



Oregon Geologist Examiner

July 2009

Official Publication of the Oregon State Board of Geologist Examiners

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(*Mark Yinger Associates*)

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Administrator

Marilou Arrobang
Licensing Specialist

Jane Feinberg, RG, CEG
Volunteer Design Editor
(*GRI*)

Next Board Meeting

September 18, 2009
1:00 PM

Preceded by 8:30 AM
Work Session
Salem, Oregon

GSA 2009 Annual Meeting and Exhibition to Convene in Oregon

The tag line for the Geological Society of America's (GSA) annual meeting convening in Oregon is From Volcanoes to Vineyards: Living with a Dynamic Landscape. Although the GSA and the OSBGE (Oregon State Board of Geologist Examiners) have different missions, the core of both organizations is the same: GEOLOGY! GSA provides an outstanding educational opportunity for any geologist either as a presenter or participant.

As a registrant of OSBGE, the Board would like you to be aware of the many opportunities available for enriching your geologic knowledge through participation in technical presentations, special sessions, poster displays, and field trips at the upcoming GSA Annual Meeting. This is a particularly special occasion since the Annual Meeting has not been in Oregon for decades and only in the northwest in 2001 in Seattle. Consider submitting an abstract or coming to the meeting to share experiences with your colleagues. **The last day for submitting abstracts is August 11, 2009.**

The event is scheduled for October 18-21, 2009, in Portland, Oregon, at the Oregon Convention Center (OCC). The Hilton Downtown and the Lloyd Center Doubletree Inn serve as co-headquarters while the OCC will handle registration, technical programs, poster sessions, and exhibits. All particulars about the meeting are available at <http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/2009/welcome.htm>. For both members and non-members of GSA, discounted registration fees for either one-day or the entire time are available through September 14. To attend the lectures and presentations, registration is required.

State Geologist and OSBGE Board Member Vicki S. McConnell is the Chair of the Local Planning Committee. The committee consists of local geologists and educators from academia, state and federal government, and the private sector. The local committee's charge is to put a regional spin on the meeting. The tag line of the meeting is a nod not only to our local, very dynamic geology, but to the challenges associated with living in this environment.

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GSA Meeting 2009: Taylor Shameless Promotion of Pre-Meeting Field Trip

Board Chair, Dr. Steve Taylor, is organizing a pre-meeting field trip for the GSA Meeting, October 15-17, 2009, entitled, "Northwest River Rendezvous: Geomorphology, Whitewater Rafting, and Fly Fishing in the Lower Deschutes Basin" (Fieldtrip 414). The purpose of this field trip is to examine the regional geology, geomorphology, riparian habitat, fisheries, and restoration history of the lower Deschutes Basin. In addition to the scientific content, participants will engage Pacific Northwest adventure at its finest with experiential activities, including whitewater rafting, fly fishing, and sightseeing in one of the most dynamic fluvio-volcanic landscapes in the United States. The scientific program will involve daytime adventures, field stops, and evening seminar-style presentations at the Imperial Lodge in Maupin, Oregon. For more information contact Steve Taylor by email: taylor@wou.edu.

Knight's Notes

The office has returned to its 1999-2002 location, so please note the address change on the return label. Usually folks support the "no going back" philosophy of life. But this "going back" allows the Board to "move forward"! Again, exams can be administered at the office location rather than renting off-site rooms. Numerous meeting rooms are available within the building and available to the Board. Stop in and say hello some time.

The annual Board picnic at the Orr Farm was again successful. Current and former Board Members and staff as well as volunteers of the Board joined together for food and relaxation. The food was delicious and the weather chose to be agreeable, even a bit cool.

In the past year, during these down economic times, the catch word is "STAYCATION"! If you are a geologist living and working near Portland, Oregon, you have no farther to go than the Oregon Convention Center (OCC) for your "staycation." A quick look at the web site for the GSA National meeting (seek link in lead article) reveals a wealth of opportunities, both at the OCC and beyond. Field trip choices abound and appear to be quite exciting! Take a look. Maybe you can actually take a "staycation" in geology!

ODOT's Ron Singh, PLS, met with the Board at the June meeting to talk about the electronic age of signatures and stamps (see related article). Our Public Member Richard Heinzkill suggests that for more information in somewhat non-technical language about Electronic Signatures and Digital Signatures, you can consult the articles on those two topics in Wikipedia. Note: Heinzkill is a retired Technical Librarian!

Although the economic times are tough, the examination application pool for the engineering geology exam (EGE) has grown. Seven candidates are approved for this October's exam, which is the largest group that I am aware of. A successful EGE development project was completed in June. Many registrants from Oregon and Washington combined to serve on this Oregon/Washington Boards project. THANK YOU to all of you for all the hours of volunteer time! Your effort is greatly appreciated.

Have a great summer,

Susanna Knight
Administrator



GSA 2009 Annual Meeting

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Field trips are offered before the meeting, during the meeting, and following the meeting. A complete list of field trip offerings titled "Volcanoes to Vineyards" is also located on the meeting web site. Again, this is a unique opportunity to have an international geologic meeting occur in your backyard. The Board encourages you to please take advantage of this incredible opportunity.

OSBGE Learns About Digital Signatures

At the June Work Session, the Administrative Rules Committee of the Board offered draft language for electronic and digital signatures. To enhance the Board's base of understanding about such signatures, Ron Singh, PLS, Chief of Surveys for ODOT, presented information about identity and security issues in this electronic era. Singh identified digital signatures as a critical piece of the future of engineering automation. He explained that the use of "wet" signatures hinders the ability to progress into a completely digital work environment. As ODOT's first effort in the use of digital signatures in their engineering workflow, they are interested in developing digital contract plans that are signed by engineers utilizing digital signatures. His publication "Digital Signatures for Engineering Documents" outlines the reasons why digital signatures are so vital and explains the basics of their use. This publication can be located at <http://egov.oregon.gov/ODOT/HWY/GEOMETRONICS/documents.shtml>.

A digital signature can not only verify who signed the document, but can also verify that the contents of the document have not changed since that signing. Singh pointed out that there is a difference between "electronic" signatures and "digital" signatures. Where "digital" signatures provide signer authentication, document authentication, and document encryption if necessary. He strongly recommended requiring "digital" rather than "electronic" signatures when digitally stamping and signing Geology products.

Board Compliance Update

The Oregon State Board of Geologist Examiners (Board) regulates the profession of geology by investigating complaints of unprofessional conduct and incompetence against registrants as well as issues of unlicensed practice. When a complaint is received by the Board, a unique number is assigned to the complaint and an initial investigation begins by the Compliance Committee comprised of the Board's Public Member and the Administra

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SB 145 Fails to Advance

The Board submitted one bill to the 2009 Legislative Assembly: SB145. This bill was streamlined from a previous version and sought an immunity clause for volunteers of the Board. The Board previously submitted SB 165 to the 2007 Legislative Assembly which sought the same clause but included numerous other compliance changes. In both sessions, the bill faltered in Senate Committee proceedings.

In 2007, the Chair of the Senate committee supported the bill and thought the votes were there to move it through. But the day of the vote, the 3-2 defeat surprised even the Committee Chair. In 2009, the Board knew of no opposition, in particular because SB145 was streamlined greatly from the 2007 SB165. But at the hearing, Lobbyist/Counsel for the ACLU testified against the bill. The ACLU did not weigh in during the 2007 session so the Board was unaware of its opposition.

Although the initial language in the bill was revised in an attempt to secure passage, the ACLU did not support the final draft language and neither the Chair nor Vice-Chair of the Senate Committee could advance the cause. The Board plans to invite the ACLU Counsel to an upcoming Work Session in order to receive input about language that it could support. The Board remains committed to the need for this statutory change and will continue seeking basic legal immunity for its volunteers, as aligned with standard practice in other licensed professions.

Registration Updates

The Board welcomes the following new registrants and wishes them a safe and successful practice in Oregon.

Tobin, Laura	G2246	04/13/2009
Letts, Jacob	G2253	06/02/2009
Little, William	G2254	06/08/2009
Augustine, Christopher	G2247	04/23/2009
Kohlbecker, Matthew	G2248	04/23/2009
Pieper, Scott	G2250	05/04/2009
Edmund, William	G2251	05/11/2009
Lewis, Roger	G2187	05/19/2009
Gustafson, Joseph	T2249	05/04/2009
Houston, Robert	T2252	05/11/2009
Wayland, Thomas	T2255	06/19/2009
Legg, Nicholas	T2256	07/22/2009
Swank, Mark	E2217	04/21/2009

Compliance Update

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tor. The investigation includes contact with the respondent (subject of the complaint). If technical expertise is needed in the investigative stage, the Compliance Committee works with external Technical Reviewers that serve as volunteers of the Board. These Technical Reviewers provide an evaluation to the Board's Attorney as well as the Compliance Committee. This is a critical piece in the investigative phase of a case.

The investigation process can be lengthy and the possible outcome can vary. After the investigation is complete, the Board may close the case with no further action if the Board has no statutory authority or not enough evidence is found to support the complaint. Should the Board vote to issue a statement of charges against the respondent, which includes sanctions for any offense, the respondent has an opportunity to request either a hearing or a settlement conference to negotiate the sanctions.

Per ORS 672.665, "any person may prefer charges of fraud, deceit, negligence, gross negligence, incompetence or misconduct against any registrant". Per ORS 672.675, the Board "has the power to suspend, revoke or refuse to renew the certificate of registration of any registrant or reprimand any registrant" who has been involved in those issues listed in this statute. Per ORS 672.690, violations of the Board's statutes or any Administrative Rule adopted by the Board are subject to a civil penalty of up to \$1000 per violation.

In the STIPULATED FINAL ORDER ASSESSING PENALTY for closing CC#06-12-010, a \$500 civil penalty was received by the Board. A settlement conference negotiated the sanction. Final orders of the Board are published under COMPLIANCE on the Board's web site. The Board currently has nine active files under investigation; one Order by Default pending; and one Letter of Advice issued to a registrant following the June Board meeting in closing CC#07-10-004.

Lapsed Registrations

The following individuals are not registered to practice geology in Oregon due to failure to renew. If your name appears below and you did submit your fees, please contact the Board office so that a search of the files can correct the error. Until the following persons obtain current registration, practicing is in violation of the Oregon statutes.

Anderson, David	G1729	05/31/2009
Chalmers, Mark	G1316	05/31/2009
Coberley, Donald	G1866	05/31/2009

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**Oregon State Board of
Geologist Examiners**
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Lapsed Registrations

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Cooley Jr, Ullyses	G1836	05/31/2009
Crowther, Derrick	G1572	05/31/2009
Fisher, James	E1992	05/31/2009
Freeman, Jeffrey	G1645	05/31/2009
James, David	G1720	05/31/2009
Jenks, Margaret	G1929	05/31/2009
Khandoker, Rafiqul	G1888	05/31/2009
Languirand, Karl	G1987	04/30/2009
Long Jr, Robert	G1735	05/31/2009
Maloney, Ken	E1636	04/30/2009
Malstrom, Marcia	G0942	05/31/2009
Michael, David	E0872	05/31/2009
Naylor, Patrick	G1997	05/31/2009
Robertson, David	G1737	05/31/2009
Sadler, John	G1564	05/31/2009
Silko, John	G1232	05/31/2009
Spillers, Paul	G1750	05/31/2009
Van Ausdall, Catherine	G1416	05/31/2009
Yandell, Lon	G1655	05/31/2009

2009 Calendar of Upcoming Events

Aug. 10:	Deadline to withdraw from October ASBOG Exam
Sept. 7:	Labor Day Holiday – Office Closed
Sept. 18:	Quarterly Board Meeting Salem, Oregon
Oct. 2:	ASBOG Exam administered at Board Office OR/WA Engineering Geology Exam administered at Board Office
Nov. 5-7:	ASBOG National Meeting Birmingham, Alabama
Dec. 4:	Quarterly Board Meeting