

Six CSTs Earn Level IV Certification

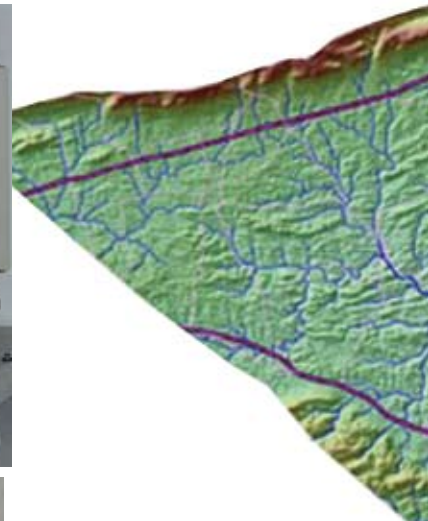
—by Dawn James

This spring, six surveyors earned CST Level IV Certification in the NSPS Certified Surveying Technician program. They are:

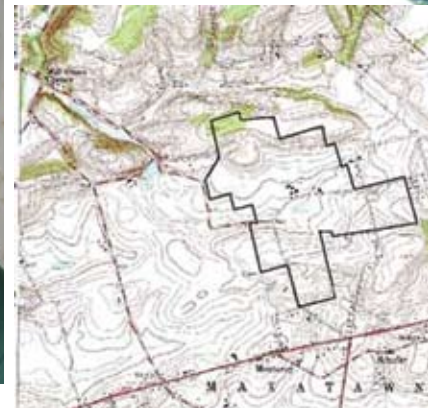
- Steven M. Bissett** – Level IV Office Manager
- Grover T. Fox, Jr.** – Level IV Field Manager
- Barry L. Hutchins** – Level IV Field Manager
- John P. Ray** – Level IV Office Manager
- Jack A. Rosenthal** – Level IV Office Manager
- William F. Strable IV** – Level IV Field Manager



Steve Bissett



Barry Hutchins



Surveying chose him

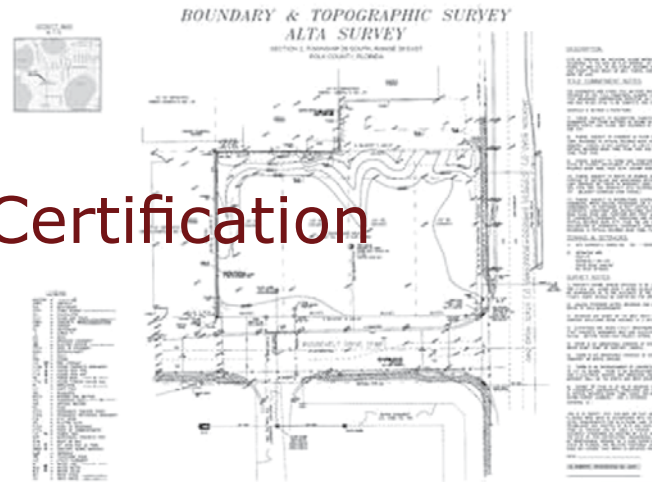
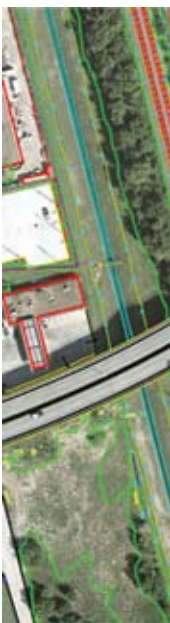
Steve Bissett's path to a surveying career reads like that of many other surveyors we know—he found it by chance. He says he didn't choose to have a surveying career—it chose him.

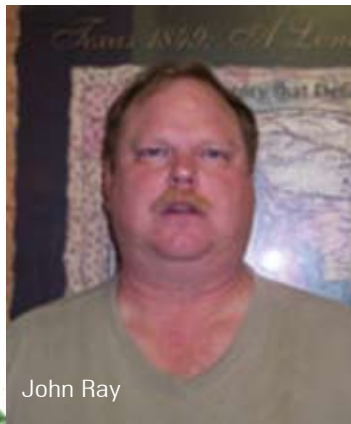
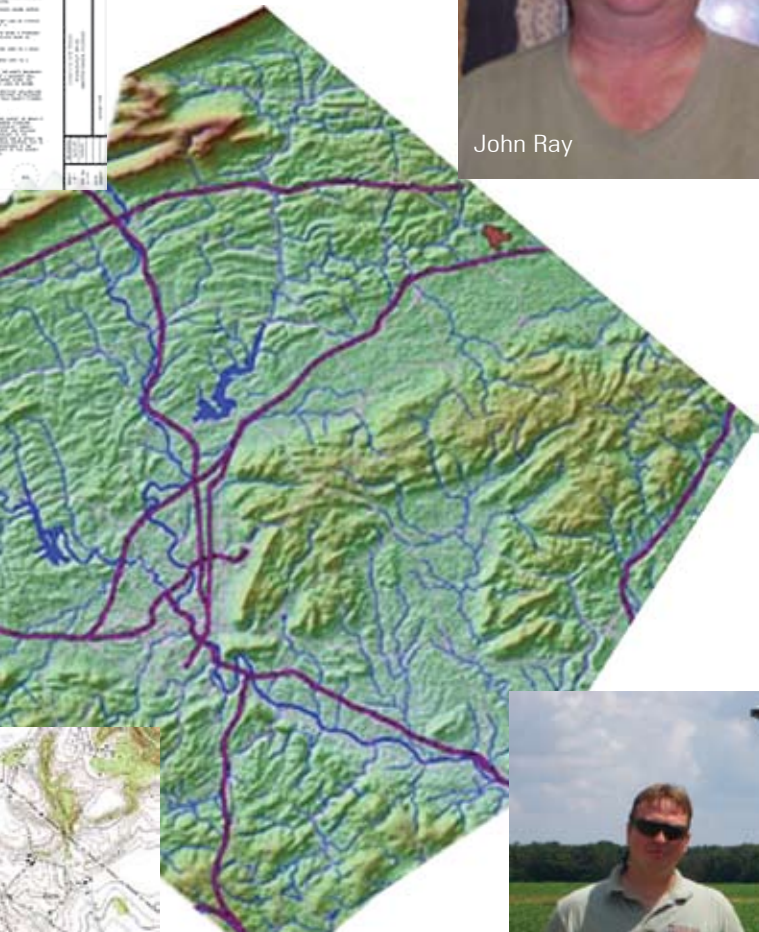
Acting on the advice of a family friend, he applied for a job with McCrone, Inc. and more than eight years later, he's still with the company, learning and growing. Starting out as an instrument operator, Bissett is a survey technician on his way to earning licensure in the state of Delaware. He's also soon to become a new dad.

Bissett enjoys playing the drums, fishing, and gardening at his home in Dover, Delaware. What does he think about getting a CST certification? — "It's a worthwhile effort."

Surveying challenging and rewarding 35 years later

For Barry Hutchins of Powder Springs, Georgia, one of the bigger challenges of preparing for his CST exam was mastering vertical and spiral curve computations. Despite the challenges, Hutchins is pleased that he's now a Level IV CST. He believes that "being a certified technician puts you a step ahead because there are some clients who require all survey personnel to be CST-certified." Hutchins began his surveying career in 1974 as a rodman. He's now the senior subsurface utility engineering crew chief at LAI Engineering in Marietta, Georgia.





John Ray

He left but eventually came back

John Ray was launched on his road to surveying by his older brother Gary who worked for a survey/engineering company and thought John might enjoy the work. According to Ray, "surveying is history. A history of the land and the people who have helped establish and make this country." Needless to say, he loves history and the history of surveying.

Ray entered the surveying field in 1977. He "escaped" the surveying world for 13 years, working for Hughes Aircraft in Los Angeles County as a draftsman. When he returned to surveying he quickly realized that the field he'd left 13 years prior had changed significantly; there was more automation and computerization.

It was his boss, Ray Ussery of CoJer Surveying, who advised Ray to either become a RPLS or study to become certified as a CST. Ray took up the challenge and, given his previous experience, he was able to skip to CST Level III.

Ray intends to put his newly minted CST Level IV certification to good use; he wants to use the knowledge he had gained as a "stepping stone to learning within the surveying field." His advice to future surveyors is this: "Make sure you learn something new every day. Believe me, in the surveying field you will."

From geology to surveying

For Bill Strable, a Geology degree from SUNY Potsdam and a chance meeting with educator Walt Robillard, led to a 10-year surveying career with Advanced Geomatics of Novi, Michigan. A desire to be more than a "hub pounder" stirred his interest in furthering his education by pursuing his CST certification. Strable says that one of the things he's learned is that, "old survey knowledge remains indispensable to a modern survey career. You must be able to understand why we do certain things, not just push buttons." His best advice for someone studying for their CST? "Find a study partner." In his downtime, Strable enjoys volunteering, mountain biking, and hiking. He lives in South Lyon, Michigan.



Bill Strable



Congratulations to our new Level IV CSTs, their families and their employers. To learn more about the CST program please visit: <http://www.nspsmo.org/cst/faqs.shtml>.

