

# NGS Training Center

Erika Wilson

*"Great job. Would be interested in other classes." ... "Informative and friendly. A good learning environment." ... "Instructors had an excellent knowledge of subject areas." ... "The training more than met my expectations." ... "This was my introduction to GPS observations and I was very pleased. The material covered was presented in a manner that was easy to follow. The instructor spoke clearly and intelligently about the subject matter. I believe upon leaving this training I have the knowledge and skill set to conduct the type of observations required by my organization."*



Training for a group of NOAA employees



Ample room outdoors and indoors for equipment demonstrations and hands-on training

NOAA's National Geodetic Survey (NGS) established a training center in Corbin, Virginia, in 2007. The Corbin Training Center (CTC) supports NGS' mission to provide access to the National Spatial Reference System and to be a leader in geospatial activities. The Center provides high-quality training to improve the geodetic positioning and remote sensing capabilities of private and governmental partners and increase the knowledge and skills of NOAA employees.

Depending on the class topic, training is available to state, local, and private organizations; NOAA and other federal employees and partners; students; and others on a case-by-case basis. The CTC emphasizes classes addressing NGS-required activities, procedures, and standards; in addition, the Center is used for internal meetings and professional development courses.

The CTC has offered classes since mid-2007, but 2009 will be the first year a full training program will be offered. The 2009 calendar will be posted by October 1, 2008. Seven classes have been presented to various audiences in 2008, all with positive feedback. Evaluations completed by each attendee are used to improve all aspects of the training experience. Renovations to the building will take place this summer, and additional classes will be added in the fall.

In partnership with the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping (ACSM), NGS looks forward to providing continuing education credits for specific classes. As an approved provider of training in most U.S. states, ACSM can assist NGS in understanding varying state requirements for con-

To learn more about the Corbin Training Center, visit [ngs.noaa.gov/corbin](http://ngs.noaa.gov/corbin)

\*The rededication of the Corbin station was documented in an article published in the June 2006 issue of the *ACSM Bulletin*, which can be found online at <http://www.webmazine.org/documents/partnersinscience.pdf>

## Corbin Training Center

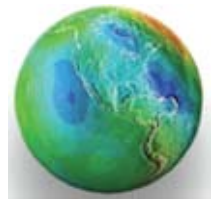
tinuing education credits. ACSM's national outlook and two-way communication with all states is critical to both improving CTC classes as well as suggesting ideas for new ones.

Classes currently offered at the Corbin Training Center include "GPS Data Collection/CORS/OPUS/RTK" and "Digital Leveling." Classes being considered for 2009 include "Geodetic and Tidal Datums" and "Leveling Techniques for Crossing Rivers and Valleys." Certain classes, such as "PAGES/ADJUST," are available by request. The NGS CTC course schedule is expected to grow to accommodate new technologies, constituents' interest, and internal workforce demands.

Corbin is located near historic Fredericksburg, Virginia, about an hour south of Washington, D.C. Part of NGS' Instrumentation and Methodologies Branch, the CTC features a newly renovated classroom that occupies space once used for an impressive machine shop. The shop was used by NGS employees to create and adjust high-accuracy surveying tools. The CTC is fortunate to have over 100 acres and many bench marks available for hands-on experience with equipment and geodetic techniques. *[Photos courtesy of NOAA's geodesy collection; www.noaa.gov]*



The training facility at Corbin, Virginia, providing education on accessing, utilizing, and contributing to the National Spatial Reference System [www.ngs.noaa.gov/corbin]



## Recognizing civil engineering's impact on society

—by Joan Buhrman



Chesapeake Bay Bridge in Maryland [www.city-data.com]

**D**id you flip a light switch this morning? Turn on the tap to brush your teeth? Did you get in a car, bus or train to go to work? A civil engineer is responsible for the energy, water, transportation, and other infrastructure systems that are used every day.

Each year the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) recognizes outstanding civil engineering projects that have made a contribution to society, new applications of innovative technology that demonstrate research and development transferred into practice, and the exceptional leaders that made it all possible. ASCE first presented the OPAL (Outstanding Projects and Leaders) awards in 2000 to civil engineers whose contributions have greatly enhanced the health, safety and economy of our nation and the world [http://content.asce.org/handa/lifetime.html].

Established in 1960, the Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement (OCEA) Award recognizes projects for their contribution to the well being of people and communities, their resourcefulness in planning and design challenges, and their innovations in materials and techniques [http://content.asce.org/handa/ocea.html].

Each year since 1996, ASCE has awarded the Pankow Award to an organization for innovative design and materials or construction-related research [http://content.asce.org/handa/Pankow\_Award.html].

And last but not the least there is the Michel Award which recognizes individuals in the design and construction industry who strive to increase industry participation in research and in efforts to bring innovation into practice [http://content.asce.org/handa/Henry\_Michel\_Award.html]. ASCE was founded in 1852 and represents more than 140,000 civil engineers worldwide. For more information on America's oldest national engineering society, visit [www.asce.org](http://www.asce.org).