

MALSCE News

A monthly Massachusetts Association of Land Surveyors and Civil Engineers member newsletter.

December 2015

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Featured Article

Common Research Mistakes Surveyors Make (Easements)

by Knud E. Hermansen, PLS, PE, PhD, Esq.

In previous articles I have explained three of the five common mistakes made by surveyors in researching the records. In this article, I will explain the fourth deficiency - researching and identifying easements.

The failure to identify and locate easement records is a major source of liability for surveyors. There are numerous reasons for research difficulties associated with easements. Because some easements are public easements they suffer from the same difficulties...

[Read more...](#)

Register today for these Upcoming MALSCE Events

Legal Perspectives on

Season's Greetings from President Sean Ewald

As we wind up 2015 and try to complete as many projects as possible "before the snow flies," I thought it a good time to reflect on what was hopefully a successful year for many of us. While some reading this may not entirely agree, I think that we all have much to be thankful for, especially given the recent economic climate that was much less fruitful than the current. As the current Board of Directors approaches the end of our first year at the wheel, I'm encouraged by many positive happenings, including the continuing activity of the Proprietor's Council and the initial planning of the 2017 Surveyor's Rendezvous to be held in Concord in honor of the 200th anniversary of Henry David Thoreau's birth.

Looking forward to an exciting 2016, the MALSCE Professional Development Committee has planned seminars such as the Seventh Annual Legal Perspectives, Surveying Mathematics, and many more to come. Also, the 2016 MALSCE Convention (March 18-19 at Hotel 1620 at Plymouth Harbor) is sure to be a great event, focusing on all aspects of our profession from field to boundary to all of the great technology that we get to play with every day! It's truly a great time to be a part of MALSCE! Thanks to all for your membership and activity, and I wish you and your family and friends a happy, safe, and prosperous 2016. Happy Holiday to all!

MALSCE Updates

MALSCE membership

Land Surveying Issues VII

Friday, January 29, 2016

The Conference Center at Waltham Woods, Waltham, MA
8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

\$200 Members, \$250 Non-Members

Don't miss the seventh installment of this popular seminar examining legal issues impacting the land surveying profession.

Surveyors are the critical component of any transaction involving land, whether it is a conveyance, a zoning application, or litigation over an easement, boundary, or public way. The panel will address many topics that will enable you to create a more effective survey which may help parties avoid litigation or prevail on disputed claims.

For more information, [click here](#).

Registration Deadline:
January 22, 2016

[Register Now](#)

Survey Mathematics for Survey Technicians

Friday, February 19, 2016

Clark University, Metrowest Campus, 333 Turnpike Road, Southborough, MA
8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

\$200 Members, \$250 Non-Members

Featuring:

Joseph M. McNichols, PLS,
McNichols Surveying

This day-long seminar will cover surveying mathematics and adjustments capable of being solved using a hand calculator. It is intended to be presented as a preparation for the PS examination in April 2016. Those planning to sit for the exam, as well as individuals who would like to refresh or improve upon their current knowledge of survey mathematics, are encouraged to attend this seminar.

For more information, [click here](#).

Registration Deadline:
February 8, 2016

renewal period expires on December 31

The MALSCE Board of Directors would like to thank all members who paid their fiscal year 2016 MALSCE dues in a timely fashion.

If you are among the MALSCE members who received a third Fiscal Year 2016 dues renewal invoice and has not made your dues payment, please be aware that the dues renewal period ends next Thursday, December 31. After the first of the year, MALSCE members who have failed to pay their fiscal year MALSCE dues will be dropped from the list of active members. Having your membership terminated in this fashion means that you will not continue to receive the numerous member benefits that MALSCE has to offer. These include ability to: 1) join National Society of Professional Surveyors (NSPS) for a nominal fee; 2) attend MALSCE programs for a discounted price; 3) exchange ideas with your peers and to have input on important legislative and regulatory matters; and 4) receive periodic email communications that keep you informed about your chosen profession. If you did not receive or retain your MALSCE dues invoice and wish to renew your membership before you are dropped from the active rolls, contact Will Ognibene at wognibene@engineers.org.

Mark your calendar for the MALSCE Proprietors' Council Luncheon

The third luncheon of the current fiscal year has been scheduled for *Friday, January 22, 2016*. This luncheon will be the last Proprietors' Council meeting before the MALSCE Convention, so members are strongly encouraged to attend and provide input on how MALSCE can make the convention a success for you and your staff. In addition to updates and feedback on current and future MALSCE undertakings, this luncheon will feature another competition to win Red Sox tickets. Stay tuned for your invitation by email, or check www.malsce.org for updates.

MALSCE Professional Development Committee needs your help

The MALSCE Professional Development Committee seeks to identify, develop and provide educational programs that are intended to address the professional development needs of MALSCE members. Recent and upcoming PD Committee-sponsored programs include How to Fix a Boundary

[Register Now](#)

2016 MALSCCE Convention

**Friday & Saturday
March 18-19, 2016**

Hotel 1620 at Plymouth Harbor
180 Water St, Plymouth, MA 02360

New Panel Discussion Added

The convention planning committee is pleased to announce a discussion panel on the Point, in Boston, has been added to the convention curriculum. The featured panelists for this session include Leslie Cohen, Principal, Samuels & Associates; Finn O'Sullivan, Project Executive, John Moriarty & Associates; and Adrian LeBuffe, Senior Associate, CBT Architects. Look for an email with a convention brochure/registration form shortly after the start of the new year.

For more program details about the 2016 MALSCCE convention, [click here](#).

Affiliate Programs

New York State Association of Professional Land Surveyors

*57th Annual Surveyors
Conference and Exhibition*
Wednesday, January 20 - Friday,
January 22, 2016
Turning Stone Resort &
Casino, Verona, NY
[More Info](#)

Engineers and Land Surveyors Day at the State House

Tuesday May 10, 2016
Meeting at the Aldrich Center at
The Engineering Center
One Walnut Street, Boston, MA

Wentworth Offers PLS Certificate Program -- Get Ready for Spring 2016

Line and How NOT to, Massachusetts' New 250 CMR, Professional Land Surveyor and Surveyor-in Training Refresher Courses, Legal Perspectives on Land Surveying Issues VII, and 2016 ALTA Standards. The PD Committee, which is comprised of MALSCCE member volunteers who take turns at managing the various committee-sponsored seminars, is looking for new members. If you are a MALSCCE member and would like to serve on this essential MALSCCE committee contact [MALSCCE Past-President Rich Gosselin](#).

[Read more...](#)

Surveying News

Norfolk County Creates Database of County Engineering Records

Recently, the Norfolk County Engineering Department uploaded to the web a substantial amount of county engineering records. Items that are on the website include the following: County Commissioner's Index, County Highway Plans, County Index Cards, County Layouts, County Railroad Plans, List of Deceased Land Surveyors, Field Books, Medfield Baseline information, Norfolk County Benchmarks, Railroad information, and Town Boundary information. Please note there is a good deal of information scanned and available, however there are still some field books, county layouts, and railroad plans that are not yet available.

Any questions about this effort can be emailed to WebRecords@NorfolkCounty.org. Click the button below to see the database.

[Click Here](#)

The Second FIG Young Surveyors North American Meeting to be held on February 10

Below is a portion of an email announcement prepared by Connie Villari, president of the Minnesota Society of Professional Surveyors. Should any questions arise, Connie's contact information is below.

We are thrilled to welcome attendees to the Second FIG Young Surveyors North American meeting which is being held on Wednesday, February 10, 2016 in

Bristol Community College Legal Aspects Course Online For Spring 2016-Show Your Support Now

Join the MALSCCE Proprietor's Council

Join the growing list of MALSCCE members who represent their company as a member of the MALSCCE Proprietors' Council. Under the leadership of its chair, [Michael A. Feldman](#), Feldman Land Surveyors, the MALSCCE Proprietors' Council has demonstrated a renewed commitment to helping MALSCCE grow and thrive, Proprietors' Council members have the opportunity to work with leaders from across the Commonwealth to define the direction of MALSCCE. There are also opportunities to hear from clients and bounce ideas off of peers regarding staffing, business opportunities, marketing and sustainability in our industries. To learn about all Proprietors' Council member benefits and to join the council [click here](#).

Become a MALSCCE Sustaining Member

With member benefits that extend beyond the current fiscal year there is still time to become a 2015-2016 MALSCCE Sustaining Member. Promote your company to over 400 MALSCCE members and demonstrate your support of the land surveying profession by becoming a sustaining member today! For \$400, your company can become a sustaining member for MALSCCE's 2016 fiscal year and the enrollment period for the 2016-2017 Sustaining Membership Programs, which extends into the fall of 2016. To learn about the promotional benefits that sustaining members receive and to enroll in this program [click here](#).

conjunction with the 2016 MSPS (Minnesota Society of Professional Surveyors) Annual Conference.

With the theme 'The Future of Surveying... You!', key industry leaders from the BLM, NGS, NSPS, NCEES, Trimble, Autodesk, NCEES and Leica will present their visions on the future of surveying and how new technologies will impact it...

[Read more...](#)

National Surveyors Week 2016 - Contribute Data to OPUS Shared Solutions

Citizen Science, Surveyors and Geodesy
By Frank Lenik, PLS

Citizen science is a term which has recently come into vogue, but which has been practiced for many years. It is the term which is used to describe the activities of ordinary people, participating in scientific work to augment research or to contribute data for analysis by professional scientists or scientific institutions.

I first participated in a citizen science project in 1971 when I took part in my first National Audubon Society Christmas Bird Census. At the age of twelve it was an adventure for me to try to identify and count all of the birds in fifteen mile diameter circle. Today...

[Read more...](#)

Updates from the MA Board of Registration of PEs and PLSs

The Massachusetts Board of Registration of PEs and PLSs met on December 17, 2015. At this meeting, the board reviewed and discussed a variety of matters including a document posted by the Department of Energy Resources that attempts to give homeowners guidance about installing solar panels. The Board also reviewed a request for exemption from NCEES original transcript requirement, and October, 2015 PLS Jurisprudence Exam Scores.

[Read more...](#)

Other News

[Volunteers needed to plan the 2017 Surveyors Rendezvous](#)

Help Wanted:

For a limited period of time, including a help-wanted advertisement in MALSCE News is being offered as a free MALSCE member benefit. If your company has a job opening that it would like to promote, please forward a brief job description (i.e., less than 200 words), which can include a hyperlink to a more detailed job overview/application process, to Will Ognibene at wognibene@engineers.org.

[Lyme Disease Legislation - Let Legislators Hear From You!](#)

MALSCE Sustaining Members



MALSCE News is a monthly publication of the Massachusetts Association of Land Surveyors and Civil Engineers that is produced by William Ognibene, Abbie Goodman, and Richard Keenan with thanks to MALSCE President Sean Ewald and Knud Hermansen. This newsletter highlights the program and activities of MALSCE and reports on national and local matters of interest to land surveyors and civil engineers. While we cannot promise to print all news items that we receive, if you have one to share with your fellow MALSCE members please forward it to Rich Keenan at rkeenan@engineers.org.

[→ Contribute News](#)

Questions or comments?

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