

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

"Report on Changes To FAPG"

By Walter Wood, P.G.



In the last newsletter we reported on a series of proposed changes that are under consideration by the FAPG Executive Committee. We are please to report the progress that has been made over the last several months.

Using Email to Improve Communication:

We have been using a web based Message Board for questions and answers. This forum is difficult to use and can only be accessed by using an ID and a password. You also have to remember to visit the web page in order to use it. There is a better way.

Effective immediately, there is a mailing list available to FAPG members, the Fla_Geologists list on Yahoo Groups. By moving to a mailing list, we can reach more people, and do it faster. This list is for communications between FAPG members on issues of general concern. For those of you not familiar with a mailing list, you would send a normal email message to the list at fla_geologists@yahoogroups.com. When the list owner, currently the FAPG President, has approved your message, it would then be forwarded to all members.

The subject of messages should generally relate to geology and its practice within the state of Florida but other related issues of interest to our members would be acceptable. Appropriate topics would include meeting announcements, legislative issues and other topics for discussion. We may also post questions of non-members that have been addressed to the normal FAPG address.

Note that this list will only be used for FAPG related inquires and information. It will not be sold to others.

To subscribe, send a message to

fla_geologists-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. It is not necessary to put anything in the subject of body of the message unless your email program requires it. Please sign up as soon as possible and then use the list.

Having Regional Meetings:

We held our first regional meeting in Tampa July 9. This meeting was held in conjunction with the Florida PG Board meeting and it was held in conjunction with the Southeastern Geological Society. Jackie Lloyd gave a brief presentation on the legislative issues of concern to the profession of geology. (Jackie's article on these issues appears elsewhere in this issue on page 2.) Valerie Rose Francisco, a member of the PG board gave a talk on the function of that board and the current issues they are dealing with. The main speaker was Tom Scott of the state Geological Survey who spoke on Florida's Water Sustainability. Tom also distributed copies of the latest Geologic Map of Florida to all attendees.

Our next regional meeting is a picnic scheduled for the Wekiva Springs State Park in Orlando area on Saturday October 13. We have a pavilion rented that will hold well over 100 people so bring the family. See details on page three of this issue.

We would like to have a meeting in the south Florida area this fall. Would you be willing to organize this meeting?

Building a Network of Members that Stay in Touch with Their Legislators and Creating a Way to Formulate Opinions on Pending Legislation:

We have made some progress on part of this. Two environmental organizations have agreed to allow us to subscribe to their newsletters some of which contain information on pending legislation.

The first one of these is the Audubon Society. The other is the Florida Association of Environmental Resource Agencies. The former sends out a regular email newsletter on issues concerning their interests (which most of you will be familiar with.)

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

Efforts to change three existing Florida statutes continue to be of significance to Florida's professional geologists. FAPG is initiating a grass-roots effort of its membership to encourage members of appropriate committees and legislative representatives to support the professional geologist community in affecting these changes. The three issues are as follows:

I. Chapter 373.117, F.S. Water Resources Act, Certification by Professional Engineer

For several years the PG community has recognized the need to add a reference to Professional Geologists to Chapter 373.117, F.S. A revision to this statute was proposed by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) during the 2000 legislative session at the request of the Board of Professional Geologists who, after several discussions at their meetings held a public workshop on the issue. Water Management Districts, various Bureaus within the DEP, and various consultants voiced the need for updating the antiquated (not revised since 1979) wording to add reference to Professional Geologists as appropriate to recognize their professional involvement in various activities within Chapter 373 (Water Resources) along with their Professional Engineering colleagues. The modified language would include Professional Geologists as an identified profession to supply services when appropriately needed to support water supply data and interpretations to the DEP and the Water Management Districts.

Representatives and lobbyists of the Florida Engineering Society voiced concern to the DEP regarding this legislative proposal because, in their view, the distinctions in current statutes and rules between the roles of PE's and PG's are unclear. They feared that, if passed, the proposal might have the effect of allowing a PG to approve work for which they were not qualified. As a result the DEP agreed to not pursue the amendment for the year 2000 session but did agree to work on adequate definitions so that the issue could be resolved by next session; however the proposal was again withdrawn in 2001.

II. Chapter 287.055, F.S. Consultants Competitive Negotiation Act

Another proposal submitted by the Board of Professional Geologists, but not ever addressed by the Florida legislature, is the addition of Professional Geologists to the Consultants Competitive Negotiation Act. Specifically the Board proposed an amendment to Chapter 287.055, F.S., to include Professional Geologists as identified professionals along with architects, engineers, landscape architects, and surveyors. Certified professional geologic firms are excluded from responding to Requests for Statements of Qualifications (RFSOQ) for professional services from various government agencies (city, county, regional, and state) for differing geologic, hydrogeologic, and geotechnical services. This exclusion of PG firms from participating and practicing within their professional area of expertise is wrong and potentially harms the public.

III. Chapter 492.113, F.S. Professional Geology Act

Currently Section 492.113, F.S., states that the Department of Business and Professional Regulation is the primary agency responsible for the disciplinary proceedings for professional geologists. This structure does not allow the PG Board to oversee investigations to ensure effective prosecution. FAPG supports changes to this statute which would give the Board, as opposed to the Department, authority to establish, by rule, acts which are in violation of Chapter 492, and administer disciplinary action. The proposal will benefit the profession and the public because those who are most knowledgeable in the practice of geology will administer discipline for the profession.

If the Professional Geologist community wishes to be given a fair hearing on issues of importance to them (and the protection of the public and our water resources!), then the PG community must rally support and communicate their concerns. We can not count on the various state agencies to propose or support these changes for us. The proposed revisions to Florida Statutes, as well as suggested

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format for writing to your legislators or to specific committee members will be posted on the FAPG web site at www.fapg.org. Check the web site, upcoming newsletters and subscribe to the e-mail list for more information about this grass-roots effort to improve the statutory authority and backing for the entire PG community.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 11, 2001

Executive Committee
conference call meeting
1:30pm – call FAPG for more info

October 13, 2001

FAPG Family Day
Wekiwa Springs State Park
11:00am – 4:00pm see details on
page 3

October 22-23, 2001

PG Board Meeting
Tallahassee

The latter, FLERA is an organization of cities and counties in Florida that have banded together to share information about mutual environmental resource concerns and solutions. FLERA in the past has actually had a person tracking legislation of concern during the sessions. FAPG has also agreed in principle to financially support FLERA's efforts in the legislation sessions if this can be affordable. If an agreement can be reached, this cooperative effort could produce daily or weekly legislative summaries on the issues that concern us as geologists.

When we are able to pull all available resources together, and in conjunction with the email list describe above, we could mobilize on

important issues very quickly. This depends however, on every member doing their part: subscribing to the mailing list, developing relationships with their local representatives and responding to issues of concern.

Involving Our Membership in All Aspects of the Organization:

As I stated last time, without the support of the members, the officers cannot be effective and the organization will not work. So far, we have seen favorable results from member stepping forward to assist in meeting planning, and other areas. One area where there is still a critical need is funding. This involves new members and sponsorship of events and functions.

We very much appreciate Ambient Technologies and Clark Environmental for sponsoring our Tampa meeting. We have one firm that has agreed to partially sponsor the meeting in Orlando but we still need more. We also had a firm agree to sponsor our web costs in return for advertising on our site. We are also actively seeking sponsorship of the mailing list. All of these costs are minimal and easily affordable even for a small firm. Please contact any member of your FAPG Executive Committee or call our office in Tallahassee for information on how you can help.

I hope to see you at Wekiva Springs State Park on October 13.

FAPG FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGISTS

- 10:00AM Arrival
- 11:00AM Program
- 12:30- 'till Picnic, Family Fun & Networking

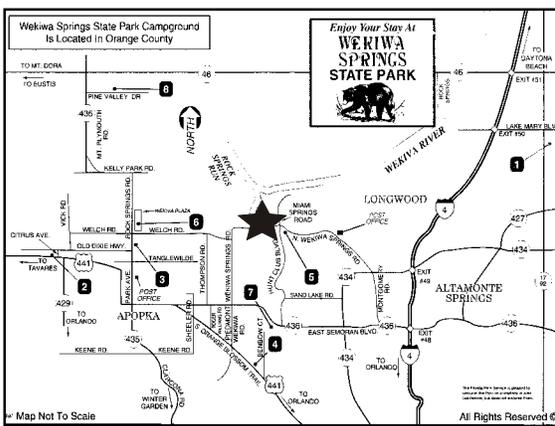
- Meeting is free
- Park entrance is \$4.00 per carload
- Bring your own lunch

Soft drinks & bottled water will be provided. State parks do not allow alcoholic beverages.

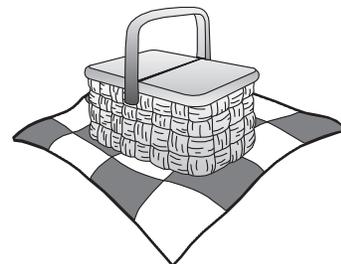
Meeting and beverages sponsored by Doug Hearn of Yovai Engineering Services Inc, Altamonte Springs, Florida, Phone 407/774-9383.

Please RSVP to wwood@cfl.rr.com or FAPG headquarters 850/222-6000

**FAPG FAMILY FUN DAY
SATURDAY OCTOBER 13, 2001
WEKIWA SPRINGS STATE PARK
APOPKA FLORIDA**

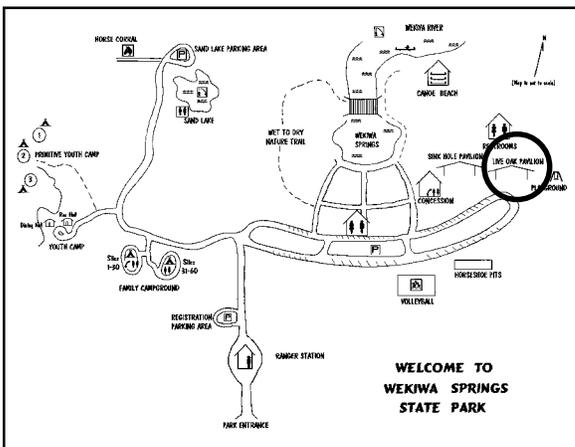


FAPG has reserved the beautiful Live Oak Pavilion for you and your family. There is electricity, water and a double grill at the pavilion. Charcoal for the grill will be provided



Wekiwa Springs State Park is easily located off Interstate 4 at exit 49. Take State Road 434 West to Wekiwa Springs Road or State Road 436 to Wekiwa Springs Road near Apopka.

Activities at the park include swimming and canoeing in the cool, clear waters of Wekiwa Springs, as well as fishing and hiking. Canoe rentals are available, and a concession stand provides refreshments. Canoe rates and information are available by calling 407/880-4110. A playground is located in the springs' picnic area, along with a volleyball court and horseshoe pit. A museum and visitor center houses exhibits on natural and cultural history. There is also bicycling both on public roads and on marked wilderness trails.





FAPG INDUSTRY SUPPORTERS

These companies have supported the Florida Association of Professional Geologists and the geology industry by becoming Associate Members.

Company	Contact	Phone Number
Earth Tech -----	Alexander Paul Macbeth	850/862-5191
Geologic & Environmental Testing Inc. -----	David Harro	888/318-2800
Golder Associates Inc. -----	Paul Headland	904/363-3430
Handex -----	Robert A Ward	561/243-9551
Hartman and Associates -----	Valerie Collins	407/839-3955
	Neil Klaproth	407/839-3955
Hitz Environmental Consulting -----	Gregory M. Hitz	850/390-0487
International Minerals & Chemical Corp. (IMC) -----	John W. Maddry	863/428-2500
Palm Beach Atlantic College -----	Donald W. Lovejoy	561/803-2275
Schreuder, Inc. -----	Holly Barnette	813/932-8844
Technos, Inc. -----	Lynn Yuhr	305/634-4507