



## TBPG Spring Newsletter - March 2024

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### Message from our Board Chairman



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

Dear Fellow Geoscientists,

As we welcome the arrival of spring and the warmer days ahead, I find myself reflecting on the recent events in my part of the state, the Texas Panhandle. The Smokehouse Creek Fire, now recorded as the largest fire in Texas state history, covering over 1.1 million acres, has brought significant challenges to area communities and the natural environment. It is challenging to describe in words the amount of devastation and the size in sheer miles that have been damaged. This particular fire is over 100 miles long and in some spots over 40 miles wide. Several smaller fires started on the same day and enhanced the destruction to area towns, infrastructure and ranching families. Please keep these families in your prayers.

In this letter, I wish to focus specifically on licensure in Soil Science, a discipline that is increasingly vital as Texas continues to grow. Our role in managing the state's natural resources responsibly, has never been more crucial.

#### **Soil Science Licensure Pathway**

The pathway to becoming a licensed soil scientist is designed to verify that practitioners are thoroughly grounded in the fundamental principles of soil science and can apply these principles ethically and effectively. The Council of Soil Science Examiners (CSSE), in partnership with the Soils Certifying Board of the Soil Science Society of America, uphold the high standards our profession demands through their examination process prior to a

candidate's application for P.G. licensure.

### **Examination Requirements**

The journey toward licensure begins with the Fundamentals of Soil Science exam. This foundational exam, offered biannually, is essential for assessing the knowledge base and the ability to apply this knowledge in practical, ethical scenarios. It sets the stage for the Professional Practice Exam, the final step in achieving licensure.

### **Professional Practice Examination**

The Professional Practice Exam evaluates the licensee's readiness to apply skills in professional settings, emphasizing the importance of ethical practice and the ability to make meaningful contributions to the geosciences. Successfully passing this exam is a testament to competence, commitment to ethics, and a dedication to lifelong learning.

### **Significance of Licensure**

Licensure is more than a professional milestone; it is a declaration of the ability to serve the public trust and steward our natural resources effectively. As Texas faces unprecedented growth, the demand for skilled soil scientists has escalated, highlighting the essential role we play in this dynamic landscape.

### **Current Statistics**

As of March 1, 2024, the TBPG has 89 licensed Soil Scientists and 14 Geoscientists in Training (GITs) specializing in soil science. These figures not only reflect the growth of our field but also the commitment of individuals to professional advancement and excellence.

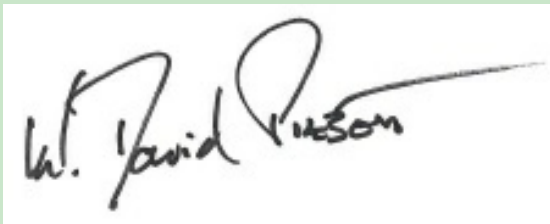
### **Outreach and Promotion**

Given the rapid expansion of our state, I invite each of you to assist TBPG by promoting the fields of Soil Science, Geology and Geophysics. Outreach and the promotion of licensure in all disciplines is imperative to attract new talent and ensure that Texas's natural resources continue to be managed by knowledgeable and ethical professionals. Our collective efforts in this area are invaluable for meeting the challenges and seizing the opportunities presented by our state's growth.

### **Conclusion**

The Texas Board of Geoscientists is dedicated to supporting your efforts in licensure and outreach. We recognize the valuable role of Soil Science in the well-being and sustainable development of Texas. I encourage you to continue in your professional development and to champion the vital importance of our work to society.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "W. David Prescott". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

W. David Prescott, P.G.

Board Chair, Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists

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Red River - East Texas - Photo Credit to: TBPG

## TBPG Welcomes New Team Members!



Thomas "Scott" Yturri joined TBPG on February 1st as an Administrative Program Specialist.

Scott is currently a senior at Texas State University, majoring in Psychology with a minor in Spanish. He comes to us with an extensive customer service background. Born in Austin, in his spare time he likes to read, travel, work on cars and is also involved in a variety of martial arts.



Coretta "Cori" Briscoe joined TBPG on February 12th as our Financial Officer. She received a Master's in dual majors Finance and Accounting from Colorado Technical University.

Cori comes to us from 14 years of state service at several agencies, most recently the Veterans Commission. She is a huge Star Wars fan and enjoys jogging in her spare time.



Gordon Magenheim, P.G., C.P.G., Cgeol., joined TBPG on March 1st as our Compliance and Outreach Manager and will be focusing on compliance, enforcement and outreach activities. He has been a practicing Geoscientist for approximately 45 years and a Texas P.G. since 2003. Gordon has worked in lignite and coal resource assessment, environmental geology and groundwater contaminant delineation, and field safety. Gordon is also a retired Lieutenant Colonel having a combined 28 years of U.S. Army and U.S. Army Reserve service in a variety of capacities and command levels. In his spare time, he enjoys reading about military history and logistics, the geology of American Civil War battlefields, museum and conservation health and safety issues, and origami (as a beginner).

Gordon received a Bachelor of Arts in Geology from the State University of New York/College at New Paltz, a Master of Science in Environmental Science (Environmental Geology) from the University of Houston – Clear Lake and a Master of Arts in Emergency and Disaster Management from the American Military University. He is also a candidate for a Master of Public Administration in Emergency Management from the American Military University.

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### **New Option for License Renewal Cards Coming!**

TBPG has been working on a new online feature to allow licensees (PGs, GITs and Firms) to print their current wallet size license cards directly from their online account. This option will provide our licensees with immediate/anytime access to these important documents rather than having to request them and/or wait for delivery from our office.

We are working towards a late 2024 release of this feature. After the renewal cards have become available online, cards can still be requested by mail on an individual basis if necessary. Our goal is to make accessing your license cards easier but still serve those who prefer receiving the card in the mail.

Updates related to the release of this new feature will be available on our website!



**GEOSCIENCE FIRM**

Geoscience Firm

Registration #XXXXX

Expires January XXXX

**SAMPLE ONLY**

In accordance with the provisions of the Texas Geoscience Practice Act, the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists hereby certifies that the above named entity has been approved as a Registered Geoscience Firm.

**SAMPLE ONLY**

SIGNATURE LINE

TBPG Chairman



**PROFESSIONAL GEOSCIENTIST**

Geology/SoilScience/Geophysics

License #XXXXX

Expires January XXXX

**SAMPLE ONLY**

In accordance with the provisions of the Texas Geoscience Practice Act, the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists hereby certifies that the above named individual has been licensed as a Professional Geoscientist.

**SAMPLE ONLY**

SIGNATURE LINE

TBPG Chairman

**Come visit our booth at the TCEQ Trade Fair on May 14th and 15th!**



The Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists has been invited to provide an Ethics presentation and booth at the upcoming TCEQ Trade Fair on May 14th and 15th! TBPG Board member Mark Varhaug, PG, CPG, will be presenting a talk that can qualify for a PG's or GIT's one hour of required Ethics Continuing Education. Staff members will be available at our booth to answer questions about license requirements, exam applications, continuing education, compliance issues, PG Seals, applying for a waiver and more!



ASBOG's computer based examinations were held on March 12th and 15th at various testing locations across Texas. 130 candidates were approved to sit for the Fundamentals Exam and 57 candidates were approved to sit for the Practice Exam. ASBOG is working closely with their testing partner, Prometric, to identify any possible improvements for our candidates. We look forward to continuing our partnership with ASBOG to improve access to the examinations and work with potential exam candidates on their path to licensure.

# ASBOG Fall 2024 Computer-Based Examinations

The computer-based administration of the ASBOG Fundamentals of Geology (FG) and Practice of Geology (PG) examinations are scheduled for October 4th, 2024.

Approved Candidates will be able to schedule their examination(s) at either the AM or PM times. Currently, candidates can choose from 47 testing locations across Texas. For a complete list of the current cities with testing sites, please visit Prometric by [CLICKING HERE](#)

Candidates will also be able to schedule their examination as soon as they are approved and not have to wait until six weeks before the exam date to choose their location and register.

Although TBPG is no longer administering the exam(s), we will continue to qualify applicants to sit for examinations and distribute exam scores to candidates.

[Apply to sit for an Exam here!](#)

## [New ASBOG Examinee Candidate Handbook](#)

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 May of 2023.

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!](#)

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## CSSE Examinations Schedule

CSSE has decided to discontinue continuous testing. They will be changing to four scheduled windows per year for all candidates.

### Upcoming Soils Exam Dates

#### **MARCH – APRIL 2024**

Exam Registration: February 21, 2024 – March 18, 2024

Exam Scheduling: March 20, 2024 – April 4, 2024

Exam Window: March 27, 2024 – April 8, 2024

#### **JULY – AUGUST 2024**

Exam Registration: June 19, 2024 – July 15, 2024

Exam Scheduling: July 17, 2024 – August 1, 2024

Exam Window: July 24, 2024 – August 5, 2024

More information is available on the [CSSE Website](#)  
Please contact Michele Lovejoy from the CSSE directly at 608-268-4947  
or [Send Message](#) with any additional questions.



Big Bend National Park in Texas - Photo Credit to: TBPG

## Highlights from the February 16, 2024 Board Meeting

### Requests For Waiver of Examination

The Application Review Committee considered 4 applications for Waivers, and recommended all of them to the Board.

The full Board approved all 4 of the Waiver requests as recommended by Committee.

- The Finance, General Issues and Compliance committees did not meet.

### Amendments

There were no Proposed or Adopted amendments on the agenda.

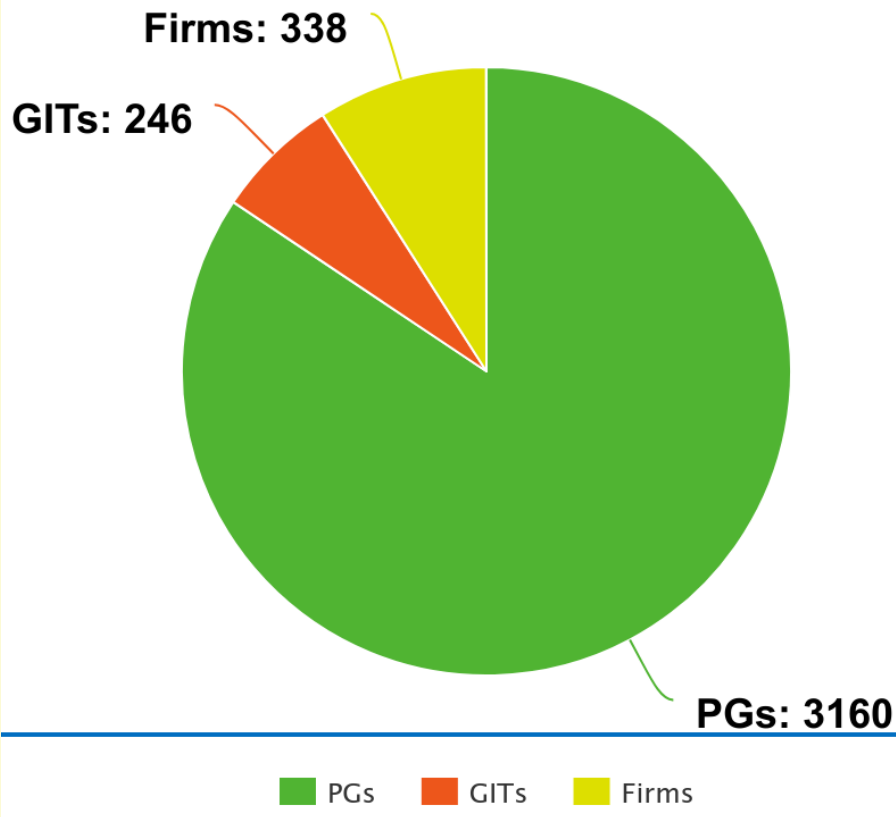
### Discussion

The Board discussed the Multi-discipline guidance policy that was approved in the November Board meeting and how to recognize already licensed individuals who have qualified for a second discipline by passing the examination.

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## CURRENT LICENSES AS OF 02/29/2024



**TOTAL LICENSES MANAGED 4659 - Current and Expired eligible to renew.**

PGs	GITs	FIRMS
<b>Current: 3160</b>	<b>Current: 246</b>	<b>Current: 338</b>
<b>Expired: 714</b>	<b>Expired: 168</b>	<b>Expired: 33</b>

**Opportunities to Volunteer**

TBPG wants to continue to build our database of volunteers to serve as Subject Matter Experts on Workgroups and Advisory Committees when opportunities come up.

We recognize that our license holders can provide valuable input and guidance on various licensing and registration issues throughout the year.

This is a great opportunity to get involved and share your knowledge, experience and expertise with a minimal time requirement.

If you are interested in being considered, please send a message to:  
[volunteer@tbpg.texas.gov](mailto:volunteer@tbpg.texas.gov)

and please include a current CV or resume and your area(s) of expertise so we can match you with future opportunities.

Thank you!

**Upcoming TBPG Meetings  
 Austin, Texas**

**May 09, 2024**

Financial Review/Strategic Planning Committee  
 Application Review and Continuing Education Committee  
 General Issues Committee

**May 10, 2024**

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
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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