

# DEEP EAST TEXAS CHAPTER NO. 6 NEWS

June 20, 1998

Texas Society of Professional Surveyors

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## **President's Column:**

The Chapter sponsored its first annual "Heart of the Big Thicket" seminar on April 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> at the Beaumont Hilton. Twenty-nine surveyors from across Texas attended the "Gradient Boundary" seminar presented by Darrell Shine, R.P.L.S., L.S.L.S., with assistance from Nedra Foster, S.I. of Silsbee. The seminar was divided into two four-hour sessions, the first of which began at 1:00 PM on Friday the 17<sup>th</sup> with Darrell presenting the legal history and theory of the gradient boundary.

Afterwards, attendees and chapter members along with their families attended a fish fry held at the Village Creek State Park near Lumberton. Nestled away in the woods along Village Creek, the park is a beautiful and serene place of nature. It was a good place for surveyors to gather and spend an enjoyable evening with plenty of food, drinks and good fellowship.

A tree identification contest was held before the dinner where contestants followed a trail through the woods, attempting to identify various trees previously marked by forester Ken Foster. After the dinner, Ken revealed the tree types and species to an anxious and intent crowd. Bubba Geisendorff and Ken Gold took 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place prizes. After watching this event, I can understand why tree identification seminars are one of the most popular and well attended seminars in the state.

The second four-hour session was scheduled to begin at 8:00 AM on Saturday the 18<sup>th</sup> with attendees placing their two man canoes in Village Creek for the trip downstream to several "qualified" banks. However, the weather turned nasty with heavy downpours and chilling temperatures. Plan B was put into effect with attendees returning to the classroom where Darrell and Nedra put up a makeshift qualified bank, complete with a backdrain and vegetation. With a little imagination, the field demonstration was very effective.

Overall, the seminar was a complete success in spite of the disappointing weather. Evaluation comments received from the attendees were all positive with high marks for the subject matter and Darrell's presentation. The Chapter plans to present this seminar on an annual basis, as long as Darrell is willing. Our sincere appreciation goes to Darrell for his valuable contribution to the Chapter.

Many people do not realize the hard work it takes to sponsor a seminar like this. Planning and preparations begin far in advance of the scheduled seminar date. Ron Davis was the Team Leader responsible for coordinating the seminar, making hotel arrangements and getting approval from the TBPLS for 8 CEU's. Nedra Foster spent a great deal of time putting things together for the presentation as well as planning the events for the fish fry. Gilbert Johnston took care of cooking arrangements. Blu Hicks is arguably the best in the state when it comes to frying fish. His batter recipe is outstanding and you should have seen the customized trailer rig he had! Joe Breaux handled transportation arrangements and finances. The Chapter wishes to thank all of these individuals for their valuable help and assistance in producing this seminar!

For those members who want to attend a different seminar, the Chapter is planning to host an additional TSPS sponsored seminar later each year, beginning in 1999.

## **Minutes of Meeting:**

The Chapter held its quarterly meeting May 18<sup>th</sup> at the Schooner Restaurant in Nederland. A good turnout of members were present to welcome Roger McDonald, TSPS Area Chapter Representative as a special guest and to hear guest speaker Michael McGuinness, R.P.L.S., Vice-President of Western Data Systems, who gave a special presentation the use of GPS for establishing a horizontal and vertical control network.

Other items on the agenda discussed or presented:

1. Minutes of Last Meeting
2. Financial Report
3. Review of Gradient Boundary Seminar
4. TSPS proposed changes to Section 663 for review by TBPLS
5. Report on Trig\*Star winners
6. Report on technicians certification exams
7. Report on Spindletop centennial celebration project
8. Workshop

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM

**1998 Chapter Trig\*Star Winners Announced:**

This year's winners of regional Trig\*Star competition were Rachel Ekvall, 1<sup>st</sup> Place and recipient of \$150 cash scholarship, and Audra Russell, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place and recipient of \$75 cash scholarship. Both are junior students at Silsbee High School. Sponsoring teacher, Dan Schmidt received a Teaching Excellence Award of \$225.

Chapter Trig\*Star coordinator Mitch Brackin reported that five area high schools participated in this year's competition. Chapter President Richard Worthey and Chapter Director Gilbert Johnston made the presentations to the winners at Silsbee High School earlier this month.

**The Internet:**

The Internet is rapidly becoming the main source of information, communication and electronic commerce for individuals and businesses around the world. This increase in popularity is due to several factors including the rapid advancements in technology, both software and hardware, and society's thirst or need for instantaneous information or response. While many may argue that this is not necessarily good, the fact remains that it is the reality of today and tomorrow. Businesses must give careful consideration before going online to determine the best way to take advantage of this new medium while protecting themselves from any potential harm.

TSPS is recommending its state members to go online to take advantage of the vast information available and the increased ability to communicate. TSPS is revising their website to include more services for its members.

The Chapter maintains a webpage and is also expanding its information and member services. Any member or member company wishing to have a presence on the Internet should log on to the website and leave email to the webmaster. The Chapter is actively requesting member's email addresses and fax numbers so that future newsletters and announcements can be broadcast more rapidly and effectively to its members.

<http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/rworthey>

**TBPLS Rules Review:**

The Texas Board of Professional Land Surveying held a public hearing June 11<sup>th</sup> on proposed rule changes to Chapter 663. TSPS submitted comments

and proposed changes to the Board which were discussed at the last Chapter Quarterly Meeting. Member attending the Chapter meeting received a copy of these proposed changes. The TSPS Board approved these proposed changes at a special meeting called in June and presented them to the TBPLS. The results of the TBPLS action in response to these proposed changes are as follows:

- 663.3 (3) Failed
- (4) Passed
- 663.15 (g) Deferred to TBPLS committee
- (h) Passed
- (i) Passed
- (j) Failed
- 663.17 (a) Failed
- (b) Failed
- 663.19 (5) Passed
- (7) Passed
- (8) Passed
- 663.7 Failed

Review of 664 is schedule with TSPS proposing the following changes:

**Continuing Education**

664.1

Purpose. The establishment of requirements for continuing education courses and professional development courses, which a registrant must complete periodically for the renewal of the certificate of registration.

(a) CEU being defined as a unit awarded for completion of a continuing education course. CEUs shall be granted only for those courses comprised of the technical, legal and ethical elements of professional surveying.

(b) PDU being defined as a unit awarded for completion in a course being supplemental, necessary, and supportive to the practice of professional surveying.

664.3

Numerical Requirements for Continuing Education. A registrant to be eligible for renewal of the certificate of registration must complete eight hours, a calendar day, of board approved professional development courses or programs totaling sixteen in any annual period. A minimum of twelve hours shall be comprised of CEUs and a maximum of four hours shall be comprised of PDUs.

664.9

Activities Unacceptable as Continuing Education. The following activities are unacceptable as continuing education:

- (1) authorship of letters to editor or self opinionated articles of a non-technical nature which are included in trade publications;
- (2) education incidental to the regular professional activities of a registrant such as learning occurring from experience or research;
- (3) organizational activities such as serving on committees or councils or as an officer in a professional organization;
- (4) any experience which does not fit the types of acceptable continuing education in 664.4 of this title.
- (5) Any continuing education activity completed before the first renewal period for which the registrant is required to obtain continuing education credit;
- (6) Any continuing education activity completed before or after the annual renewal period for which continuing education credit is submitted except as allowed in 664.11 of this title;

(7) Any continuing education activity that is repeated within a 24-month period.

**TSPS Board Meeting Held June 13, 1998 - Austin, Texas:**

- Formation of a new committee called the Professional Development Committee was approved and referred to the Bylaws Committee for further action as required by the Constitution and Bylaws.
- Don Canada reported that an agreement with a new insurance company has been reached with better benefits at the same current rates.
- TSPS continues to be on solid financial footing in spite of reduced revenue from seminars.

Annual Ray Wisdom fish fry and auction benefiting TSFI was held immediately after the meeting.

Various chapters throughout the state report numerous activities and increased participation by members.

**Web Sites of the Quarter:**

This month we feature various area Tax Appraisal Districts webpages online.

Chambers County

<http://www.chamberscad.org/>

Galveston County

<http://www.galvestoncad.org/>

Hardin County

<http://www.taxnetusa.com/hardin/>

Harris County

<http://www.hcad.org/>

Jefferson County

<http://www.jcad.org/>

**Upcoming Events:**

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|------------------|---|
| <b>Sep.21</b>    | <b>Chapter Annual Meeting</b><br>(Monday Night)                     |
| Location:        | Don's Seafood & Steak Restaurant<br>Beaumont, Texas                 |
| Social Mixer:    | 6:30 PM   |
| Dinner:          | 7:00 PM   |
| Meeting:         | 8:00 PM   |
| Agenda:          | Quarterly Reports<br>Old/New Business<br>Installation of Officers   |
| Topic:           | Legal Issues Affecting Surveyors                                    |
| Speaker:         | Mark Hanna, Legal Counsel TSPS                                      |
| <br>             |   |
| <b>Oct.14-18</b> | <b>TSPS Annual Convention</b><br>San Antonio, Texas                 |
| <br>             |   |
| <b>Oct. 24</b>   | <b>Annual Chapter Skeet Shoot</b><br>101 Gun Club<br>Kountze, Texas |
| <br>             |   |
| <b>Nov.9</b>     | <b>Chapter Quarterly Meeting</b><br>Location To Be Announced        |

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*1998 Officers and Board of Directors:*

<i>President</i>	<i>Richard L. Worthey</i>
<i>Vice President</i>	<i>Charles W. Lawley</i>
<i>Secretary/Treasurer</i>	<i>W. Joe Breaux</i>
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