



## PGI Featured Board Member - January 2017



**Shane Schmidt - LPG #2339**

**Shane Schmidt is an LPG licensed in Indiana, Kentucky, Missouri, and Florida. He has a M.S. in Geology and a M.A. in Secondary Science Education from the University of Kentucky. Shane has diverse career experiences including: mudlogging, coal resource stratigraphy, leading geotechnical investigations, and environmental project management. Originally from Kentucky, he moved to Indiana from Missouri in 2010. He is currently a geologist in the Office of Land Quality at the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM).**

Question & Answer for Shane Schmidt:

*Q: How long have you been on the Board and what position do you currently hold, if any?*

**A: I have just recently been elected to the board and have volunteered to serve on the field trip and education committees.**

*Q: Where are you from and what is your educational and professional background?*

**A: I was born and raised in Louisville, Kentucky. I attended the University of Indianapolis for my undergraduate education, and then relocated to Lexington, Kentucky to attend graduate school where I earned my M.S. degree in 2000. Before graduation, I spent a few months mudlogging in Eastern Kentucky, but I quickly decided that was not the optimal career choice for me. I then returned back to Lexington to finish my degree and began working at the Kentucky Geological Survey, researching coal deposits in the western Kentucky coal fields. I then went to work for an engineering firm. After a few years, I lost my job and the job market was poor at the time, so I decided to go back and get a M.A. degree in education as a good alternative in case the job market didn't turn around. I finished that degree about the time my (now) wife finished up her graduate degree. We then relocated to Kansas City, Missouri where I was able to get back into a good position with another engineering company. We relocated to Carmel, Indiana in 2010 when my wife accepted a position at IU. Since that time, I have been engaged with environmental geology. I occasionally teach as an adjunct at the University of Indianapolis and also serve on the board of the Illinois/Indiana Section of AIPG.**

*Q: What inspired you to become a Geologist?*

**A: I was one of those kids who knew the name of every dinosaur, had a bunch of dinosaur models, and loved searching for fossils. I have a strong passion for the life sciences as well, so paleontology was a natural fit for me, but we all know how common those jobs are. Geology was the next best (economically practical) option for me.**

*Q: What are some of your hobbies or how do you spend your free time?*

**A: I am an avid fisherman, gardener, and naturalist. This past year I began fishing competitively in local kayak/canoe fishing tournaments. I am also a 3<sup>rd</sup> degree black belt and teach kungfu and tai chi on weekends. I enjoy reading about each of those subjects.**

*Q: Why are you passionate about PGI what do you see as PGI's main role(s)?*

**A: I am very passionate about science education and enjoy participating in outreach activities. I especially enjoy helping soon-to-be graduates transition into the work force. This includes helping new graduates get a solid start in their careers with the right foot forward and providing continued mentoring throughout the early phase of their career. PGI provides a great vehicle for the promotion of the earth sciences while providing connections and potential mentorships to practicing geologists with a wide range of experiences. I suppose that comes from my 'inner teacher'.**

**Q:** *What do you hope to see in the future for PGI?*

**A:** I hope to help PGI connect to earth science majors in the colleges and universities across the State so that as professionals we can contribute to the growth and development of the new generation of geologists. I hope to extend our outreach into the schools and be a resource to our children's teachers and earth science curricula. Also, as climate change continues to drive new fields of occupation, such as water resource management, PGI will help facilitate legislation that serves the best interests of our profession and to better serve our citizens.

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