upon entering and while transiting common spaces and brick & mortar establishments in VA.
- Any time after leaving your work area and moving through common areas (hallways, stairwells) as well as in congregate settings (meeting rooms, break rooms, etc.).
- Practice hand hygiene, especially after contact with frequently touched items such as door handles, tables, elevator buttons, handrails, touchscreens, etc., and before touching eyes, nose, or mouth.
- Employ alternative methods of communicating, e.g., MS Team, ZOOM, phone call/conference, email, etc. to minimize encroaching upon the workspace and personal space of others.
US Department of Transportation Issues Two Much-Anticipated Drone Rules to Advance Safety and Innovation in the United States

The U.S. Department of Transportation’s Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) announced final rules for Unmanned Aircraft (UA), commonly known as drones. The new rules will require Remote Identification (Remote ID) of drones and allow operators of small drones to fly over people and at night under certain conditions. These rules come at a time when drones represent the fastest-growing segment in the entire transportation sector – with currently over 1.7 million drone registrations and 203,000 FAA-certificated remote pilots.

READ MORE

Miller/Wenhold Capitol Strategies Announces John M. Palatiello & Associates, Inc. Rebranding

Fairfax, VA – Miller/Wenhold Capitol Strategies, LLC, a leading government relations and association management firm serving a diverse portfolio of clients, today announced it is rebranding its corporate identity in completion of its acquisition of John M. Palatiello & Associates, Inc., which provides management of VAS.

All of the firms’ consolidated activities will be marketed and operated under the Miller/Wenhold banner.

Miller/Wenhold acquired John M. Palatiello & Associates, Inc. (JMP&A, Inc.) in October 2018. Since that time, the firms have implemented an integration plan that resulted in today’s announcement. Clients of JMP&A, Inc., such as the National Society of Professional Surveyors (NSPS), have undergone new Lobbying Disclosure Act filings under Miller/Wenhold and will enjoy a seamless transition to their representation in Washington, DC. All of the firms’ lobbying and government relations activities will be branded and marketed as Miller/Wenhold Capitol Strategies, LLC. The company’s association management practice, doing business as Miller/Wenhold Association Management, continued a legacy of more than 30 years of service to trade associations, professional societies, coalitions, and other business-oriented organizations.

“Miller/Wenhold has a strong history of providing lobbying, government relations, public policy, advocacy, and association management services. We pride ourselves on services based on Reputations, Relationships, Results ... that’s Miller/Wenhold®, said Paul Miller, partner in the firm. “As part of Miller/Wenhold for the past 27 months, we have been able to integrate the JMP&A team and build on our legacy, bringing our expertise, resources, and capabilities to an even larger client base as part of our diverse and comprehensive portfolio of clients in health care, local government, transportation, geospatial, surveying, and government contracting.”

“I’m pleased we’ve completed this transition and fully integrated our firm into Miller/Wenhold,” said John Palatiello. “We look forward to serving our existing client base with an even stronger level of support and we welcome our new clients into a relationship with our consolidated team.”

Miller/Wenhold is a reliable provider of lobbying, government relations, advocacy, public
Here is a little true story that is not only something I am happy to share, but is a “teachable moment” too, I think.

Earlier this fall we did some boundary survey work for the owner of a local business. Afterwards we received a letter on the client’s company letterhead about the service our field crew provided. In the letter, the client said, paraphrasing, “these two men have outstanding communication skills”. He said that while our crew was there at his property he “peppered them pretty hard with questions” and that our people – Craig Linkous, L.S. (holding plaque at right in the photo above) and Will Brockman (holding plaque at left in the photo above), handled them with “grace, empathy and professionalism” and “if they didn’t break under me, you have absolutely no worries about putting them in front of any customer ever.” He also mentioned that his whole career has been spent dealing with the public in sales and service and he knows the importance and value of communication skills and dealing with people who you may prefer not to interact with. He said that often management only hears the bad things and he wanted to pass along a positive report about our service and those he dealt with in person.

Well, we certainly appreciate that, and his letter brightened a lot of people’s day here at Gay and Neel. It is not often I post anything on Linkedin but I want to say thank you to
Craig Linkous and Will Brockman here in this public space. Even though what our client wrote about our crew was certainly not news to me – they are great – I am proud of them and everyone I am lucky enough to work with here - it was still terrific to think this gentleman took time to sit down and write this very professional letter to us because of how he was treated by our people.

I think the “teachable moment” here for land surveyors and anyone whose business requires sending staff out into the world every day is that your company’s people in the field are what your client and the public at large “out there” goes by to form their perception of your whole organization. We tell new employees who are hired for field work “you are the face of Gay and Neel to the world” - and that is true. John Neel provides this very apt metaphor. He says “Everyone wears “signs” on themselves. You get your first one as a child, it says ‘I’m am the child of_____ (your parents); later you get more signs on you that say you go to a certain school, you are a member of a particular church, a Boy Scout, an athlete, a musician, your hometown, whatever describes who you are, and they all reflect on those people, organizations and things that make you who you are. Later one of them reads ‘I am an employee of____’.

That last one…well it’s a large sign, and I am glad Craig and Will wear them for Gay and Neel, Inc.

Upcoming Events

- Thursday, January 21, 2021 - Board of Directors Virtual Meeting
- Friday, January 22, 2021 - Virtual Seminar
- 73rd Annual Convention & General Membership Meeting - April 21-24, 2021 (tentative)
- June Seminar and Board of Directors Meeting - 25-26, 2021 (tentative)
- September Seminar - 24-25, 2021 (tentative)

The Old Dominion Surveyor

_The Old Dominion Surveyor_ is the official publication of the Virginia Association of Surveyors. It is published monthly and sent to members. All material must be submitted by the deadline noted for each issue.

Editor
Chris Jensen

Publisher
Khea Adams - Virginia Association of Surveyors

VAS 2020 - 2021 Officers and Directors

President.........................Kevin Wood
First Vice President..............Alison Hanson
VAS is pleased to work with Land's End to provide an opportunity to purchase quality clothing with the VAS logo embroidered on it. Go on, showcase your membership in VAS. To start shopping and place your order, click here.

Did you know that when you recruit a new member to VAS you will receive a 25% discount on your membership dues? Spread the word about the great work VAS is doing for the surveying profession and be sure to tell the new member to include your name on the recommended by portion of their application.