

JOURNAL #9 - AUGUST 2022



Adventures in Geology: When geologists go on vacation, they always find more rocks to explore. After he visited Colorado this summer, Board Chair Bill Schramm shared this photo of petrified trees preserved in Oligocene shales at Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument. For more on this national treasure, visit [the website](#). (Photo courtesy of William H. Schramm)

Another long time between journals....

As everyone seems to be lately, we've been particularly busy since our last journal issue in April 2021, and we have several items of interest to share with you. In this issue, you'll find information on navigating our (relatively) new website, logging into your account on the site, participating in the board's free geoscience ethics training video, preparing for continuing education audits, and more. We hope you find this issue helpful.

LBOPG Has a New Website and Database System

A year ago, in August 2021 just ahead of Hurricane Ida, we launched our updated and improved website and database. To say it had a rocky start is a bit of an understatement, but we have been satisfied with its performance so far. Unfortunately, we did have some data transfer issues, particularly with email addresses and a few important data fields, most notably that of birthdate. If you have had any problems logging into the system, please contact us. The fix is usually very easy if we have you on the phone while we work to get you logged in. Once you log into your account, please check all your information to be sure it is correct. This new database is smart, but a system is only as good as the data entered, so please help us make sure we have a good system.

Logging into the system

If you are a licensee, to log into the new system, select “login” from the menu at the top of the home page; then click “Licensee” from the menu just above the login field. Enter your email address and password. Once you are successfully logged in, you should see either a “manage your license” button or the contact information page. Clicking it should bring you to the contact information page.

LOGIN

APPLY FOR A LICENSE PAY ONLINE CONTACT

About • Roster • Requirements & Rules • Meetings • Resources

LOGIN

Please enter login credentials to access our website. If you have forgotten your login email address or password, please click the "Forgot Password" link.

New Login Credentials Required
Please note that we now require you to log in with your e-mail address, rather than a username.

Reset Login Credentials

Login As

Applicant Licensee ▼ Board Member Reference

Email

Password

Login Forgot Password

Louisiana Board of Professional Geoscientists

9643 Brookline Ave., Ste. 101
Baton Rouge, LA 70809
225-505-3766

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Privacy & Terms

On this page, you'll find opportunities to update your personal information, including changing your password and/or email address. You'll also find all your previous payment information. You can also print your license card or even your wall certificate from this page.

UPDATE CONTACT INFORMATION

CONTACT INFO

Email:

First name:

Middle Initial:

Last name:

BILLING ADDRESS

Address:

License # 123456
Valid until Oct 10, 2022
Your license is ready for renewal.
[Renew License](#)
[Print Your License Card](#)
[Print Your Certificate](#)

LICENSE PAYMENTS

\$105 Online Payment 464036 09/01/21

If you are a GIT, we are still working on a separate portal for you. However, you can still renew your GIT certification by selecting “pay online” in the menu bar at the top of the page. In the options for payment, select “Geoscientist-in-Training (GIT) Certificate – Renewal” and follow the instructions that follow.

PAY ONLINE

Shopping cart is empty.

LBOPG FEES

RENEWAL FEES

To pay your renewal fees, login to your account, then click "Manage License" to pay renewal fees.

| APPLICATION FEES | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| Geoscientist-in-Training (GIT) Certificate - Application Fee | \$ 100.00 Add to cart |
| Geoscientist-in-Training (GIT) Certificate - Renewal | \$ 75.00 Add to cart |
| Late Fee, Over 60 days expired | \$ 50.00 Add to cart |
| Professional Geoscientist (PG) License - Application Fee | \$ 200.00 Add to cart |
| Temporary 90-day PG License - Application Fee | \$ 200.00 Add to cart |

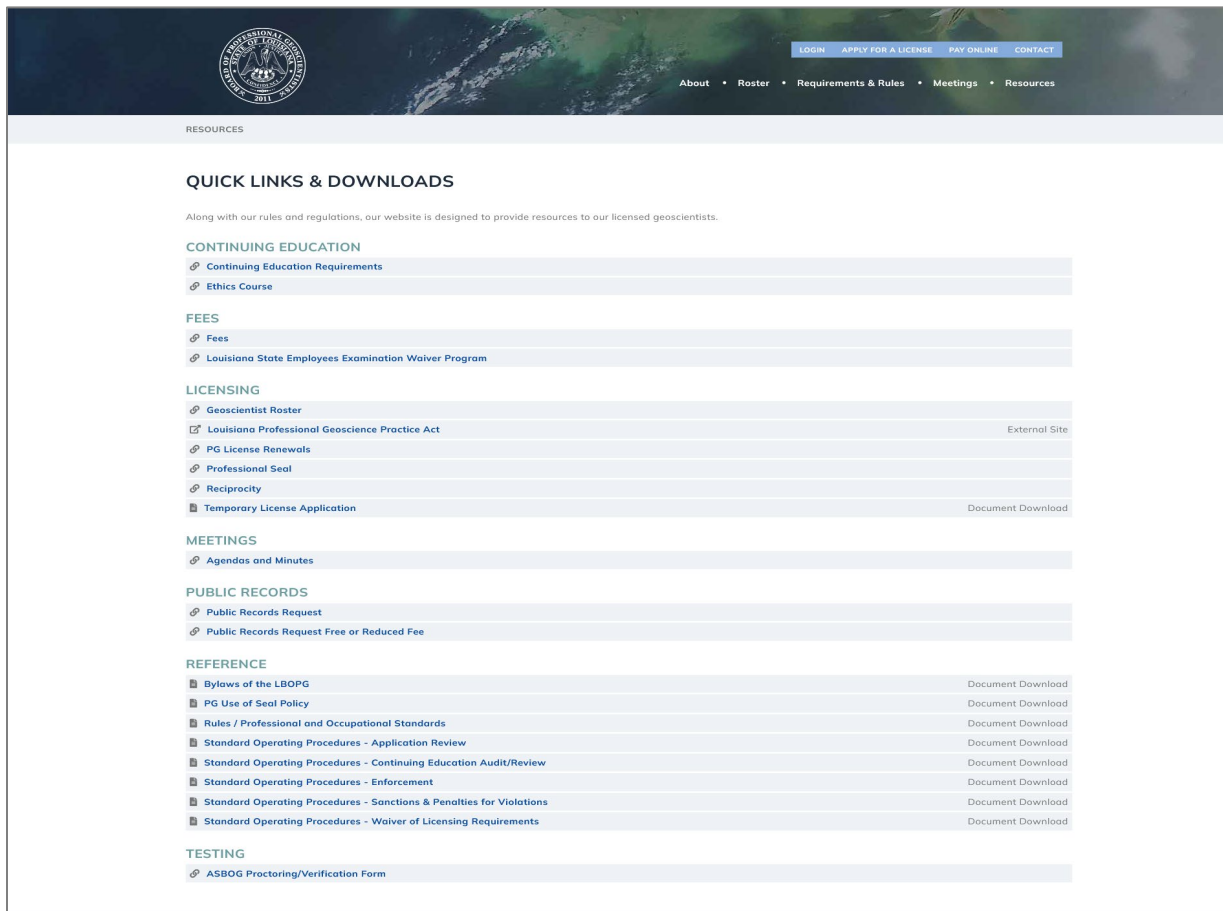
| TESTING | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| MISCELLANEOUS | |
| Affidavit, Verification of Licensure | \$ 15.00 Add to cart |
| Duplicate Wall Certificate | \$ 25.00 Add to cart |
| Insufficient Funds Fee | \$ 25.00 Add to cart |

Louisiana Board of Professional Geoscientists
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What else is new?

Beyond the information in your personal account page, you will find a wealth of information on the site. All scheduled meetings of the board or its committees are listed on the home page, and links to Zoom sessions are included in the “View Notes” segment of the meeting announcement. While board members must attend in person, the board has decided to continue offering Zoom attendance to the public. You will also find information from previous meetings on the home page, including agendas and minutes.

One item on the new site is particularly helpful: the Resources tab. If you hover over the tab, you can select “Journals,” “File a Complaint,” or “Quick Links & Downloads.” The “Journals” option will take you to all our back issues. The “File a Complaint” option, just as you may guess, brings up a form for filing complaints for the board to investigate. The “Quick Links & Downloads” option will take you to a new page. On this page, you’ll find information on continuing education requirements, suggestions for fulfilling those requirements, the continuing education log sheet and instructions for completing it, and an example of a completed log sheet; a free ethics presentation that will fulfill the board’s requirement for a one-hour geoscience ethics course; information on applying to take the ASBOG exams; information on seal use, the board’s operating procedures, public records requests, and much more.



The screenshot shows the 'RESOURCES' page of the Louisiana Professional Geoscientists website. The page features a dark header with the organization's logo on the left and navigation links for 'LOGIN', 'APPLY FOR A LICENSE', 'PAY ONLINE', and 'CONTACT' on the right. Below the header, a secondary navigation bar includes 'About', 'Roster', 'Requirements & Rules', 'Meetings', and 'Resources'. The main content area is titled 'QUICK LINKS & DOWNLOADS' and includes a brief introductory sentence. It is organized into several categories, each with a list of links and document download options:

- CONTINUING EDUCATION**
 - Continuing Education Requirements
 - Ethics Course
- FEES**
 - Fees
 - Louisiana State Employees Examination Waiver Program
- LICENSING**
 - Geoscientist Roster
 - Louisiana Professional Geoscience Practice Act (External Site)
 - PG License Renewals
 - Professional Seal
 - Reciprocity
 - Temporary License Application (Document Download)
- MEETINGS**
 - Agendas and Minutes
- PUBLIC RECORDS**
 - Public Records Request
 - Public Records Request Free or Reduced Fee
- REFERENCE**
 - Bylaws of the LBOPG (Document Download)
 - PG Use of Seal Policy (Document Download)
 - Rules / Professional and Occupational Standards (Document Download)
 - Standard Operating Procedures - Application Review (Document Download)
 - Standard Operating Procedures - Continuing Education Audit/Review (Document Download)
 - Standard Operating Procedures - Enforcement (Document Download)
 - Standard Operating Procedures - Sanctions & Penalties for Violations (Document Download)
 - Standard Operating Procedures - Waiver of Licensing Requirements (Document Download)
- TESTING**
 - ASBOG Proctoring/Verification Form

We hope you’ll visit the site and provide us with feedback. We are always interested in improving your experience with the board.

4 Tips for Logging In

We are determined to make this new site as easy to navigate as possible, and we can always use your feedback to make improvements. The first step, however, is making sure you can log into the site in the first place. As we have gained experience working with the new site, we've been keeping notes on areas that may need to be explained. Here are our four top tips for logging into the site:

1. You will find the login button in the top right corner of the home page. When you click on "Login," you will navigate to a new page that has a login field. Just above that login field is another menu. The current default is "Applicant," so if you're already a licensee, you'll need to select "Licensee" before you enter your email address.
2. We had a few data transfer issues as we were leaving our old database platform, and some of those issues are related to login IDs. Your email address is your login ID, but the new system had a plethora of old email addresses thrown into the mix as the data transferred from the old system. If you find that your current email address doesn't work, give us a call at 225-505-3766. The fix is super simple, but we don't know which addresses were affected until someone tries to log in and gets an error message.
3. If you log in and get a message that seems to imply that we've dropped you like a hot rock, please don't panic. It's probably just a data problem. We're just a phone call or email away, and we're always happy to help.
4. Once you are successfully logged in, you'll find several helpful bits. The new system will allow you to view your payment history, print a license card or certificate, and make changes to all your personal information. Please check your contact information to be sure it's accurate and up to date. **In particular, please check the birthdate field; the new system uses the birthdate data to assess the correct renewal fee amount.**

LBOPG Has Launched a 2022 Ethics Presentation

As many of you are already aware, LBOPG has had an ethics presentation that will fulfill the board's requirement for a one-hour geoscience ethics credit on its website since fall 2020. This presentation is free and has been well-received, and a link to it will continue to be available on the website. The presenters recently decided to revamp the presentation with updated information and new material and have presented this new version at a number of physical venues over the last few months, tweaking the offering as they received feedback. This new version is now available on our website, and you can view it [here](#).

In the future, the board hopes to offer other types of training videos, and we will keep you updated as new topics become available. Our mission is to license educated, experienced, and highly professional geoscientists, and the board is committed to helping licensees find relevant training so that they retain these characteristics.

Note:

Licensees are responsible for keeping the board up to date on their contact information. While we try to keep our emails to you to a minimum, being able to reach you is essential. We try to make sure you are aware of upcoming renewal dates, and we send occasional journals such as this one to let you know what the board is doing. Please let us know if your email or physical mail address changes.

Continuing Education Audits: What You Need to Know

According to the statute (see [Louisiana R.S.37:711.21](#)) that created LBOPG, the board is tasked with ensuring that licensees participate in activities that enhance their professional development. Fifteen hours of geoscience continuing education, including one hour of geoscience ethics training, are required each calendar year. The board began a three-year trial period in 2018 and used this initial stage both to help licensees understand the types of activities that count toward the requirement and to learn from licensees what types of activities are important to them. Now that this stage is complete, the board is enforcing continuing education compliance through the audit process.

Only a randomly selected 2% of active licensees are audited each year, and the review committee has been working with those selected to assure that they have ample opportunity to select activities that will meet the board's requirements. Also, information is posted on the [LBOPG website](#) to assist all licensees in selecting activities that will count toward the requirements. Included are a downloadable Excel log sheet for recording activities; an example log sheet with activities recorded; a list of activities that have successfully met the board's criteria for acceptance in the past; and an article on what generally does and does not meet those criteria.

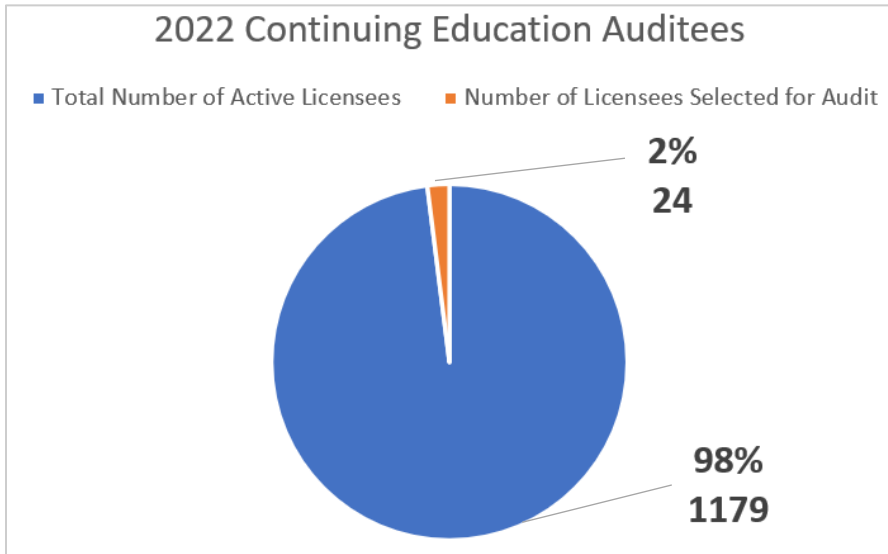
The Compliance Committee has these suggestions for those who are selected for an annual audit:

- Always use the log sheet provided. It's easier for the reviewers to find the information they need if that information is in a standard format.
- Know the codes to use for the activities you list. The information posted on the website includes a "[Professional Development Hour \(PDH\) Matrix](#)" that provides detailed guidance for time increments, activity codes, and limitations on hours claimed for specific activities, such as field trips.
- List each activity individually, with the date, hours, and credits claimed. For example, most conferences are composed of sessions. Rather than simply claiming the entire conference with a blanket number of hours, make sure you document each session you attended.
- Provide certificates of attendance and supporting documentation for all activities. While receipts for fees paid for activities are helpful in locating those activities on the log, they don't serve as documentation that a person actually attended or participated.
- For self-directed activities, such as article research or online courses and videos, for which certificates of participation are not provided, include your own summary of the topic as documentation. As the instructions that are included in the log sheet file state, "If you participate in geoscience activities in a self-directed manner, you may claim up to 5 PDHs, but you must provide documentation of your participation. If the self-directed work involves reading technical articles, for each article, provide the title, author, journal in which the article appeared, date of publication, and a brief synopsis (one or two sentences) of what the article was about. Before committing yourself, always ask yourself: How can I substantiate my claim for credit?"
- Finally, all audits are of activities completed in the *calendar* year preceding the current year. For example, those audited in 2022 are asked to report activities completed between January 1, 2021, and December 31, 2021, regardless of each licensee's expiration date.

As always, if you still have questions about the annual audit, you can contact us at apply@LBOPG.org or 225-505-3766.

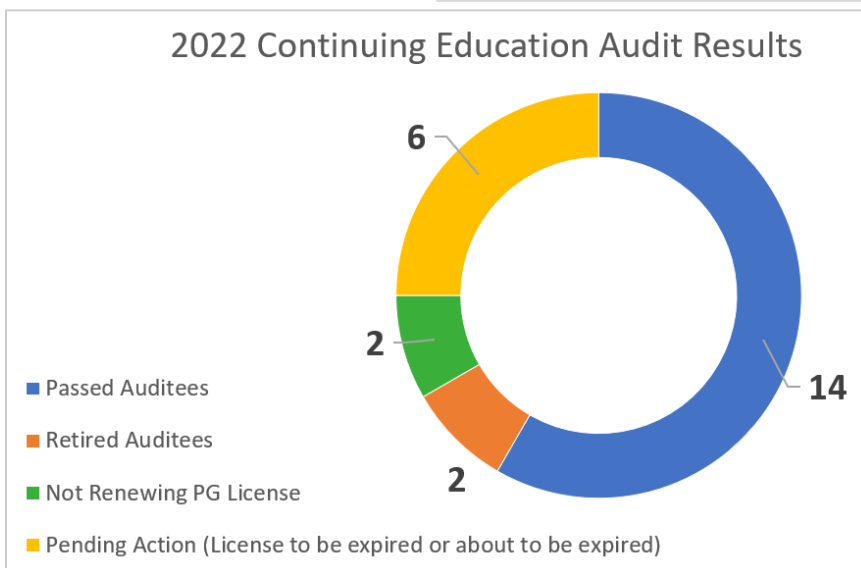
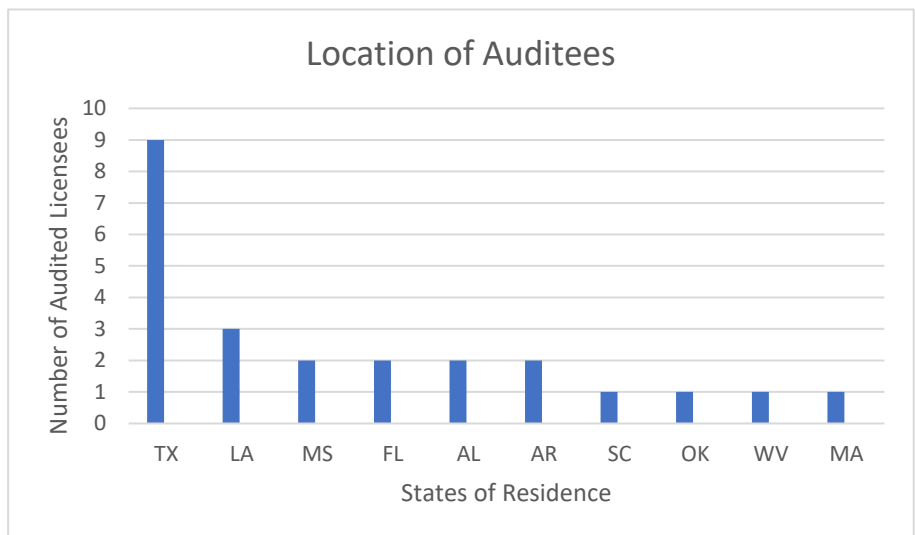
2022 Continuing Education Audit Data Analysis

The most updated information (August 2022) regarding the 2022 compliance review reveals the following:



The total number of randomly selected auditees for the 2022 year was 24, which constitutes 2% of Louisiana’s active licensees

The selected auditees have a residence address in 10 total states, with the largest number of auditees having a residence address in TX.



A majority of the selected auditees have passed the audit process, and six auditees remain under review.

LBOPG Enlightened: Our Newest Staff Member

When Maria de la Luz Mata de Leder, a licensed Louisiana Professional Geoscientist, retired in 2021 from the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, she still wanted to remain active in her profession. She found a unique way to do just that. In November 2021, she attended a regular meeting of the Louisiana Board of Professional Geoscientists and offered her assistance. By the end of that first month, the administrative staff realized that they had found exactly the person they needed to jump-start some ambitious projects, waiting for the right time and person to get them off the ground, that had been on the backburner. Mata de Leder, better known as Luzma, immediately became an essential member of the board's support staff, lending wise judgment and balanced decision-making skills to some knotty tasks.

Luzma received her undergraduate degree in biology from the Universidad Autónoma de Mexico (UNAM) in Mexico City and embarked upon her professional career, participating in several



Luzma Mata de Leder (photo by Teresa Alvarez)

oceanographic expeditions as part of a marine research program with the Mexican Navy Bureau. During these expeditions, she collected sediment and water samples, flora and fauna from the Mexican continental margins of the Gulf of Mexico and the Pacific Ocean.

She then decided to continue her education and earned a Master's degree in geology from Louisiana State University. Since then, she has made Louisiana her home. In Baton Rouge, she worked for the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality for over fourteen years, and in 2006, she joined the Injection and Mining Division of the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources.

Among her many responsibilities at LDEQ and LDNR, she evaluated potential impacts to groundwater and subsurface conditions; approved Corrective Action Programs for industrial facility sites with impacted soil and groundwater conditions; approved new and existing Operating Solid Waste and Hazardous Waste Permits for regulated industrial facilities; permitted Injection wells (Classes I, II, III, and V), through the Underground Injection Protection Program; and

managed and updated the Louisiana State Abandoned Mine Lands, and the Active Sand and Gravel Mine databases.

Luzma's regulatory experience is proving a valuable asset to the board, and the staff are delighted to work with this gracious, intelligent, and affable new team member.

And this final note...

As we have mentioned in previous journal issues, we are always interested to discover and report on geoscience work in Louisiana, wherever that work is being produced. If you have leads or contacts we can follow to learn more about projects that exemplify the importance of geoscience to Louisiana and beyond, please send us that information. And, as always, we love to hear from you. If you're working on something you would like to share, please let us know. You can contact us at apply@lbopg.org or 225-505-3766.