

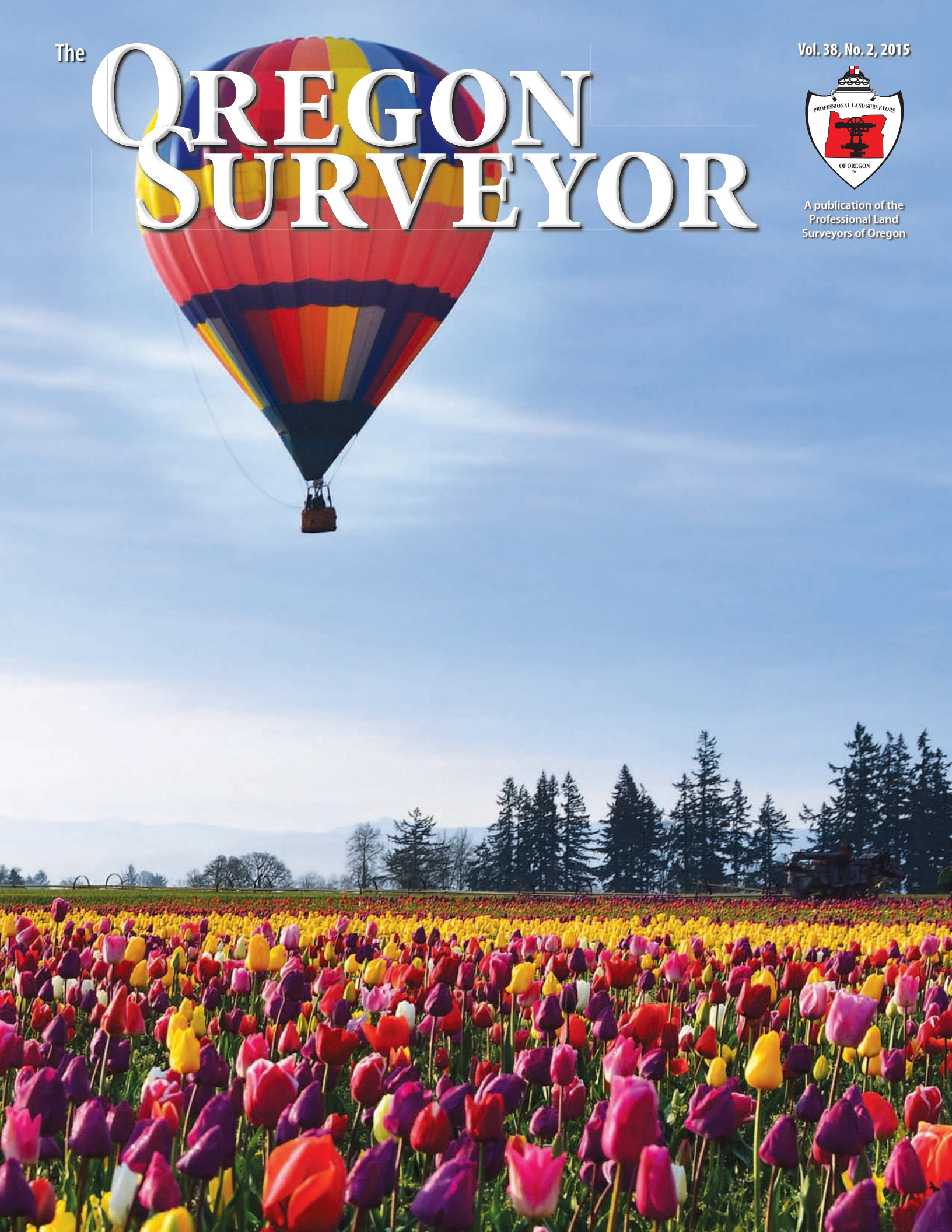
The

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Cover photo

Spring Tulips in the Willamette Valley
at the Wooden Shoe Tulip Farm,
by Pat Gaylord, PLS

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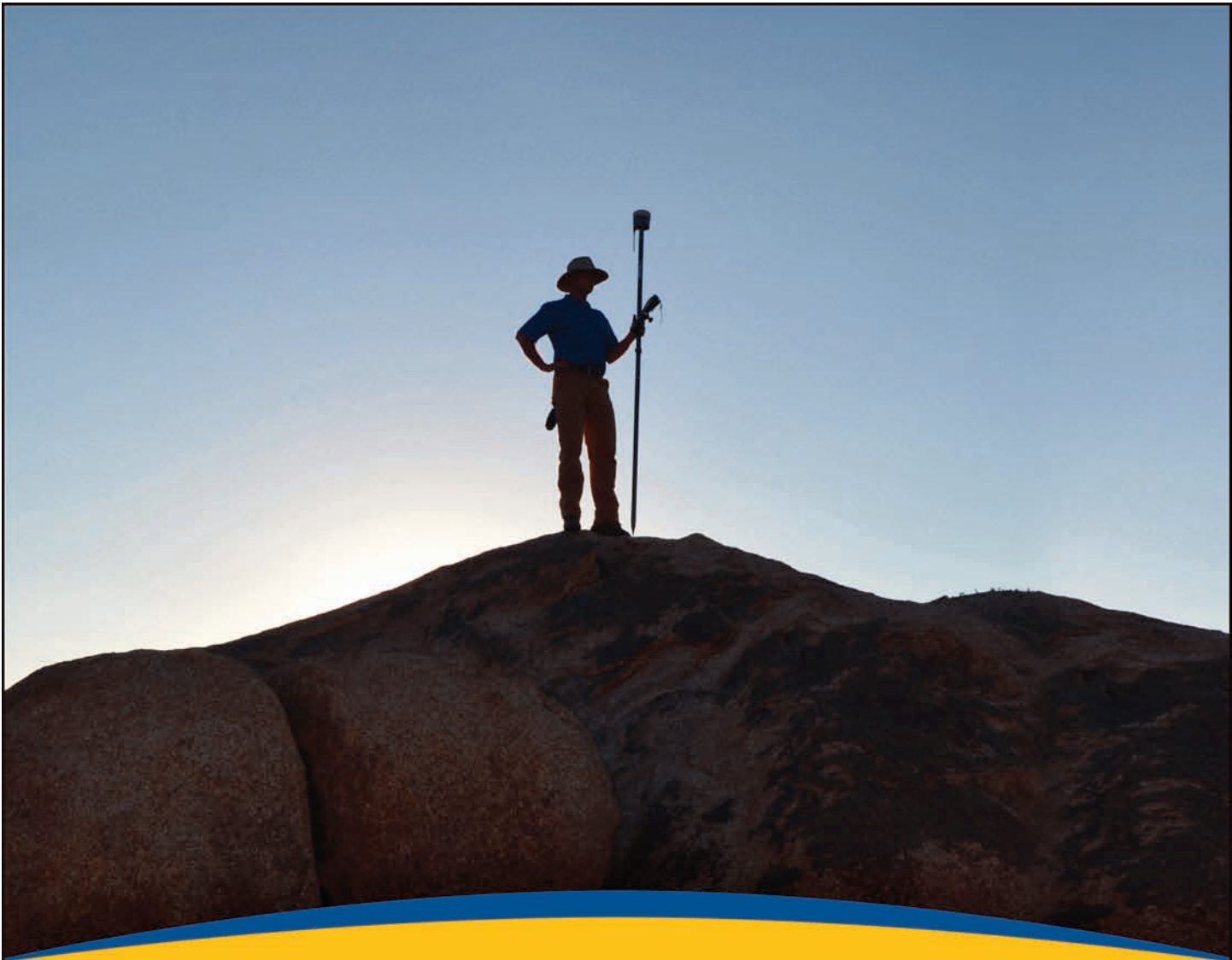
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Herding cats

■ Greg Crites, PLS

Most of you know that after a long hiatus from the institution of marriage, I returned to marital bliss some three years ago. The combining of our respective households included a couple of cats named Benedict and Rosalind. Having cats in my life required some adjustments.

Growing up, cats were a large part of my childhood, but around my 26th birthday, I realized that I had developed a significant allergy to them and was instructed by my allergist that if I wanted any kind of quality of life going forward, I needed to cut them out of my living space. It didn't take long to figure out how badly my cat was influencing my health, so I found a good home for my latest pet and went on with my life without them. Over four years ago, I met my wife-to-be and the only reservations I had about any permanent arrangements revolved around her two cats. What soon dawned on me was that all the allergy treatments I'd gone through to overcome my sensitivities must have worked. Remarkably, cats weren't bothering me all that much!

Now, leap forward a few years. I've had time to study cats from a more "adult" perspective. First, they are independent. No matter how much I think they know the house rules, they only follow them when they choose. There seems to be a parallel here with complaints brought before OSBEELS. With the possession of a license, surveyors know very well what the rules are that define the boundaries of their practice, yet some choose to bend the rules (or even believe that they don't apply to them). Benedict loves to jump on our kitchen counters, even though he knows that's not allowed! Hmmm.

He also loves to have his belly rubbed and purrs mightily when he's receiving this attention. I think I know a few surveyors who thrive on getting their egos stroked. Could there be a parallel there?

Benedict goes crazy when he plays. The bliss he derives from play behavior is self-evident. I watch surveyors standing around in the corridors between conference sessions and can't help but recognize how animated they become when engrossed in conversations about what they're most passionate about: surveying. Some of their wild gestures employed while emphasizing an important point resemble a certain cat I know pretty well.

Of course, what cat comparison would be complete without mentioning their nocturnal behavior? Our cats are strictly indoor models (there are far too many coyotes in our neighborhood wanting to devour them). This doesn't seem to detract from their natural instincts to hunt.



Benedict reenacts elaborate role plays when he hunts—stalking, pouncing, tormenting, batting and all the while emitting these primitive sounds that only a cat would understand but certainly are employed only when hunting is the game. Once he feels his imaginary prey is sufficiently expired, he has a unique voice that says he will soon arrive with his trophy. Sure enough, gleefully bounding over the foot of our bed at 2 AM with prey firmly planted between his teeth, he'll drop his kill on the comforter in search of my approval for his great hunting prowess. I don't want to know about the nocturnal behavior of surveyors, but it seems that many surveyors are also hunters. Could there be another comparison? How many trophies do you have mounted on your walls?

There is one more point I wish to make and, of course, it's the real point of this editorial. Many of you know that cats have a reputation as being fiercely independent (does that not sound like a surveyor?). I can never get our cats to come to me when I want them to, unless I have a morsel of food in my hand. Otherwise, they exhibit a maddening indifference to my presence and are content to sit in the front room staring out the window, seemingly dreaming of other lives when they were free to roam the outdoors. Coincidentally, if we offer meals at the conference and just happen to hold a "brief" meeting immediately afterwards, we can expect to have adequate participation (though sadly that's no guarantee). In fact, what PLSO meeting doesn't have some sort of food enticement to ensure adequate participation?

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Family

■ John Thatcher, PLS; 2015 State Chair

I ride a Harley. I don't say that to project a certain image or to look down my nose in any way at those who ride another make of motorcycle. Indeed, on the road, I'll wave to you no matter what you are riding—if you ride, you're family to me. I do say that to establish the theme of this column. I have done a few overnights that took me through lots of new towns. I have never once gone into a Harley dealer in a strange town without being treated as one of the family. Being treated that way is one of the major reasons I ride one.

I just returned from the LSAW 2015 Conference in Kennewick, WA. As PLSO Chair, I was invited, and I was excited to go (thank you, boss). I paid the price for being gone from the office for three and a half days, but it was worth it. It has been several years since I attended the LSAW Conference. I used to be more active in LSAW than PLSO and chose to do the conferences in Washington. But I practice mostly in Oregon, and I saw a need for leadership at PLSO, so I rearranged my priorities. But this year in Kennewick I saw a lot of old friends and met some new ones. I was welcomed and treated as family.

As PLSO Delegate to the Western Federation of Professional Surveyors, I fly all over the West to attend board meetings. This is an opportunity for me to “rub elbows” with leaders from other western states. After a few meetings, you get to know each other, and you realize here is another family.

I got the same feeling at our own conference in January, and the feeling extends throughout our industry. One of the many things I enjoy about our conferences is that the presenters and the vendors are not on a pedestal—they are our friends, they eat with us, they socialize with us. They are family, too.

In my experience, some of the chief enablers, if you will, of the family phenomenon are the events outside the

conference seminar schedule: the social events. Some are planned—happy hour with the vendors, the banquet, the Past Presidents Breakfast. Some are spontaneous—meet you in the bar this evening. This is where we learn more about lives and (maybe) less about work. This is where memories, connections and friends are made, business cards exchanged, commonalities and experiences are discovered, and sense of family is strengthened.

At WESTFED, it is traditional for the host city delegates to arrange for dinner on Friday night and often some activity that might be happening in that city. In Oakland, a group of us attended an Oakland A's game and took BART over to San Francisco for a walking tour and dinner. I often stay an extra day in a city I haven't visited just to explore (at my own expense, of course). In Portland, I arranged for dinner at Salty's on the Columbia. These extracurricular and fun activities are vital to the bonding process—the growing and sustaining of the survey family.

I know there are PLSO members and ex-members who question the benefit of membership. And I know there are members whose circumstances do not allow them the time and energy to actively participate. I understand that. I've been there. But for those who can step into leadership positions, there is one benefit that doesn't get a lot of press but seals the deal for me and keeps me coming back. It's that same feeling I get when I walk into a Harley Davidson dealership.

PLSO needs some family help now. Our Legislative Committee Chair Carl Sweeden is having to deal with some issues in his immediate family and has had to rearrange his priorities. I told Carl that family comes first, that he should do what he has to do with a clear conscience regarding PLSO, and that I will find a way to cover for him. Carl has already revitalized the Legislative Committee by creating policies and processes for responding to legislative issues that arise and for coordinating with our lobbyist Darrell Fuller. Some very solid groundwork has been laid, and now there is a need and an opportunity for a PLSO member to step into this void. You won't be starting from scratch. There is already a committee and a plan in place, and a large family to support you.

I hope you all are enjoying the spring weather. As an old crew chief of mine used to say, “Now get out there and get some wood in the ground.” ◊



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Post conference syndrome



■ Aimee McAuliffe, PLSO Exec. Secretary

So, you attended the PLSO Conference in January and even stepped out of your comfort zone by sitting next to someone you didn't already know. You had a great time, but your portfolio is overflowing with notes and business cards you don't know what to do with. Now what?

Truth be told, they have absolutely zero value if you don't use them. The conference or pretty much any networking event is just the start of a new professional relationship or opportunity. Your follow-up is the key to taking it to the next step. So, let's get to it.

Step 1: Get your PDH hours organized

Don't take out all the loose paper in your portfolio and throw it in the bottom of a drawer. Get organized so you don't have to contact the PLSO office and hope I can find some sort of shred of evidence that you attended to earn your required PDH hours. Print out your registration confirmation email and keep it with the conference pamphlet you received at the Salem Conference Center. Circle the classes you attended for your own files as PLSO does not have any record of it. Speaker handouts may be found online at www.plso.org.

Step 2: Re-read your notes

Yes, I'm aware you were drawing cute little monster faces in the margins of your paper, but I know that there is some meat in there. Re-read them to make sure you didn't write down any action items from conversations or resources you wanted to check-out when you got back to the office. Once you've extracted everything you need, keep your notes with your PDH records or scan them into electronic files so you don't have to hold on to a bunch of paper. This way your monster faces are immortalized.

Step 3: Check-out your contacts

Once upon a time, business cards were currency. You put them in a bank called a Rolodex and got to take it for a little spin when it was time to make a phone call to cold call someone. I know—barbaric! These days you have all sorts of tools at your disposal. First step is to input all your new contacts into our email system and send follow-up notes.

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» EDITOR'S NOTE, from page 3

Nearly every member who has served as a PLSO officer will tell you that the most frustrating and difficult part of running it involves participation. There is a photo in this issue of a group of us sitting at the Past Presidents breakfast (you see, food was involved) during our last conference. The first thing I noticed was how much the back of my head reveals thinning hair, but then look at who's sitting at the table. Mostly senior

citizens, many of whom I've had the privilege of serving with on the PLSO Board multiple times. I make a point to acknowledge our board members who have served more than once because I share their frustration at how hard it is to get new people involved from the ranks of our very independent members. We plead, cajole, entice, encourage and almost get to the point of begging, just to get members to

agree to serve. The same story plays out every year when it comes time to elect new chapter/board officers. When you need them, volunteers are nowhere to be found (at least not without some arm twisting). Almost like herding cats, don't you think? ☉

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.



Q: What's just as important to a surveyor as technical accuracy?

A: Quality professional liability insurance to cover potential inaccuracy

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» FROM THE PLSO OFFICE, from page 5

Remind them of a conversation you had and how much you appreciated meeting them. Be sure to connect with them on LinkedIn—you may be surprised how many people you have in common. Word of advice for people not familiar with LinkedIn—it's best to connect with someone after you've met them in person or are familiar enough with each other via email communication. If you would like to connect with someone you haven't met, be sure to tell them in the invite how they've heard of you and why you'd like to connect. Otherwise, people will assume you're connecting to sift through their contacts and are likely to ignore your request.

Step 4: Schedule a follow-up meeting

If it makes sense, ask for a follow-up meeting over coffee to continue your conversation. Always be upfront about why you wish to meet so your new contact may be more prepared. The first meeting should be about strengthening your rapport, rather than pushing your agenda. If possible, see how you can help them first, and then let them ask about your goals.

Have you gone through all or some of these steps? If not, you may be suffering from Post-Conference Syndrome. Alleviate your pain and extend the value of your investment by starting today! ☉

The continuing saga of Robert Plumb

■ Lee Spurgeon, PLS

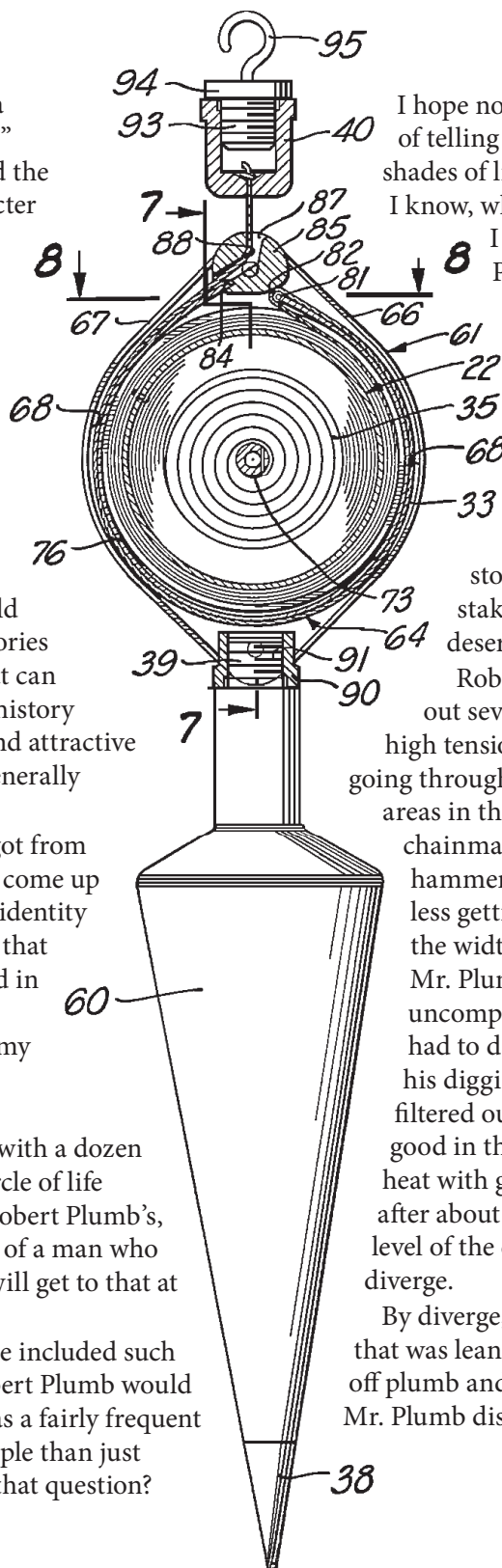
A few issues back I had written a story called “The String Broke” which explained how I entered the surveying profession. The lead character of the story was a gentleman by the name of Robert Plumb. I received a lot of feedback from the story and it generally fell into two different categories. The first category was that of suspended belief. Many individuals believed Robert Plumb was nothing more than a fictional character I created in order to get a laugh out of you.

Now mind you, I truly believe that any story told can and ought to be told better. I also believe that history is stories which are brought to life in a way that can be related to the audience. Basically, history should be Truth’s more interesting and attractive sister. If you want the Truth, she is generally available on any given Friday night.

The second category of response I got from the article was to have several people come up to me and actually guess the real life identity of Robert Plumb. Their response was that I had hit the nail squarely on the head in my story. Many actually said this in front of witnesses so it kind of ruins my chances at a career in writing fiction. Oh well.

During the course of conversation with a dozen or so people whose Venn diagram circle of life encounters intersected the circle of Robert Plumb’s, shared their stories and recollections of a man who I may have unfairly maligned, but I will get to that at the end of this article.

The stories which were related to me included such things as the color of purple that Robert Plumb would become when he got angry, which was a fairly frequent occurrence. Is there a color more purple than just ordinary purple? You are asking me that question?



I hope not. I once made the ludicrous mistake of telling my wife there was actually only three shades of lipstick; red, light red, and dark red.

I know, what was I thinking?

I also heard that working for Robert Plumb was essentially like a Marine Corps boot camp for young surveyors.

There were several stories I heard about Robert Plumb’s martial arts abilities but I will sum them up into a brief synopsis: Robert Plumb’s main strategy was to hit his opponent in the fist very hard with his face until he tired his opponent out. But the best story I heard was the story of Robert Plumb staking BPA transmission lines in the deserts of Eastern Washington.

Robert Plumb had gotten a contract to stake out several miles of centerline for placing BPA high tension power line towers. The lines were going through some fairly rocky and hard scabbled areas in the vicinity of Dusty, Washington. The chainman was having an extremely difficult time hammering stakes into the ground at all, much less getting them perfectly vertical and having the width of the lath parallel with the centerline. Mr. Plumb was a man of strictly uncompromising quality and if the chainman had to dig a hole, filter out all the big rocks from his digging and then set the stake with the filtered out dirt, then so be it. That is all well and good in the best of conditions, but in 100 degree heat with gusty winds blowing dust everywhere, after about 10 hours of staking the quality control level of the chainman and Robert Plumb began to diverge.

By diverge, I mean that the chainman set a lath that was leaning something like five degrees or less off plumb and he proclaimed that was good enough. Mr. Plumb disagreed and an argument ensued in

» continues on page 9 »

Explore Engineering event shows Douglas County students STEM careers

■ *Kate Stringer*



Leonard Herzstein discusses professional land surveying at the Eighth Annual Explore Engineering and Surveying Computing and Computer Science event at Umpqua Community College on Thursday.

MICHAEL SULLIVAN/The News-Review

The question of post-secondary plans can be answered easily by some students. Others haven't thought about it.

But it's a question that needs to be discussed sooner rather than later, according to the ideology behind Umpqua Valley STEAM Hub.

The Hub made its inaugural appearance as a co-host of Umpqua Community College's annual Explore Engineering event in February. Around 200 Douglas County students packed the Lang Center to meet with 40 vendors from engineering, surveying, computing and computer science career fields.

"We want to start (students) early thinking about where they're headed in the future," said Lisa Lanza, the Hub's project manager. "Our whole economy has shifted. You don't need a four-year degree to make a living wage."

Lanza started working for STEAM Hub in February. The Umpqua Valley hub is a project of Douglas County Partners for Student Success. It's one of six regional hubs working to increase the number of students who earn degrees or enter careers in STEM fields, meaning science, technology, engineering and math. The "A" in Umpqua Valley's Hub stands for art, to represent the design element that often correlates with computer science.

While the Explore Engineering event is supposed to give students an introduction to those careers, Lanza said

STEAM is working to make that connection sustainable. When students entered the Lang Center, they filled out a card with their interests and contact information. Lanza said the Hub plans to use the information to create mentorships between students and vendors.

Lanza has experience making connections with students, specifically in STEM fields. She received many waves and "heys" from teenagers meandering the building Thursday. Lanza used to teach in the Glide school district, involving her students in water quality testing projects for the Bureau of Land Management. When she taught in the Winston-Dillard school district, she took her students to Yellowstone National Park. She also worked for UCC, teaching career and technical education at the Wolf Creek Job Corps.

"This job is perfect for me because it's a merging of interests," she said.

People often tell Lanza that there are no jobs in Douglas County, but she argues the opposite. The problem is producing the workforce capable of completing the jobs. That's where STEM career awareness comes in.

Oregon vendors, including Orenco Systems, the Oregon Department of Forestry and the U.S. Air Force, attended the event.

Arguably, the most popular booth of the evening was the Air Force's. It might have had something to do with the large robot which many students approached to ogle.

"What is that?" one student asked.

The Air Force presenter explained that the robot could be controlled through a remote to examine suspicious packages or a scene for explosives.

The robot was an example of the more technical side to the Air Force, something students don't necessarily think about, said Air Force technical sergeant Ryan Breaux.

"We want to let people into the Air Force in a lot of different ways," Breaux said.

Days Creek sophomore Donovan Pavlov is interested in paramedicine. He pocketed a business card and said he may reconnect with the recruiters.

"It's amazing that a lot of young people are congregating in one place," Pavlov said of the event.

Trajan Terrell, also a Days Creek sophomore, said the event was helpful in introducing him to examples of what he could do as a career. He's currently thinking about becoming an astronomer.

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» EXPLORE ENGINEERING, from page 8

Jack Walker, chair of the Geomatics Department at Oregon Institute of Technology, said that's the importance of these events.

"If we didn't have an event, how would young students find out what they're interested in?" he said.

STEAM provided buses for each district to bring students to the event and teachers encouraged students to attend.

Douglas County Partners for Student Success Executive Director Gwen Soderberg-Chase said the STEAM push doesn't stop at the event.

"We want the event to be a springboard to planning for their future," she said. "Where does it lead them in their career decisions?"

While Lanza emphasized that many living-wage jobs are available to students without getting a four-year degree, the event, and STEAM, is about giving students the resources to find futures that match their interests.

"One of the most important things I can think of is finding a job you're happy with." Lanza said. ◉



U.S. Forest Service Forest Engineer Steve Marchi speaks with visitors at the Eighth Annual Explore Engineering and Surveying Computing and Computer Science event at Umpqua Community College on Thursday. MICHAEL SULLIVAN/The News-Review

You can reach reporter Kate Stringer at 541-957-4208 or kstringer@nrtoday.com.

» THE CONTINUING SAGA OF ROBERT PLUMB, from page 7

which Mr. Plumb posited that five degrees off plumb still wasn't plumb. The chainman wasn't going to relent being tired, scorched, and exhausted and all, and Mr. Plumb began turning that more purple than purple color at the deliberate affront to his character. That purple color must have held some sort of psychic pressure and when that pressure built up high enough, it needed some sort of blow-off valve and that blow-off valve generally came in the form of some sort of physical release like throwing, kicking punching or strange gyrations of the arms which I am told resembled the mating dance of whooping cranes.

The object of this physical blow-off valve on this occasion was a cardboard box sitting on the desert floor which was roughly the size and shape of a truck battery. We know the dimensions of the cardboard box to a fair degree of certainty in that the box did, in fact, contain one truck battery. Mr. Plumb took his box kicking duties very seriously and no half measures were good enough for Mr. Plumb, which is a fancy way of saying Mr. Plumb connected his kick with the box well enough to break three bones in his foot. Mr. Plumb immediately dropped to the ground and took corrective action to ensure that mistake would never be repeated by immediately firing his chainman.

The chainman, being duly discharged, felt no obligation to stick around and take abuse, so he hopped in the truck and drove off to Vancouver leaving Robert Plumb alone and helpless in the desert to be eaten by coyotes. The chainman got to Vancouver several hours later after sunset, and feeling a bit of compassion (I am not real sure who he

felt compassion for—Mr. Plumb or the coyotes, phoned the State Police who eventually rescued Mr. Plumb after several hours of searching the desert at night. I hope lessons were learned by everyone involved, but I fear there are more stories out there in which Mr. Plumb fired someone before it was prudent and safe to do so.

The saddest Robert Plumb story which I heard from several sources was that Mr. Plumb was eventually diagnosed with a brain tumor which apparently had been pushing on his turn purple and get mad as a hornet center of his brain (I hope I am not being too scientific for you here). There were unsubstantiated rumors that he was almost a decent person after he had surgery and the tumor was removed. There are two reasons why this saddens me. First, someone with a physical defect should never be the object of ridicule and had we but known, then perhaps a more compassionate view of Robert Plumb might have arisen. The second reason the brain tumor story saddens me is that the duality of the universe needs to be maintained in a sort of Yin versus Yang construct. In other words, if there was no light, you would be blind, but if there was no darkness, you would also be blind. I like to believe in heroes, but they would never exist without an occasional villain. Robert Plumb made every other surveyor look kind, caring, and compassionate in a relative comparison, but now that we know it wasn't all on Robert Plumb, we all fall back towards the median. This isn't a good thing for the profession.

Finally, I want to assure each and every one of you that no coyotes were harmed in the writing of this column. ◉

Cranky adjoiners, vexatious attorneys, and how I learned to love the Right-of-Entry Law

■ Lee Spurgeon, PLS

A rather belligerent neighbor of one of my clients called to rake me over the coals for having the audacity to approach and maybe even cross her property line in order to determine where the common boundary line was actually located. It took a while for her to get to my favorite part of this particular genre of phone harangues...

Her: What gives you the right to enter my property?

(Author's note: This is just all too easy when it comes to this point in the conversation.)

Me: The Oregon State Legislature gives me the right. True story. Check out ORS 672.047. It is called the Oregon Right-of-Entry Law!

Her: Well, my two pit bulls trump your stupid law.

Me: That is all too true. Perhaps we need to bring the sheriff along to ensure our lawful passage through your property so that we can determine where your property line is.

That is where the conversation usually ends. Who wants the sheriff snooping around their backyard? They may accidentally discover the shallow graves, your meth lab, your illegal grow farm, the shed you built without a permit, or maybe sheriffs just give some people the willies (thankfully). And it isn't like I didn't have some sympathy for the adjoining property owner. She did chop down a dozen 50-inch diameter fir trees along the property line and it turned out that several of the trees were on my client's property. Some people just seem bound and determined to ignore my father's advice: "Measure twice, cut once!"

I realize the Oregon Right-of-Entry Law has come under fire in the last year or two and I have patiently listened to the arguments against the law, but I want to openly come out of the closet, so to speak, and let every surveyor in the state know that I am in love with the Right-of-Entry Law. Yes, you heard that right. The law is a carefully crafted piece of legislation which has a certain genius to it. I will actively oppose any and all efforts to alter the law.

Does it require a little bit of extra work? Maybe, but going to the emergency room to pull shotgun pellets out of your behind may also slow down productivity. Of course, if you

follow the procedures spelled out by the Right-of-Entry Law, you will not be trespassing and the adjoining property owners have a much higher duty of care to ensure your protection. For example, they would have a positive duty to call off their dogs, cage the bull, or warn you about the pit trap they dug in the back corner of their property as a homework project for their survivalist training class.

I deal with a lot of boundary disputes in my practice, and I could guarantee that several of the jobs where I have found a resolution would have been impossible without the Right-of-Entry Law. Furthermore, I also believe that the Right-of-Entry Law adds just a bit of professionalism and legitimacy to every survey I do.

"I want to openly come out...and let every surveyor in the state know that I am in love with the right-of-entry law."

If you have been involved in more than a couple knock-down donnybrooks, fracasas, neighborly feuds, spats, fights, or kerfuffles, you will soon realize that there are bad actors who really do not want you to determine where the boundary line is located, so they can and will forbid you from entering their property to search for monuments or even to reach over a fence to tie their monuments. They can back up their wishes that you don't tie their monuments with a firearm, the threat of physical violence, or a slobbering, underfed Rottweiler. Without the Right-of-Entry Law, what possible recourse would you have? Exactly none. How legitimate would your survey be if you didn't have access to the best available evidence (the monuments) as to the true boundary corners? Not very legitimate at all. Could you call the Sheriff to ensure that you are allowed to perform your duties as a professional surveyor if you are asking the Sheriff to condone and sanction an unlawful trespass onto a private citizen's property? You could call, but the Sheriff won't be making an appearance, except maybe to arrest you. And while we are talking about legitimacy, how can the Right-of-Entry Law help legitimize your surveys?

The Right-of-Entry Law helps the legitimacy of your survey in two ways. First, it provides the adjoining property owners with a clear and unambiguous indication that the boundary line is being determined by a bona fide professional, as opposed to a self-angulating crazy Uncle Joe who had a forty minute survey class offered through the Future Farmers of America forty seven years ago. As a profession, we want the boundary lines we set respected and lived up to. Being able to let the neighbors know that we stake our reputation as a licensed professional on our work goes a long way in legitimizing that line.

Second, if we comply with the Right-of-Entry Law, our surveys become more legitimate as an evidentiary matter if we need to defend our survey in court. Is your survey admissible evidence if it was obtained illegally because you gathered the evidence while trespassing? The answer is that if a lawyer is clever, they will get your survey tossed if you didn't strictly adhere to the Right-of-Entry Law. If there were no Right-of-Entry Law, then it is more likely that an evidentiary hearing would accompany every boundary dispute and issues of what surveys are admissible in court would happen on a regular basis. Is this a far-fetched scenario? No. Read the article I wrote about the Snottygram. The attorney, who was brand spanking new to land law, was astute enough to raise the trespass issue for the singular purpose of getting my survey tossed out of court if a trial became inevitable.

Finally, I cannot count the number (this usually means a number greater than fourteen) of new jobs I have received as a result of passing out Right-of-Entry door hangers. If you run a survey business, you probably have an advertising budget for the express purpose of getting people to give you a call with a surveying need. Should the cost of complying with the Right-of-Entry Law be balanced against the added business you get by complying with the law? Yes. If you are not giving out door hangers, you are giving the other surveying firms a competitive advantage, and being one of your competitors, I would like to thank you for that advantage.

So there you have it. I love the Right-of-Entry Law because it protects me, protects the rights of property owners, adds legitimacy to my surveys, and is probably a money-maker in the long run because of the business it brings into my office. I hope they keep it the way it is forever.

With that being said, I must admit I am dismayed by the number of Right-of-Entry violations brought before the Enforcement Committee of OSBEELS. To that issue I would say COMPLY WITH THE LAW. Harsh? A bit, I suppose. I will concede that the PLSO does have an obligation to look into how the Right-of-Entry Law is



enforced. Is there something we can do without changing the law to deal with the regulatory processes used by OSBEELS in dealing with Right-of-Entry violations? Could a Right-of-Entry violation be treated as a civil matter as opposed to a regulatory issue or a Board matter? These are the questions that opponents of the Right-of-Entry Law should be exploring as opposed to opening ourselves up to litigation every time we try to resolve a contested boundary line. ◉

In Memoriam

Ron Walter, PLS

June 11, 1950 – January 15, 2015



Ron Walter died peacefully at home in Wallowa County Oregon, surrounded by his family, January 15, 2015. He is survived by his wife of 46 years, Gail, and their daughter, Danielle Boven of Auckland, New Zealand. His death saddens many in far-flung communities—for Ron,

Gail, and Danielle were modern nomads. They lived for extended periods of time and established close friendships in Stirling City, California; Girdwood, Alaska; and Joseph, Oregon. Danielle’s move to New Zealand extended the Walter family far into the southern ocean where Danielle and her family—husband, Rick; sons Jules and Anton; and daughter, Natalia—live.

Ron was born on June 11, 1950. in Hollywood, California. A graduate of Chico State University, Ron and family moved to Girdwood, Alaska, where he extended his studies and trained as a surveyor. In addition, Ron spent several winters driving snowcats at Alyeska Resort.

Ron and Gail then moved to Joseph, Oregon, where they established Wallowa Associates, a land surveying firm in Wallowa County. Ron fostered a practice of excellence, based on application of the latest technologies. He infused this excellence into the staff that he mentored, and always exhibited the strong moral values and professional ethics that were his essence. His active mind, quick wit, and energy kept all those about him smiling and pushing the job forward. As a result, the services of Wallowa Associates were highly sought after throughout the Western U.S. and will continue to honor Ron’s legacy.

Ron and Gail enjoyed their life on the Divide, east of Joseph, Oregon in the home they built together. They were also regular visitors to New Zealand, and to communities of friends and family throughout the west. ◉

Reprinted from the Wallowa County Chieftan, January 22, 2015

Thank you, Steve & Janet Haddock!

■ *Rod Lewis, PLS, and Wallowa Associates*

Ron Walter passed in January. It has been hard for everybody. It also left his company, Wallowa Associates, without an L.S. They contacted me, and I have since come on board. The biggest mountain we were facing was a Forest Service Cadastral contract Ron had started. In better times, Steve Haddock had signed as the Consulting Surveyor for the project. The deadline was still the deadline. There was a lot of tough work yet to do.

Steve Haddock is one of our recent PLSO Surveyors of the Year, the Morrow County Surveyor and the owner of Witness Tree Surveying. Still, without hesitation, he and his wife, Janet, brought their camp trailer here to set up home in my new yard in Enterprise. Steve then offered up all of his expertise and certainly his shoulders, to see that Ron’s last job was finished. I now know these two fine people even better.

Thank you, Steve and Janet! ◉

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PLSO puzzler

■ *John Thatcher, PLS*

This is a really good thought experiment that I stole from the Car Talk Puzzler Department. Well, they are always stealing stuff, so touché. I've changed the needle to protect the record.

You have just hired a greenhorn off the street to work on your field crew. Your client, an asphalt contractor, wants you to measure a perfectly circular go-cart track and tell him the area of the track so he can order the correct amount of asphalt. The track (tract?) in question looks like a donut in plan view—it has two concentric circles, an inner circle and an outer circle. The track, of course, is the area between the two circles.

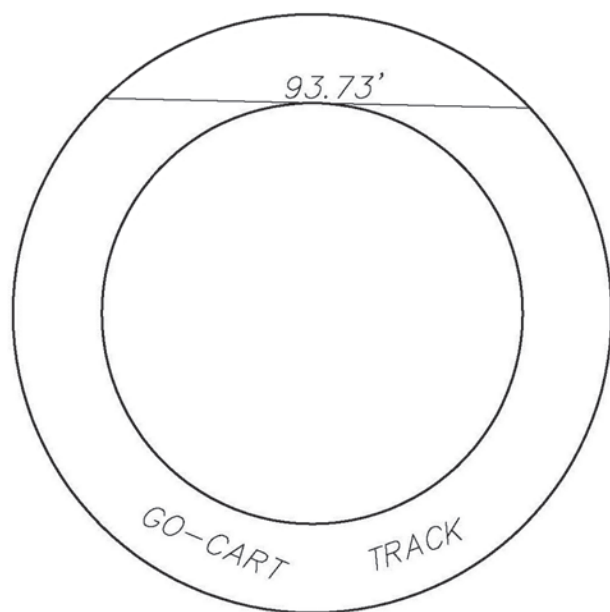
"I wish all jobs were this easy," you say. You don't even need a total station, GPS, digital level, scanner, drone, AutoCAD, MicroStation, Carlson—anything but a tape measure. So you tell your greenhorn (she is your engineer's daughter, so she isn't really off the street) to take a tape measure out and simply measure the two radii.

The new hire goes out to the project and comes back to say that she couldn't measure the radii because there is too much equipment in the donut hole. But she did bring back one measurement: the length of the chord on the outer circle that is tangent to the inner circle. That length is 93.73 International Feet (must be in Oregon).

The question is, is that enough information to compute the desired area, and if so, what is that area?

Let's pretend we're back in school. The answer, if there is one, is not enough. Show your work.

See the next issue for the answer. And no, my answer was not picked at random as more-or-less correct. ◉



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Another successful PLSO Education and Outreach Auction

■ Gary Johnston, PLS, PLSO Auction Chair

The 2015 PLSO Education and Outreach Auction was attended by over 200 people during the annual conference. The evening included an exceptional dinner followed by the presentation of PLSO awards, and concluded with the auction. Donations to this year's auction were furnished by PLSO members and conference vendors. Fifteen items were offered during the oral auction and 58 items were presented during the silent auction.

For the fifth 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 for everything that was presented. In addition, they conducted a new event called a paddle raise. The proceeds from this effort were designated for the scholarship fund.

Total income from the auction was \$7,200. Of this total, \$2,135 was designated for the scholarship fund, and about \$200 for outreach. Undesignated funds will be distributed by the PLSO Board at the April board meeting.

All those who donated and participated in this auction are commended for their generous support. Special recognition is given to William Eimstad,

Mid-west Chapter, who purchased numerous items including the Buff and Buff transit, for \$1,180; and to Dave Malone, Willamette Chapter, who purchased the "Bag-o-Cash" for \$750.

Some noteworthy donations included:

- Weather balloon tracking theodolite. Donated by Tim Kent, Pioneer Chapter.
- Seattle Seahawks collector's silver dollar. Furnished by Virgil Broadwater, Willamette Chapter.
- Two nights at a beach home in Pacific City. Furnished by Leonard Rydell, Willamette Chapter.
- Two framed and mounted nature prints. Donated by Steve Ness, Mid-west Chapter.
- Framed and mounted print of a covered bridge. Donated by Larry Olson, Mid-west Chapter.
- Gift basket of items produced around Coos Bay. Donated by John Minor, Southwest Chapter.
- Apple iPad mini. Donated by Paul Rydell, Pioneer Chapter.
- 1902 Manual of Surveying Instructions. Donated by Peter Olson, Rogue River Chapter.
- Guided steelhead fishing trip for two. Donated by Gary Johnston, Willamette Chapter.

Auction support was also provided by 13 students from OIT. They helped to receive auction items and set them up for display on Wednesday. On Thursday they helped throughout the day and evening with the exhibition and sale of all items. PLSO owes them special thanks for their excellent assistance.

The auction was a memorable event and post conference comments will be evaluated so the conference committee can make program revisions that will enhance participation and results in 2016. ◉



Lost Surveyor

■ Pat Gaylord, PLS

Question: Can you name this urban wetland and the “beautiful” flowers that cover it?

Answer on page 20.



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Honoring 2014 Chapter Presidents.

(left) Jason Martin, Rogue River; Chris Glantz, Willamette; Brent Bacon, Mid-west; and Chuck Wiley, Pioneer
 (not pictured) Erik Huffman, Central; Mitch Duryea, South Central; Greg Solarz, Southwest; Brent Knapp, Umpqua; Jason Wells, Blue Mountain



2014 Surveyor of the Year.

(left) John Thatcher congratulates Dave Williams on his award.



PLSO's newest Life Member.

(left) John Thatcher presents the Life Member Award to Lee Meyers.



Passing the Gavel.

(left) Lee Spurgeon, 2014 PLSO Chair, and John Thatcher, 2015 PLSO Chair.



Answer: Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge encompasses approximately 170 acres just south of downtown Portland on the east side of the Willamette River. The wetlands are covered in an extremely invasive species known as Purple Loostripe which has emerged in recent years. All that is beautiful is not necessarily good. Sounds like surveying doesn't it? That shiny brass cap might not be what is best!

Oaks Bottom has an interesting history. It was destined for development as recently as 1969, but was saved by local residents and is now home to many species of birds, black tail deer, and other mammals. Oaks Bottom is a natural area ringed by trails which are open to both hiking and biking. It is also

home to many natural species of flora and fauna, but that brings us back to the "beautiful" flowers pictured here.

Purple Loostripe, while very pretty, is not good for Oaks Bottom or Oregon. It crowds out native species by forming impenetrable stands which are unsuitable for cover, food or nesting sites for a range of animals—both avian and mammals. The loostripe is under a biological attack to attempt to return the wetlands to a healthy status. Biocontrol measures include releasing thousands of beetles and weevils on the loostripe to destroy it and reduce its foothold. Chemicals or manual/mechanical removal are intensive and costly thus not practical on this scale. With any luck the thousands of bugs being released on the invader will result in the return of a more natural state within the wetland over the next few years. Depending on available funding, the City of Portland plans several restoration projects for the wildlife area which will be under construction during 2016 and 2017.

Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge lies adjacent to the Oaks Amusement Park and the Springwater Trail. It can be accessed from the amusement park, Spokane Street, Sellwood Park, the Milwaukie Avenue Trailhead or from the north at the Springwater trail near OMSI. Check it out. But no matter where you are, remember that all that is beautiful may not necessarily be natural. Consider getting involved in your area and doing what you can to remove invasive species from our great state. ◉

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