



TBPG Fall Newsletter - September 2024

Message from our Board Chairman



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

Fall is Here – My Favorite Time of Year!

As the days get shorter, the shadows get longer and the air takes on a refreshing crispness in the morning, I'm reminded that fall is my favorite time of year. There's something about the cooler weather and the end of summer that makes it a perfect time for slowing down and, for many of us in the geoscience field, exploration.

This fall season, I encourage all of you—whether you're out in the field or enjoying some well-earned downtime—to take advantage of the natural beauty Texas offers. One of the best ways to experience this is by visiting some of our state's spectacular parks, where geology comes to life right before your eyes.

Top Texas State and National Parks to Experience Geology

For those looking to combine a love of the outdoors with a deeper appreciation of the geological wonders around us, Texas has a wealth of state parks that highlight the region's rich geological diversity. Whether you're a licensed geoscientist, a G.I.T., or simply someone with a passion for the natural world, these parks offer an educational experience in stunning settings.

Here are my top recommendations for parks that showcase Texas geology:

[Palo Duro Canyon State Park \(Click!\)](#)

I have to put this one at the top of the list, and not just because it's 20 miles south of my office in Amarillo! Palo Duro Canyon, often called the "Grand Canyon of Texas," offers dramatic rock formations, layers of ancient sediment, and vivid geological history. The canyon's brightly colored strata reveal over 250 million years of earth's history, and a hike through its rugged trails will take you through breathtaking vistas of erosion, caves and the famous Lighthouse formation.

[Enchanted Rock State Natural Area \(Click!\)](#)

Enchanted Rock is one of the most iconic geological formations in Texas. This massive pink granite dome is a prime example of an exposed batholith—a deep, hardened magma chamber that has surfaced through millions of years of erosion. A hike up this ancient formation not only gives you spectacular views but also a firsthand look at the slow processes of geological change.

[Big Bend Ranch State Park \(Click!\)](#)

For those who want to see the intersection of geology and desert beauty, Big Bend Ranch is hard to beat. Its rugged terrain is composed of volcanic rock, including lava flows and ash deposits, dating back to the Tertiary period. This park offers a remote, off-the-beaten-path experience where you can see unique rock formations and vast desert landscapes shaped by tectonic forces.



Big Bend - East Texas - Photo Credit to: TBPG

[Dinosaur Valley State Park \(Click!\)](#)

Step back in time—about 113 million years, to be exact. Dinosaur Valley State Park is known for its preserved dinosaur tracks along the Paluxy River, providing a direct connection to the creatures that once roamed this region. It's a remarkable site for anyone with an interest in paleontology and the relationship between ancient life and the land beneath our feet.

[Guadalupe Mountains National Park \(Click!\)](#)

Home to the highest point in Texas, the Guadalupe Mountains offer a glimpse into the Permian Basin's ancient marine history. The park contains remnants of an ancient coral reef, known as the Capitan Reef, which dates back over 250 million years. For geologists,

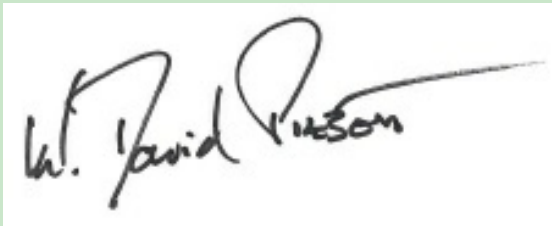
this park provides an incredible opportunity to study preserved reef fossils and gain insight into Earth's climatic past.

Exploration and Education Go Hand-in-Hand

Fall is the perfect time to hit the trails, see Texas geology firsthand, and, of course, enjoy the cooler temperatures. Whether you visit these parks to relax, learn, or do a bit of both, they offer valuable opportunities for reflection on the forces that have shaped our state over millions of years. As geoscientists, we have a special appreciation for these landscapes, and I encourage you to share that passion with others—whether through mentorship, outreach, or even bringing friends and family along on these trips. The more we promote the natural wonders of our state, the more we inspire the next generation of geoscientists to follow in our footsteps.

Finally, as always, I encourage you to stay engaged with the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists (TBPG) and your fellow professionals. Maintaining your licensure and promoting outreach in all geoscience disciplines is as important as ever as Texas continues to grow. By fostering connections and emphasizing the importance of ethical, informed practice, we ensure that the state's natural resources will continue to be managed by the best and brightest. Enjoy the fall season, take some time to explore the beauty that Texas has to offer, and keep pushing forward in your professional journeys.

Stay safe, and I look forward to hearing about your adventures in the field.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "W. David Prescott". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right from the end of the name.

W. David Prescott, P.G.

Board Chair, Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists



Big Bend - East Texas - Photo Credit to: TBPG



ASBOG Fall 2024 Computer-Based Examinations

The deadline to submit an application for the October 2024 examination dates has passed, all additional applications received will be processed for the March 20 and 21, 2025 examination dates.

TBPG currently has 137 Candidates approved to sit for the ASBOG Fundamentals Exam and 65 Candidates approved to sit for the ASBOG Practice Exam in October.

Approved Candidates are able to schedule their examination(s) at either the AM or PM times. 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](#)

Candidates are 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.

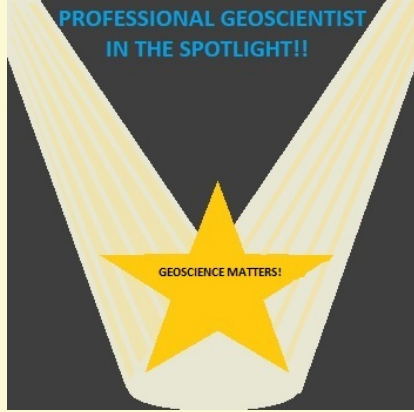
[For more information about applying for an Exam, click here!](#)

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

[New 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:
Liz Ferry, P.G., Principal at R. W. Harden & Associates, Inc.**

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

I think I was one of the first few GIT's in Texas (GIT #9!). I received a Geoscientist-in-Training certificate in 2010 and subsequently received my PG in 2011. Having a PG license is important to me because it holds us accountable and provides an outreach for learning and meeting new people. I believe the licensure provides reassurance to clients and peers regarding our qualifications to perform our work and present data as professional geoscientists. Our seal provides validation that our work is performed within the best interests of the public's health and safety.

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

I went to college with the intent to obtain a Business degree. I left college with a Geology degree. My freshman year, I chose geology as my required science elective. My first memory that year was dragging my best friend out of the dorm at 6am on a Saturday morning to attend a field trip to Buffalo Rock State Park. It ended up being the most memorable experience and that is when I began to understand geology and its role in the formation of landscapes. This made me wonder what else geology had to offer in our daily lives. This field trip led me to pursue my career in geology and as a hydrogeologist with R. W. Harden & Associates, Inc.

The study of hydrogeology and understanding the flow of groundwater through a rock matrix and how vast amounts of groundwater are stored within various formations became so interesting to me that I wanted to know the how's and why's. Recognizing water is essential and having a keen interest in hydrogeology has steered me to where I am today, which is helping others develop viable groundwater resources to meet their water needs. It is important to me to be able to provide my professional knowledge regarding these resources and how they can be effectively and efficiently developed for many, many people over the next several decades and beyond.

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

My favorite part of working as a geoscientist is that no two sites are ever the same, which means we are constantly learning. I enjoy research and compiling data and performing analyses with various resources and tools, as well as performing on site logging of drilled sediment samples, evaluation of geophysical logs to identify geologic formations, and performing aquifer testing and water quality sampling. Applying the field data to our in-house modeling tools to provide our professional assessments of the availability of groundwater from specific areas to our clients is a reward to me. I value the opportunity to provide clients with the knowledge and understanding of these resources and with the

invaluable information necessary for meeting their water supply needs.

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

My hope for the geoscience industry is that our professional standards are continued as a guide to our policies.

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

My advice is to attend conferences, network, and when given the opportunity to participate, participate! Even if the opportunity does not sound fun (e.g., waking up at 6am on a Saturday morning to go on a geology field trip!), participate. You will never know what you will learn or how that participation may shape your future until you attend. Also, don't limit yourself to one sector within a specific field. In my experience, a career in hydrogeology utilizes many different sectors including an understanding of stratigraphy and structural geology to geochemistry mineralogy. I also highly recommend taking coursework outside of geology such as ArcGIS, programming, and technical writing.

6) What do you do in your spare time?

As a mom of two amazing kids, most of my spare time is now spent with my husband on the sidelines of a volleyball court cheering them on. However, when we have time off from volleyball, work, and other extracurricular activities, I spend my spare time hiking with my family. When I was younger, my dad would always find places to take our family (my mom, sister, and me) and our dogs hiking on the weekends, whether it was hiking on marked pathways or in the woods with only game trails to follow. During my early teenage years, we lived in Pennsylvania, and we'd hike in the Appalachian Mountains. However, because of my age at that time, I would despise these outings until the moment I stepped out of the car and the brisk mountain air hit my face. Our dogs (with all their excitement!) would leap out over me and into the woods we would go with no plan or direction. I loved every moment of it with my family and immersed myself in the spectacular geology the Appalachians had to offer. Today, I continue that tradition with my family (and our dogs, of course) and chuckle at my kids and their overall initial despise of our hiking adventures until I slowly start to see gentle smiles appear on their faces and inside I can feel they have their own little sense of love for these adventures, and that is my most favorite thing.

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

I believe the most important thing for the future of Geosciences in Texas is for us to participate as new policies relating to the geosciences are being developed and put into place. It is so important for geoscientists to learn and understand the background, purpose, and potential effects of proposed policies, and with our professional knowledge and experience at hand, we need to share our scientific information with policy makers and regulatory agencies. There are vast amounts of groundwater stored within aquifers that can provide long-lasting reliable resources to Texans as most aquifers are not "going dry" as it is currently publicly perceived.



Highlights from the August 09, 2024 Board Meeting

Requests For Waivers

The Board considered eight requests for waivers from applicants for PG licensure. The Board granted six of those requests and took no action on two of them.

Discussion

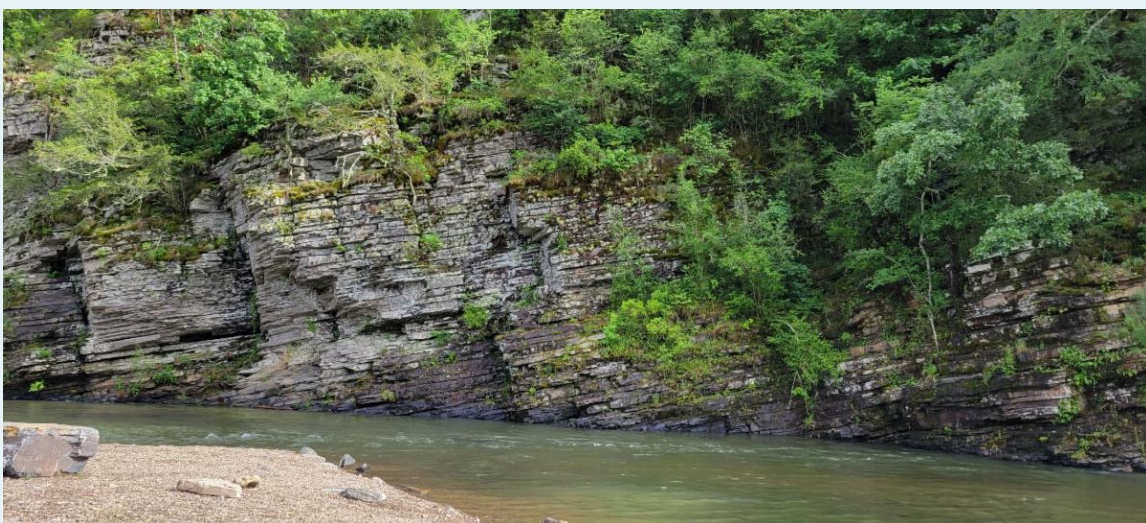
Chair David Prescott reported on Texas P.G. License Trends, Analysis and Retention Strategies. 89th Legislative Session Preparation.

Executive Director Rene Truan reported on Operations and Staff Updates, introduced TBPG's newest Team Member Sunny Locke. He also spoke about the agency's temporary Hurricane Beryl Disaster Response actions aimed at assisting licensees impacted by the storm. Mr. Truan also discussed inquiries from licensees for an inactive/retiree status which may require legislative action.

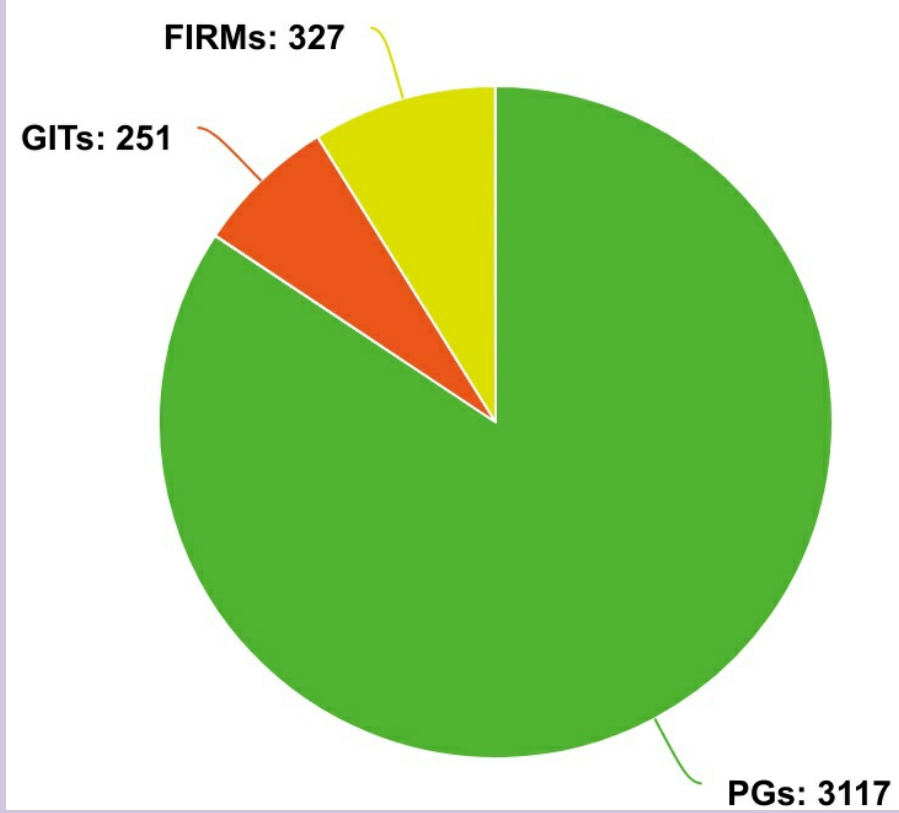
Member Danny Kingham provided an update to the ongoing Carbon Capture and Sequestration workgroup.

Agreed Board Order

One Proposed Agreed Board order was on the Agenda, no action was taken.



Red River, East Texas - Photo credit to: TBPG



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

PGs	GITs	FIRM:s
Current: 3117	Current: 251	Current: 327
Expired: 716	Expired: 183	Expired: 38

A HUGE thank you to everyone who helped us by completing our Customer Service Survey!

In our last newsletter, we explained that the Customer Service Survey is a key part of our two year Strategic Planning process. 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 as shown below:

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

32% left comments.

We also want to thank everyone who took the time to leave constructive comments about what we are doing well or what we can do better. The survey results, and your comments, are a key component to updating our strategies for improving business operations and customer service.

We have already reached out to many of the people who left contact information in their comments, if we have not responded to you or if you have any questions about the survey, please contact us at: licensing@tbpq.texas.gov

Upcoming TBPG Meetings Austin, Texas

December 05, 2024

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

December 06, 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.

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@tbpq.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!

Agency Contact Information:

SUBJECT	INFORMATION	PHONE/EMAIL
GENERAL	General questions and inquiries, Token Numbers	512-936-4408 LICENSING@TBPQ.TEXAS.GOV
COMPLAINTS	File a Complaint, Complaint inquiries	512-936-4410 COMPLIANCE@TBPQ.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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