ALTA Standards, Public Land Survey Systems and Other Must-See-Matters

J. Cole Helfrich

Mr. Helfrich first picked up a plumb bob in 1971 for Webster & Associates. From tape- and transit to GPS, mortgage surveys, and shopping centers, he has his seal on well over a billion dollars of commercial, residential and institutional developments and transactions in 22 counties in Illinois. Mr. Helfrich has enjoyed working with countless prominent developers, attorneys and other professionals in the field and the office. His specialties include real estate law, boundaries and boundary law, easements, rights-of-way and other encumbrances and servitudes, statutory and common-law plats, ALTA surveys, topography and site layout, construction and project management as well as land development consulting. Mr. Helfrich is a member of the National Society of Professional Surveyors and the Illinois Professional Land Surveyors Association. For the last 25 years he has been principal land surveyor with Craig R. Knoche & Associates, P.C., in Geneva, Illinois.

GNSS Surveying: Principles and Practices

Thomas Meyer, University of Connecticut

Dr. Meyer is a professor in the Department of Natural Resources and the Environment at UConn’s College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources (CAHNR). He is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers and the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing, and he is a fellow and current president (2019) and twice past president (2016, 2019) of the American Association for Geodetic Surveying. Dr. Meyer is a past president (2006-2007) of the Geomatics Society of New England (previously known as the New England Section ACSM) and a member of the editorial boards of the Journal of Surveying Engineering and Surveying and Land Information Science. Dr. Meyer earned his Ph.D. degree from Texas A&M University (College Station, 1998) where he was a research associate in the Mapping Sciences Laboratory. He was named a UConn Teaching Fellow (2015), and he has taught geomatics courses at the graduate and undergraduate levels in geodesy, geographic information science, digital terrain modeling, spatial statistics and global navigation satellite system surveying. Dr. Meyer has authored an undergraduate-level geodesy textbook and numerous peer-reviewed papers about surveying and mapping, and he teaches professional education seminars for surveyors throughout New England and the United States.

Boundaries and Easements

Wendy Lathrop, PLS, CFM, President and Owner of Cadastral Consulting, LLC

Ms. Lathrop is licensed as a professional land surveyor in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Maryland, and as a professional planner in New Jersey. She holds a master’s degree in Environmental Policy, and has been involved in surveying since 1978 in projects ranging from construction to boundary to environmental land use disputes. Ms. Lathrop is also a certified landscape manager through the Association of State Flood Plain Managers (ASFPM). A former adjunct instructor at Mercer County College in New Jersey, she has also taught as part of the team for the licensing exam review course at Drexel University in Pennsylvania. Ms. Lathrop has been teaching seminars for surveyors since 1986 and has been writing articles for surveyors since 1981. She is a contributing editor for The American Surveyor magazine, and she has four articles included in the American Bar Association’s text, Land Survey: A Guide for Lawyers and Other Professionals. She and Stephen V. Esposito, PLS, PE co-authored a book entitled Professional Surveyors and Real Property Descriptions: Composition, Construction, and Comprenhension, published by John Wiley & Sons, Inc. in 2011. She is also on the faculty of GeoTeam, a web-based educational provider. Ms. Lathrop is a past president of the New Jersey Society of Professional Land Surveyors and of the National Society of Professional Surveyors, and she has served on the Board of Directors for the American Association for Geodetic Surveying.

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- Monday, November 30, 2020 | 11:00 am - 2:30 pm CST
- Tuesday, December 1, 2020 | 11:00 am - 2:30 pm CST
- Wednesday, December 2, 2020 | 9:30 am - 5:00 pm CST
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Have questions or wish to register by phone?
Give us a call at 715-835-5900 and press 1 for Customer Service.

Find us on Facebook
Monday, November 30, 2020 | 11:00 am - 2:30 pm CST (excluding a 30-min. break)

ALTA Survey Basics
2016 ALTA Survey basics
2016 Table A requirements
Proposed 2021 ALTA Survey basics
Proposed 2021 Table A requirements

Public Land Survey Systems Basics
Establishment of the PLSS
Northwest Ordinance
PLSS today

Tuesday, December 1, 2020 | 11:00 am - 2:30 pm CST (excluding a 10-min. break)

Statutory Plat basics in PLSS States
Statutes in PLSS states
Types of plats
Requirements for a typical statutory plat
What is not a statutory plat
Changes to statutory plats

Easement Basics
Types of easements
Creation of easements
Extinguishment of easements

Wednesday, December 2, 2020 | 9:30 am - 5:00 pm CST (including a 30-min. break)

Development of Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) Surveying
Benefits and drawbacks

GNSS Fundamentals and Real Time Kinematic (RTK) Methods
Understanding GNSS science
Mechanics of GNSS data collection and processing

GNSS Surveying Methods and Best Practices
GNSS satellites
Data collection process
Accuracy versus precision
Redundancy
Multipath
Position dilution of precision (PDOP)
Root-mean square (RMS)
Site localizations/calibrations
Latency
Signal-to-noise ratio
Float and fixed solutions
Elevation mask
Good model
Understanding errors

Using GNSS Data Successfully
Applying datum transformations
Improving field practices
Using Online Positioning User Service (OPUS)
Managing data

GNSS Surveying Case Studies

Continuing Education Credit Information
See each course listing for the type and amount of each continuing education credit available.
Individual courses for engineers and land surveyors are not subject to pre-approval. HalfMoon Education does not apply for landscape courses in FL, NC, and NJ or land surveyor courses in FL, KS, NJ, TN and TX, unless expressly stated.

HalfMoon Education Certifying Entities
American Institute of Architects Continuing Education System (No. J885)
International Code Council (No. 1232)
Landscape Architect Continuing Education System
American Institute of Certified Planners (AAP)
Boards of Engineering: Florida (No. 0004647), Indiana (License No. CE21700059), Maryland, New Jersey (Approval No. 24G/P00000700), North Carolina (No. 5-0150), and North Dakota.
Course-by-Provider: Services
Association of State Floodplain Managers
American Planning Association/AICP
American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)
American Planning Association/AICP
HalfMoon Education is deemed a New York-approved continuing education provider for engineers, architects, and landscape architects via its registration with the American Institute of Architects Continuing Education System (Regulations of the Commissioner §68.16(2)(2), §69.6(1)(2), and §79-1.50(2)).
Completion certificates will be awarded to participants who complete this event, respond to prompts, and earn a passing score (80%) on the quiz that follows the presentation (multiple attempts allowed).

Thursday, December 3, 2020 | 11:00 am - 2:30 pm CST (including a 15-min. break)

Disputes: Boundaries, Shared Spaces, and Split Estates
Distinctions between ownership and possession
Easements distinguished from other possessory rights
Types of easements and distinctions between them: appurtenant, in gross, affirmative, negative and others
Methods of easement creation
Clues in documents to determine if interests are free or easement
The effect of the Statute of Frauds on possessory rights
Methods of easement termination
What happens after termination?

Boundaries and Easements
A Two-Day Webinar Series
Tuition: $299 per registrant, $199 per registrant for three or more
Credits: Land Surveyors: 6.5 PDHs, excluding KS, NJ, TN, TX
Professional Engineers: 6.5 PDHs in all states

Wednesday, December 2, 2020 | 11:00 am - 2:30 pm CST (including a 15-min. break)

Locating Land Boundaries on Paper (And on the Ground)
What a deed tells us about real property interests and their locations – or doesn’t
Common kinds of land descriptions
- Metes and bounds
- Reference to a subdivision
- Reference to a tax parcel
- Strip descriptions (condominiums, split estates)
- Blanket easements

Reading a description to find evidence of location
The work involved in writing a description
Why paper and ground may not match
When the paper and the ground don’t match: The hierarchy of evidence in descriptions
Summary: elements of a good description

Physical Evidence and Boundaries
The difference between a corner and a monument
Retracement surveys versus new or independent surveys
Discrepancies between the written record and what is on the ground
- Types of discrepancies
- Causes of discrepancies
The hierarchy of evidence revisited

Can’t Attend? Order any of these Webinars as a Self-Study Package!
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Professional Engineers: 6.0 PDHs in all states
Land Surveyors: 6.0 PDHs, excluding KS, NJ, TN, TX
Professional Engineers: 6.0 PDHs in all states

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20 USBNDES1 12 2 WEBR BA
20 USBNDES2 12 3 WEBR JB

20 USGNSSPP 12 2 WEBR BA
20 USGNSSPP 12 2 WEBR BA

20 USGNSSPP 12 3 WEBR JB
20 USBNDES2 12 3 WEBR JB