



# Oregon Geologist Examiner

April 2008

Official Publication of the Oregon State Board of Geologist Examiners

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Design Editor

## Next Board Meeting:

**June 13, 2008**  
**1:00 PM**

*(Preceded by Work Session  
at 8:30 AM)*

Salem, Oregon

## Geologist: Your Local Audience of Citizens and Government Officials is Waiting for You

*By Margaret Jenks, RG*

Often, when Registered Geologists finish a big geological project, the first inclination is to share word of the results with fellow geologists and scientists. Geologists can accomplish this by presenting their findings at a regional Geological Society of America meeting or by leading field trips for agency professionals in the area.

But a more important audience could be local citizens. Have you considered presenting the results of your analysis locally?

Geologists need to reach out to the local citizens, particularly the local government decision-makers, who often have the most stake in our results. Whether it is a study of earthquake hazard, the soils of a subdivision, or the hydrology of a small basin, the people who are going to be immediately impacted by the results of the study, good news or bad, are the citizens who make their homes on that piece of the Earth's surface.

A public presentation is one way to give back to the people who facilitated the study, even in very simple ways. These could include the person providing permission to sample the rocks on their land; the person sharing about the history of wells in their area; or even the stranger that shared a ride when a truck was stuck or broke down. In most local communities there is an active interest in, and even a hunger for, knowledge about the landscape, *the geology*, in which they live.

Often, this interest is manifested in practical questions, like "where should I drill my irrigation well," or "why can't I grow vegetables and a lawn at my new house?" But the public is also often curious about the general geologic history or characteristics of a basin or county. Reaching out with that knowledge in a simple public workshop may be the most important wrap-up that Registered Geologists can do, even if the audience is not as comfortable for us as our fellow geologic scientists.

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## New Public Member Appointed to the Board

Effective April 1, 2008, Richard Heinzkill, retired Reference Librarian and Humanities Selector, has joined the Oregon State Board of Geologist Examiners as the Public Member. Heinzkill replaces Allen Morris who served the Board until January 24, 2008. Volunteer service is a hallmark for Heinzkill since his retirement in 2000. He currently serves on one other board and volunteers at the local high school library and works with the historic sheet music collection at the University of Oregon Library. He is also manages the website for his church.

Heinzkill completed his B.A. at St. John's University, Collegeville, Minnesota in 1955 and his A.M.L.S. from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, in 1964. After a three-year stint with the John M. Olin Library Reference Department at Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri, he accepted a position as the Humanities

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## Knight's Notes

I want to thank Margaret Jenks, RG, formerly with Department of Geology and Mineral Industries in Portland, for the lead article in this month's newsletter. The law that registration is required to practice geology in Oregon is *not* a well known fact. Geologists tend to be "behind the scene" players in the scientific world, often trumped by Engineers, Biologists, and Chemists. However, the geologist's scientific research provides the "unseen" foundation for many "seen" projects such as the highways or buildings or safe drinking water. All Registered Geologists need to seek opportunities to share the findings of their work so that the public becomes aware of the importance that geology plays in successful work projects.

The "invisible geologist" concept recently hit home for Dr. Steven Taylor, Board Chair and Outreach Committee Chair, while participating in a meeting (a two-year committee for evaluating K-12 Science Curriculum with the Oregon Department of Education) with approximately 30 fellow scientists that are primarily educators. Taylor discovered that most committee members did *not* know that Oregon has a State Geologist or that Oregon law requires registration to practice geology. And the current science curriculum does not include a geology component so most high school students have minimal, if any, exposure to geologic sciences before college.

So how do geologists find their way to the registration exams? How do individuals find their way to this science if it is so "silent"?

Sometimes the first exposure to geology was while in middle school when a teacher decided to put together a small unit of study of geology! Perhaps the first exposure was in a Science 101 class as a freshman at the university, where geology was part of the curriculum. Perhaps future geologists will be in an audience should you decide to take your geologic study "to the streets."

The Board *encourages* you to share your knowledge, and when you do, invite local government to hear your findings. Please also share that information with Board staff so we can share that news with all our registrants. Thank you to Margi Jenks for sharing concrete ideas that have worked for her in sharing geology out in the non-scientific community.

Until next newsletter,

Susanna Knight  
Administrator



## Volunteers Step Forward for EG Task Analysis

The Board thanks the following Certified Engineering Geologist for their volunteer service during the months of January and February for Phase I and Phase II of the Oregon/Washington Engineering Geology Task Analysis:

George Freitag, GRI  
Doug Gless, HG Schlicker & Associates  
Stephen Palmer, GeoDesign, Inc.  
Brian Ranney, GeoEngineers  
Daniel Raker, State of Oregon, ODOT  
Pete Stroud, Kleinfelder, Inc.  
Mark Schmoll, URS Corporation  
Rodney Weick, Oregon DEQ  
Ruth Wilmoth, Columbia Geotechnical

Thanks also to Paul Crenna, GeoPacific Engineering and John Lawes III, Pacific Geotechnical, LLC, for their willingness to be available as alternates.

And now *every* registered Engineering Geologist is needed for volunteer service. A Task Analysis Survey (TAS) will soon be coming your way. The information for the TAS was compiled during Phase I and Phase II of this project. The purpose of the TAS is to identify all components of practice for Engineering Geologists. The compiled information will be used to prepare examination question. The TAS should be revisited every 10 years so that the regulatory examination questions remain current with the practice.

The survey will be conducted by Comira Testing, the company contracted by the Washington and Oregon Boards to develop an updated Task Analysis defining the elements of the practice of engineering geology. Please be willing to complete the survey in a timely fashion when you receive the necessary information and passwords. And contact the Board office if you have questions about this process.

## New Board Member

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Librarian at the University of Oregon Library, in 1967. He retired in 2000. Heinzkill has an extensive publication and presentation list accumulated during his career. Heinzkill resides in Eugene with his wife of over forty years. They have two grown children. In the summer, he enjoys flower gardening, and anytime, reading non-fiction, going to movies in a theater, as well as attending live theater, traveling and researching his family's history.

The Board will officially welcome Heinzkill at the June 13, 2008, meeting in Salem.

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## Geologists and Local Audience

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A case in point was a presentation and field trip that the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) recently sponsored as a wrap-up to a compilation map of the Upper Klamath Basin in southern Oregon. The format of the presentation was simple: an hour-long evening presentation followed by a field trip the next day. Not expecting a large crowd, chairs were filled early and the crowd of over 200 people was truly a standing room only group.

The following day, over 60 participants joined the field trip. With more than 20 vehicles participating, it looked like a funeral cortege moving from stop to stop. The local TV station filmed the presentation and also some of the field trip stops. The local newspaper ran a front page story. The participants had a terrific time and were grateful for the time and energy expended by the sharing opportunity. What a great outreach opportunity!

It helps to know the people of an area before you set up this type of workshop, but geologists generally get to know at least some of the locals wherever they work. Even if not many people are known, publicizing the event can bring out an audience and is not difficult to facilitate. For the Klamath Basin presentation, fliers were mailed or emailed to the Klamath County people who had been particularly interested in and helpful to the work. Information was also posted in the Klamath Falls downtown stores. DOGAMI issued an official press release, but notification can be submitted to local news outlets. As a result of the press release, the local newspaper wrote a short article announcing the workshop and included the event on the local calendar of events. The newspaper's local calendar is generally carefully scanned by the local readers and can be a good source for getting out such information.

Locating a free site for any presentation is critical. For the Klamath Falls event, a basement of the local County Courthouse was scheduled. An event date may be driven by the availability of a free location. Other venues to consider might be the machine shop of a local irrigation district where welding screens can be used for presentation boards or the City Council room of a small community. Individuals will use their own vehicles for a field trip and perhaps share rides from a designated meeting point.

The specialized vocabulary of a Registered Geologist can be a stumbling block for lay people. Attempt to use terms that your audience may have heard in their junior high Earth Science class or have seen while watching programs on the National Geographic or Discovery channels. Your audience will come from all walks of life. The Klamath Basin presentation included farmers, ranchers, retirees who had just moved to the area, local business people and citi-

zens. Several local government decision-makers attended including the Mayor of Klamath Falls, a local State Senator, the County Museum Director, and the local Emergency Manager.

Selectively chose field trip stops, ones that would have the most immediate impact and could be most easily visualized in terms of their geologic settings. These could be referred to as "eye candy" stops. Stops on the Klamath Basin field trip included two irrigation wells that together produce 8,000 gpm; a quarry where the actual plane of a fault is exposed; and, the biggest hit, a roadcut where everyone collected their own Pliocene-age fish fossils. Very few people dropped out of the Klamath Basin trip even though the day was warm and the trip lasted into the late afternoon.

It can be quite a challenge to make general audiences understand large-scale and difficult geologic concepts and processes. Jenks offers,

"over my 20-year career I have found the most satisfaction from making this type of presentation. The general public has a hunger to understand the world in which they live, especially with the numerous environmental challenges that human beings face in the 21st century. I believe that as scientists and technicians we have an obligation to make our work available to our fellow citizens. Besides, the fascination that I saw in the faces of the people who held those Pliocene fish fossils was well worth the time and effort that preparing for the workshop had required."

The Board encourages all Registered Geologists to consider making a "low-key" presentation to the local citizens of your community. You can have the satisfaction of knowing that some of the participants will use that geologic information when it comes time to make those difficult community decisions.

## Registration Updates

The Board welcomes the following new registrants through the **Cooperative Registration** process with initial registration in another state added to the roster since the last newsletter:

<b>Cooper, James</b>	G2203	02/08/2008	CA
<b>Gray, Natasya</b>	G2204	03/04/2008	WA
<b>Riedel-Bash, Mark</b>	G2205	03/07/2008	CA

The Board also welcomes one new Engineering Geologist following the March examination administration:

**Tardif, Michael W.** E2095 3/19/2008

Results of the March 7, 2008, national ASBOG examination are pending. New registrants of the Board added following receipt of those results will be acknowledged in the next newsletter.

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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.

**Bowman**, Eric G2110 (03/31/2008); **Burck**, Martin G1185 (02/28/2008); **Butler**, Gilbert G2115 (03/31/2008); **Danovich**, Teresa E1308 (03/31/2008); **Foslien**, Justin G2114 (03/31/2008); **Garcia**, Eric G1956 (02/28/2008); **Menken**, Laura G1971 (02/28/2008); **Ringstad**, Clyde E0813 (02/28/2008); **Shuri**, Frank E0826 (03/31/2008)

### 2008 Calendar of Upcoming Events

- June 6: Application Deadline for  
October 2, 2008, Exams
- June 13: OSBGE Quarterly Board Meeting  
1 PM, Salem, Oregon  
Preceded by Work Session at 8:30 AM
- July 26: Annual Board Picnic
- Sept. 12: OSBGE Quarterly Board Meeting  
Baker City, Oregon
- Oct. 3: ASBOG Exams  
Salem, Oregon  
Engineering Geology Exam  
Salem, Oregon