

## Surveyor of the Year - Steven J. Metcalf, PS

Steve Metcalf got his first taste of surveying at the Cleveland Metroparks with Nate Orchard as an extra set of hands in the wood of the park system. His time spent with Nate, allowed Steve to see another profession he didn't know existed. After his time working in the public sector, with Park system and the City of Akron water department, he found his way to Neff & Associates.

At Neff & Associates, Steve worked under (3) professional surveyors, Tom Neff Jr., Frank Tilisky, Marty O'Conner, and a great crew chief John Denega, Jr. In the 90's with the housing & construction boom, Steve obtained lots of field survey time with the opportunity to work "sun up to sun down" and Saturdays till the work was done. "I had to learn quickly to keep pace, listen to the tips & tricks, and understand the surveying vernacular, because we had lots of work to do."

In 2005, Steve went on to work at Atwell-Hicks (Atwell) and also enrolled again at the University of Akron for Surveying and Mapping. He spent nights and weekends for 6 years, after working full-time, to complete his Surveying degree. Steve was exposed to the PLSO from the University of Akron's student chapter. The students provide extra help during the conference and we are able to listen and learn to the sessions as well. This exposure to the PLSO members and classes allowed me to reinforce the importance of my studies at Akron. At Atwell, Steve was exposed to a large national company approach to the survey and engineering profession. He was able to survey in Pennsylvania, New York, Michigan, & Illinois for various projects Energy projects and national retailers.

In 2011, Steve returned to his roots at Neff & Associates as the Survey Manager. He was able to obtain his final years of experience at Neff, to then sit for the Fundamentals of Surveying test, and ultimately obtain his professional license. Steve has helped grow the survey department from (2) field survey crews to now (7) survey crews. "I take pride in the fact that I get to work with a great team of surveyors, both in the office and field. " Adding modern equipment like VRS GPS and robotic total stations helps with efficiency, but I have learned to listen to my field guys and draw from their experiences and preferences."

Steve, his wife Nicole, and his son Patrick, a senior in the drafting program at Lorain County JVS, resides right off the Metroparks in Berea. They enjoy the park system on bikes, with feet, on a longboard, and definitely in heart. He takes extreme pride in his family, appreciates both of their support thru school, long work hours, surveying stories, and his bad jokes. In 2015, Steve again returned to his roots, this time at his alma mater the University of Akron, to be a part time instructor in the Surveying and Mapping department, just as before while working full time. Old habits never change.

