

THE OREGON SURVEYOR

A publication of the Professional Land Surveyors of Oregon



2013
Surveyor
of the **Year**



John Thatcher, PLS

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CONTENTS

Editor's Note, <i>by Greg Crites</i>	2
From your Chair, <i>by Lee Spurgeon</i>	3
View from the PLSO office	
Meet our new Executive Secretary, Aimee McAuliffe	5
Goodbye from Mary Louise and Jeanette!	5
PLSO Conference Awards	
2013 Surveyor of the Year, John Thatcher	7
2013 Special Member of the Year, Paul Rydell	8
2013 Article of the Year, Cindy Halcumb	9
Bright Idea Award, Lee Spurgeon	9
BLM Public Land Survey Plats, June 2013–January 2014	10
PLSO Financial Health Restored for 2014, <i>by Gary Johnston</i>	11
Professional Listings	12
PLSO Education and Outreach Auction, <i>by Gary Johnston</i>	13
PLSO Conference Review, <i>by Jered McGrath</i>	14
Photos from the 2014 PLSO Conference, <i>by Tim Kent and VPR</i>	16
The Lost Surveyor, <i>by Pat Gaylord</i>	21



See 2014
Conference Photos
on pages 16–19

KEEP
LEVEL
AND
SURVEY
ON

Editor's Note

■ Greg Crites, PLS

Time: This issue is replete with pictures of folks attending our recently completed conference. I'm amazed that I recognize nearly every one of them, but for some I can see the indelible mark of the passing of time on their faces. I sometimes pause when I look at myself in the mirror to see how the fabric of time has been stitched across my own face. There I see the consequences of the argument with a chain saw back in 1978—an argument which I lost. Then there was yet another argument with a chain saw in the fall of 1993, and yes (though you'd think I learned from the first experience), I lost that one too! Funny thing is, every once in a while the second argument offers up a hint of pain to remind me of my stupidity. I think my age has something to do with that!

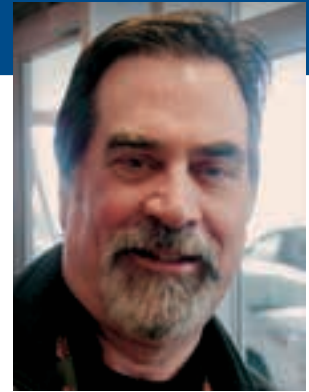
This was the first time I've been asked to do a presentation at our conference. My session was entitled "War Stories." Those of you who know me surely realize such a subject was a no-brainer for me, but I have to admit I was more than flattered to see so

many faces in attendance that seemed eager to hear what I had to say. I'm sure Joe Ferguson, as co-presenter would agree with me.

Joe's subject was about a surprisingly complex lot survey in the City of Portland. A lot survey that was made complex (needlessly) by the surveyor who performed it! I had some personal experience with that fellow. Though it was some time ago, hearing the name again stirred up old passions, long forgotten or perhaps just pushed down into my sub-consciousness as a matter of self-preservation. Time or the passage thereof, has a way of doing that.

I think there may be a lesson here for all the teachers who might be reading this. Imagine how learning could occur if instruction on a particular subject ignited passions that, when rekindled, stir up acute recollections of a specific event! Almost like finding an old file buried deeply in some long-forgotten sub-directory, that when reopened is like one of those "ah-ha" moments! Come to think of it, the level of attentiveness by those in attendance indicated clearly that our subject matter was meeting them on a level they either recognized or clearly understood.

When I started on this career path, I had several fellows mentor me. These guys shared their stories with me, stories which could only come with the passage of time. They also captured my imagination and made me want to know more about this profession called Land Surveying. The beauty of such tutelage lies in the significance of their stories. As I'm sure you all know it's only the distinctive ones that you recall, sometimes with unerring clarity. Perhaps that's the measure of how effectively learning occurred.



The consensus of the attendees in our session was that they would like to see active, viable and well-presented stories become a regular part of our continuing education program. I've talked about this with many peers over the years and I've never heard one person say such an endeavor would be a waste of time! I know Bob Neathamer feels pretty strongly about this. Ask him if you don't believe me!

I spoke with several folks at the conference about my interest, while serving as editor of *The Oregon Surveyor*, in soliciting interesting stories from our members, making them a regular part of the magazine. Richard Bryant's article in the last issue was the most recent addition in support of that cause.

Time has left its mark on all of us. I ask that each of you consider writing a "war story" or two for publication. Send them to me for review and I'll share them with the publication committee for suitability and content. Of course you know that the teacher in me is going to check your spelling and punctuation! The teacher in me also recognizes the value of sharing our unique experiences acquired whilst doing what we love. Certainly talking to many folks at the conference leaves me with one clear impression of Land Surveyors.

They love their careers! How many professions can claim that? ◉

The views expressed herein are mine and mine alone and in no way should be construed as representing ANY opinions shared by our membership or a stance on political issues by this organization.

The Oregon Surveyor is a publication of the Professional Land Surveyors of Oregon (PLSO). It is provided as a medium for the expression of individual opinions concerning topics relating to the Land Surveying profession.

Address changes & business All notifications for changes of address, membership inquiries and PLSO business correspondence should be directed to Aimee McAuliffe, PO Box 230548, Tigard, OR 97281; 503-303-1472; execdirector@plso.org

Editorial matters & contributions of material *The Oregon Surveyor* welcomes your articles, comments and photos for publication. PLSO assumes no responsibility for statements expressed in this publication. Editorial matters should be directed to Greg Crites, gac@deainc.com.

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From your Chair

■ Lee Spurgeon PLS; 2014 State Chair and Chief Knucklehead in Charge

The String Broke and Now I'm a Surveyor

I was recently talking to Mason Marker about the need for attracting younger surveyors, LSITs, and associate surveyors to join PLSO. These people are our future, and besides that, they are a lot of fun to be around. We need to do something to reload once our aging members retire, if for no other reason than I am tired of hearing Shriners call us geezers. Those whipper-snappers! One of Mason's suggestions was to communicate to prospective members of the PLSO how we got into surveying in the first place. What a great idea! I'll go first.

In Vancouver, Wash., in the late 1970s there was a surveyor with the reputation as being one of the most

anal retentive surveyors in the history of the galaxy. (Does anal retentive have a hyphen?) Let us call him "Robert Plumb" so that we can keep the litigation to a manageable level. Plumb was well known for tearing off ribbon from stakes because his idiotic (in his mind only) crews would tie the ribbon with a granny knot, as opposed to a square knot. I know what you are thinking, but execution of crew members was frowned upon in the 1970s. Plumb would, after staking a row of curb offsets, go to the end of the row and direct his crewmen to move the cut stakes so that not only the hubs were in a perfectly straight line, but the stakes themselves were, as well. If

an underground rock prevented a stake from being set in line, Plumb required that the rock be dug out, no matter how large, so the stake could be set between 6 and 6-¼" within the tack in the nearby hub. He also required that both ends of the flagging were to be cut evenly at exactly 6" in length. His crews were required to carry rulers to ensure that they complied within a tolerance of a quarter inch. Needless to say, Plumb burned through crews with alacrity. (Editor's note: *Lee uses words like alacrity to try to impress*

Continues on page 20 ▶



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Views from the PLSO Office

■ *Lee Spurgeon, PLSO Chair*

The PLSO Board of Directors is proud to announce that we have contracted the administration of our association with Aimee McAuliffe, a top-notch and superbly qualified executive secretary. McAuliffe will be our executive secretary for the next three years with a fourth year as an option (and I hope for a whole lot longer). The ad hoc committee that reviewed our executive secretary's contract was extremely impressed with McAuliffe's qualifications, experience, intelligence, demeanor, enthusiasm, and vision.

McAuliffe, owner of Associate Solutions Management, is a dynamic and quality-focused association management professional with an extensive background in events and member programs. Having spent 10 years with the Oregon Association of Nurseries, McAuliffe has a real enthusiasm for member-driven organizations and is a firm believer that sharing communities are vital communities. She is looking forward to working closely with the membership and serving as a true advocate for PLSO. You may connect with McAuliffe on LinkedIn at www.linkedin.com/in/amcauliffe or email her at aimee@associatesolutionsmgt.com.

McAuliffe will be extremely busy during the next months as we transition from Spire Management and we ask her to focus on making that transition as smooth as possible. After the transition is complete, I am confident that all of you will see how fortunate we are to have such a highly-qualified individual running the day-to-day business of our great organization. ◉



Aimee McAuliffe, Lee Spurgeon and Mary Louise VanNatta

Hello from Aimee McAuliffe!

It is with great pleasure that I take over the Executive Secretary position for PLSO. Having spent my career in both for-profit and non-profit sectors, I can say without a doubt, that I enjoy working with trade associations and their volunteer leaders the most. There is something special about people that spend their valuable time collaborating with peers for the betterment of their industry. What makes a community vital is its participating members. If you have been interested in becoming more involved in the past or would like to be a part in shaping the future direction of PLSO, I encourage you to allow your organization to benefit from your knowledge and enthusiasm.

Throughout the next couple of months I will be transitioning the office from Salem to Tigard and appreciate your patience during this time. Having had the pleasure of meeting a handful of members at the 2014 Conference, I look forward to learning more about your profession and working with you all. ◉

Goodbye from Mary Louise and Jeanette!

This is my last "View from the PLSO Office." We've been working with PLSO for almost 10 years and have seen the organization through many exciting changes. Our association management business has been growing and I have decided to pursue continuing education in the communications and public relations field. Also, (surprise!), Jeanette will be having her first child this spring. Because of this, we felt PLSO would be better served by one individual who can focus completely on your needs. We're pleased that PLSO has found Aimee McAuliffe to be your executive secretary.

We experienced many enjoyable and difficult times with PLSO. Some extraordinary leaders stand out in my mind: **Ed Graham** is a prince of a man who guided me well throughout the years. Past chairs **Ed Henricks** and **Gary Johnston** were a constant source of support, balanced with great kindness. **Mason Marker** was a steady force, who faced PLSO's financial issues head-on and worked many hours with me and **Lee Spurgeon** to lead the organization on a positive track. I have come to know chair-elect **John Thatcher** and believe PLSO will have some strong years. It's good to move on when I feel we assisted in stabilizing PLSO for the future. I wish you all the best luck.

We will continue our association management and public relations consulting work, so we aren't going anywhere! We welcome updates from you at mlvg@prsalem.com or jeanette@prsalem.com. ◉



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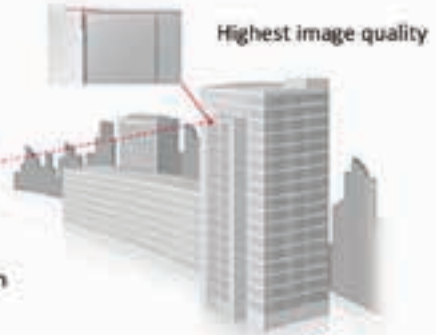
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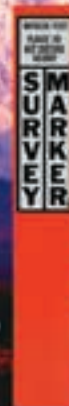
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2013 Surveyor of the Year

John Thatcher, PLS



It is with great pleasure that we, the undersigned Corporate Members of the Professional Land Surveyors of Oregon, nominate someone who has contributed so much to our profession in both Oregon and Washington. John V. Thatcher has been a registered surveyor in the State of Oregon since 1994 and in Washington since 1996. John brings 41 years of surveying experience which was gained in survey positions throughout the Northwest. He brings this experience, and an enthusiasm for the profession to every project he works on. This experience includes a degree in Applied Mathematics and positions from chainman to his current duty as project surveyor in the Transportation group of CH2M Hill's, Portland, Oregon office. His "can do" attitude is reflected in his personal, professional and volunteer activities.

John has been a valuable asset to both the Professional Land Surveyors of Oregon (PLSO) and the Land Surveyors Association of Washington (LSAW). Within PLSO he has been a member of the Speaker Committee for the joint PLSO/LSAW Conference (2006), Pioneer Chapter Treasurer, PLSO Trig-Star presenter, LSIT Proctor, and Pioneer Chapter President Elect (2011). Within LSAW John has held positions as Lower Columbia Chapter President-Elect and President (2003–2006), and Treasurer (2008–2010). His willingness to contribute has benefitted both organizations for many years.

When not working or volunteering in the field of surveying, John is a dedicated husband and proud father of two grown children. John is an avid cyclist, motorcycle enthusiast, accomplished musician, and a friend to all he encounters. John also gives his time and resources to many causes within the community including the Oregon Food Bank, tutoring high school math students, the Waterfront Blues Festival, and the annual motorcycle Toy Run to support Doernbecher Children's Hospital.

For his community spirit, enthusiasm towards his profession and his overall dedication to this organization, it is without reservation that we nominate John V. Thatcher as the Professional Land Surveyors of Oregon 2013 Surveyor of the Year. ◉

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Gaylord, PLS
Paul Galli, PLS
Wade Donovan, PLS
Tony Brooks, PLS
Carl Clinton, PLS



John Thatcher at the 2014 PLSO Conference

Special Member of the Year

Paul Rydell, The PPI Group

PLSO's Special Member of The Year award was presented to Paul Rydell, survey sales manager for The PPI Group's Portland office.

Beginning in 1986, Paul was introduced to the surveying industry when he was hired as a salesman for the Johnson Instrument Company, which was owned by Paul's in-laws who generously encouraged him in the business. In around 1999, the Sokkia Corporation purchased Johnson Instrument making it one of their factory-owned stores. By 2001, Sokkia decided to close all of their branches in the U.S., at which time, Tigue Howe, President of The PPI Group, extended an invitation to Paul and others of the Johnson Instrument team to join PPI. Since 2001, Paul has worked with PPI providing excellent customer service and also serves as "the face" of PPI as Public Relations Manager, attending local events throughout the year including golf tournaments, trade shows, parties, and more.

As an outgoing and fun-loving guy who's involved in his community, Paul has worked with several local professional organizations, and he credits his having these opportunities to serve to the leadership at PPI, who share the belief that it is good business to actively be a part of the communities you serve. Paul became a member of the PLSO in 2008, and served for three years on the PLSO Conference Committee. He also has assisted in accommodating events at the PPI facility such as the annual PLSO/LSAW Christmas Party



and testing for the TrigStar Program. Paul is also on the board of "The PPI Fund for Survey Instruction" which awards monies to surveying programs at colleges and universities in Oregon and Washington. He worked for years with the AGC-Oregon (Associated General Contractors) on three different committees. Paul currently serves on the membership committee with the ACEC of Oregon (American Council of Engineering Companies).

On receiving his award, Paul stated, "The best part of my job is the people; from the customers I call on and have known, some for 28 years, to the team of professionals that I work with at PPI who make it a pleasure to come to work. What an honor it is to be recognized by the PLSO with this award. I am truly humbled."

Paul lives in Portland with his wife, Lucinda. They have three children (Joel, Esther, and Daniel). The Rydells are very active at their church where Paul uses his musical abilities on the worship team. ◊

The Oregon Surveyor

2013 Article of the Year

Cindy Halcumb, PLS

“Monuments over measurements”

The *Oregon Surveyor*, 2013 Article of the Year was presented to Cindy Halcumb for her article, “Monuments over measurements” published in Issue 1, 2013.

Cindy Halcumb has over 25 years of Land Surveying experience in the public and private sector. A registered Land Surveyor in Washington and Oregon, she has consistently demonstrated a professional and personal approach to the industry.

As the owner of KC Development, she is responsible for all levels of service, including quality control, contract management, budget tracking and scheduling. She takes the lead on all projects, keeping the lines of communication open with the client. Her expertise includes intricate boundary and right of way resolution, topographic mapping, terrain modeling, legal description preparation, control network establishment and construction staking. Her proficiency with Trimble Robotic Total Stations, Digital Levels, AutoCAD/Land Desktop Design, Excel and Word facilitate her hands on approach from project set up to completion.

Her education includes Civil Engineering and Surveying Training at the Colorado School of Mines and Portland State University, together with continuing education at Clackamas Community College and various technical workshops. Cindy is currently a member of the PLSO and the NSPS. ◉



Conference Awards

Past Chair Lee Spurgeon

Chapter Presidents

Central David Williams

Mid-west Ryan Erickson

Pioneer Ben Stacy

Rogue River Fred Frantz

South Central Keith Rhine

Southwest Mike Dado

Umpqua David Edwards

Willamette Nathan Magness

Blue Mountain Tom Battey

Surveyor of the Year

John Thatcher

Special Member of the Year

Paul Rydell, *PPI Group*

Bright Idea Award

Lee Spurgeon

Map Contest Winners

Kristina Powell (1st place)

Tony Ryan (2nd place)

John Thatcher (3rd place)

Survey Olympics Winners

Horizontal Angle Berta Romio

Thomas DeWitt

Height Cameron Hamilton

Horizontal Distance Thomas DeWitt

Pacing Blake Whelchel

Bright Idea Award

Lee Spurgeon, PLS

I hereby nominate Lee Spurgeon for the Bright Idea Award for 2013. The chief reason for this nomination is Spurgeon’s well-written column in the April/May/June [Issue 2, 2013] edition of *The Oregon Surveyor* about waging peace, not war, with our County Surveyors.

In addition, Spurgeon’s ideas about fiscal responsibility have helped PLSO get back on the difficult path to financial health. Those ideas also include positioning PLSO financially for the long term, building a six-month cash reserve and integrating PLSO finances into the Strategic Plan.

A third reason is Spurgeon’s idea to create a mentorship program within PLSO. ◉

Respectfully submitted,

John V. Thatcher, PLSO Pioneer Chapter Member

BLM Public Land Survey Plats

The following public land survey plats for Oregon were approved and/or filed during the period of June 2013 through January 2014. This list is also available electronically by contacting the BLM office at khensley@blm.gov.

Oregon, Willamette Meridian

T. 32 S., R. 1 W.	Dependent Resurvey & Subdivision of Section 30
T. 15 S., R. 12 E.	Dependent Resurvey & Subdivision of Sections 9, 15, 17, & 22
T. 38 S., R. 2 W.	Dependent Resurvey & Subdivision of Section 23
T. 40 S., R. 12 E.	Dependent Resurvey & Subdivision of Section 17
T. 19 S., R. 4 W.	Dependent Resurvey & Subdivision of Sections 17 & 29
T. 38 S., R. 11 1/2 E.	Dependent Resurvey & Subdivision of Section 22
T. 10 S., R. 11 E.	Dependent Resurvey, Subdivision of Sections & Survey
T. 19 S., R. 2 W.	Dependent Resurvey
T. 17 S., R. 7 W.	Dependent Resurvey & Subdivision of Sections 23 & 33
T. 41 S., R. 44 E.	Dependent Resurvey & Subdivision of Section 12
T. 39 S., R. 6 E.	Dependent Resurvey & Subdivision of Sections 18 & 20
Tps. 6 & 7 S., Rs. 2 & 3 W.	Dependent Resurvey & Survey
T. 34 S., R. 7 W.	Dependent Resurvey
T. 34 S., R. 7 W.	Dependent Resurvey
T. 8 S., R. 4 E.	Dependent Resurvey
T. 28 S., R. 11 W.	Dependent Resurvey
T. 27 S., R. 11 W.	Retracement
T. 24 S., R. 4 W.	Dependent Resurvey
T. 24 S., R. 3 W.	Dependent Resurvey & Subdivision of Section 17
T. 15 S., R. 12 E.	Dependent Resurvey & Subdivision of Sections 26 & 27
T. 29 S., R. 3 W.	Dependent Resurvey & Subdivision of Section 3
T. 39 S., R. 6 E.	Dependent Resurvey
T. 26 S., R. 14 W.	Dependent Resurvey, Subdivision of Sections & Survey
T. 34 S., R. 6 W.	Dependent Resurvey
T. 15 S., R. 1 W.	Dependent Resurvey
T. 7 S., R. 6 W.	Dependent Resurvey & Subdivision of Section 5
T. 25 S., R. 3 W.	Perpetuation of the Corner of Sections 25 & 36 only
T. 12 S., R. 3 E.	Dependent Resurvey & Subdivision of Section 8
T. 33 S., R. 1 W.	Dependent Resurvey & Subdivision of Sections 8 & 19
T. 11 S., R. 1 E.	Dependent Resurvey & Subdivision of Sections 16 & 17
T. 16 S., R. 6 W.	Dependent Resurvey
T. 16 S., R. 2 W.	Retracement & Dependent Resurvey
T. 29 S., R. 10 W.	Dependent Resurvey
T. 27 S., R. 12 W.	Retracement
T. 8 S., R. 4 E.	Dependent Resurvey
T. 9 S., R. 2 E.	Dependent Resurvey & Subdivision of Section 31

Did you Know?



In 1924, Rand McNally released its first road atlas. It wasn't called a road atlas—it was called "Rand McNally Auto Chum." The Rand McNally company had its roots in 1856, when William H. Rand opened a printing shop in Chicago. His first employee was Andrew McNally, a newly arrived Irish immigrant. McNally's weekly salary was \$9. They managed the printing shop for the Chicago Tribune, and in less than 10 years, they started printing their own publications under the name Rand, McNally, and Co. They printed railroad tickets and guides, a newspaper, business directories, and, finally, maps. McNally and Rand figured out an inexpensive way to mass-produce maps using wax engraving. They started with maps for businesses, and soon moved to world maps, atlases, and April 15, 1924, the first road atlas.

Information gathered by Oran Abbott

PLSO Financial Health Restored for 2014

■ Gary Johnston, PLSO Finance Committee

The financial status of PLSO made great improvements in 2013. PLSO checking and money market accounts are capable of paying over six months of expenses. This conforms with the financial reserve policy that was adopted in 2012. This achievement is the result of combined efforts of membership, the PLSO Board, and the Executive Secretary's office. The improved outlook enables PLSO to restore services for members including: publishing six issues of *The Oregon Surveyor* in 2014; expanding support for outreach programs such as Trig Star, TwiST and career fair events; establishing legislative representation throughout 2014, and supporting students in college survey programs.

The PLSO Board, at its meeting January 22, adopted a budget that forecasts a profit of about \$22,000 in 2014. The budget income was based on the prospects for another successful conference and a small increase in membership during the year. Expenses were determined by combining individual and committee input with experiences of recent years. The PLSO Board will review the budget when conference income and expense amounts are finalized. Meanwhile, the adopted budget is summarized below:

Remember, this budget is an estimate. If necessary, adjustments can be made this spring. In any case, the financial health of PLSO is very sound. ◉

INCOME	
Annual Conference	\$146,605
Membership Dues	84,000
Education & Outreach Auction	9,000
Scholarship donations	500
Workshops, general donations and other income	8,210
Sales	1,700
Total Income \$250,015	
EXPENSES	
Annual Conference	\$85,373
Professional Services	71,200
PLSO events and member services	29,300
The Oregon Surveyor magazine	24,000
Education, Goals & Action activities	7,500
Administration	10,200
Total Expenses \$227,573	
NET GAIN \$22,442	

2014 NSPS Map/Plat Design Competition

State surveying association affiliates of the National Society of Professional Surveyors, Inc. (NSPS) are invited to submit maps and plats to the 2014 competition. Entrants need not be members of NSPS, however a member of NSPS must sponsor the submission. Freehand and machine or computer drafted maps and plats completed after 6/30/2012 are eligible for entry.

Previously entered maps or plats will be disqualified, and no more than two entries per person in each category will be considered. For standards, please visit www.nspis.us.com, select RESOURCES then Model Standards.

Maps or plats submitted can be black-and-white (halftone/shaded), blueline or color prints. High resolution jpeg or pdf files on CD are welcome. Submit six prints for each entry with a maximum map size of 34" by 44", or 6 CDs with a high-resolution pdf or a jpeg file. (Multiple entries by the same entrant can be on the same CD.)

Submissions must be a single drawing. This may originate as a set, but must be entered as a single sheet. All entries must be received by 5 pm on April 18, 2014. Use one entry form per document submitted. An entry fee of \$30 must accompany each form. Make checks payable to NSPS. Winners may be asked to send a print for display at the conference.



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PLSO Education and Outreach Auction

■ Gary Johnston, Auction Chair



Thank you to our contributors and auction bidders!

Highlights of the 2014 PLSO Auction

Auction Item	Winning Bid	Purchased By
Bag-O-Cash	\$650	Jeff Whittaker
Buff & Buff Scholarship Transit	\$500	Bob Neathamer
Leica 1130 Total Station	\$1100	Donn Rowe
Leica Backsight Assembly	\$650	Donn Rowe
Nikon DTM 420 Total Station	\$575	Benjamin Stacy
Harley Davidson wall clock	\$300	Janet Wilkins
Pendleton blanket "Storm Robe"	\$325	Orlando Aquino
Guided steelhead fishing trip for two	\$400	Leland MacDonald
Beach house weekend	\$350	William Eimstad
Framed and matted photograph	\$300	Jered McGrath
800-watt electric generator	\$300	Tim Kent
Trailblazer game tickets (2)	\$220	Tim Kent

Over 200 people attended the PLSO Education and Outreach Auction at the annual conference in Salem. The evening featured an exceptional dinner, PLSO annual awards, entertainment and a very successful auction.

The event began with a delicious prime rib dinner with accompanying side dishes. As dinner neared completion, awards were presented to the 2013 Surveyor of the Year and Associate Member of the Year.

Donations to this year's auction were generously furnished by PLSO members and conference vendors. Eighty items were presented in the silent auction and an additional 15 were sold at the live auction. For the fourth consecutive year, Paul Schultz conducted the live auction as auctioneer with the assistance of Rich Martin. They provided an entertaining performance as they inspired competitive bids in support of education and outreach programs.

Total income from both auctions was \$10,053. The PLSO Board will distribute proceeds to the scholarship fund and to outreach efforts at the next board meeting. All those who donated and participated in this auction are commended for their generous support.

Auction support was also provided by 18 students from OIT. They helped receive auction items and display them on Wednesday. On Thursday they helped throughout the day and evening with the exhibit and sale of all items. PLSO owes them special thanks for their enthusiastic assistance.

Finally, Ben Stacy, scholarship chair, and Colter Hessel, auction committee, helped generate additional funds with the support of OIT volunteers. Ben and his assistants solicited donations on Wednesday afternoon and all day Thursday for a large "bag-o-cash" auctioned Thursday night. Colter supervised sales of raffle tickets for a 50-50 raffle. The raffle winner and PLSO split the collection equally following a drawing Friday at lunch.

The auction was a memorable event and post conference comments are being evaluated to make this event even better in 2015. ☺

PLSO Annual Conference review

■ *Jered McGrath, PLSO Conference Committee Chair*

The 2014 Professional Land Surveyors of Oregon Conference held at the Salem Convention Center and The Grand Hotel has come and gone. These venues were excellent in their support of our conference and they would love to host us again next year.

In its current form, the conference would not be possible if the road map and footpath wasn't laid by those who came before us and also committed their time and efforts. This road has had some definite pot holes along the way and this year proved to be no different. We were presented with some last minute speaker issues and were missing some class handouts and speaker bios up until the start of the conference. These issues are items we have already identified and hope to eradicate for next year, but experience shows there will always be some pitfall.

A program was built for this conference with class size in mind trying to avoid the standing room only situations of the past. Some attendees were not able to attend their first choice of presentations, but there was room for everyone to span across the schedule of classes. Many positive comments were received on the program content and improvements and suggestions for next year have already begun to take shape.

Another improvement we worked on this year was food quality and amount. We wanted to ensure that, if anything, this year's participants were well fed and happy throughout the day. This improvement included a prime rib dinner for the auction banquet that went over quite well and should return in future conferences.

The successes and or missteps of the conference are reviewed and discussed as they happen to ensure we continue the good and eliminate the bad. The conference committee and some

guests meet immediately following the conference to start preparing for next year by recapping the event and preparing suggestions for the future.

We understand that each participant views the conference differently; as it relates to one's own business practices, area of expertise, experience level and goals for future work. The conference committee truly appreciates the feedback we receive throughout the year and try to align the goals of the conference with your own. Sometimes it's just the "little things" that count the most, so feel free to send along your concerns or praises of your own "little things." We will do our best to make this conference meet the needs of the participants and strive to push forward the agenda of the PLSO as it fosters the growth of the profession and its members.

Speaking of goals, what is a conference without a goal? We each have them for our own reasons. The PLSO's ultimate conference goal (as viewed through my eyes, and interpretation) is to provide our members with 16+ PDH hours in a large group format that allows for networking and education at a competitive rate while helping to propel the organization forward in the coming year by providing solid revenue.

PLSO, as a professional organization, plans to bolster the profession in many ways throughout the year with high school outreach; scholarship support and local community outreach. Those things would not be possible without the conference income. It is a large part of PLSO's annual operating revenue.

By the numbers this year's conference was a great success. We have had conferences with larger attendance in the past, with corporate numbers closer to the 300s, but we picked up some more nonmembers and

Preliminary attendance figures

Associate Members	42
Corporate Members	243
Life members	10
Non Members	62
Guests	12
Vendor staff	35
Speakers	30
Students	20
TOTAL	454

ultimately hit extremely close to our estimated number of 430–450. In comparison, last year's attendee count was also just over 450. When all of the bills are accounted for and numbers are finalized they will be presented at the next board meeting together with the finance report.

I wanted to give a special thank you to those individuals or firms that helped "Sponsor a student" this year. We had 16 student sponsorships that helped PLSO offset the food costs of student volunteers. A personal goal of mine that is shared with many others is to continue to provide an opportunity for college level surveying students to attend and be a part of the conference.

Like these students, you yourself in many ways have to volunteer time to be present, engaged, and committed to reinvesting in your own professional development. We are all proud to be in this profession and each one of you that finds some way to give back to it (whether that is going to the conference or not) should be given more praise than words will express.

In closing, this year's conference was a culmination of many tireless hours of volunteering and commitment from not only conference committee members present and past but also board members, PLSO office staff and ultimately you, the participant. Thank you again for your continued support of this organization. ◉

Lost Surveyor

Answer, from the inside back cover

■ Pat Gaylord, PLS

Question: This is a little different point than we are used to! Can you name the house that may very well be one of the crown jewels of Oregon?

Lat 45° 32' 22" N

Long 122° 14' 40" W

Answer: Vista House with the rising harvest moon. Crown Point holds the Vista House, which was built between 1916 and 1918 on what is now the Historic Columbia River Gorge Highway. The historic highway is the only way to reach Crown Point and the Vista House, which is more than 700 feet above the river level. This prominent location offers more than 180 degree views of the lower Columbia River Gorge just east of Troutdale, which are truly awe inspiring.

The Vista House was constructed in the early 1900s, as an observatory and a memorial to Oregon pioneers. Maybe more importantly, it served as a rest stop on what was then a long journey through the gorge.

Restoration of the building was completed in 2005, and it is once again open to the public. The restoration returned the building to its original 1916 appearance.

Free tours are available. Inside you will find a gift shop, museum and a viewing platform at the top.

Crown Point was designated a National Natural Landmark in 1971, and Vista House was placed on the register of National Historic Places on November 5, 1974. ◊

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From your Chair, continued from page 3

everyone with his vocabulary. Do not be fooled. I know for a fact that he owns a thesaurus. That being said, I might have said "like a machete through a patch of horsetail ferns!")

Plumb was working one hot summer day in a future subdivision near Battle Ground, Wash. and he and his three person crew were staking curb offsets while the McGraw Construction Company was digging sanitary sewer pipe trenches which Plumb had staked the day before. The excavator operator for McGraw had some difficulty getting his excavator located to start digging on the first manhole, so he took Plumb's stake, which was in the way, and jammed it into a nearby gravel pile at a less than vertical angle where he would be able to easily read the cuts. When Plumb saw his stake sitting in a gravel pile at a rakish angle, he blew a brain gasket. This was an affront that no surveyor should have to deal with under any circumstances. Plumb charged the gravel pile, rescued his stake, and brought it back to its proper and rightful location. The track hoe operator sees Plumb putting his stake back in the ground between the cab and the bucket of the excavator and begins to say some things which were not entirely sensitive to the needs of Plumb, including a suggestion that Plumb should attempt some things which may not be possible. (Editor's note: *These weren't the exact words that the track hoe operator used, but then again this magazine isn't printed on flame resistant paper.*)

The excavator was shut down and digging was stopped to facilitate improved communication, thereby rousing the curiosity of those people working in the trench. One of those in the trench was Mr. McGraw. McGraw had recently purchased one of the first laser levels in the Portland area and he was in the trench to ensure that no one damaged the equipment. McGraw and five pipe layers came out of the trench to see Plumb going all Chernobyl on the track hoe operator, and, having seen Plumb's act before, decided to handle this delicate situation in a manner which was befitting the class and diplomacy required to defuse such hostilities by pitching dirt clods at Plumb.

This was too much, and Plumb decided to go martial as a response to McGraw's act of diplomacy. Plumb was very much an atypical surveyor in that he lacked sensible pragmatism and failed to appreciate the fact that charging into a crowd of men who spend ten hours a day jostling 200 pound concrete pipe for a living was a serious tactical error. Plumb took out his plumb bob and started swinging it over his head in a circular motion like a cowboy lassoing a lost doggie and headed straight for McGraw yelling, "Come on crewmen! Let's get 'em!" The crew was either smarter than they looked or unimpressed with Plumb's exhortations, but either way, the results were identical. They looked at each other and decided it was smarter to just say no.

McGraw was built like a lavatory made of bricks, only not quite as soft and was armed with a shovel which he held up vertically with both hands to catch the plumb bob string.

The plumb bob wrapped around the shovel handle several dozen times like a sixth grader beating a third grader in tetherball! McGraw then yanked on the shovel, breaking the plumb bob string and leaving Plumb with painful burns on the inside of his fingers and without a weapon or a plan 'B', which is a fancy way of saying Plumb got the ever loving snot kicked out of him. Since Plumb was not willing to give up the fight, the McGraw crew threw him in a section of trench which Plumb would not be able to climb out of.

Plumb's crew thought it was only decent to pull their boss out of the trench but when they peered over the edge, Plumb informed them that they were fired, which was another mistake on Plumb's part. He should have let them pull him out of the trench before firing them. The order of some things is important. The crew, in a fit of unwarranted compassion, tossed a shovel into the trench so Plumb could spend a few hours and dig his way out of the trench.

So an opening for employment was created and my friend, who we will call Tom (because that was his name) quit his surveying job and decided to get the three dollars an hour higher wage which Plumb had to pay to get anyone to work for him. Tom told me about the job that he just vacated to go to work for Plumb without giving notice and I showed up on the job site within an hour of his leaving.

The surveyor asked me a few questions, one of which was, "What do you think of your friend Tom." I said, "Tom is lazy, blind as a bat, doesn't know how to work, is socially awkward, and has some rather curious body odor issues." That pretty much sealed the deal and I was hired and asked to show up the next morning at 7:30 AM.

When I arrived at the job site the following morning, I was assigned the job of rear chainman and I couldn't have been happier. I was working in the beautiful outdoors and earning close to double what I was making on my previous job. Unfortunately, John (not his real name, his real name was Brad), the head chainman wasn't feeling so fortunate in that he had been partying all night long and was so hungover he winced at the sound of the crack of dawn, which made pounding hubs into the hard ground a fresh slice of Hell with each and every hammer stroke. After watching John attempt to do his job for an unmerciful half hour, I offered up my services, and just like that, I received my first promotion to head chainman! How amazing! I figured it would take at least a whole week before getting promoted. You've got to love this profession!

So I am a surveyor because of fate and fate alone. If Robert Plumb was as fastidious about changing his plumb bob string as he was about making sure the length of both ends of the flagging were between six and six $\frac{1}{4}$ inches long, I might be employed as an insurance salesman, mime, college professor or some other profession, but instead, I AM A SURVEYOR!! Hello, 2014. ◉

Lost Surveyor

■ *Pat Gaylord, PLS*

This is a little different point than we are used to!
Can you name the house that may very well be
one of the crown jewels of Oregon?

Lat 45° 32' 22" N Long 122° 14' 40" W

Answer on page 15



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