



NEBOG NEWS

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State of Nebraska Board of Geologists

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Message from the Board Chairman

By Professor John (Jack) Shroder

Greetings to all you geoscientists! We have had a busy past year and now with term limits plus a whole new crop of hopeful freshman senators, we are going to have our work cut out for us. We can only hope that some of this will go as easily and feel as good as the recent falling price of gasoline. Last year's NEBOG Chairman Richard Ehrman, helped initiate our attempt to eliminate the exemption that came out of left field the last possible moment to amend the 1998 Geologists Regulation Act. This unfortunate exemption was part of LB 1209, which passed in the same legislative session by emergency clause. Some citizens apparently thought that simple acts such as drilling a hole for installation of fence posts or a telephone pole might come under the provisions of the Geologists Regulation Act. In fact, nothing could be further from the truth. This political exemption suddenly allowed work for which State approval or permitting was required to be performed **without** a licensed geologist. It was in direct conflict with the intent of the Geologists Regulation Act to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the residents in the State of Nebraska. It passed anyway. A large percentage of the geologic work in Nebraska is performed in association with programs involving state approval

or permitting, but because geological competence is not required for such work to meet a state agency permit or regulation requirement, a loophole was created big enough to gut a major part of the best intentions of our act. Out-of-state firms or local firms with inadequate or no geologists on staff could bid successfully on projects and slip through without control. This does not appear to be a good thing. Accordingly, the members of the Nebraska Board of Geologists have decided to try to change legislation to correct this important geological oversight in the State.

It should also be noted by all concerned that quite a number of geology-related activities are specifically and quite legitimately excluded from licensure where there is little foreseeable danger to the health, safety and welfare of the citizens in our state. Such activities as opening up most sand and gravel pits, most mining, general drilling for water, oil or gas, geologic teaching and research, soil and water analysis, environmental monitoring, archaeology, agronomy, and so forth; all are fairly innocuous activities that should not require any major oversight by professional geologists to ensure safety. But in the same way that engineers and architects must be licensed to practice their profession so that their buildings don't fall down, geologists need to be regulated to ensure that their projects do not endanger vital underground water supplies, cause failure of slopes, or that their assessment of geologic hazards in an area are actually valid and not just based on vague guesswork, superstition, or inadequate calculations.

During the 2006 legislative session in Nebraska, LB 1095 was created to remove the exemption in the Geologists Regulation Act. Because conflict arose at the public hearing, Legislative Resolution 390 was introduced by Senator Schrock to create an interim study for further discussion and develop background for possible later amendments. The interim study will examine the exemption of certain

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individuals and the effect of eliminating or modifying this exemption as well as reviewing options for assuring practice by qualified individuals. Upon the conclusion of its study, the committee will make a report of its findings with recommendations to the Legislative Council or the Legislature. But Senator Schrock is term limited, as are several other senators who have supported us in the past. It looks as though we will need to start at square one again with the incoming freshman class. This may not be easy as the new Senators will need to be quickly brought up-to-speed.

While the study is underway, we need legislative assistance to continue to help us navigate through the uncharted potential minefields of the rest of the unicameral process. This is especially important in these times of new term limitations and an unknown field of candidates up for new elections to fill 24 legislative slots in 2006. We need help finding interested parties to assist us in seeking a consensus for creating a successful amendment. This involves identifying those who have interest in legislation, arranging meetings, and monitoring other legislative bills that may be in conflict with the Board's goal of protecting the public from unqualified practitioners, who may not always have the best interests of the public in mind. We also need to identify the areas of contention between us and people who would take issue with what we want to do. We would appreciate hearing from anyone who has points of view different from that of the Board that might help us to do a better job in future.

In late September, DeMaris Johnson, the legislative assistant that we have hired, Board member Dennis Anderson, and your present chairman addressed the issue at the fall meeting of the Nebraska Geological Society in Lincoln. We discussed the issues and heard about the various election platforms of those running to replace the 24 senators who were term limited out of office. It was difficult or impossible at that time to determine which if any of the new senator-hopefuls would be friendly to the geoscientific community. DeMaris will have her work cut out for her after elections as she seeks to understand the newcomers and their issues. Thus a whole new playing field is opening for us all. Stay tuned and offer some suggestions if you can think of any way to get our point of view across any better!



Scottsbluff in Nebraska
By Dr. Nan Lindsley-Griffin

Meet Our Newest Board Member



Robert S. (Steve) Kemp was appointed to the Nebraska Board of Geologists on March 20, 2006. Seventeen years of research, consulting and regulatory experience in the environmental field, gives Steve a broad perspective on issues encountered by Professional Geologists. His background includes a year with the U.S. Geological Survey in Madison, Wisconsin in 1989, a year and a half of consulting, and fifteen years experience with the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ). Steve supervised completion of the Omaha Riverfront Redevelopment, the largest Brownfields cleanup in Nebraska to date. He is currently a Unit Supervisor in the Remediation Section of the NDEQ in Lincoln, Nebraska. In 2003, Steve was awarded NDEQ Manager of the Year.

After completing four years in the U.S. Army, Steve returned to civilian life to receive a Bachelor of Science Degree in Geology from the University of Nebraska at Omaha in 1988. A licensed Geologist in Nebraska since 1999, (the year the Geologists Regulation Act became effective), Steve is fascinated by all aspects of geology and follows the data sent back by the Mars Rover Mission with great interest.

Promoting public recognition of the profession's crucial role in protecting human health and the environment is important to Steve. He looks forward to applying his experience to help the Board enhance the practice of geology in Nebraska. Steve is also a member of the National Ground Water Association.

Steve and his wife, Julie, have two children; Abigail, age seventeen and Tristan, age fourteen. An avid reader, Steve also enjoys hiking and camping in Wyoming in his spare time.

Welcome to the Board, Steve!

Shortage of Geologists and Geology Professors

In the past year there have been many articles on the web and in print that detail the shortage of geology graduates and the retirement of an entire generation of senior geologists. Some schools report students getting very high salaries for summer employment and getting multiple job offers upon graduation.

If industry wants to sustain a steady flow of geologists, this may be the time to support university geology departments with endowed professorships and attract geology students with generous scholarship programs.

Saturday, December 09, 2006 – geology.com/news

Renewal Fees Increasing to Cover Rise in Operating Expenses

By David J. Becker

Created in 1999, the Nebraska Board of Geologists initially set the annual license renewal fee at \$50, beginning with the 2001 license period. The renewal fee was based on actual and projected operating expenses. In anticipation of legislative action to address exemptions for registration requirements imposed on the Board, the renewal fee was raised in October 2002 from \$50 to \$55 per year for licenses expiring December 31, 2002. The additional revenue was specifically intended to increase the Board's reserve fund to pay for legislative assistance from an outside contractor. In April 2005, with actual information on the costs for such legislative assistance, the Board once again raised the renewal fee from \$55 to \$60 beginning with the 2006 license period. However, recent increases in operating costs led to consideration of an additional increase.

Since 2000, the Board has had a contract with the Nebraska Board of Engineers and Architects for most of its administrative support. This support includes approximately 25% of the time and expense of one administrative assistant, office space, office furniture and equipment, and utilities. The Board pays separately for the costs of printing, travel, food, testing services, membership in the National Association of State Boards of Geologists (membership allows Nebraska access to the standard exams for geologists), and other minor expenses. This arrangement allows for much more economical operation of the Board by eliminating the need to separately obtain administrative help and office space, benefiting geologists as well as the Engineers and Architects.

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In July 2006, the Engineers and Architects approached the Board to renegotiate the contract for administrative services and office space. Upon review of the current and expected costs for the administrative assistant supporting the Board on a part-time basis, as well as the costs for office space, the Engineers and Architects proposed a significant increase in the yearly contract amount. Following negotiations, the Board agreed to an increase of approximately 50% in the contract amount. The previous contract did not reflect the full overhead costs for the support received by the Board and the past contract amounts were, in part, intended by the Board of Engineers and Architects to assist the Board in achieving financial stability. The higher contract costs for the administrative costs prompted a review of fees charged by the Board to cover this increase in operating costs.

Given the increase in administrative costs to be paid to the Board of Engineers and Architects, the Board's revenue and normal operating expenses (excluding contract costs for legislative assistance) were determined to be balanced on a recurring basis only through an increase in renewal fees. Because application and initial license fees fluctuate annually depending on the number of applicants, the Board did not consider raising them. The Board has considered measures to reduce costs outside of the contract with the Board of Engineers and Architects, including mailing and printing costs. Our administrative assistant is exploring various alternatives. Based on these considerations, the Board voted in November 2006 to raise renewal fees for 2008 to \$75 per year.



BOARD SEEKS NEW MEMBER

The Nebraska Board of Geologists is currently looking for a Nebraska Geologist to fill a vacancy on the Board that will occur February 28, 2007.

The Nebraska Board of Geologists is responsible for implementing the enabling legislation that provides for licensing professional geologists who practice within the State of Nebraska.

Membership requirements include:

- Must be a citizen of the United States and a resident of Nebraska for at least one year immediately preceding appointment
- Engaged in active practice of geology for at least 10 years
- Had responsible charge of geological work for at least five years at the time of appointment
- Licensed in geology

If you are interested in submitting an application, please go to www.gov.state.ne.us/bc/board_comm.html to fill out an application online. A link to the job description can be found on the Board's homepage at www.geology.ne.us/board/nbg/htm.



View toward University Hill and the Rhinoceros Quarry from Carnegie Hill at Agate Fossil Beds National Monument in Nebraska

Photo by Dr. Nan Lindsley-Griffin

Dick Ehrman Honored For Years of Service



Dick Ehrman, former Board member of the Nebraska Board of Geologists, was recognized for his years of service to the Board and the profession of geology on July 17, 2006, at the quarterly Board meeting. Vice-Chairperson, Dennis Anderson, presented a plaque to Dick in appreciation of his involvement with many significant projects, including his work to create Title 171 for the Rules and Regulations of the Board.*

Appointed to the Board on October 1, 2001, Dick served as Vice-Chairperson in 2003 and as Chairperson from 2004 until March 20, 2006, when replaced by Steve Kemp. Dick stated that making a decision not to seek reappointment was difficult. He would miss being a part of the Board and offered his continued support during the process of gaining approval for the Rules and Regulations.

Employed as the NRD/Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) liaison for the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts, Dick coordinates mutual resource issues for Nebraska's 23 Natural Resources Districts and the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality. The expertise and knowledge gained from his experience will be greatly missed by the Board.

Thank you, Dick, for all your hard work!

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* A public rule-making hearing will be conducted on the Rules and Regulations on January 9, 2007. After the Board signs the Certificate of Adoption, the rules will proceed to the Attorney General's office for approval.

DID YOU KNOW?

By 2004, the National Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG®) had administered approximately 5,100 examinations for the licensing of geologists since the initial examination offering in 1992. The examination consists of a fundamentals portion and a practice portion. Each portion is four hours in length. The average passing rate across all administrations of the fundamentals (FG) examination was 58% and 68% for the practice (PG) examination.

Journal of Geoscience Education, v. 52, n. 4, September 2004, p. 374

The Living Poetry of the Earth

The earth is not a mere fragment of dead history, stratum upon stratum like the leaves of a book, to be studied by geologists and antiquaries chiefly, but living poetry like the leaves of a tree, which precede flowers and fruit – not a fossil earth, but a living earth.

Henry David Thoreau
Walden (1854), p 255



Opals

My soul is like this cloudy,
flaming opal ring.
The fields of earth are in it,
green and glimmering,
The waves of the blue sky,
night's purple flower on noon,
The vanishing cold scintillations
of the moon,
And the red heart
that is a flame within a flame.
And as the opal dies,
and is reborn the same,
And all the fire that is its life-blood
seems to dart
Through the veined variable
intricacies of its heart,
And ever wandering
ever wanders back again,
So must my swift soul
constant to itself remain.
Opal, have I not been as
variable as you?
But, cloudy opal flaming
green and red and blue,
Are you not ever constant
in your varying,
Even as my soul,
O captive opal of my ring?
Arthur Symons



Nebraska Geological Society Summary of Activities – 2005 to 2006

By Marvin P. Carlson, Past President (mcarlson1@unl.edu)

The Nebraska Geological Society held four regular meetings during 2005-2006. Meetings were held in November in Omaha, February in Lincoln, April at Mahoney Lodge, and September in Lincoln. In addition, Jon Gross organized a Fall Field Trip led by Bob Diffendal following the geologic sites of Lewis and Clark in Nebraska and a Spring Field Trip led by Roger Pabian to the Cretaceous outcrops of the Republican River area. Officers installed in September 2006 were President Dave Svingen and Member-At-Large Dale Busch. Continuing in office will be Vice President Jon Gross, Secretary Mike Madcharo, Treasurer Jim Swinehart and WebMaster George Engelmann.

The Society continues to sponsor the annual Yatkola-Edwards award competition (two graduate awards at \$350, two undergraduate awards at \$100). These awards, in recent years, have been matched by the Midcontinent Section AAPG. A "Best Student Paper" Award from NGS and Professor Stout was given at the April Nebraska Academy of Science meeting. Dave Becker provided leadership on behalf of the Society for an Omaha Geology Explorer Post. Fourteen students expressed interest. Both field and classroom activities were held. A Scout subcommittee has been appointed to consider further Explorer Post activity as well as to create materials and member involvement in other levels of scouting. Geology, Science, and Collections are important badge areas and are an ideal area for NGS involvement. NGS continues to be the Affiliated Society Sponsor for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UN-L) Student Chapter of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists.

Another area of Society interest is the current discussion on the spectrum of Darwinism-Evolution-Intelligent Design-Creationism. The intent is not to focus on the "controversy" of process but to consider our role as individuals and a society in the integration of the various subject matters into curriculum at various levels. At our February meeting, Norm Smith (Professor, Geoscience UN-L) presented a historical perspective on the anti-evolution activities from Creationism to Intelligent Design. Based on the stated intent of Intelligent Design advocates, the manipulation of school boards will continue. As a society, we need to be alert to local and state activity.

Programs at our regular meetings included:

- November 2005 – Duane Eversoll & Marv Carlson (CSD, UN-L) "Instability in the Stable Midcontinent"
- February 2006 - Ryan Weber (Geosciences UN-L) "Crow Creek Unit (Cretaceous) in the Sioux Quartzite Ridge Area, Possible Impact Tsunami Deposit"
- April 2006 - Jack Shroder (Professor UNO) "Geoscience Adventures in Afghanistan & Pakistan: Tectonics, Terrorists & Terranes"
- September 2006 - Steve Jorgensen (JHC) "A Journey Through the Carlile Shale, Correlations and Critters"

The quality of the programs at the NGS meetings is impressive and this year's programs were well received and appreciated by the membership.

A priority for NGS members next year is to select an Earth Science Teacher of the Year who will then be submitted to the AAPG Section for further recognition. The intent is to honor K-12 teachers for "Excellence in the Teaching of Natural Resources in the Earth Sciences." In all of the Society program areas, we encourage additional memberships and participation from those with an interest in earth science. Dues for Active Members are \$15 and \$5 for Students. Contact Dave Svingen (dmsvingen@terracon.com) for application forms and details.



Meadville Bridge Revisited: Niobrara River Landslide Problem

By Professor John (Jack) Shroder
Department of Geography and Geology
University of Nebraska at Omaha

In the 1980s, Duane Eversoll, of the Nebraska Conservation and Survey Division, discovered the Meadville landslide, as well as the fact that it was the largest slope failure in Nebraska. For years, the landslide had been disrupting "Old Route Seven" north of Ainsworth, where the road descended from the sandy uplands of the Ainsworth Table down the steep south bank of the Niobrara River. In addition, the landslide had also been deforming the south abutment of the old Meadville Bridge. Local people thought the landslide was an active fault. The bridge itself was a standard three-span country bridge of iron girders and a plank floor. It was put in place more than three-quarters of a century before to enable access and transport of agricultural products.

Having been interested in landslides since the 1960s when I did my doctorate on them in the State of Utah in 1987, I went to the Meadville area to see if any of my students could do their thesis on various aspects of the slope failure. Reece Pierce helped me survey the landslide first. Barb Friskopp (1990) was successful with her thesis, discovering that the vegetation communities there were disturbed according to the amount of past and present slope movements and degrees of recovery from it. The differences in species composition resulted from a combination of downslope movement of trees and the establishment of atypical species in unusual sites where topographic and soil conditions had been altered. On the landslide just south of the Meadville Bridge, Kim Smulling (1993) used a tree-ring dating technique, originally developed by me for use on landslides in Utah, to assess more than a century of prior landsliding at Meadville. She discovered the periods of most active movements occurred after especially rainy seasons. Mahtab Lodhi (1993) mapped the landforms of the region, with special focus on the landslide itself. We noticed that the south abutment of the bridge had been progressively deformed by the slow creep of the landslide but did not consider the bridge any further. The landslide itself appeared to be mainly the result of water that seeped into the unstable Pierre Shale beneath the slope. A few years later I was able to publish a synthesis of all the results in a special journal issue on biogeomorphology for the scientifically well-known Binghamton Geomorphology Symposia series (Shroder and Bishop, 1995).

Meanwhile, unbeknownst to any of us, the highway officials of Brown County had been repairing the bridge repeatedly over the decades. Because of ongoing lateral distortions by the landslide and flood damage, the bridge was moved a few feet back up river and onto new steel pilings in the 1950s. The old steel pilings were bent over and pushed down into the river bottom, where they were soon covered over with sandy bedload in the bottom of the Niobrara River. Continued disruptions of the road across the landslide, and near-constant deformation of the south abutment of the bridge finally forced Brown County to consider replacing the entire bridge last year. A civil engineer from Colorado was asked to pick a new site for a bridge. Apparently, without any knowledge of the real geological situation and to save costs, the engineer picked another location a few hundred feet down river where the narrowest part of the channel had developed. Ironically, the channel had been made narrowest at the chosen site because the landslide in the 1980s had actively pushed into the river and caused a large island bar on the south side of the river. Luckily in his searches to see

(continued from page 6)

what studies had ever been made in the area, the engineer ran across a reference to Smulling's (1993) thesis title and contacted UNOmaha to see if he could speak to someone who might have knowledge of the area. We conversed by e-mail several times and finally Brown County hired me to come and look over the problem.

Over the years, I have found that one of the finest tools to assess active landslides and long-term slow changes to the ground is the existence of historical and recent aerial photographs. Such photographs taken in a series of successive overlaps can also be used with a stereoscope or other projection system to see the ground in three dimensions. They reveal small features on the ground even exaggerated in height, depending upon how high the airplane was and how far along it had been between shutter snaps. Aerial photos and maps of the Meadville area were obtained from 1939, 1948-49, 1954, 1968, 1994, 1999, and 2005, and the results were striking. The older parts of the Meadville landslide actually turned out to be more extensive than my students had mapped, and it had a much longer history of past movement than we had realized at the outset. Four regions of past movement were able to be identified, enabling new mapping of a very old Plum Creek – Meadville lobe, an old West Meadville lobe, an old east Meadville lobe, and the youngest and intermittently active Central Meadville lobe, situated directly above the south abutment of the Meadville Bridge. Ironically and unfortunately, it was most likely the past landsliding of the slope that had narrowed the river. The original highway bridge builders selected that part of the channel for their bridge. In the 1980s, the active Central lobe had pushed out in the channel enough to cause a big new flat island bar to be formed below it. Apparently, this further constricted the channel enough to cause new scour, exposing the old bent-down and previously buried bridge uprights.

With the old aerial photographs as a guide to the many slow subtle changes the area had undergone for the past 67 years, a good site for a new bridge was found, just a few hundred yards upstream from the existing bridge. That part of the old West Meadville lobe landslide had not moved in decades, probably many centuries, and it seemed the most likely and least expensive site for a new bridge. Furthermore, an old horse-and-buggy road, visible on the 1939 air photos to the west of Old Route Seven, came down over the Ainsworth Table escarpment along a stable ridge and could, if needed, provide an alternate road to the new bridge. In addition, another possibility was also discovered on the aerial photographs; an alternate old farm road that came down off the Ainsworth Table to the east across an area that appeared to never have had any landsliding at all. By bringing a road from it back around to the west and across the new island bar in the river caused by the landslide in the 1980s, yet another bridge-site option appears possible. If the sandy island bar is stable enough to support the load of a new road and bridge abutment, the taxpayers of Brown County might be in luck. Several alternate sites could be chosen from in a geotechnically

difficult area. Protecting the health and welfare of the citizenry depends upon good geologic assessment. In the business of geology, time always tells.

A TRIBUTE TO ONE OF OUR OWN

Nebraska Licensed Geologist since June 12, 2001

Michael E. Crain

Mike Crain, age 45, of Glenwood, Iowa, passed away instantly in a fall from a tree stand in a public hunting preserve on October 19, 2006.

Born May 14, 1961, in Gillispie, Illinois, Mike graduated from Nixa High School in Missouri in 1979. He earned his bachelor's degree in Geological Engineering from Rolla School of Mines in May 1983. Mike was employed by the U.S. Army of Corps of Engineers in Omaha, Nebraska, until the time of his death. Working both the District and Division offices, his expertise was in hazardous waste cleanup. Mike enjoyed his many co-workers and contacts he made over the years. His sense of humor and fun-loving personality contributed to a positive environment for those that worked with him.

Mike served as a member of the Interstate Technology & Regulatory Council Committee (ITRC). A state-led coalition, the ITRC works with industry and stakeholders to achieve regulatory acceptance of environmental technologies. Mike was a licensed geologist in Nebraska and Wyoming.

On May 21, 1983, Mike married Susan Doyle and had two daughters. Kelli, age 18, is a freshman at Creighton University in Omaha and Megan, age 15, is a high school sophomore. The family has lived in the Glenwood, Iowa area for 19 years.

As well as being an avid Missouri Tigers and St. Louis Cardinals fan, Mike enjoyed woodworking, fishing, hunting, reading, singing and playing his guitar. He had a zest for life and will be missed by all who knew him.



Nebraska Geologist-Intern Enrollment

Jesse R. Bradley, Omaha, NE; 4/20/2006

Teyona R. Damon, Lincoln, NE; 11/16/06

Stephen E. Jacobson, Omaha, NE; 11/23/2005

George L.V. Joyce, Omaha; 11/23/2005

Erica Sorensen, Kearney, NE; 11/16/06

Leo J. Tegels, Omaha, NE; 11/23/2005

Erick J. Waiss, Lincoln, NE; 11/16/2006

How are ASBOG® exams put together?

Any professor will tell you that there's no such thing as a perfect exam. Although ASBOG® has a test bank of questions that have accumulated over the past decade, the test bank is continually being reevaluated and improved, and the questions on individual exams are carefully critiqued. This is done by the professional psychometricians in conjunction with the Council of Examiners (COEs), composed of a representative from each state board, plus Subject Matter Experts (SMEs). All of these volunteers are registered professional geologists. COEs and SMEs meet at workshops held twice a year, about a month after each national exam. Typically, some 15-20 experts will focus on each of the two exams, keeping in mind that the FG exam is testing the knowledge that a properly trained geologist with a baccalaureate degree would have, and the PG exam is testing the skills needed by the working professional after five years of experience.

The SMEs begin by taking the most recent exam in their focus area (FG or PG). After an hour or two to read and answer the questions, they go down the list and item-by-item give their answer. If all the SMEs agree on the correct answer, that's a good sign – the item is well written and clear. If the SMEs disagree on the correct answer, both the item and its key are subjected to intense scrutiny. Comments written by examinees on specific items are read to the group at this time and their concerns are addressed. If an item has two possible answers the group may decide to double-key it, or even to discard it from the exam. This is rare – but in such cases the exams are re-scored. No item that has performed poorly is ever returned to the test bank. If the SMEs feel that any item is vague, out of date, or inappropriate in the light of current professional practice, it will be revised or even discarded and replaced with one or more new items appropriate for that task. The SMEs also review items selected for the next upcoming examinations. Items are selected randomly from each of the test bank categories by the psychometricians, in percentages based on the exam blueprints developed from the task analysis study. The SMEs read each item on their focus group's draft exam critically for clarity, applicability, and correctness. Questionable items are revised or replaced before the new exam is finalized. SMEs are encouraged to bring new items to the workshop as well as to write additional items for future use. This can be a very humbling experience, because every new item (as well as every revision) must be approved by three other SMEs, each of whom is free to "improve" your original item. By the time your original write-up works its way around the table back to you, it may be unrecognizable – but it probably will be much better than you thought it was!

ASBOG® and the Council of Examiners have strict guidelines concerning confidentiality, so please don't ask your Nebraska COEs and SMEs for specifics about the exams. For examples of questions you might see on the exams, as well as other information, log on to the ASBOG® web site at <http://www.asbog.org>.

THE ASBOG® Examinations

By Dr. Nan Lindsley-Griffin
(Approved for publication by ASBOG®)

The ASBOG® (National Association of State Boards of Geology) examinations have become the national standard for evaluating professional competence for licensing or certification. Given twice annually (September or October and in March) on the same date and time in all ASBOG® member states, the exams consist of two parts: the Fundamentals of Geology (FG) and the Practice of Geology (PG). The FG exam is designed to assess knowledge attained during the completion of the baccalaureate degree in geology, and the PG exam is designed to evaluate skills and knowledge developed during the first five years of professional geological experience. Most states require applicants to have completed the baccalaureate degree or to be within a semester of completion before attempting the FG exam. In many states the PG exam is not open to applicants until they have completed five years of experience. Some states also require an additional state-specific exam.

ASBOG® member states (as of October 1, 2006) include:

Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Virginia (optional registration), Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

Renewal Information

In October of 2006, renewal notices were sent to all licensees for the 2007 renewal period. Renewal licenses are valid for one year. The renewal fee is due on or before December 31, 2006. Those who have not received a renewal notice or have an address change please notify the office by email at board@geology.ne.gov.

Those who become licensed prior to December 31 of each year will be sent a renewal notice.

How to Renew a License

- Complete and make any changes to the renewal form on or before December 31 and return with the \$60 fee made payable to the: Nebraska Board of Geologists.
- A renewal card with your expiration date and receipt will be sent after payment is received.
- All renewal notices are sent out on an annual basis in October of each year.

Penalty Information

After 12/31/06, add \$6.00 for any month or any part of a month, up to \$60. After 12/31/2007, a new application will be required.

**Nebraska Board of Geologists
ASBOG® Examinations**

Plans are in progress for the March 3, 2007, Nebraska ASBOG® Examination. An application must be submitted and approved before registering for the exams. Please remember all fees are non-refundable and not transferable.

Arrangements can be made to take the Nebraska exam at another state Board's examination site (e.g. Wyoming), provided they are also an ASBOG® member. If you require this option or would like more information please contact us by email at board@geology.ne.gov.

2007/2008 ASBOG® Schedule

Friday, March 2, 2007 Friday, March 7, 2008
Friday, September 28, 2007 Friday, October 3, 2008

ASBOG® Examination Fees

Fundamentals (FG) \$150
Practice (PG) \$150
Both FG & PG \$300

Nebraska Board Reservation Fee

*For one or both tests \$ 35

* The reservation fee covers the proctor and other administering costs of the exam(s).

Applicants are required to mail examination fees directly to ASBOG®. The Nebraska Board will mail the "Candidate Request Form" to approved applicants for submittal to ASBOG® with the appropriate examination fee(s). A copy of the form and a check for the Reservation Fee of \$35 must be sent to the Nebraska Board.

The Nebraska examination site is located on the 5th Floor of the Lincoln Community Foundation Building at 215 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, Nebraska. Information for the examination can be downloaded from www.geology.state.ne.us/board/nbg.htm.

Applications need to be submitted by December 31, 2006, to ensure they will be reviewed at the January Board meeting. The Board only meets quarterly to approve applications and ASBOG® will require the March 2007 examination fees to be paid by January 16, 2007.



Fee Schedule

Licensing Fees	
Application Fee	\$50.00
Licensing Fee (Payable upon approval of application)	\$240.00
Other Fees	
Annual Renewal Fee – Lic. Expiring 12/31/06	\$60.00
Annual Renewal Fee – Lic. Expiring 12/31/07	\$75.00
Expired Registration Penalty Licenses Expiring 12/31/06 \$6 fee per month, not to exceed \$60 <hr/> Licenses Expiring 12/31/07 \$7.50 per month, not to exceed \$75	
Temporary Permit License Fee*	\$175.00
Emeritus Fee (Lifetime fee)	\$25.00
Certificate of Authorization for Organization (2 year period)	\$100.00
Reservation Fee (For one or both tests) FG and PG Examination Fee(s) are payable to ASBOG®. The reservation fee is payable to the "Nebraska Board of Geologists."	\$35.00
Duplicate Certificate Fee	\$15.00
Licensee Listing	\$25.00

*A Temporary license is good for one project only and for a period of one year. If you do not have an active PG license in another state, you must apply for registration in Nebraska on our regular application form.

 **Links of Interest**

Employment Opportunities in Nebraska

- <http://www.lincolnjobs.com/nepersonnel2.html>
- <http://www.lcoc.com/relocation/employment.htm>
- <http://www.thingamajob.com/Browse-Jobs/states/Nebraska/0>
- <http://csd.unl.edu/general/employment.asp>
- <http://www.unl.edu/ucomm/business/>
- <http://hr.unl.edu/>
- <http://www.unomaha.edu/humanresources/employment.php>

RECIPROCITY AND COMITY – DEFINED

The Board spent a great deal of time discussing the issues of reciprocity and comity before coming up with our current policy [see below]. According to Webster's New World Dictionary, *reciprocity* refers to equivalent or interchangeable things; *comity* (in law) is the principle by which courts in one jurisdiction may accept decisions made under the laws and decisions of another jurisdiction. Although the concepts are similar, they are not quite the same, and even ASBOG® states have not been able to agree on a uniform application of reciprocity/comity. The main reason for the difficulty is that each state's law (or province, territory) is slightly different than the others.

The Geologists Registration Act (Nebraska Statutes 81-3501 to 81-3541) lists four requirements for professional registration: 1) character; 2) B.S. degree in Geology; 3) 5 years of post-baccalaureate experience working in geology; and 4) passing scores on examinations covering the Fundamentals of Geology and the Practice of Geology. Although the Act does not specifically define either reciprocity or comity, it does state that the first three criteria...

"may be considered by the board to be fulfilled if the applicant maintains a current certificate of licensure to practice geology issued pursuant to the authority of any state or possession of the United States or the District of Columbia based on requirements that do not conflict with the Geologists Regulation Act and were of a standard not lower than that specified in the applicable licensure in effect in this state at the time the certification was issued."

In other words, we are authorized to offer reciprocity (but not comity) provided the applicant has been licensed elsewhere on the same basis as Nebraska registrants, AND HAS TAKEN THE ASBOG® EXAMS OR THEIR EQUIVALENT.

RECIPROCITY POLICY

The Board's position is that reciprocity will be granted if the applicant for reciprocity meets the following requirements listed below:

To Apply for a PG License:

1. Must have a current geologist registration or license in good standing in another state. (Contact your local state board of registration and ask them to send a "verification of your registration" and good standing to the address below).
2. Submit a completed application form with a \$50.00 application fee to the Nebraska Board of Geologists. (Transcripts or letters of reference are not required at this time if in good standing).
3. Must have passed the ASBOG® examinations Fundamentals of Geology and Practice of Geology, or their equivalent. (The Board may waive the requirement for passing the ASBOG®

examinations or equivalent, if the applicant has continuously held a geologist registration or licensure in good standing since December 31, 1991. Such applicants may be asked to submit additional material, including transcript or letters of reference.)

4. Meet the Nebraska statutory education requirement:
Have "...a minimum of thirty semester hours or forty-five quarter hours of course work in geology and have received a baccalaureate or advanced degree in geology or a geologic specialty..."
5. Meet the Nebraska statutory requirements for experience:
"...a documented record of a minimum of five years of progressive experience, obtained subsequent to completion of the education requirements, in geologic work of a grade and character which indicates to the board that the applicant is qualified to assume responsible charge of such work upon licensure as a geologist."

An application packet and verification form may be downloaded from our website. www.geology.state.ne.us/board/app.htm.

COMPLAINTS

By Jim Cannia

The Nebraska State Board of Geologists exists to protect the public health and safety of the people of Nebraska. This citation from the law outlines the responsibility of the board:

81-3502. Geology; regulation; prohibited acts. In order to safeguard life, health, and property and to promote the public welfare, the profession of geology is declared to be subject to regulation in the public interest. It is unlawful for any person to (1) practice or offer to practice geology in this state, (2) use in connection with his or her name or otherwise assume the title professional geologist, or (3) advertise any title or description tending to convey the impression that he or she is a licensed geologist; unless the person is duly licensed or exempt from licensure under the Geologists Regulation Act. The practice of geology and use of the title geologist is a privilege granted by the state.

In the few years we have been active as a Board, several complaints have been investigated. Mainly, these complaints involve unlicensed individuals allegedly practicing without a license or advertising themselves as a geologist. All cases brought before the board are investigated as quickly as time permits. As of this date, only one investigation has resulted in a warning letter to the offending party.

Please take note that the board will act quickly to investigate all complaints presented. As professional geologists, we all have a duty to be aware that people practicing outside the law are subject to having a complaint filed against them and possible action taken by the Board. The Board is your vehicle to protect your profession. Allowing people to violate the law weakens us all.

A complaint form can be found on our website at www.geology.state.ne.us/board/complaint.pdf.

LICENSURE UPDATES

December 1, 2005, through December 6, 2006

Coen M. Bauders, Gladstone, MO; 11/17/2006

Michael R. Cartwright, Reno, NV; 8/01/2006

Leslie E. Cole, Coppell, TX; 5/02/2006

Randal C. Dyer, Edmonds, WA; 1/30/2006

C. Kirk Fraser, Springfield, NE; 1/13/2006

Herbert E. Fry, Grapevine, TX; 5/09/2006

Jeffrey A. Humenik, Kansas City, MO; 7/20/2006

Jessica L. Kidwell, Kansas City, MO; 8/14/2006

Jesse T. Korus, Lincoln, NE; 12/06/06

James J. Luepke, West Des Moines, IA; 1/23/2006

Ryan A. Pederson, Louisville, CO; 11/08/2006

Matthew J. Rhoades, Lakewood, CO; 1/09/2006

Joshua J. Sales, Mission, KS; 11/20/2006

Andrew D. Smits, Cheyenne, WY; 8/01/2006

Jeffrey D. Swanson, Edison, NJ; 1/23/2006



**Congratulations to those that passed the
March 2006 & October 2006 ASBOG® Exams!**

Fundamentals of Geology Examination

Teyona R. Damon

Erica Sorensen

Erik J. Waiss

Jesse R. Bradley, Omaha, NE

Practice of Geology Examination

Richard L. Hahler

Jesse T. Korus



We Have Moved to a New Location!

The Nebraska Board of Geologists has moved from the Nebraska State Office Building to the Lincoln Community Foundation Building, located at 215 Centennial Mall South, Suite 400. Board meetings will be held on the 5th Floor. Although the physical address has changed, the mailing address and contact information will remain the same.

WHO SHOULD BE REGISTERED IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA?

THE GEOLOGISTS REGULATION ACT [81-3501 through 81-3541]

Purpose: to safeguard life, health, and property and to promote the public welfare through the regulation of the profession of geology.

Board of Geologists: established to oversee the registration and licensing of professional geologists for the state of Nebraska, and to enforce the Geologist Regulation Act. In general, if you are a geologist whose work is in areas affecting public health and safety, you should be registered. Examples include, but are not limited to, geologists working in environmental geology, engineering geology, and hydrogeology.

A Geologist is a person who is qualified to practice geology by reason of special knowledge and use of the earth sciences and the principles of geology and geologic data collection and analysis acquired by geologic education and geologic experience.

Geology means the science which includes treatment of the earth and its origin and history, in general: investigation of the earth's constituent rocks, soils, minerals, solids, fluids including underground waters, gases, and other materials; the study of the natural agents, forces, and processes which cause changes in the earth or on its surface; and the application of this knowledge of the earth.

The Practice of Geology means "any service or creative work if the adequate performance of the service or work requires geologic education, training, and experience to include such services or creative work as geological consultation, investigation, planning, surveying, mapping, and inspection of geological work, and the responsible supervision thereof, the performance of which is related to public welfare or the safeguarding of life, health, property, and the environment and teaching, including research and service, of advanced geological subjects." [81-3515]

Nebraska Licenses Not Renewed for 2006

James Borovich, NE

Nebraska Licenses Lapsed on 4/1/2006

Paul Brookner, MN ■ Michael Moore, TX

Xiaodan Song, LA ■ Lisa Travaglin, KS

T. Stewart Wilford, NE ■ John Wyciskalla, WI



**NEBRASKA BOARD OF GEOLOGISTS
PO BOX 94844
LINCOLN NE 68509**

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