

# HOOSIER SURVEYOR

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## *The Fall 2023 Issue*

- **Message from the President**
- **It's Official: The Rebrand is Here**
- **NSPS Student Competition**
- **and MORE!**



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Phone: (812) 719-4399  
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Phone: (317) 547-5580  
Email: rselby@structurepoint.com

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Phone: (812) 888-4185  
Email: jhess@vinu.edu

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Ryan Swingley  
Indianapolis, IN  
Phone: 317-370-0400  
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# President's Message

## *What is ISPLS to You?*

*"Established in 1954, ISPLS is a not-for-profit organization that seeks the growth and development of the Surveying Profession. Our primary mission is to provide our membership a professional identity, professional guidelines and direction, educational services and to promote the interests of the profession."*

If you have not read about our Mission and Vision, Code of Ethics, Constitution and other governing Bylaws. . . Why not? They can all be found at ISPLS Mission.

When I was elected to the Board of Directors a few terms ago, it was my goal to add positive and constructive input to the meetings, be involved with the day to day workings as best my work career would allow me, and also to promote the Society the best I could. I'd be lying if I said I did not aspire to be the BOD President at some time.

It took me a few elections but I have been blessed to be your President these last ten months, and I will say it has been rewarding.

In my initial address, I delivered that my goals were simple. . . To encourage as much of our membership as I can to become more involved with the Society. I have seen many good things progress and have been proud to be a part of them.

Our President Elect has great ideas just waiting to install; the Hoosier Surveyor has renewed leadership from our Editor and our Executive Director's Staff; our University Cooperation Committee is making strides to solicit positive direction from our local and regional Universities and Colleges; we now have frequent Podcasts; our Workforce Development Committee and volunteers are educating more and more Elementary, Middle, and High Schools; we have a new ISPLS logo; we have renewed life in a few of our smaller ISPLS Chapters; to name a few things and not take anything away from the other developments from our other Committees and Sub-Committees.

What does this mean to you? On the outside you may see a select few who are willing to attend the meetings and do the work for many.

Are you one of those few? If so, thank you very much. Without you we cannot do what we do in an organized fashion. If you are not one of those few, again I ask: Why not?

The hardest decisions we make on a yearly basis revolve around filling Board of Directors and Committee vacancies.

We need open minded people ready to exert some effort, be willing to drive to a few meetings every year, and contribute constructive input for the betterment of "Our" Society.

Don't be one of the few who question our decisions and actions but are unwilling to voice your opinion and contribute. If you aspire to contribute to the betterment of our Society, contact any of us on the Board and ask how you can help.

As I've said, my door is always open, so let me know how we (I) can serve you. Without "you" we have no voice at the local or higher government level(s). This is our Profession folks. Let's keep it progressing forward for our younger Surveyors and the ones after them.

*Cursed be he that removeth his neighbour's landmark. And all the people shall say, Amen. Deuteronomy 27:17, KJV*





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# It's Official: The Rebrand is Here

This design was submitted by the talented Sara Krock, from American Structurepoint! It's an emblem that captures the spirit of innovation and excellence in surveying.

Big thanks to all participants in our logo design contest!



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# Legal Surveys

## ***Bryan F. Catlin, PS***

*The goal of this column is to provide brief summaries of recent Indiana Court of Appeals and Supreme Court opinions involving topics related to surveying practice, certainly not to provide legal advice. Because of the recent changes to the court's website, I use Google Scholar to search for Indiana cases. Once cases are found, I search for a case by a party's name or case number on the Indiana site to obtain a more conveniently formatted document at [www.in.gov/judiciary](http://www.in.gov/judiciary). Comments or suggestions for future columns are welcome by email to: [Bryan.Catlin@indy.gov](mailto:Bryan.Catlin@indy.gov).*

### ***MLS Enterprises, LLC v. Adam R. Norman and Matthew A. Norman, Indiana Court of Appeals Case No. 22A-PL-2755, May 4, 2023***

Hugh Gresham sold 140 acres to the Normans on January 31, 2006. Prior to the sale, the parties walked the land and Gresham pointed to a wire fence separating agricultural land from a wooded area. The Normans used the property up to the fence for agricultural purposes. On November 5, 2019, Hugh's estate sold 164.66 acres to MLS.

MLS had a survey done which showed a difference between the deed line and the fence line. The first difference is 0.103 acres occupied by MLS, and the second is 0.099 acres occupied by the Normans. MLS filed a Complaint to Quiet Title to Real Estate against the Normans and the Normans counterclaimed to quiet title in the 0.099 acres in themselves and a claim of trespass related to spraying crops.

The Normans also claimed the survey was not based on the deed of prior conveyance and that they had obtained title by acquiescence or adverse possession. The Normans also had a second survey performed.

After a trial in Lawrence Circuit Court, the judge eventually found for the Normans as to the competing quiet title claims by acquiescence or adverse possession without stating the grounds for doing so. MLS appealed.

The Court of Appeals stated that the Normans had satisfied the elements of adverse possession as laid out in *Fraley v. Minger*, so the Normans were entitled to partial summary judgment on the adverse possession claim and the trial court decision was affirmed.

### ***Dan Van Treese, Todd Marine Corp., and Overlook Partners, LLC v. Todd Marine Association, Inc., Indiana Court of Appeals Case No. 22A-PL-2420, April 24, 2023 - MEMORANDUM DECISION - not regarded as precedent***

*Here the Todd Marina, consisting of 2.4 acres of land connected by a walkway to two floating docks that provide slips for fifty boats on Lake Monroe, was developed by Dan Van Treese, Todd Marine Corporation, and/or Overlook Partners, LLC (collectively "Van Treese") in the late 1990s.*

*Around the same time, Van Treese established Todd Marine Association, Inc. (TMA), made up of members who pay to use the boat slips, to manage and operate the marina.*

*In 2005, members of TMA sued Van Treese, claiming he was mismanaging the marina. A settlement agreement required Van Treese and family members to resign from TMA's board. In 2015, the new leadership of TMA brought this case against Van Treese, alleging he was not abiding by certain terms of the 2006 settlement.*

*On October 27, 2016, the parties reached a settlement under which Van Treese agreed to pay TMA \$60,000, starting with an installment of \$10,000 to be paid on or before November 28, 2016.*



As collateral for this obligation, Van Treese executed a quitclaim deed that would convey most of his interest in the real estate to TMA.

Van Treese failed to pay the first \$10,000, and TMA recorded the quitclaim deed and filed a Motion to Enforce Settlement Agreement and Bring Case to Closure in Monroe Circuit Court.

The court granted TMA's motion on December 12. A week later, Van Treese moved for reconsideration of the case-closure order. Van Treese claimed he had been working on gathering funds for the first \$10,000 payment and that the court's order gave TMA a substantial windfall, unjustly enriching TMA at Van Treese's expense.

The court denied the motion for reconsideration. Van Treese continued to fight, representing himself as owner of the docks by asserting they were not fixtures to the real estate but his personal property.

In May 2021, TMA filed an amended complaint, seeking a declaratory judgment that the docks are fixtures owned by TMA and barring Van Treese from claiming otherwise.

TMA moved for summary judgment making three arguments: the docks are fixtures to the land as a matter of fact and law; courts in other cases Van Treese was a party to had ruled the docks are fixtures to the 2.4 acre parcel, so collateral estoppel bars Van Treese from claiming they are personal property, separate from the land; and Van Treese treated the docks as part of the real estate in the 2005 and 2016 judgments, including two reconsideration filings, so he is now barred by judicial estoppel from taking the opposite position.

The court granted summary judgment to TMA and Van Treese appealed. Finding the judicial estoppel particularly compelling, the judgment of the trial court was affirmed.

***Town of Clayton v. Michael Swanson and Evi Swanson, Indiana Court of Appeals Case No. 22A-CT-1061, April 14, 2023 - MEMORANDUM DECISION - not regarded as precedent***

This case is interesting to me as I live just north of Clayton.

In 2005, the Swansons bought about 5 acres in Clayton and built a residence on the north side of a sixty-foot-wide drainage easement that the Town of Clayton is the dominant estate holder in.

The area south of the easement is in a natural state and Michael Swanson would mow the weeds a few times per year. The area south of the easement is noted on the plat as not buildable for residence. Prior to 2019, a narrow ditch ran along the easement which could be crossed by stepping over it.

Michael Swanson had built a small temporary bridge over the ditch to allow lawnmower access to the south side of the ditch. The area had issues with intermittent flooding and in 2018 the Town planned a remediation project, spearheaded by the Town Manager, Dan Slattery, to clear out trees and brush and other impediments.

Slattery met with Michael at the property, along with a few contractors. At no time were the Swansons informed that the project would make the ditch significantly wider or deeper.

The Town hired Murrain Excavating to complete the project and work began on February 26, 2019. After two or three days, Michael became concerned about the scope of the work exceeding what had been represented to him.

He expressed his concerns to the Town Manager but did not receive a satisfactory resolution. Michael stopped work by denying Murrain access across his property to the easement and contacted the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM).

IDEM found that the Town had not obtained the required IDEM permit, and that approximately 500 linear feet of the ditch had unstable, straight up and down banks.

The IDEM Storm Water Specialist instructed the Town to take measures to stabilize the banks, implement erosion control measures and obtain appropriate professional design guidance for this stabilization implementation. In response, the Town hired GRW to design and implement a plan to comply with IDEM's recommendations.

The neighbor to the west allowed GRW to do remediation work on the ditch on his property but the Swansons refused. The Swansons hired V3 to assess the problems on their property and design a remediation plan.

V3 reported that as a result of the work done by Murrain, the Swansons could not access the southern portion of their land; there was evidence of soil disposal and equipment tracking on the southern portion of the Swansons' land outside the easement; there was no temporary or permanent erosion control; the banks were too steep, resulting in significant erosion throughout the property; and there was significant sedimentation at the downstream end of the property because the new channel has significantly larger conveyance capacity than the downstream ditch.

V3 concluded the Town had turned the Swansons' property into a storm detention basin for the benefit of the surrounding properties.

Since February 2019, flooding events have created sinkholes on the Swansons' property and water that used to flow off the property now backs up and spills over the banks towards the Swansons' home.

On May 26, 2020, the Swansons filed a complaint for damages against the Town and Murrain alleging negligence, including vicarious liability and inverse condemnation against the Town. In November, the Swansons amended the complaint adding a breach of contract claim against the Town.

In December 2021, the Town filed a motion for partial summary judgment seeking a declaration the Swansons could not recover for alleged damages for items within the drainage easement, alleging the Swansons could not prevail on their vicarious liability claims, and alleging the Town was entitled to summary judgment on the claim for Inverse condemnation. The Hendricks Superior Court denied that motion.

Following a takings hearing on the inverse condemnation claim, the trial court found the flooding was inevitable, recurring and consistent, foreseeable and unique to the property since the Town wanted the ditch to catch all stormwater in the area without making any arrangements for downstream release.

It was found to be inevitable that the Swanson property would retain the water, flooding would occur, and the burden is unique to the Swanson property as the adjacent properties have all benefitted from having the stormwater diverted to the Swansons' land.

Also the court found the Swanson property is now acting as a stormwater detention basin for the Town by design, resulting an involuntary servitude of the property, a change in the function and use of the ditch imposed by the Town, representing a compensable taking; that what was originally an area where water flowed a person could step over with ease is now a significant ditch/creek more than several feet deep that cannot be easily crossed, if at all; that water is now retained in the ditch and had not been retained prior to the work by the Town; and that the work has caused a backflow onto the Swansons' real estate.

The Swansons presented two arguments to support a takings claim: first, access to the southern portion of their real estate was eliminated by the degree and manner of excavation within the easement by Murrain, and second, the ditch work has caused new flooding on their property northeast of the ditch.

The trial court found the Swansons had proven both grounds to show a taking had occurred, and this appeal ensued.

On appeal, the court noted the Town is only entitled to make "repairs, improvements, or alterations that are reasonably necessary to make the grant of the easement effectual," and the Swansons are entitled to use their property in any manner and for any purpose consistent with the enjoyment of the easement, and the Town cannot interfere with the use.

The Town had not sustained its burden to show the Swansons are not entitled to damages in the drainage easement. The Town was found to be entitled to summary judgment on the narrow issue of vicarious liability for third-party negligence.

As to inverse condemnation, the Town claimed their rights under the drainage easement trumped all the Swansons' rights in every respect.

The court strongly disagreed, noting that while the easement did not confer a right for the Swansons to cross the ditch, neither did it confer a right to the Town to cut off access to the southern portion of the property by subjecting the Swansons' servient estate to extra burdens.

The trial court finding that elimination of access to the southern portion of the property was a taking was supported on appeal.

The new flooding was also accepted as a new taking. An argument that the trial court erred by not providing any description appraisers could use to assess fair market value was waived, as no relevant authority was cited. So, the trial court was affirmed in part and reversed in part.

It was noted the trial court will have to decide if the Swansons failed to mitigate their damages by stopping work and preventing the Town from implementing remediation measures responsive to the IDEM report.

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*Thomas DeCola v. Cleveland Richard G 1/6 & Cleveland Joshua C Jordan 1/6 & Cleveland Michael T Supplemental Needs Trust for 1/6 & Vitoux Sally 3/6 /TC, Paul M. and Carolyn Cleveland, RJW Farms LLC, Haman Harold H & Haman Marlene O Living Trust, Indiana Court of Appeals Case No. 23A-PL-230, April 26, 2023 - MEMORANDUM DECISION - not regarded as precedent*

Yes, this is the same DeCola as in two opinion summaries last quarter who was noted in one as a “prolific, abusive litigant”.

Here DeCola filed a “Verified Petition for Declaring the Easement of Necessity for Parcel 64-18-12-400-003.000-013” in Porter Superior Court.

After a judge recused herself, DeCola filed a “Writ for Clerk to File Cause in Porter Superior Court 2”. The case was eventually assigned to Porter Superior Court 5 and DeCola filed a “Motion to Transfer Case to the Porter Superior Court 2”.

The Motion to Transfer was denied and DeCola filed this interlocutory appeal. DeCola basically argued that he should be able to pick the court his case is assigned to, but the order of the trial court was affirmed.



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*Sunnie Roberts v. Curtis Owens, et al., Indiana Court of Appeals Case No. 22A-PL-1562, May 1, 2023 - MEMORANDUM DECISION - not regarded as precedent*

This case from the Warrick Superior Court concerns thirty-eight acres in Newburgh which Curtis and Katherine Owens bought from David Roberts on May 7, 2014.

A survey was done prior to the sale which marked the boundaries.

Sunnie and Jared Roberts' approximately five acres was just north of the Owens property and they had rented it from 2014 until they purchased it from Jeanne Morissette on April 6, 2016.

Sometime after the Owens purchased the property, they sold six acres to Curtis' brother, Ron Owens, and an additional survey was done which located the previous markers and set 5/8-inch rebar with wooden stakes.

During this survey it was discovered that a fence and a nine-foot portion of a wooden shed encroached (per the opinion) from the Roberts property onto Curtis and Katherine Owens' property.



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The partial fence, which did not enclose the property, was just south of the shed.

The disputed area amounted to about one-quarter acre which was overgrown when the Owenses bought the property.

Curtis paid to have trash and other debris such as old TVs, broken lawnmowers, tires, and rims removed from a ditch just south of the Roberts property.

After survey pins were placed, Jared Roberts removed them and placed wooden stakes where he believed the proper boundary was located. Jared drew images of male genitalia on the shed, threw bricks into the grass, and drove golf balls into the disputed area.

Curtis saw Jared pound wrenches into the ground that damaged Curtis' lawn mower when he mowed.

Jared would also intimidate Curtis and throw knives at the shed while Curtis was working outside.

Beginning in May 2015, Curtis began reporting Jared's activities to the police, which resulted in the filing of criminal trespass charges against Jared.

In 2017, on two occasions, the surveyor returned to re-mark the boundaries because the monuments and stakes had been removed.

On April 18, 2017, Curtis' attorney sent a letter and a copy of the survey to the Robertses, demanding they remove the fence and trash from the Owenses' property.

After the letter did not prompt any action, the Owenses filed a complaint for civil trespass and damages on June 26, 2017.

Because the Robertses did not formally answer the complaint, the trial court granted the Owenses' motion for default judgment on August 12, 2017.

On November 9, 2017, the Robertses moved to set aside the default judgment, and on February 23, 2018, they filed a complaint against the Owenses to quiet title in adverse possession.

On March 15, 2018, the trial court had a hearing and granted the motion to set aside the default judgment, deciding the Robertses should have the opportunity to defend against the complaint and pursue the counterclaim of adverse possession.

A bench trial began on April 4, 2022, and it was stipulated both parties had paid the property taxes on their respective parcels.

Rather than have their own survey performed, the Robertses relied, over objections, on aerial photos to establish the boundaries [the opinion states this was per a Geoscience Information System (GIS) website with disclaimers that there was no "warranty concerning accuracy or merchantability," and that "no part of [the website] should be used as a legal description or document."]

This is apparently referring to the Warrick County Geographic Information System (GIS) website by WTH which includes that disclaimer language].

Sunnie Roberts admitted the Owenses had notified her about encroachments after the 2014 survey.

A neighbor, who lived close to both properties for over twenty years, testified that David Roberts' father maintained the disputed area from 1999 through 2004 and that for nearly sixteen years after that the area had become overgrown except for the immediate area around the Robertses' mobile home.

The neighbor never saw Sunnie or Jared (who died in an automobile accident at some point while proceedings were pending) maintain the disputed area.

The neighbor was also aware of the survey being conducted and had observed Curtis remove trash and clean up the area after purchasing the property.

David Roberts testified he had lived on the property for many years during his childhood and that eventually Morisette approached him about building a partial fence that would encroach on his property to keep animals out of her garden in exchange for maintaining the area and some of the vegetables from the garden.

David agreed, but testified he made it clear he was not relinquishing ownership of that property.

Morisette initially honored the agreement, but after two years stopped gardening and the area became overgrown and a dumping ground.

David provided this information to the Owenses when they purchased the property and showed them the boundary lines that the survey confirmed.

David also testified that he and his father were the only individuals who maintained the disputed property.

After a two-day trial judgment was entered for the Owenses finding there was sufficient evidence to show trespass, and the fence and shed should be removed.

Because Jared caused the expense for removing debris, Sunnie was not found responsible for those expenses.

Finally, the trial court found the Robertses had failed to establish the elements of adverse possession. Sunnie Roberts appealed.

On appeal, the justices noted that no evidence had been presented disputing the validity of the survey and that county records show there were no improvements to the Morisette property from 2004 through 2010, and no property taxes were paid for improvements in those years.

The court reviewed the elements of adverse possession outlined in *Fralely v. Minger* and found that the elements of control or notice and intent were not met.

It was noted that dumping trash and discarding junk after knowledge of surveys and encroachment does nothing to establish an adverse possession claim.

It was also noted no evidence was presented to establish when the shed and fence were constructed, county records revealed there was no shed until 2010 or 2011, and the Owenses filed suit for trespass and removal of the shed in 2017. The Robertses also knew of the survey and encroachments before they purchased the property.

It was noted that throwing bricks, golf balls, and pounding wrenches and other metal objects into the ground when Curtis was trying to clean up and mow the property is clearly not indicative of ownership through adverse possession.

The Owenses' request for appellate attorney's fees was denied, but the judgment of the trial court was affirmed.



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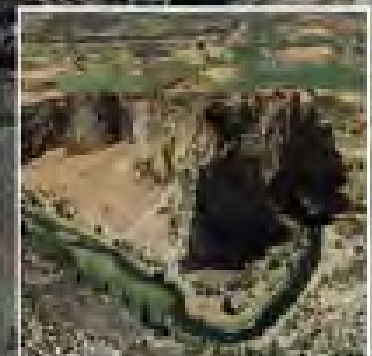
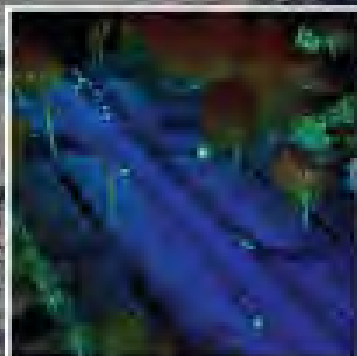


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***Sturdy Road Prairie Ridge Property Owners' Association, Inc. v. City of Valparaiso, Indiana, et al., Indiana Court of Appeals Case No. 22A-PL-2781, May 3, 2023 - MEMORANDUM DECISION - not regarded as precedent***

Here the City of Valparaiso adopted an annexation ordinance opposed by the Sturdy Road Prairie Ridge Property Owners' Association, Inc. (POA). The owners of fifty-nine of the sixty-nine properties in the Prairie Ridge Subdivision signed and filed with the Porter County Auditor a Petition Requesting the Remonstrance Against Annexation.

The City provided the Auditor with "final documentation of waivers" of the right to remonstrate that allegedly applied to the properties of the remonstrators. On December 8, 2004, the LLC that had developed the subdivision had executed a waiver of the right to remonstrate against future annexation for the entire annexation area in consideration for multiple services to the property.

Later, during the term of that waiver, the City caused waivers to be signed for each lot within the subdivision. These purport to affect the properties of forty-nine of the fifty-nine properties owned by the remonstrators but were signed by someone who was not the property owner at the time the individual waivers were executed.

On February 28, 2022, the Auditor issued to the City an Auditor's Verification Statement in which the auditor stated that the properties of all fifty-nine remonstrators were subject to valid waivers of the right to remonstrate. The POA filed a Complaint for Remonstrance Against Annexation and for Judicial Review on March 18, 2022, in Porter Superior Court. The POA alleged the original overall waiver had expired on December 9, 2019, and the individual waivers were invalid.

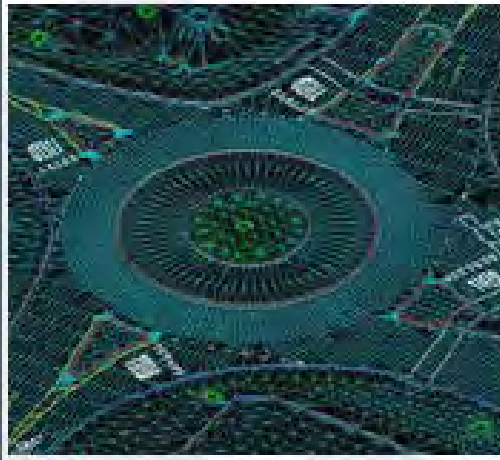
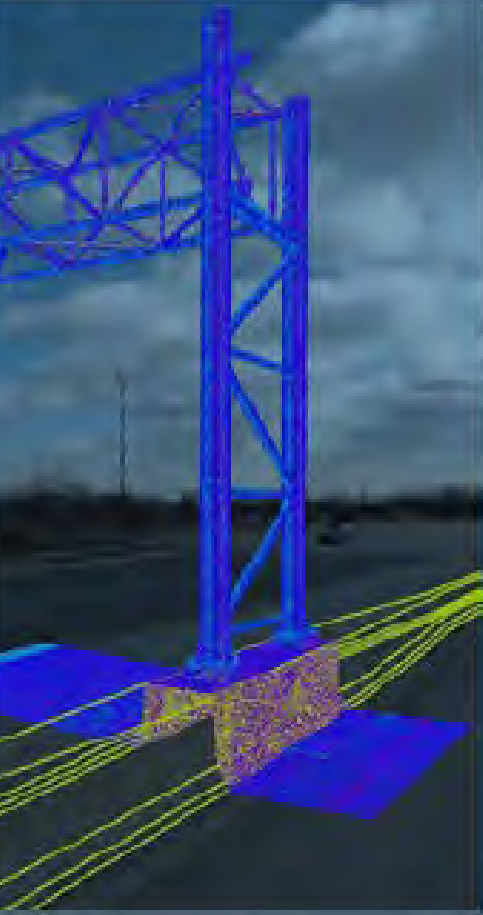
Therefore, the POA alleged the annexation is void because the remonstrance petition was signed by more than 65% of the property owners in the annexation area. The POA also asserted the Auditor had breached her statutory duty to verify the waivers were valid.

Alternatively, the POA alleged the annexation was subject to judicial review because the petition was signed by at least 51% of the property owners, and the City failed to comply with all statutory prerequisites for annexation. On March 19, 2022, the City filed a motion to dismiss the annexation petition, and following a hearing and arguments, the trial court granted the dismissal. This appeal ensued.

The POA asserted the trial court erred in dismissing the action for lack of subject matter jurisdiction while the City contended the dismissal was proper because the Auditor's verification was a final, unappealable decision. The City argued IC 36-4-3-11.2 which states "the county auditor's office shall make a final determination of the number of owners of real property within the territory to be annexed who signed the remonstrance," while section 11 says an annexation can be appealed to a court by filing certain documentation, including the auditor's determination made under section 11.2.

The City contended the final determination was non-appealable, while the court noted the Indiana Code has many statutes allowing appeals of "final" determinations. Therefore, the trial court erred in dismissing the petition for lack of jurisdiction. The POA also challenged the dismissal for failure to state a claim for which relief can be granted. The court agreed the trial court erred on this also. The dismissal was reversed and remanded for further proceedings.

*Bryan F. Catlin, PS, has been registered as a Land Surveyor in Indiana since 1991. He holds B.S. Land Surveying Engineering and M.S. Engineering (Geodesy) degrees from Purdue University.*



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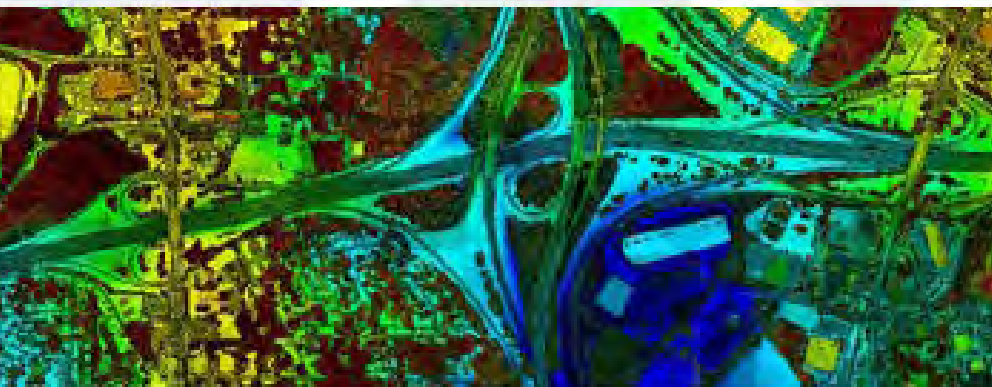
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## CIC State Rep meeting

Thank you to all who attended our CIC meeting with Chris Jeter, Indiana State Representative for District 88.

It was a productive discussion about workforce development, de-licensure of surveying, and a general overview of Indiana's current legislation. ISPLS is excited about the future and hopes to further its mission with the help of Mr. Jeter!

We'd also like to thank American Structurepoint for being our meeting host.



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# NSPS | Student Competition | Penn State Wilkes Barre

In late March, I attended the NSPS Spring Meeting along with Ethan Hopfe in Arlington, VA. Each year, NSPS sponsors a student competition for schools with surveying programs. The student competition is organized and run by volunteers from the Young Surveyors Network (YSN). It consists of two days of surveying exercises. On Day 1, half the teams hunt for survey monuments around DC while the remaining teams cycle through three stations on the National Mall: traversing, triangulation, and three-wire leveling. On Day 2, the teams switch activities. Day 3 is the awards ceremony.

I was assigned to assist with the monument hunt on Day 1. Students downloaded an app showing a map of the Metro system and survey monuments, each with a description and assigned point value. They had six hours to earn as many points as possible. Easily accessible points on the National Mall were assigned low point values, while harder to reach monuments on the outskirts were assigned higher point values.

Each team was paired up with a YSN member to supervise and verify which monuments were found. I was paired with a team of 5 students from Penn State Wilkes-Barre. We focused our efforts on the high value monuments, logging a total of 13 monuments.



# NSPS | Student Competition | Penn State Wilkes Barre

Many of the monuments we found were DC boundary stones set in the 1790s by Andrew Ellicott, Benjamin Banneker, and their crews. The monuments were originally set every mile along the ten mile by ten mile square that makes up DC, but some have since been destroyed. I was happy to see that the stones are now protected from further destruction by iron fencing. By the time our six hours expired, we had walked over 12 miles and were completely exhausted.

On Day 2, I was assigned to assist with the three-wire leveling activity. While we covered three-wire leveling in school, I had only ever done differential leveling in practice, so I made sure to brush up on my knowledge beforehand. We were set up in a very picturesque location, along a sidewalk on the south side of the Washington Monument. Teams had 45 minutes to complete the field work and an hour to finish their calculations. Once they were finished, we photographed their field books and collected their answer sheets, which were graded for correctness, legibility, and organization

While we were out on the National Mall, surveyors from NGS opened the manhole to the mini Washington Monument, known as Benchmark A. This is a 12-foot tall replica of the Washington monument that was used as a benchmark during the construction of the Washington Monument in the 1800s. At the time it was set, it was located above ground but after the site was filled in, it was encased in a brick manhole and buried. Members of the public also came by to look and were treated to a short history of the benchmark and surveying in general.



# NSPS | Student Competition | Penn State Wilkes Barre

The student competition ended with an awards ceremony. Schools from our area performed exceptionally well, with Ferris State taking first prize and Cincinnati State taking third out of 24 teams. Each team also got a chance to share a little bit about their experiences and what this competition meant to them.

While the students and young surveyors were busy with the student competition, more veteran surveyors, including Tony Gregory, were taking part in the NSPS Day on the Hill. They met with their respective senators, representatives, and staffers to lobby for issues important to the surveying profession, including the need for improved broadband mapping, reauthorization and reform of the National Flood Insurance Program, and maintaining licensure requirements to perform surveying work. After they returned, a few members gave a recap of how their meetings went.

While I certainly enjoyed assisting with the student competition, one of the most valuable parts of attending the NSPS spring meeting was meeting other young surveyors. By the time I registered to attend, the hotel block was full, so I stayed in an Airbnb with four other female surveyors: two from Wisconsin, one from Michigan, and one from New Hampshire.

I enjoyed hearing what kind of work they were involved in and how surveying practices differ by state. I am thrilled that I was able to attend and I would like to thank the IPLS Foundation, the Indiana YSN, and Lawson-Fisher Associates for making that possible.





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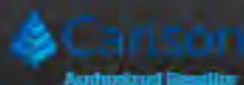
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ISPLS will follow all recommended local, state and federal protocols in place at the time of this event to maintain maximum social responsibility. All protocols in place will be communicated to attendees in advance of the event and strictly enforced throughout the event.

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We are looking forward to seeing each of you at another great ISPLS Convention! Please don't hesitate to contact the ISPLS office with any questions, concerns, or comments you might have.

*-Indiana Society of Professional Land Surveyors*

# Hoosier Surveyor Podcast

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- Episode 9 Deep Dive w/Norm Hiselman, Pt. 1, March 2023
- Ep. 8 Feb. Board Recap, March 2023
- Hoosier Surveyor Podcast, Feb. 2023 - Gary Kent Pt. 2
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# NSPS | Student Competition | Cincinnati State

For the second year in a row, Cincinnati State land surveying students traveled to Washington, D.C. in late March to see how they stacked up against similar teams of collegiate land surveying from across the country. The team this year consisted of a senior from Indiana, a sophomore and two first-year students from the Cincinnati area, all members of the Cincinnati State National Society of Professional Surveyors (NSPS) student chapter, as well as a faculty advisor from Kentucky.

The annual student competition is a three-day, land surveying competition hosted by the Young Surveyors Network (YSN), which is a subset of the NSPS and consists of young or new-to-the-profession land surveyors from across the United States.

The competition itself, including determination of and setup for the week's various events and challenges, arranged by a committee from the YSN, this year led by Denver Winchester, P.S. of Oklahoma. The format of the event consists of a brief introduction dinner and orientation, followed by two full days of competition, and concluded with a closing luncheon and awards ceremony.

For the team from Cincinnati State, the first day of competition included a six-hour D.C.-wide survey monument hunt, joined by a YSN liaison responsible for documenting progress throughout the day, tracking start and end time, etc. Using a mobile app-based map linked to the National Geodetic Survey's Benchmark Locator, the team navigated through the streets of D.C. by Metro, Bikes, Scooters, and on foot, charting a course from one monument to the next.

Points were assigned to each monument included in the competition, and teams were required to take a photo showing all members present at each monument to score points. There were also bonus points available for teams who uploaded those photos to their social media throughout the day.

The monuments themselves consisted of everything from original boundary stones marking the limits of D.C. as laid out in the 1790's, to tops of flag poles and building turrets used to establish angles for survey on the streets below. Over the course of six hours, Cincinnati's team traveled approximately 30 miles locating and documenting a wide variety of surveying monumentation.



*From Left to Right: Chris Stanley, Maximilian Paul, Braden Diener, Team Member, and Lane Schulz indicate a found survey benchmark on the East Steps of the Jefferson Memorial, Washington, DC, located as part of the monument search challenge of the 2023 Young Surveyor Network Student Competition*



*From Left to Right: Braden Diener, Lane Schulz, and Chris Stanley converse at the Signers Memorial, National Mall, Washington, DC, following the second day of competition challenges in the 2023 Young Surveyor Network Student Competition.*

# NSPS | Student Competition | Cincinnati State

The following day, students rendezvoused at the base of the Washington Monument to perform three land surveying challenges.

These challenges included conducting a three-wire level loop near the base of the monument, performing a triangulation exercise to determine coordinates of an unknown point, and working through a traverse laid out on the National Mall.

While each of these tasks should be in the wheelhouse of any professional land surveyor, teams were made up of students, not experienced professionals, and were on their own to accomplish each task.

In addition, the instruments used to perform these challenges were not the instruments most current land surveying programs are using in their classrooms and labs; in fact, many schools do not even have access to the historical equipment that event organizers tracked down for use in the competition.

Magnetic compasses, T-2 theodolites, and Gunter's chains were used, which presented both an exciting opportunity for students to grow in their understanding and appreciation of historic surveying methods, as well as another layer of difficulty in performing the tasks required.

After two days of competition covering a variety of surveying challenges, the Cincinnati State team was rewarded for their efforts with a third-place finish overall, with teams from California Polytechnic and Ferris State claiming second and first, respectively.

While individual event scores and totals from team-to-team were not immediately available, the consensus among the Cincinnati students was that it was a job well done, but that there were also places where teams of future years could be better prepared.



*Cincinnati State Technical & Community College, 2023 Young Surveyor Network Student Competition Team with Awards for 3rd Place Finish. From Left to Right: Chris Stanley (Freshman), Maximilian Paul (Senior), Lane Schulz (Freshman), Team Member (Sophomore), Braden Diener (Freshman), Derrick Daily (Advisor)*

# NSPS | Student Competition | Cincinnati State

The third-place finish meant Cincinnati's team returned to campus with a new trophy for the display case, as well as a \$500 cash prize, sponsored by survey equipment and software manufacturer Trimble, Inc.

Of greater importance, though, is the boost of confidence that such a performance gives members of the team, the reassurance that the Cincinnati program is effectively training tomorrow's land surveyors, and the shared experience of the students on the team, who will forever share the memory of such an exciting week. Scattered throughout the competition were important opportunities to network with other students and shake hands with the leaders in the surveying profession from across the country, too.

The competition was a great excuse to get out to Washington D.C. and try some new things, and claiming a top-three finish is a definite accomplishment, but the real reward of the whole experience was getting to meet and hear directly from the surveying legends of today, and to get plugged in to the forefront of progress in our shared profession.

The Cincinnati State Land Surveying students and the members of the Cincinnati NSPS student chapter look forward to continuing the tradition of excellence and proudly representing the Queen City and our region on the national stage.



*From left to right: Braden Diener, Chris Stanley, Maximilian Paul, and Lane Schulz search for a monument along the Southeast edge of the Tidal Basin, East of the Jefferson Memorial as part of the 2023 Young Surveyor Network Student Competition*



*From Left to Right: Braden Diener, Lane Schulz, and Chris Stanley converse at the Signers Memorial, National Mall, Washington, DC, following the second day of competition challenges in the 2023 Young Surveyor Network Student Competition.*



*Original District of Columbia Boundary Stone, inscribed "JURISDICTION of the UNITED STATES", located by Cincinnati State team on Wednesday, March 29, 2023 as part of the monument hunt challenge of the 2023 Young Surveyor Network Student Competition*

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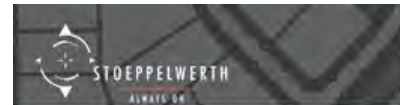
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