



TEXAS BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL GEOSCIENTISTS



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TBPG Welcomes New Board Members

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• *The mission of the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists is to protect public health, safety, and welfare by ensuring that only qualified persons carry out the public practice of geoscience.*

The Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists is proud to welcome two new board members. Appointed by Governor Rick Perry, Y. Lynn Clark, P.G. of Dallas and Glenn Lowenstein, P.G. of Houston were confirmed before the full Senate on April 6, 2005. They will replace outgoing members W. Kevin Coleman, P.G. and Edward G. Miller, P.G. whose terms expired as of February 2005.

Mr. Clark earned his B.S. degree at the University of Miami, his M.S. at the University of Texas at Dallas, and his M.B.A. at Southern Methodist University. His professional experience is primarily in oil and gas exploration and production, and in environmental consult-

ing. He is a co-founder of LCA Environmental, Inc., where he is VP and Principal Geoscientist. He is also co-founder and President of PerTect Detectors, Inc., where he holds two U.S. patents. He is a lifelong scuba diver, motorcyclist and outdoorsman. He and his wife Mary Ann have two children.

Mr. Lowenstein received a B.S. in Geology in 1983 from Queens College in New York City and a M.S. in Geology in 1986 from Texas A&M University. He has been an environmental consultant since 1990. In 2001, he joined forces with fellow geologist Richard G. Howe and formed Terrain Solutions, Inc. (TSI), a Geological and Environmental Consulting firm that specializes in Fault

Studies and Environmental Assessments. He is currently the President of TSI. He is married to Lisa, a veterinarian, and has three children.

Executive Director Michael Hess and CFO Vincent Houston visited both Mr. Clark and Mr. Lowenstein shortly after their appointments to provide the mandatory training that all new board members must take before actively serving. Mr. Clark and Mr. Lowenstein will be officially welcomed at the May 20, 2005 board meeting in Austin, Texas and begin their six year terms as full members of the board.

Board member Kimberly R. Phillips has been reappointed to serve another six year term and was reconfirmed on April 6, 2005.

Fond Farewells

The TBPG would like to bid a very fond farewell to two of its departing members. Chairman W. Kevin Coleman, P.G. and Vice-Chairman Edward G. Miller, P.G. both served terms which ex-

pired as of February 1, 2005. They will be noted for being the first Chairman and Vice-Chairman of our new board and for their tireless efforts in making the dream of Professional Geoscientists li-

censing a reality. The TBPG would also like to express its gratitude for the invaluable service that was given so selflessly by these two extraordinary gentlemen. They will be missed.

Enforcement at TBPG



The major focus this year for the TBPG will be enforcement, which will address several issues.

As part of the enforcement efforts, the licensing department has sent out over 600 Cease and Desist letters. These letters are sent to licensees whose licenses have been expired for over 60 days. The Cease and Desist letter includes information on returning an expired license to a current status (a \$50 late fee will apply) or relinquishing the license. As per §851.28 of our rules, "It is the sole responsibility of the license holder to pay the required renewal fee together with any applicable penalty at the time of application, regardless of whether the renewal notice is received." Licenses that are allowed to lapse for a

period of one year will become permanently expired. The file will be sealed, the license number may be reassigned, and the licensee will be required to take and pass an exam in his/her discipline of geoscience before reapplying for licensure. It will be necessary to re-submit all application materials and all standard application and exam fees will apply.

Each licensee is expected to read and adhere to the Code of Professional Conduct found in Chapter 851, Subchapter B of our rules. Reported violations of this Code will be investigated and subject the violator to disciplinary action as described in §851.157 of the rules.

Enforcement action will also be taken on unli-

censed persons engaging in geoscientific activities that do not meet any exemptions listed in §1002.252 of the Act. Action taken against non-license holders participating in such activities is outlined in §851.158. of our rules.

Licensees can assist with these efforts by keeping their information current with TBPG to ensure that correspondence from our office is received by them and by reporting any of the above activities to our office. A complaint form can be found on our website at www.tbpg.state.tx.us. Each complaint will be investigated and those that reveal a violation will subject the violator to disciplinary action by the Board.

"Each licensee is expected to read and adhere to the Code of Professional Conduct..."

Future exam dates:

Cut off date– 8/23/05
Exam date– 10/7/05

Cut off date– 1/17/06
Exam date– 3/3/06

Cut off date– 8/22/06
Exam date– 10/6/06

ASBOG®- The Results Are In!

The Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG®) exam was administered by the TBPG on March 4, 2005. Sixteen participants took the Fundamentals of Geology. Of

those that took this portion, 10 received passing scores. Seventeen participants took the Practice of Geology. Of those that took this portion, 11 received passing scores.

The exam will be offered again in October. For information regarding registration procedures for this exam, please visit our website or call the Licensing Department.

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS

Proposed House Bill 2598, if passed, would call for a change in the way state agencies and institutions of higher education use Social Security Numbers (SSN). The SSN could no longer be used as a primary identification number, nor could it be used or maintained "...for any purpose unless the state agency is registering the person for a program or service and the

agency is required by law to obtain and use the person's social security number to register the person." In anticipated compliance with HB 2598, and to address concerns that have been raised by licensees, TBPG is researching its use of SSNs. While TBPG does not use SSN as a primary identifier for its licensees, it is used for identification purposes for those licen-

sees who use Texas Online to renew. TBPG will be working with Texas Online in the near future to change this. When changed, licensees will use their license number along with an alternate identifier to log onto the Texas Online system. TBPG will also be investigating methods to remove the SSNs from our database, should it be required by law to do so.

Calendar of Upcoming Events in 2005



- * May 2-4- TCEQ Environmental Trade Fair Conference
- * May-March ASBOG® results in.
- * May 20- TBPG Board meeting
- * May 30- Last day of 79th Legislature
- * June 19- Last day for governor to sign/veto bills
- * August 23- Deadline to register for ASBOG®
- * October 7-ASBOG® exam administered by TBPG.

Geo-Jumble

Unscramble these five jumbles of geoscientific terms.

cilhne

□□○□○○

rcafutre

○□□□○□○□

Clue:

This developed when Jack, the American geologist and Paul, the Australian geologist, quarreled over their contrasting hypotheses.

Answer: A " _____ "!

Answers to February's Geojumble: asphalt, bedrock, anticline, karst, hydrous

"Between a rock and a hard place!"

depinmte

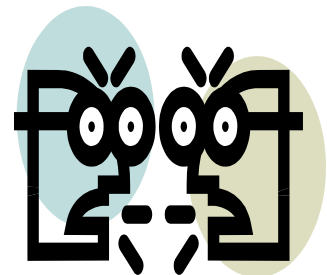
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The office of the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists is open Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm.

Visit our **new** website at www.tbpg.state.tx.us.

Notes from the Executive Director

Upon the departure of our Chairman W. Kevin Coleman, P.G. and Vice Chairman Edward G. Miller, P.G., I would like to personally thank these two outstanding geoscientists who have contributed hundreds of hours of their personal time to making the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists a reality and the cost efficient operation that it is today. Board positions are voluntary and (from my observations of the Chairman and Vice Chairman) demanding on an almost daily basis. Please join me in thanking these two superb individuals who stood up to be counted and were there for the TBPG at the right time and place to make a positive difference for Texas. I will miss their advice and guidance which proved decisive in numerous difficult and time-pressured situations.

The short term priority of TBPG is to get our enforcement effort under way. This has been accomplished by outsourcing our policies and procedures manual for enforcement to a state-renowned expert in this area. Additionally, we will be developing enforcement contracts with Professional Geoscientists throughout Texas to conduct our first enforcement efforts. Our enforcement investigations should be a reality during the month of May. Our primary enforcement programs will be directed towards those operating without a license or with an expired license.

Please do not let your license expire for more than a year as we will have to close your file forever. What this means is, in the event that you require the license again, you will have to pass an examination and fill out the initial licensing paperwork all over again; an expensive and time consuming procedure. We receive at least four calls a day requesting "grandfathering" of a license but alas, we are not authorized to consider it.

Mr. Ariel Juarez did a great job setting up our new web site. Please take a look at it and feel free to let Ariel know how to improve it if you have an idea on the subject.

Have a terrific spring and I look forward to seeing you all sometime soon.



Michael D. Hess
Executive Director

-Michael D. Hess