



TBPG Winter Newsletter - January 2025

Message from our Board Chairman

Dear Colleagues,

As we embark on a new year, I am pleased to present this article focusing on the rich history of the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists (TBPG). Our agency, born from the Texas Geoscience Practice Act of 2001, has been shaped by the dedication and vision of numerous leaders who have served as Board Chairs and Executive Directors over the past two decades.



By W. David Prescott, P.G., TBPG Board Chair

Honoring Our Past Chairs

The TBPG has been fortunate to have had nine individuals serve as Board Chair since its inception. Each has contributed significantly to the advancement of our profession and the standards we uphold.

1. **W. Kevin Coleman, P.G. (2003-2005)**

As our inaugural Chair, Mr. Coleman laid the foundation for the Board's operations and set the tone for future leadership.

2. **Gordon Ware, P.G. (2005-2007)**

3. **Y. Lynn Clark, P.G. (2007-2009)**

Mr. Clark's tenure saw several significant achievements:

- Implemented the first Enforcement Position
- Wrote the first advisory opinion on responsible charge
- Authored legislation to amend the act and allow advisory opinions
- Created the Geoscientist-in-Training (GIT) program
- Rewrote the Memorandum of Understanding between TBPG and the Board of Professional Engineers

Mr. Clark emphasized that professional licensure "creates accountability and increases the

quality of the work which in turn benefits the citizens of Texas. The profession is stronger as a result."

4. Barbara Roeling, P.G. (2009-2011)

Ms. Roeling focused on:

- Improving and clarifying licensure processes for petroleum industry professionals
- Enhancing the agency's enforcement capabilities
- Establishing Advisory Boards for technical reviews

She championed confidential reporting, stating, "Our hope was more compliance and less fear in the industry." On the importance of licensure, she noted, "With licensure, you have accountability and professional responsibility. Without it, there is no recourse."

5. Ron L. Kitchens, P.G. (2011-2013)

6. Charles Knobloch, P.G. (2013-2015) (Deceased, 02/21/2023)

7. Dr. Tom Hallmark (2015-2019)

Dr. Hallmark's primary focus was preparing the agency for the Sunset Review process. He proudly reported that "The Sunset commission was very favorable on all things that the Board was doing and supported the TBPG." He emphasized that licensure is important to allow Professional Geologists to stand alone in their responsibility and expertise.

8. Becky Johnson, P.G. (2019-2023)

Ms. Johnson's achievements include:

- First Chair appointed by Governor Abbott
- Starting the discussion for an Emeritus License
- Raising the agency's profile
- Recruiting more qualified geologists for licensure by striving for more outreach from TBPG
- Improving collaboration with other state agencies and associations

She emphasized the crucial role of licensure in managing groundwater resources and encouraged involvement with the Board and Advisory Committees.

9. W. David Prescott, P.G. (2023-2025)

Executive Directors: Steering the Ship

The TBPG has been guided by several capable Executive Directors who have provided exceptional leadership thru the ups and downs of many legislative cycles:

- 1. Michael Hess (2004 - 2011)**
- 2. Charles Horton (2011 - 2018)**
- 3. Rene Truan (2019 - Present)**

Looking Forward


As the outgoing Chair appointed by Governor Abbott in 2023, I have been committed to building on the strong foundation laid by my predecessors. My focus remains on outreach, internal operations, and delivering value to our licensees. We have developed strong ties with universities and professional groups, ensuring a bright future for geosciences in Texas. The legacy of our past leaders inspires me to maintain the highest standards of excellence in our field. I encourage all P.G.s to get involved with the Board, serve on committees, and inspire the next generation of geologists to pursue licensure. If you are interested in serving on the TBPG Board please contact Executive Director Truan or

myself and we will connect you with the Governors Appointment Office. It is a worthwhile endeavor and has been very rewarding.

Together, we can continue to elevate our profession and serve the citizens of Texas with integrity and expertise.

Wishing you all a prosperous and geologically fascinating new year!

Sincerely,



W. David Prescott, P.G.

Board Chair, Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists



ASBOG Spring 2025 Computer-Based Examinations

TBPG is currently reviewing and processing applications to sit for the March 20 and 21, 2025 ASBOG examinations. Deadline to have your Exam application, transcripts and/or other documents to TBPG is Friday, February 21, 2025.

Candidates will be able to choose their location and register for their examination as soon as they are approved to sit.

Currently, candidates can choose from 40+ testing locations across Texas. For a complete list of the current cities with testing sites, please visit Prometric by

[CLICKING HERE](#)

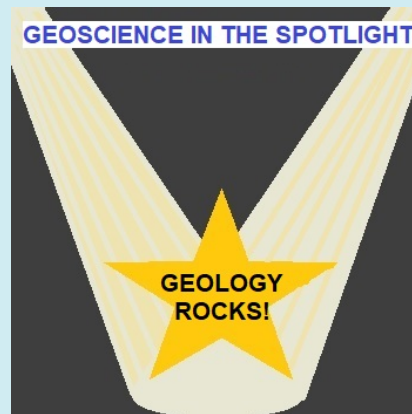
[For more information about applying for an Exam, click here!](#)

[To Register online to sit for an Exam, click here!](#)

[ASBOG Examinee Candidate Handbook, click here!](#)

The ASBOG Examinee Candidate Handbook is the official guide to policies and procedures for the ASBOG National Geology Examinations. This guide will provide important information to exam candidates regarding scope; content and development of the licensure exams; a step-by-step guide to register and pay for the computer-based exams and select a testing location; and example practice questions to help prepare for the ASBOG National Geology Examinations. It was updated in January of 2024.

ASBOG's Fundamentals of Geology Prep course is available. This is an immersive, on-demand, and fully online course, meticulously designed to empower candidates for the ASBOG Fundamentals of Geology (FG) exam. For more information, please see ASBOG's website [HERE!](#)



We are pleased to introduce our P.G. In The Spotlight: Travis Oaks, P.G.

Mr. Oaks works for K.J. Environmental and has a BS in Geology from Florida Atlantic University.

1) When were you first licensed? Why is having a PG license important to you?

I was first granted my license in April 2024. I wanted to acquire my PG so that I could be more deeply involved in the delineation and remediation process and so that I could perform other PG functions like Geologic Assessments.

2) Why did you pursue a career in Geoscience? What part of Geoscience interested you the most?

Geoscience is fascinating to me because all practical sciences are connected to in some way to other earth science applications. The study of Geodesy is my favorite geoscience application.

3) What is your favorite part of working as a geoscientist?

My favorite part of geoscience is getting to be the person that looks at a piece of earth history that no one has seen yet and figuring out the story behind that history.

4) What are your hopes for the Geoscience industry in Texas?

My hope is that geoscientists from private sector jobs and regulatory agencies can band together and improve our stewardship of the environment in new and improved ways.

5) Do you have any advice for someone interested in a career in Geoscience?

Learn as much as you can about groundwater.

6) What do you do in your spare time?

In my spare time, I take my family rock-climbing, hiking, and we play music together.

7) What do you think is the single most important thing for the future of Geology or Geosciences in Texas?

The most important thing about the future of geoscience is our capacity to predict the impact of development and industry and coming up with innovative processes and

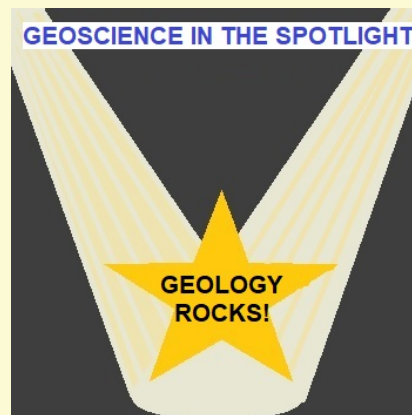
technologies that preserve our environment and our ability to live.

Anything else you would like us to know?

I hope that this format keeps conversation open among all geoscientists regardless of titles and we all keep learning.



Photo Credit to: Cody Cash, G.I.T.



We are pleased to introduce our G.I.T. In The Spotlight: Cody Cash, G.I.T.

Mr. Cash works for the City of Irving in Stormwater Management and has a BS in Geology from the University of Texas at Arlington.

1) When did you receive Certification as a Geoscientist-In-Training (G.I.T.)? Why is having a G.I.T. Certification important to you?

I took the FG (Fundamentals of Geology) in March 2021 and received my GIT a few short anxiety-heavy months later. I was (and still am) working for a municipality and found a pretty strong correlation between the values of public service and the intent behind state licensure (certification). I figured if I was going to be working for the public good, I might as well do my part to display some level of competence.

2) Why did you pursue a career in Geoscience? What part of Geoscience

interested you the most?

Like many other geologists, I am enamored by the natural world around me. There are a lot of cool things out there that have been shaped by physical processes over time and it is neat to have a little better understanding of 'why things are the way they are.' The most interesting parts of geoscience for me are volcanoes, planetary geology, natural disasters, and fluvial systems.

3) What is your favorite part of working as a Geoscientist-In-Training?

My favorite part of working as a GIT is explaining what GIT stands for. My second favorite thing about working as a GIT is the ability to have a positive impact on the world around me and getting a better understanding of how natural processes work.

4) What are your hopes for the Geoscience industry in Texas?

I hope the future grads of Texas can avoid mudlogging and concrete testing as their first entry level job opportunities and morph into something better. Perhaps the GIT role will be worth more (pay) than it is today with a pay structure more closely related to the engineering licensure track. It seems like geologists are getting outsourced by engineers and that tends to be a more lucrative and stable career trajectory. Hopefully geologists will find something more future proof than being steered towards GIS and data science in the state.

5) Do you have any advice for someone interested in beginning a career in Geoscience?

Since they are probably mudlogging, testing concrete, or doing phase I ESA work, my advice is to keep sending out applications for jobs, network as much as you can handle, and learn to love construction. Field work is awesome because you get the opportunity to see things in the real world that you would never expect. Be willing to hold yourself and your work to a high standard of excellence and try to find a good mentor.



Highlights from the December 06, 2024 Board Meeting

Requests For Waivers

The Board reviewed ten requests for waivers. The Board unanimously approved five of the requests for Waivers. Two of the requests were withdrawn by the applicants, and the Board took no action on three of the requests.

Discussion

The Board discussed Carbon Capture Sequestration (CCS) and received the final report from the CCS workgroup. The Board also discussed results from the ASBOG Fundamentals examination, customer service surveys and reviewed the results of a recent licensee survey related to a retired or emeritus status of the P.G. license and recommended the item be further reviewed for possible Board action.

Board Orders

Two Proposed Agreed Board Orders and one Default Board Order were on the Agenda. All three were approved unanimously.

CUSTOMER SERVICE SURVEY RESULTS

We are excited to report that we had 636 responses before our Survey closed on August 31st.

In evaluating the results of the survey, and excluding the responses of "not applicable", TBPG received valuable feedback in all areas of customer service.

82% rated TBPG staff as courteous.

82% viewed positively the overall customer service.

77% rated TBPG staff as responsive.

82% viewed TBPG staff as knowledgeable.

85% viewed positively the online license renewal process.

84% viewed the information on the website as accurate.

83% viewed the TBPG Ethics video favorably.

81% rated favorably the accuracy of written materials.

27% viewed our Complaint process positively. (Please Note: This question had 72% "Not Applicable" answers due to most of our customers having no experience with the Complaint process.)

32% left comments.

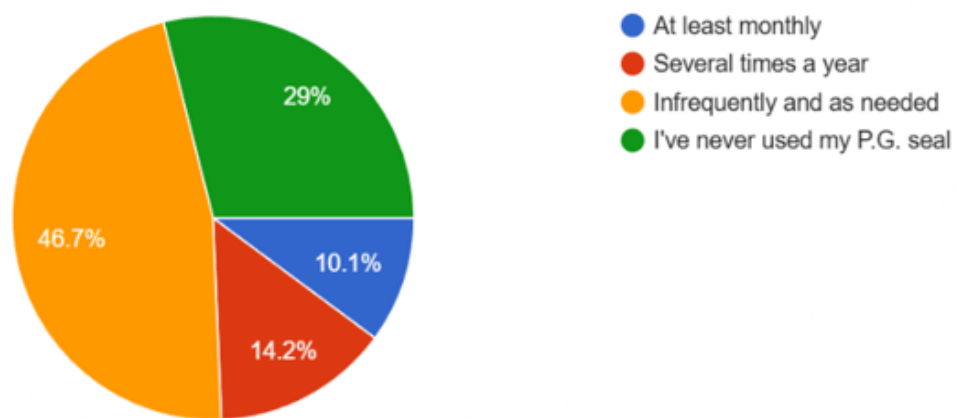
Thank you again to everyone who completed our Customer Survey, we appreciate your valuable feedback.



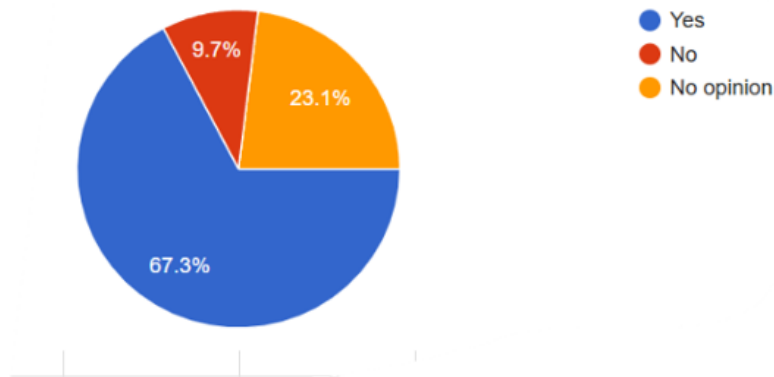
Red River, East Texas - Photo credit to: TBPG

Recent survey of P.G.'s

Question 1: How often do you use your Texas Professional stamp? (1,791 Responses)



Question 2: Do you feel adding an “Emeritus” status is an option that TBPG should consider? (1,791 Responses)



A reminder for those in Soil Science!

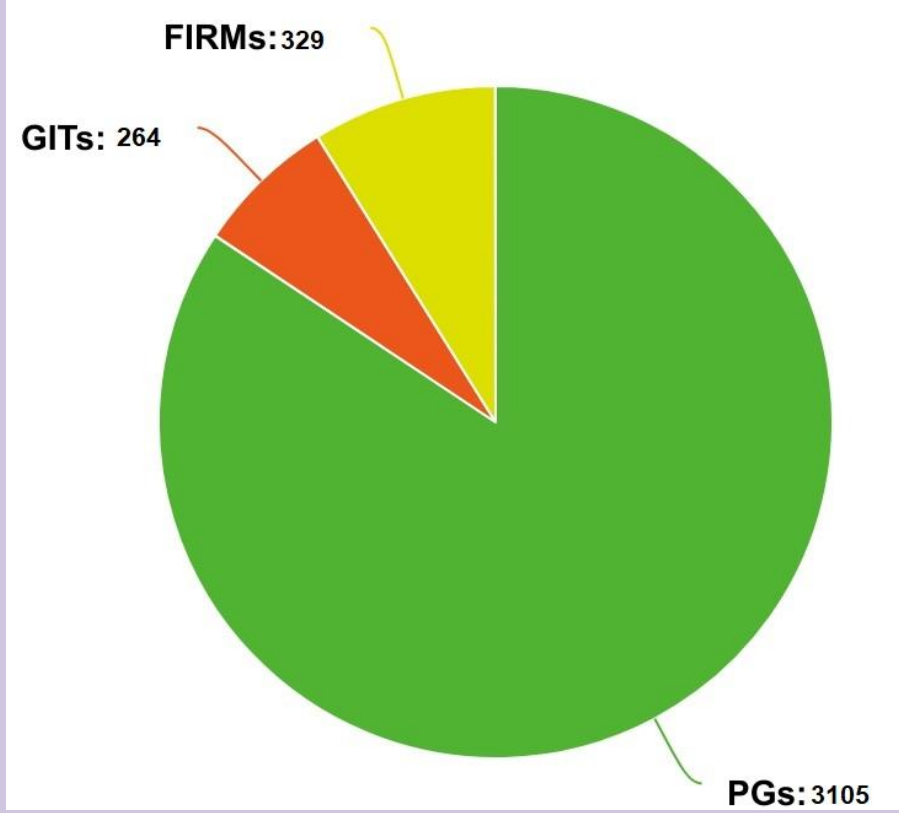
The Council of Soil Science Examiners administers the Soil Science examinations four times a year. These windows are the only times that Candidates can sit for the Fundamentals or Practice of Soil Science examinations.

The next testing window is February 5th through February 19th and is open for registration from January 2 to January 31st!

Please see:

<https://www.soils.org/certifications/exam-information?q=certifications/exam-information/> for additional details and how to register for your examination!

CURRENT LICENSES AS OF 01/01/2025



TOTAL LICENSES MANAGED 4,632 - Current and Expired eligible to renew.

| PGs | GITs | FIRMs |
|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| Current: 3105 | Current: 264 | Current: 329 |
| Expired: 703 | Expired: 207 | Expired: 33 |

Upcoming TBPG Meetings Austin, Texas

February 6, 2025
Application Review and Continuing Education Committee

February 7, 2025
TBPG Board Meeting

These meetings may be available for public comment or participation via Zoom.
Meeting agendas including Zoom links will be available on the TBPG website at least one week prior to the meetings.

Agency Contact Information:

| SUBJECT | INFORMATION | PHONE/EMAIL |
|---------|--|--|
| GENERAL | General questions and inquiries, Token Numbers | 512-936-4408 LICENSING@TBPG.TEXAS.GOV |
| | | |

| | | |
|----------------------|--|--|
| COMPLAINTS | File a Complaint, Complaint inquiries | 512-936-4410 COMPLIANCE@TBPG.TEXAS.GOV |
| CONTINUING EDUCATION | CE Program, CE Audits, CE Requirements | 512-936-4410 COMPLIANCE@TBPG.TEXAS.GOV |
| OUTREACH | Outreach Opportunities | 512-936-4401 VOLUNTEER@TBPG.TEXAS.GOV |
| FINANCE | Accounts Payable, Receivables, Purchasing, ITVs | 512-936-4404 CORETTA.BRISCOE@TBPG.TEXAS.GOV |
| LICENSING | New license inquiries, Applications, Examinations, Waivers and Qualifications | 512-936-4408 LICENSING@TBPG.TEXAS.GOV |
| OPEN RECORDS | Open Records or Public Information Requests | 512-936-4401 RTRUAN@TBPG.TEXAS.GOV |
| ONLINE ASSISTANCE | Assistance with the online licensing portal | LICENSINGHELP@HPC.STATE.TX.US |

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