



**This Deinocrotonid tick, encased in Burmese amber, was discovered by one of our licensees, Scott R. Anderson. Anderson co-authored an interesting study published in *Nature Communications*. Read more at the end of this issue of the LBOPG Journal. (photo courtesy Scott R. Anderson)**

## News from the Bayou State

### Continuing Education Requirement Audit

By law, LBOPG requires that each licensee complete fourteen hours of professional continuing education and one hour of ethics training each year. This requirement is typical among all state geoscience licensure boards, and most established boards enforce the requirement by conducting periodic random audits of individual licensee records. LBOPG intends to implement its first audit this summer (2018) by requesting continuing education documentation from approximately 2% of our licensees. Once initiated, this process will be repeated periodically based on renewals.

It is the licensee's responsibility to record and document substantiating evidence of participation in professional continuing education activities. The licensee should use his or her best judgment in submitting activities in recognized categories when submitting continuing education credits to the

Board for review. The Board may request additional supporting documentation to determine the relevance of the activity for professional continuing education credits.

Examples of board recognized continuing education categories include completed short courses and/or attendance at relevant technical presentation sessions of professional meetings pertaining to geoscience, such as meetings and courses through GCAGS, AAPG, AIPG, and GSA. Activities within your local geological society are also considered continuing education, as are writing technical papers and other academic presentations that are directly related to geoscience. A complete list can be found on the LBOPG website.

These professional development activities should maintain, enhance, or expand your geoscience skills and knowledge. LBOPG does not endorse any specific courses or meetings; you must use your best judgment regarding the value of a particular activity to enhance your skills and education. Excess hours earned in these activities can be carried over (like rollover minutes on your cell phone) and used for up to three years following the event. They will expire after that, so you are encouraged to continue participating in continuing education activities to be sure you meet the minimum requirements each year.

On the LBOPG.org site, you will find helpful information and tools under “Resources,” then “Continuing Education.” One of those tools is a spreadsheet designed as a log for use in recording your continuing education activities. An example spreadsheet is included that illustrates the process. Please consider maintaining this log as a personal record of your own continuing education activities.

Be prepared to submit this log and supporting documentation as proof of your activities to the board. Having these logs prepared in advance helps assure that you ace the audit.



## Renewal Notices by Email

Beginning in July 2018, most renewal notices will be sent via email to the current addresses we have on file for our licensees rather than by regular mail. This change is necessary to improve the efficiency of contacting licensees, with the added benefit of substantial cost savings in postage, paper, and staff labor.

If you received the message that directed you to this journal, then we have a proper email address for you. If you know of someone who did not receive that message, please pass along the news about the change.

Note: Your email address is your LBOPG account login ID; the LBOPG office staff cannot change your login ID. If your primary email address has changed, please log into your account – using your previous email address ID and password – and follow the instructions for changing your email address ID. If you have questions or concerns or need assistance, please call 225-505-3766.



### **Fraud Alert: Beware of Scammers!**

As you may already be aware from our previous message to our licensees, we recently received a report of an attempted scam. That message bears repeating: Please be aware that we will never call you and insist on payment by phone. We try to communicate primarily by either regular mail or email. If we cannot reach you either of those ways, we may call to get your updated contact information, but we will not ask for financial information.

Also, please note that our only phone number is 225-505-3766. Exercise caution if you receive a call from any other number and the caller says he or she represents the Louisiana Board of Professional Geoscientists. If you suspect the call is fraudulent, hang up immediately.

These types of fraud operations are very difficult to stop, but awareness is your best defense. We are investigating this recently reported incident and will make every attempt to prevent our licensees from being targeted. Meanwhile, be wary of calls in which someone asks for financial information, and never give sensitive information to anyone unless you are sure you know who the caller is. The best practice is to hang up, look up the legitimate number for the business or agency purportedly calling, and call that number to verify the initial call.



### **LBOPG's Online Payment Portal**

On September 1, 2017, LBOPG officially launched its online payment portal, which provides applicants and licensees with a convenient option to pay fees online. The online option allows payment for license applications, Geoscientist-In-Training (GIT) certifications, license renewals, and a variety of other services. A convenience fee of \$5 will be added to each transaction to defray the administrative cost of offering this option. Currently, the portal will accept all major credit cards, including American Express, Discover, MasterCard, and VISA.

Those licensees who renew online do not need to return the acknowledgment letter that verifies their compliance with the LBOPG continuing education requirements. Instead, the payment portal includes a check box in the shopping cart that records those acknowledgments during the checkout process.



## Reminders and Updates

- **ASBOG exam deadlines:** Applicants who plan to take one or both ASBOG exams in October 2018 must have completed their applications and submitted them for review by the board no later than July 6, 2018. Approved candidates will be notified by the board in mid-July and will receive an examination request form that must be sent directly to ASBOG with payment for the requested exam(s) by August 21, 2018.
- **License renewals:** Acknowledgment letters/emails are sent to licensees approximately six weeks prior to the license expiration date. If you do not receive a notification, please contact us at 225-505-3766 or [apply@lbopg.org](mailto:apply@lbopg.org). While we would prefer to receive your renewal *before* the license expires, we understand that extenuating circumstances do arise. The license renewal expiration, therefore, has a 60-day grace period built into the official rules.
- **LBOPG meeting schedule:** Beginning in 2018, the board meets in odd-number months: January, March, May, July, September, and November. All regular meetings are normally held in the conference room at 9643 Brookline Avenue in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, on the second Tuesday of the month unless otherwise noted on our website (LBOPG.org). We welcome anyone who is interested in licensing issues to attend these meetings.
- **Application reviews:** All applications are reviewed by a committee of board members, which then makes its recommendations to the full board at regular meetings. Because the board is now on a reduced schedule of meetings, license approvals are made only every two months. If you know someone who is applying – whether for full license or for GIT certification – please encourage that person to get all application materials to the board prior to the regular meeting date.



## News from Our Licensees

Scott R. Anderson, a Louisiana Licensed Professional Geoscientist, was a co-author of an article in the December 2017 issue of *Nature Communications*. His discovery and work in helping to identify a new family of tick, Deinocrotonidae (meaning “terrible tick”), in 99-million-year-old Burmese amber included evidence – specialized beetle hairs called hastisetae – that these blood-sucking insects preyed upon feathered dinosaurs in the Cretaceous period. To read the full article, [click here](#).

[We love hearing about the accomplishments of our licensees and delight in sharing your good news. If you have something to share, please send the specifics to us.]

