

# Spotlight

A publication of Spotts, Stevens and McCoy



SPOTTS | STEVENS | MCCOY

MARCH 2021

## Our work touches everyday life.

From the water you drink to the air you breathe to the buildings and communities where you live, work and play.

Spotts, Stevens and McCoy is a family-owned regional engineering, environmental, and surveying firm serving local and global clients. We engineer solutions for a better world. Our work touches everyday life; from the water you drink, to the air you breathe, to the buildings and communities where you live, work and play.

### EXPERTISE

- Building Engineering
- Site and Civil Engineering
- Survey, Data Capture and Modeling
- Water and Wastewater Engineering
- Construction Phase Services

@ssmgroup.com



## We Bring Everything to the Table

We aren't like other restaurants. Well, we aren't a restaurant at all; we're an engineering firm. But, we do have one thing in common with your favorite local dinner spot: our menu.

Have you seen our menu? It's our carefully curated list of services that is specially designed to not only meet the needs of our clients, our communities, our generation, our environment- but is also specifically designed around the expertise of our team members. It's the things we do best.

You might know us best for surveying. You come to us every time you have a surveying-need. We get it, stick to what you know will never let you down. (Sort of like that pasta you always order.) Maybe it's not surveying. Maybe you are hooked on our Municipal Division, or our Electrical Engineering team. But have you ever tried our Structural team? What about our Environmental Group? They're just as good. And we think- no, we know- you'll find them to be a reliable go-to as well. Better yet, try all of our teams. After all, what's better than a full table?

At SSM, we are passionate about bringing not just one thing to the table. We are a multi-disciplinary engineering, environmental, and surveying firm. We bring everything to the table.

But it isn't just about the menu. Because even a great menu doesn't mean a great meal. At SSM, we say "what we do best, is what you don't." We are the fine chefs and crew that pull it all together in a way that can't be replicated by others. Tough projects, unique solutions, challenging circumstances- all of these are why clients seek SSM. Because bringing everything to the table isn't just about the food. It's about the skills it took to get there. It's about the craft that led the way. It's about the expertise that stands out above it all.

At SSM, our purpose is to help you stick to yours. Because when we're at the table, you get to enjoy the meal.

## March 23, 2021: National Ag Day

This month we joined The Agriculture Council of America (ACA) in celebrating National Ag Day. From understanding how food and products are made to valuing its role in the economy- we celebrate agriculture.

Over the past 20 years, SSM has provided more than 400 Agricultural Land Preservation Easement Surveys. Our team has surveyed and helped to preserve over 30,000 acres of Berks County Farmland.

An agricultural conservation easement is a permanent legal restriction on land development that limits future uses of land to agricultural purposes.

Our survey team provides services that combine land record research and a physical property survey and inspection. They identify existing easements associated with the land and any structures on the property that are present as a result of easements (utility pipelines, roadways, transmission wires and access points on the land). Our team utilizes conventional survey methods, GPS systems along with drone flight data to complete the surveys. Easement Survey plans and legal descriptions are drafted and become part of the final recorded documents for the project.



## March 21-27, 2021: National Surveyors Week

Every year in March we take a week to celebrate the surveying profession. We celebrate the way our surveyors see the world differently: through the vision of making the world a better place, through the lens of technology, and through the eyes of precision and data. Surveyors see the world- from construction sites, to farm preservation, to insides of factories, and even to aerial site evaluations.

We celebrate our surveyors because of the accuracy, the expertise, and the care that they contribute to every project, to every challenge, and to every solution.

Since 1932, SSM has prided itself on being at the forefront of surveying expertise. Over those nearly 90 years, we have consistently refined our practices, while maintaining our values. Because when it comes to your projects- quality and precision are what you deserve.

We like to say that good surveyors take measurements and collect data. But great surveyors- our surveyors- take accurate measurements, gather precise data, and provide the care and attention that not any project needs, but your project needs. Because your projects shouldn't just get done, they should get done correctly.

What we do best, is what you don't. Expertise means having the skills, having the knowledge, and having the experience. Expertise is nearly 90 years of refining practices, nearly 90 years of pioneering technology, and nearly 90 years of mastering skills and solving problems. We pride ourselves on being the experts- so you don't have to be.

### Our survey team is here to help.

- Boundary and Retracement Surveys
- ALTA/ACSM Title Surveys
- Drone Applications
- Landfill Surveying
- GPS and VRS Surveying
- Aerial Mapping Control
- Geodetic Control
- Municipal Control for GIS Applications
- High-Definition Laser Scanning
- Building and Construction Stakeout
- Topographic Surveys
- Agricultural Conservation Easement Surveys
- As-Build Site and Utility Surveys
- Subdivision and Land Development Surveys
- Bathymetric Surveys

Up Next: A Sneak Peek  
at an Interview with three of our Surveyors.  
Visit [ssmgroup.com](http://ssmgroup.com) for the full scoop on  
Sam, Tom, and Zane.

# An Interview with Sam Zook, PLS Director of Surveying and Data Capture

*So tell us- what do you love about surveying?*  
I love the research precision of survey.

*Do you have a favorite project?*

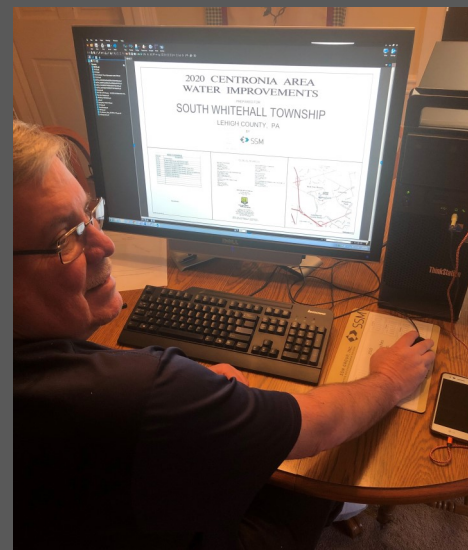
My favorite type of projects that we work on are the Farm Surveys that we do for Berks County. But as far as a sense of accomplishment, we worked with Doylestown Hospital on an expansion and that one was a favorite project to complete.

*There are a lot of different types of surveys. Which one is your favorite?*

Boundary surveys are my favorite type of survey. They are like a research project, and scavenger hunt. It's challenging and exciting like putting together a puzzle.

*What makes being a surveyor at SSM great?*

The effort that SSM puts in to keep us on the cutting edge of practices and technology as well as the overall company culture.



# An Interview with Tom Rowe, PLS Chief Surveyor

*What's the thing about surveying that makes you excited to talk about?*

One thing about property surveys is sometimes you need to become a little like Sherlock Holmes. You're like a detective trying to utilize the clues given in order to come to the correct solution.

*How would you describe what it is that you do to an elementary-aged child?*

Once I was asked to give an overview and demonstration of surveying to a pack of cub scouts working towards a specific merit badge. I described my job by saying that I measure things for a living. I also showed them a picture of Mount Rushmore and asked them who they see. After they responded "presidents" I unfolded the picture a little more and said, "but to me, they are 3 surveyors and another guy". I did this to demonstrate that surveying is an ancient and honorable profession.

*What makes you unique?*

My little known fact is that I have NEVER had a cup of coffee in my life! Another interesting fact is that a surveyor from my hometown lived just a few doors down the street and was pretty much responsible for my apprenticeship in surveying.

# An Interview with Zane Britton, Survey Crew Chief

*What's the thing about surveying that makes you excited to talk about? Let your nerd flag fly!*

What gets me excited is the variety of work we do. From flying drones, to high-definition scanning, construction stakeout and boundary surveys. I actually get to see knowledge I learned in school get put to use.

*What do you wish people knew about surveying?*

The one and only thing I wish people knew is that we aren't standing on the side of the road taking pictures. We are actually measuring precise angles and distances.

*Why surveying at SSM?*

I'd say working at SSM is better than anywhere else because of the camaraderie it brings. I don't feel like just another number, it feels like a family. We work 40 hours a week together and still we all hang out outside of work, which just shows the type of relationship we have.



# From the Farm to the Table: *A Little Taste of SSM*



It takes a lot to bring a product to market. Experts in the food industry should focus on just that- food. Because after all, addressing needs such as: regulatory compliance, increased capacity, routine maintenance, and facility expansion shouldn't take away from doing what they know best. That's why farmers, processors, distributors, and even restaurateurs all turn to SSM. We help secure prime locations, plan more efficient warehouses and distribution centers, conduct feasibility studies, upgrade utilities and building systems, improve traffic flow, and expand operations. By taking the lead on the engineering side, we enable the food industry to focus more on their core business.

## Poultry Farming

- **Structural Design Services** | The design of a 275,000 gallon rectangular equalization tank included identifying IBC loading criteria, and calculations for design of CIP concrete walls and base slab.
- **New Public Water Supply** | This water supply development project entailed conducting fracture trace analysis, locating potential well sites, overseeing test well drilling, designing well construction specifications, performing aquifer testing programs, analyzing pump test data, and preparing permit application materials for state and federal regulatory review.

## Food Processing

- **Confectionary Manufacturer** | Prepared annual stormwater NPDES site inspection reports.
- **Meat Processor** | Performed various services including health and safety training and environmental audit of plant operations with regard to air, wastewater, hazardous substance, storage tank, and residual and hazardous waste regulations.
- **Brewing Facility** | Performed an asbestos reinspection and mold investigation for potential purchase of an existing brewing facility
- **Bakery** | Survey and civil engineering services for the design of a new 140-space trailer storage parking lot including bedrock depth investigation, stormwater management design, and electrical lighting design.

## Warehousing and Distribution

- **Distribution Center** | Provided comprehensive structural, mechanical, and electrical services to convert an abandoned 125,000 SF processing facility into a food products distribution center. SSM utilized high-definition scanning data to create a complete point cloud database in preparation for the retrofit and reuse.
- **Supermarket** | Performed site design engineering services for the expansion to an existing Store. This design-build project included a site survey, creating an existing conditions base plan, developing construction drawings, which included site grading and stormwater management, utility relocation, and erosion and sediment control.

## Gathering Places

- **Restaurant** | Provided design of the mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems for the conversion of a former furniture store into the 7,000 square foot restaurant and bar.
- **University Kitchen** | Designed the mechanical, electrical, plumbing, and fire protection systems for student housing that included the conversion of existing housing units into a new kitchen facility and a serving and dining pavilion.

Hain Pure Protein Corporation  
R.M. Palmer Company  
McDonald's Corporation  
Maier's Bakery  
Nestle' Waters  
Berks Packaging Company Inc.  
Godiva Chocolatier Inc.  
Samuel Adams, Boston Brewing  
Company  
Giant Food Stores  
Pet Incorporated  
Dairy Queen  
Masterfoods/M&M Mars, Inc.  
Associated Wholesalers, Inc.  
PriceRite  
Pepperidge Farm Bakery and Biscuit  
Facility  
Quaker Oats Company  
Redner's Markets, Inc.

# Mark Your Calendar

Sharing the news of upcoming events that the SSM team is involved in!



## Webinar: PA C-PACE for Property Managers

April 8, 2021, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

The webinar will outline what projects qualify for C-PACE, how the loans work and the technical requirements of an application. Learn how to use this financing to make large capital improvements that may lower your utility costs and improve the cash flow of your building.

On the Agenda :

- *C-PACE Financing Basics: How it works and what it can fund.* Presented by Shannon Crooker, Director of Program Related Investments Sustainable Energy Fund
- *C-PACE In Action: Energy conservation measures from actual projects and the savings impacts.* Presented by Paul D. Spiegel, P.E., LEED AP Director, Energy and Sustainability Services Practical Energy Solutions, a Division of Spotts, Stevens and McCoy

[Register Here](#)



## Let Construction Begin.

Spring is here and so are we. The trucks are ready to roll. Our survey and data capture team is here to help as your construction projects begin to take shape.

- Boundary and Retracement Surveying
- High-Definition Scanning
- Building and Construction Stakeout
- GPS Surveying
- GIS Utility and Infrastructure Mapping
- Aerial Mapping Drone Services
- Bathymetric Surveys
- Volume Surveys

Contact Sam Zook at [sam.zook@ssmgroup.com](mailto:sam.zook@ssmgroup.com) or 484-388-5989

## Congratulations!

### Sydney Jernigan, EIT



Sydney Jernigan successfully passed her Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) exam. The FE exam is the first step in the process of becoming a Professionally Licensed Engineer (P.E.) Sydney is a Graduate Engineer in SSM's Water and Wastewater Division.

### Jason Newhard, CCM



Jason has earned the Certified Construction Manager designation. Newhard is the Manager of the Water/Wastewater Operations Department. The purpose of the

CCM is to improve delivery of the built environment by identifying construction managers (CMs) who are best qualified by education and experience to deliver professional services at the highest level of quality and ethical conduct.

### Kate Lyons



Kate Lyons, Graduate Geologist has recently earned her LEED® Green Associate accreditation. LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) is the most widely used green

building rating system in the world. LEED provides a framework for healthy, highly efficient, and cost-saving green buildings. The LEED Green Associate credential affirms a professional's thorough comprehension of green building principles and practices.