



NC Board for Licensing of Geologists

Summer 2025 Newsletter

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Steve Stadelman
Vice Chair

Dwain Veach
Ex-Officio

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Member

Joan Smyth
Member

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Barbara Geiger
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Jenna Miller
Assistant to the ED

A Letter from the Chair

Greetings from the North Carolina Board for Licensing of Geologists!

We're pleased to share the first edition of our Board newsletter in quite some time, with plans to provide regular updates going forward. Our current Board is a dedicated group of professionals committed to the oversight and enforcement of the rules and regulations that guide our profession.

Members of the Board are appointed by the Governor of North Carolina to serve three-year terms, with most serving two consecutive terms. The composition of the Board is defined by statute and includes representatives from the academic, consulting, mining, and private sectors. You can find the names and affiliations of current Board members on our website.

I'd like to take this opportunity to recognize several individuals whose service to the Board has recently concluded:

- **Dr. Kenneth Taylor**, recently retired State Geologist, served as the Ex-Officio member of the Board from July 2012 through December 2024. His deep institutional knowledge, photographic memory, and unwavering dedication to the profession have left an indelible mark. Dr. Taylor's contributions will be deeply missed, and we wish him all the best in retirement. We are forever grateful for his years of outstanding service to geology, to our licensees, and to the State of North Carolina.

- **Rachel Kirkman** served from 2018 to 2024. In addition to her many committee roles, Rachael's national leadership within the Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG®)—culminating in her service as President of the organization from 2024 to 2025—stands as a testament to her dedication and impact on the profession.
- **Dr. William (Bill) Miller** served multiple non-consecutive terms as the Academic Member of the Board, most recently from 2013 to 2019. His insight into academic licensure issues and evolving curricula was invaluable, particularly during the development and implementation of the continuing education requirement, which became effective on July 1, 2017. As Chair, Bill's leadership helped the Board navigate a critical period of transition.
- **Dr. Robert Mensah-Biney** served as the Board's public member from 2018 to 2023. As Director of the NC State University Minerals Research Laboratory from 2012 until his recent retirement in 2024, Dr. Mensah-Biney brought a unique and valuable perspective to our work.

Last but certainly not least, I'd like to recognize and thank **Neil Gilbert** for his extraordinary service to the profession. Neil served on the inaugural Board from 1984 to 1993, including three years as Board Chair. After his term as a Board member, he continued to serve as the Board's lead investigator, skillfully handling complaints and providing thorough reports to the Board for review and action. Neil was also one of the founding members of the national Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG®) and played a pivotal role in initiating collaboration with the national engineering licensure organization. We were saddened to learn of Neil's passing on February 24, 2025, and we remain deeply grateful for his many contributions to the profession and to the State of North Carolina.

These individuals exemplify the spirit of service and professionalism that defines the Board. Our mission continues to be guided by the **Rules of Professional Conduct**, which form the foundation of ethical geologic practice in North Carolina:

1. The geologist shall conduct his or her practice in order to protect the public health, safety, and welfare.
2. The geologist shall perform his or her services only in areas of his or her competence.
3. The geologist shall issue public statements only in an objective and truthful manner.
4. The geologist shall not attempt to supplant another geologist in a particular employment after becoming aware that the other has been selected for employment.

5. The geologist shall avoid conflicts of interest.
6. The geologist shall solicit or accept work only on the basis of his or her qualifications.
7. The geologist shall associate only with reputable persons or organizations.

A full explanation of these principles is available in the *Rules of Professional Conduct* (21 NCAC 21 .1101), accessible via a direct link on our website.

In both my personal and professional experience, consistently following these straightforward rules not only leads to a more rewarding career—it also reduces the stress and uncertainty that can accompany the complex situations we often face in geologic practice.

Warm regards,

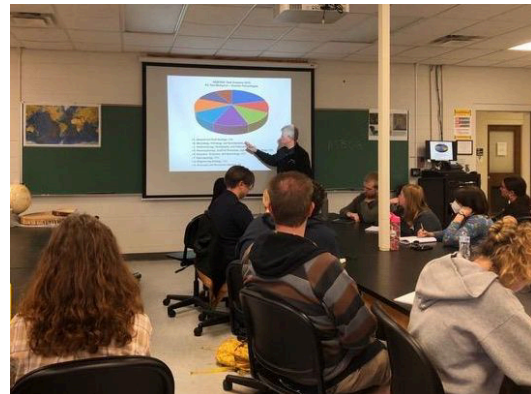
Dr. Richard Spruill

Chair, North Carolina Board for Licensing of Geologists

Other News

NCBLG College Visits

Each license year, the Board makes it a priority to visit at least one geology program in the state to speak with students about the ASBOG® examinations and the path to professional licensure. In 2011, the University of Wilmington first hosted the Board's Fall Quarterly Meeting, providing an opportunity for the full Board to engage directly with students about careers in professional geology. Since then, it has become tradition to visit a different school each year.



ECU's Department of Geological Sciences last hosted the Board on February 7, 2024 for its quarterly Board meeting. Students were invited to a lunch presentation about licensure and took advantage of the opportunity to interact with Board members. The Board previously visited UNC's Department of Earth, Marine and Environmental Sciences for its Fall 2021 Board meeting, and NC State's Department of Marine, Earth, and Atmospheric Sciences for its Spring 2023 Board meeting, and while in Wilmington for the 2022 ASBOG® Annual Meeting, the Board's academic member, Richard Spruill, along with ASBOG® academic coordinator Randy Kath, stopped by for a visit with students and faculty at UNCW's Department of Earth and Ocean Sciences. The Board will next visit the Geosciences and Natural Resources Department at Western Carolina University this fall.

As universities prepare to begin a new academic year, the Board plans to strengthen its outreach efforts by initiating regular communication with geology faculty across the state. To support this initiative, a new toolkit is currently in development—designed to provide updated resources, encourage student engagement, and promote sustained collaboration with academic departments.

ASBOG® Launches FG Prep Course

ASBOG® recently launched a new online prep course for Part 1, the Fundamentals of Geology (FG), available on-demand. Each section of the 8-part course is thoughtfully prepared and presented by ASBOG® Subject Matter Experts.

ASBOG® has also updated its Exam Candidate Handbook, another invaluable study resource with practice questions and examination blueprints. Be sure to keep these resources in mind the next time someone asks for your advice on how to prepare for the exams!

News from the NC Geological Survey

Dr. Kenneth Taylor retired in November 2024, after more than 30 years of public service and 12 years serving as North Carolina State Geologist. Taking his place as State Geologist is Dwain Veach, who hit the ground running as the Survey worked to respond to the destruction caused by Hurricane Helene. As State Geologist, Mr. Veach also now serves as ex-officio member of the NCBLG.

Celebrating 200 Years!



The North Carolina Geological Survey marked a significant milestone in 2023 with the observance of its 200th anniversary. Established in 1823, the NCGS was the first geological survey in the nation.

To celebrate its bicentennial, the Survey organized a series of events and activities to engage and educate students, teachers, and the general public about North Carolina's geology and mineral resources and to highlight the role of the NCGS and that of geologists.

To learn more about the history of the survey, special anniversary events, and other happenings at the NCGS, view the story maps linked below.

[NCGS 2023 Annual Report \(Story Map\)](#)

[NCGS 2024 Annual Report \(Story Map\)](#)



Mineral Spotlight: Kennygayite

Formula: $\text{[Pb}_4\text{O}_2(\text{OH})_2\text{](SO}_4\text{)}$

Crystal System: Triclinic

Locality: Haywood County, NC

Named for the late NCGS mineralogist Kenny Gay, Kennygayite is part of an assemblage of 20 minerals discovered at the Redmond Mine in Haywood County, NC. Mr. Gay dedicated his career with the survey to cataloging North Carolina's many mineral resources.



Continuing Education Updates & Reminders

Hurricane Helene Disaster Response: Licensees may claim up to 24 CE hours for [geological services](#) directed toward helping recovery efforts in declared disaster areas. While paid services provided as part of your regular job duties may be claimed, we ask that you exercise your best judgment to claim hours proportionate to the time and effort devoted to this response and recovery. We recommend completing a [Disaster Assistance CE Reporting Form](#).

The Board recently updated its [Continuing Education Guidelines](#). Please be reminded of the following:

- Licensees may no longer earn CE through OSHA, MSHA, or similar safety training required for performing regular job duties.
- Board approval for CE courses and activities is now optional. Licensees may choose to self-assess whether the content of an activity meets the requirements of the [CE Guidelines](#).
- The Board has created a [CE Self-Assessment Form](#) as an optional tool to help licensees determine whether an activity is suitable CE. It is recommended that licensees make use of this form and save for record keeping purposes. Self-assessed activities will be reviewed more thoroughly in the event of CE Audit.
- Licensees and CE providers still have the option of submitting activities for Board approval within 90 days before to 180 days after the event occurs.
- In addition to the entities named by the Board as [pre-approved CE providers](#), all professional geological societies and university geological science departments will be considered pre-approved to offer continuing education. As with all CE completed with a pre-approved CE provider, course content must be geological in nature and adhere with the CE Guidelines established by the Board.

2025 Calendar

August 14, 2025 Quarterly Board Meeting Virtual

October 2-3, 2025 ASBOG® Examinations Prometric Testing Centers

November 3, 2025 Quarterly Board Meeting Western Carolina University