

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### Rising to a New Level

by Jonathan D. Arthur, PG, Ph.D.

Over the past two years, the FAPG has risen to a new level in the professional community. With your help, the association has grown more than 40 percent, expanded the website, raised more than \$15,000 for legislative action, hired a lobbyist, and passed an important bill during the 2004 legislative session. During the 2004 session, our elected officials became more aware of the importance of geology with respect to conservation, development and stewardship of Florida's water and solid-earth resources. Moreover, our colleagues have taken notice; the FAPG means business, and we will not stop our efforts to achieve parity in Florida law with regard to our profession.

Three months ago, the FAPG held a well attended Long-Range Planning Workshop where association and legislative goals were refined; strategies were developed and implemented. Among the several recommendations stemming from that workshop was the need to survey all licensed PGs in Florida to strengthen our approach next legislative session.

Response to the survey instrument from FAPG members and non-members alike was strong; however, we still need to hear from many of you. The information we are gathering will help the FAPG and lobbyist Laura McLeod next session as we provide indisputable evidence to House and Senate committees that change is needed in the Water Resources Act (WRA) and the Competitive Consultants Negotiation Act (CCNA). As written, these Acts clearly have an adverse affect on our profession, the public and the environment. Although other legislative goals (e.g., lien law, geologists in training, continuing education) exist for our organization, the FAPG membership has identified the WRA and CCNA as our top priorities. Special thanks are extended to Cliff Harrison and Walter Wood for designing the survey instruments, and above all I extend a "Thank you!" to the survey respondents.

One of the responsibilities of being a proactive and emerging organization is the need to expand coordination of several aspects of our

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### 'Tis The Season! Prepare NOW for the Session 2005

by Laura McLeod, President  
McLeod & Associates  
FAPG Lobbyist

The primary elections have concluded, and throughout the state, incumbents were able to fight off challenges for their Senate or House seats. The General Election is November 2, and then the organizational legislative session is scheduled for November 16. This is an important time for the FAPG as we actively prepare for the 2005 session. Now is the time to act, and the FAPG is seizing the moment with two general strategies to support our success in the legislative process. These include

1. Taking this time to educate legislators and their staffs regarding who we are and

what we do. Our communication needs to be very basic and clear for understanding to occur, because the learning curve is vast. The FAPG needs to cultivate solid, knowledgeable relationships. We need all members to take the time to educate their legislators and staffers about the geology profession. Please coordinate with your association board, executive director and lobbyist to ensure we gain the most benefit from your visits



Laura McLeod

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**Executive Committee  
2004  
www.fapg.org**

**President**

Jonathan D. Arthur, PG, Ph.D.  
Florida Geological Survey  
903 W. Tennessee Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32304-7716  
Phone: 850/488-9380  
Fax: 850/488-8086  
E-mail: jarthur45@comcast.net

**Vice President**

Cliff Harrison, PG  
Schreuder, Inc.  
110 W. Country Club Drive  
Tampa, FL 33612  
Phone: 813/932-8844  
Fax: 813/932-2991  
E-mail: cliff@schreuderwater.us

**Secretary**

Mervin W. Dale, PG  
Tetra Tech NUS, Inc.  
8640 Philips Highway, Suite 16  
Jacksonville, FL 32256  
Phone: 904/281-0400  
Fax: 904/636-6165  
E-mail: dalem@ttnus.com

**Treasurer**

Carlos Lemos, PG  
Ambient Technologies  
4610 Central Avenue  
St. Petersburg, FL 33711-1042  
Phone: 727/328-0268  
Fax: 727/328-2477  
E-mail: ambtec@aol.com

**Past President**

Walter Wood, PG  
599 Heather Brite Circle  
Apopka, FL 32712-4036  
Phone: 352/343-9738 x 5669  
Fax: 352/343-9595  
E-mail: wwood@co.lake.fl.us  
E-mail: wwood@cfl.rr.com

**Staff**

Robert Skrob, CAE  
Florida Association of  
Professional Geologists  
P.O. Box 14629  
Tallahassee, FL 32317-4629  
Phone: 850/222-6000  
Fax: 850/222-6002  
E-mail: robert@fapg.org

# FAPG Annual Meeting

November 3, 2004

**Sheraton World Hotel • Orlando, Florida**

**Join us for a reception from 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m., including open bar and snacks. Program includes:**

- FAPG Legislative Program for 2005 Legislative Session
- Election Day Recap Across the State
- FAPG Annual Business Meeting

**Scientific Program**

## Floridan Aquifer System Hot Topics

Dr. Jon Arthur, assistant state geologist for hydrogeology at the Florida Geological Survey, will speak on three projects involving the Floridan Aquifer System:

- 1) The Southwest Florida Hydrogeologic Framework, which includes GIS coverages for 19 litho- and hydrostratigraphic units in SW Florida;
- 2) The Florida Aquifer Vulnerability Assessment – a GIS-based predictive model of the contamination potential of Florida's major aquifer systems; and
- 3) Water quality changes during Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) due to water-rock reactions.

### ***This program is sponsored by Severn Trent.***

*To register, complete this form and send your check for \$25 to the FAPG by October 27, 2004.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please send this information to:  
FAPG, 335 Beard St., Tallahassee, FL 32303**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE continued from page 1

association, including membership growth and benefits, communications, finances and legislative action. As our organization grows, so does our need for leaders and volunteers. This newsletter contains a **Call for Nominations** for the next FAPG board of directors. This board not only contains our standard executive offices, but also includes five very important regional coordinator positions. Moreover, the foundation has been laid for a committee structure that will help the FAPG to be even more effective.

To maintain the momentum of our success, we need YOU to step up to

the plate. Within the FAPG's vision of advocacy and service for all Florida PGs, there are all kinds of ways you can help, whether you invest five hours, five days or a few weeks of your time and energy to the cause. Please nominate someone, and if you are nominated as an officer or regional coordinator, please consider accepting the nomination. If you are called to serve on a committee after the elections, please favorably consider participating. Your fellow geologists and your profession need you!

# Call for Nominations – Volunteering Is Profitable!

Service opportunities exist for FAPG members to guide and be involved in legislative efforts and government actions affecting Florida's professional geologists. By serving as a member of the FAPG board of directors you will be on the frontlines of the battle to protect and promote our profession. You will be ahead of the curve regarding industry issues and be among the first individuals invited to participate in the solutions.

These positions do come with responsibilities. The board of directors has two in-person meetings a year and at least five, two-hour conference calls annually. The FAPG also needs individuals to devote significant time outside of meetings to meet with lawmakers, write legal and legislative responses and develop member education programming.

Here are some additional details and responsibilities for each position:

**President** – Oversees all aspects of the management and strategic direction of the FAPG including service as chair of the board of directors and supervision of staff and other volunteer leaders.

**Vice President** – Primarily responsible for management of the FAPG's legislative program including meeting with our lobbyist, visiting with lawmakers in Tallahassee as necessary and working with members to ensure that the FAPG legislative affairs team has the information necessary to help lawmakers understand the needs of professional geologists.

**Treasurer** – Oversees the association's financial affairs as well as fund raising for the Legislative Action Fund. Fund raising includes making calls to potential donors and drafting letters to solicit support for the FAPG's legislative programs.

**Secretary** – Produces four quarterly member newsletters and up to 10 weekly legislative e-mail updates for members. In addition, provides oversight and management of membership recruitment and retention.

The four elected officers above are referred to as the Executive Committee, a subset of the board of directors. Each officer can opt to form and chair a committee to share the responsibility of the

respective office. As you make your decision, please note that Membership Services Inc., led by FAPG Executive Director Robert Skrob, handles meeting logistics, membership mailings and other communication distribution, member database, newsletter production, website maintenance, dues and financial contribution collection, budget, and an additional variety of day-to-day activities in support of our association.

**Regional Coordinators** – The FAPG is initiating a Regional Coordinator program. Five regions are delineated and are loosely based on Florida's water management districts' boundaries. Regions typically have from 75 to 100 members. Each coordinator will be responsible for holding three meetings a year with a brief presentation and time for networking over lunch. In addition to planning meetings and obtaining sponsors, regional coordinators will participate as members of the board of directors and serve as representatives of the FAPG membership in their regions to the rest of the board.

Regional coordinator nominations are needed for the following areas:

- NW Florida
- North Central Florida (Suwannee River region)
- NE Florida (St. Johns River region)
- SW Florida
- SE Florida

If you are interested in profiting from firsthand knowledge of approaching trends and legal changes by serving as a member of the FAPG board of directors, please contact our Nominations Committee chairperson:

Judy Richtar, PG  
Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
Southwest District Office  
3804 Coconut Palm Drive  
Tampa, FL 33619  
Phone: 813/744-6100, ext. 419  
judy.richtar@dep.state.fl.us

You may also send nominations to the FAPG office:

Robert Skrob, Executive Director  
Florida Association of Professional Geologists  
850/222-6000 • 850/222-6002 fax  
Robert@FAPG.org

## FAPG Updates Membership Categories

In the Spring 2004 *FAPG Newsletter* (available at [www.FAPG.org](http://www.FAPG.org)) an article summarized some of the updates to the FAPG dues structure, as well as the many justifications for the changes. Your Executive Committee has also revised the association's membership categories. The new categories are:

**Professional Members:** Members shall be individuals licensed as professional geologists in the state of Florida. \$130

**Associate Members:** A person shall be eligible for associate membership if actively engaged in geological or closely related work. Associate members become professional members upon becoming a professional geologist. \$130

**Corporate Members:** Any business entity holding a certificate of authorization as a professional geology firm issued by the state of Florida is eligible for corporate membership. Professional geologists employed by a corporate member are considered professional members without an additional charge. \$1,000

**Affiliate Members:** Geology related businesses that wish to provide products or services to the professional geology profession. \$100

**Student Members:** Individuals studying at a university or college who intend to pursue the profession of geology upon graduation. \$25

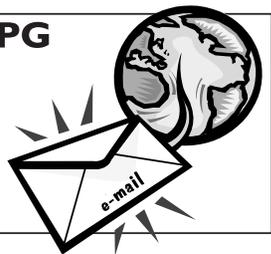
**Honorary Members:** The Executive Committee may elect any person to be an honorary member by unanimous vote. \$0

P.O. Box 14629, Tallahassee, FL 32317-4629  
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*The e-mail communication forum  
for the Florida geologist profession*

Simply send an e-mail message to:  
fla\_geologists-subscribe@yahoogroups.com



## Hot Off the Press: FGS Publications Now Available!

The Florida Geological Survey (FGS) is pleased to announce release of two new publications:

- On April 15-16, 2004, the FAPG helped sponsor the **Aquifer Storage and Recovery IV Forum on Science, Technology and Management**. The proceedings (including .ppt files, posters and discussion summaries) are now

available in CD format as FGS Special Publication 54. Attendees of ASR IV should have already received their complimentary copy of the proceedings.

- The first copies of the new **Springs of Florida** volume, FGS Bulletin 66, were released on September 2, 2004. The volume is the culmination of three years

of investigating Florida's springs under the auspices of the governor's Florida Springs Initiative. The Springs of Florida volume updates and expands upon the springs investigations previously published by the FGS as Bulletin 31 (1947) and Bulletin 31 Revised (1977).

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with legislators and their staff members. If you already enjoy a relationship with members of your local legislative delegation, please let us know. If you are setting up meetings to introduce yourself and educate local legislators, please call McLeod & Associates so we can prepare you and perhaps join you for a meeting.

2. The FAPG is actively collecting data related to the Water Resources Act and the Competitive Consultants Negotiation Act. In the last legislative session, the FAPG learned there is vast misunderstanding about these two statutes and their effects on professional geologists. The survey recently disseminated by the FAPG is very important, and it's not too late to respond!

The information gathered from the survey will help us determine the

substance of our legislative proposal or proposals. Additionally, we will be meeting with the Florida Engineering Society, architect organizations, League of Cities, Florida Association of Counties and other entities impacted by our legislative proposals.

The FAPG is aggressively pursuing continued positive changes for the profession. McLeod & Associates is pleased to work with you in these pursuits. Remember, it is so important for each of you to educate you local legislators and become a resource for them on issues pertaining to your profession. For there to be a better understanding of the expertise that geologists bring to environmental projects, we need your involvement. The next four months are critical for continuing to elevate awareness of the geology profession in the Legislature.

### Mark Your Calendar

**October 10-16, 2004**  
Earth Science Week

**October 13, 2004**  
Florida Geological Survey - Earth  
Science Week Open House  
Tallahassee, FL

**October 15-16, 2004**  
Florida Ground Water Association - Fall  
Quarterly Meeting  
Clearwater Beach, FL  
<http://www.fgwa.org/>

**October 20-21, 2004**  
Florida Board of Professional  
Geologists  
Quarterly Board Meeting  
Northwood Centre • Tallahassee, FL  
[http://www.state.fl.us/dbpr/pro/geolo/  
geo\\_index.shtml](http://www.state.fl.us/dbpr/pro/geolo/geo_index.shtml)

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