



Oregon Geologist Examiner

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Next Board Meeting:

December 5, 2008
1:00 PM

(Preceded by Work Session)

University of Oregon
Eugene, Oregon

Your Passion Shines Through

by Mark Yinger, RG, Board Member

It does not take much effort to learn that earth sciences are essentially missing from high school curriculums despite a world-wide demand for geologists in the oil and gas industry, mining industry, water resources and environmental consulting. I am afraid we rely far too much on the chance hooking of future geologists when they happen to take Geology 101 as an elective in their early college years. All geology departments must know the best thing they can do to capture geology majors is to put their most dynamic professors in front of their 101 classes. That is how I came to be a geologist.

We geologists should be concerned about promoting a much better understanding of earth sciences in the general population so they can better participate in societal decisions that impact our environment. Earth science curriculum should be a part of middle and high school science classes. Each of us can help promote the teaching of earth sciences by volunteering to speak to the sciences classes of our local middle and high schools.

During the last school year I volunteered to talk about geology to middle school and high school science classes. I was very nervous about getting up in front of a classroom of middle schoolers, but my fears proved unfounded. I was able to connect with quite a few of them and had a good time. It helped that the teacher told me prior to my talk not to be worried or put off if some of the students looked totally disinterested. That was good advice from a pro. The high school experience with juniors and seniors was much more intense. I was surprised how interested they were in what I had to say. When the bell rings and some of the students hang around to talk with you, you know that you have kindled real interest.

I encourage each of you to speak to a middle or high school class. I am sure you will find it fun and rewarding. How do you get started? Call the school principal or a science teacher. Then meet with the science teacher to discuss your talk. My youngest boy promptly volunteers me to speak whenever the subject of geology comes up.

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Knight's Notes

July's lead article resulted in two courageous registrants letting me know via email that the article had "stepped over the line" and was promoting, not informing. Thank you for taking time to provide your input. Perhaps others of you questioned why such an article would be in the Examiner but did not present your concern. The Board discussed this concern at the September meeting and agreed with the registrants. It is not the purpose of the newsletter to "promote." Its purpose is to inform. It is always good to know when the information in the newsletter is stimulating thought, concern, or discussion.

Thank you to all of the registrants that responded to the direct email asking you to review the Science curriculum draft guidelines for Oregon K-12 Schools. Numerous of you shared the comments sent to the Department of Education (DOE) with the Board. Dr. Stephen Taylor is serving on the committee that is developing these guidelines. He knows that the project Administrator is reading all of the input provided by the public. You may have heard back from DOE. Your firsthand experiences certainly brought home the importance of Earth Science education for Oregon studentz. When the final guidelines are complete, local School Districts can refer to the Guidelines in developing its science curriculum for the next seven years.

It is a long way to Baker City, Oregon! But the Board traveled there on September 11 for a Work Session and its September 12 Board Meeting. Members agreed that the trip was very worthwhile. The Board extends a big thank you to Mark Ferns, RG, for leading the Friday afternoon field trip to the mining area outside of Baker City.

Thank you to Board Member Mark Yinger, RG, for authoring the lead article. If you have had an outreach opportunity, please share that with OSBGE. OSBGE is always looking for interesting geology articles!

As ever,
Susanna Knight
Administrator



Passion Shines Through

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Here are some suggestions to help you with your talk based on my experience:

- Ask the teacher for advice
- Take time to prepare. Don't wing it or you will be sorry.
- Use PowerPoint for pictures and drawings. Keep the text brief, using it mainly to keep your talk on course. Many classrooms now have a smart board; use it.
- Involve the students. Prepare questions to ask the class as you go along. Stop occasionally to let them ask questions. Reserve time for discussion.
- I used a water resource project I had recently finished as the basis for a talk to a high school class and it worked very well. I already had most of the PowerPoint slides.
- For middle school classes keep your talk simpler. Stick to basic principles using local geology and hydrogeology to connect with the kids. I talked about solid waste and drinking water to make my talk relevant.

I will leave you with what one student wrote on the thank you card from the high school class, "Thank you for the most informative lecture you gave us. Your passion shined through!"

THANK YOU!

"Your Passion Shined Through, Too!"

Dr. Taylor reported that numerous comments from geologists were shared at the science curriculum guidelines committee meeting convened October 16 and 17.

Without a doubt, your passion for your career "shined through"!

Continuing Education and the Registered Geologist

The Board wishes to thank those registrants who took time to respond to the newsletter request for input regarding continuing education. Of the responses received, 66% supported the concept of continuing education; 33% did not support the concept.

If you were not one of those that responded to the Board's solicitation for input (published in the July 2008 Oregon Examiner), please check out the article. More responses would be appreciated. Because the Board does not currently have statutory authority to require continuing education, a trip to the Legislature would be required to obtain that authority. As an alternative, the Board could develop a "volunteer" continuing education requirement.

A Legislative Concept to add such a requirement commands support from those people that would be affected: YOU! Statutory authority can only be achieved if those of you that would become regulated agree to the concept. Should that happened, registrants would be asked to talk to their Legislator and support the Board through the Legislative process. If support is there from registrants, the Board could work toward this in the 2011 Legislative Session.

Examination Update

The ASBOG National Exam was administered by the Board on October 3, 2008, in Salem, Oregon. There were 12 candidates for the Fundamental exam and 16 candidates for the Practice exam. Candidates for the October 2008 Practice exam increased by almost 50% over the March 2008 administration. Generally there are more candidates in the Fundamental examination than the Practice examination.

OSBGE staff proctored the Fundamental exam while Board Member Rodney Weick, RG, CEG, served as the exam proctor for the Engineering Geology examination and the ASBOG Practice exam. Exam results are expected to be released in early December, which is 60 days after the exam administration. Candidates will be notified as soon as staff has examination results in hand.

Cooperative Registration Update

Welcome to the following new registrants that have joined the ranks through the Cooperative Registration process since the last newsletter.

Meurer , Stephan B.	G2221	07/17/2008
Bangsund , William J.	G2222	08/11/2008
Dirkin , David K.	G2223	08/25/2008
Satterwhite , Zanna J.	G2224	08/25/2008
Payne , Simon J.	G2225	08/26/2008
Davies , Darian D.	G2226	09/05/2008



Engineering Geologist Follow-up: A Task Analysis for the Board's engineering geology examination is currently underway for the Oregon and Washington Geology Boards. Thanks to all of the Engineering Geologist who contacted the OSBGE office directly about non-receipt of the Engineering Geologist Task Analysis. Because of your follow-up, numerous more Task Analyses were delivered to Oregon Certified Engineering Geologist.

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Lapsed Registrations

The following registrants no longer have an active registration for practicing geology in Oregon. The registration expired on the date noted below. If your name appears below, but your renewal payment was processed and/or you have a current registration card, please contact the Board office so the database can be properly corrected.

Ard, Charles, G2078 (09/30/2008); **Atwood**, Dorothy, G1072 (09/30/2008); **Binker**, Keith, G1547 (06/30/2008); **Black**, Benjamin, G2168 (06/30/2008); **Brown**, William, G1787 (06/30/2008); **Gagnon**, Mark, G1806 (07/31/2008); **Gerking**, Erik, G2126 (06/30/2008); **Martin**, Christopher, G2169 (06/30/2008); **Mork**, Andrew, G1815 (08/31/2008); **Newcomb**, Steven, G1135 (06/30/2008); **Nzewi**, Obiajulu, G2128 (09/30/2008); **Runnells**, Gary, G1816 (08/31/2008); **Udaloy**, Anne, G1669 (09/30/2008); **Urbanowicz**, Karla, G0964 (06/30/2008); **Varty**, Deborah, G1702 (06/30/2008)

2008-09 Calendar of Upcoming Events

- Nov. 5-7: Outreach: OWEB Biennial Conference
Eugene, Oregon
- Nov. 7: Examination Application Deadline
- Nov. 6-7: COE
Chicago, Illinois
- Nov. 8: National ASBOG Meeting
Chicago, Illinois
- Dec. 5: Quarterly Board Meeting
University of Oregon, Eugene
- Mar. 6: ASBOG Examination
Salem, Oregon