

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

# Did You Say What You Meant to Say?

*by Walter Wood, PG  
FAPG President*

I work for a local government in the Growth Management Department. My duties include preparing staff reports for and giving testimony in public zoning and development hearings. At a hearing earlier this year, a new project was being considered for permitting. The attorney representing the opposition to this project had gone to the FDEP office and reviewed their files where he found a short internal memo written by a PG for the FDEP permit review. The memo was then introduced into evidence at our hearing as "expert testimony," although the writer probably never intended it to be used this way. The statements made in the memo were used in an attempt to discredit the report prepared by my staff and the testimony of expert witnesses (both PEs and PGs) that were present at the hearing.

The subject of the memo concerned whether a confining unit was present between the surficial and Florida aquifers. The memo was written so that it presented a confusing and probably inaccurate definition of a confining unit. Also, when permeability values were discussed, the writer failed to indicate what units were used. These issues created a great deal of confusion in the hearing and caused this geologist's professional knowledge and judgment to be questioned.

The writer of the memo was not only a professional geologist but also a public official preparing a memo concerning a project under official consideration for a permit, and the memo was public record. Unfortunately the writer was not present at this particular permitting hearing to explain what the memo meant.

My point in this is not to discredit the person who wrote the memo but to point out that you never know when or where a document you prepare will turn up. It is easy to get rushed and not fully contemplate what you have written. Do your documents really say what you meant them to say? As profes-

sionals we need to hold ourselves to a high standard, and the statements we make need to be clear, complete and competent. We need to consider this every time we prepare a memo, letter or other document.

You may not have realized it, but as members of FAPG you have agreed to comply with and uphold the FAPG Code of Ethics. Do you know what it says? If you have not reviewed the Code of Ethics recently, you can view it on our website, [www.fapg.org](http://www.fapg.org).

P.S. This story may have to continue. I just learned that the county I work for is being sued for permitting the project.

## Calendar of Events

### December 8-11, 2002

NGWA Annual Meeting  
Las Vegas, Nevada  
Las Vegas Convention Center

### January 27-28

Florida Board of Professional Geologists  
Tallahassee, Florida

### February 5-7, 2003

Florida Springs Conference  
Gainesville, Florida  
Sheraton Hotel Gainesville

### February 14, 2003

USF GAS Equipment Exposition  
Tampa, Florida  
USF GeoPark

### February 15, 2003

Geology Alumni Society Dinner  
Tampa, Florida  
Florida Aquarium

### March 4, 2003

2003 Florida Legislative Session Begins

### May 2, 2003

2003 Florida Legislative Session Ends

### May 14-15, 2003

Florida Board of Professional Geologists  
Cape Canaveral, Florida

**Executive Committee  
2001-2002  
[www.fapg.org](http://www.fapg.org)**

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# FAPG Luncheons Feature Programs on Sand Mining, Floridan Aquifer

Two luncheon meetings were held in the Orlando area in the past few months. Both meetings were held at the office of PBS&J in Maitland and organized by Greg Mudd of that firm. About 25 were in attendance at each meeting, and they were held at no cost to our membership.

The first meeting was held in May. Marc Hurst, PG, of Independent Geologic Services, Inc., spoke on *Sand Mining in Central Florida*. Marc presented an overview of where the mines are, what types of materials are being mined, what geologic forces caused these deposits to be where they are, and how the sand is mined. His focus was on dredge pit sand mining along the Lake Wales Ridge area. This meeting was sponsored by Pat Barnes of Barnes, Ferland, Associates, Inc., of Orlando.

The second luncheon was held September 26. Jim Frazee of the SJRWMD spoke on *Marker Beds in the Upper and Lower Floridan Aquifer*. Jim has been overseeing the "delineated area" program in Central Florida. Delineated areas are sites where groundwater contamination has been found and water supply wells are required to use special construction and/or be cased into a specific bed in the aquifer. (For more

information on this program see <http://www.srwmd.state.fl.us/permitting/pdf/delineated.pdf>) Jim has been studying markers within the Floridan aquifer that could be recognized by both geologists and well drillers. Jim was hoping for some input to his studies, and he was not disappointed as this topic generated a lot of discussion. All attendees were given a preliminary copy of Jim's marker bed section plus a copy of FGS Open File Report 81 on stratigraphic cross sections in SW Florida. This meeting was sponsored by Tod Fullerton of Ground Water Protection, Inc., of Orlando.

We are in the early planning stages for a dinner meeting in the Orlando area early next year. We are considering inviting Equinox Documentaries to speak at this meeting. Equinox has produced a video on Wekiva River Basin springs and its associated cave systems. The video includes footage shot while cave diving in Apopka Blue Sink, Wekiva Springs and another spring in the Wekiva River. We are planning to invite other organizations to this meeting and expect a large turnout. Sign up for the e-mail list to receive information on this as it becomes available.

## How to Host a Regional Meeting

The FAPG is seeking to hold more regional meetings for its members, and we need your help. If you are willing to assist in developing a meeting in conjunction with a PG Board meeting or know of a good speaker that your colleagues would enjoy, let us know! All you have to do is contact FAPG headquarters and complete the following easy steps:

1) Find a location - It could be the same as another pertinent meeting or in a local restaurant with a private room.

2) Identify a speaker - Preferably someone who is willing to donate his or her time and will draw a crowd.

3) Identify a sponsor - Someone who is interested in good PR with PGs and who will cover the expenses for the event.

4) Choose a date - Find a time that is convenient for you and your colleagues or coincides with another meeting.

5) Attend to introduce the speaker and greet attendees - You are our official representative, so we want to make sure that you get the credit for your efforts.

That is it! For more information or to begin planning a meeting, call us at 850/222-6000 today.

# PG Board Update

The Florida PG Board met in Tallahassee on July 29 and 30, 2002.\* Some of the items discussed include:

1. The board will discuss all proposed statute and rule changes at its next meeting. The executive director stated that the proposals will probably not be ready in time for the next legislative session.

2. The board plans to investigate unlicensed activity by firms conducting geological work without registration as a licensed corporation, as well as licensed corporations that do not have a current "geologist of record."


3. A representative from the Department of Business and Professional Regulation, Office of Communication, demonstrated the new online services available at [www.MyFlorida.com](http://www.MyFlorida.com). Professional geologists can renew their licenses, manage their accounts, and make payments online.

4. The next ASBOG exam is scheduled for October 4, 2002.

5. Regarding the ASBOG exam, the cost to the PG Board to purchase the test is \$275. The cost for an applicant to take the exam is only \$250. Thus, in future meetings the board will need to consider cost adjustments for applicants taking the exam.

6. Walt Schmidt, state geologist, provided a report from the Professional Affairs Committee of the Association of American State Geologists. Highlights of interest are:

- Twenty-nine states and Puerto Rico currently have registration.
- Twenty-six states including Puerto Rico are members of ASBOG.
- The ASBOG examination should help with comity agreements.
- Four states have continuing education requirements.
- States with registration laws are gradually adding a code of ethics if a code is not already in place in the rules (the Florida PG Board is investigating adding a code of ethics to the Florida rules).



**Announcing the**  
**FLORIDA SPRINGS CONFERENCE**  
**Natural Gems – Troubled Waters**

Presented by the  
**Florida Department of Environmental Protection**  
**February 5-7, 2003**  
**Sheraton Hotel - Gainesville, Florida**

Florida has over 600 springs, ranging in flows from mere trickles to tens-of-millions of gallons per day. Many are world-famous attractions; others are relatively unknown. The second conference on Florida's springs will bring together experts in geology, water resources, land use planning and government, in addition to elected officials, policy makers and the general public.

The conference will focus on the natural, historic and recreational values of the springs; research and monitoring that describe their current health; human activities that threaten them; and solutions for their protection.

The conference will also present the results of research, monitoring and education projects funded by Governor Bush's Florida Springs Initiative.

The meeting will also include pre-conference field trips, exhibits, paintings and photographs of springs.

**For further information**  
**call Jim Stevenson, 850/245-2784,**  
**or e-mail, [James.Stevenson@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:James.Stevenson@dep.state.fl.us).**

8. Future PG Board meetings are scheduled for:

- October 21-22, 2002, Fort Lauderdale
- January 27-28, 2003, Tallahassee
- May 14-15, 2003, Cape Canaveral (to precede the Florida Ground Water Association Annual Meeting, May 17-18)

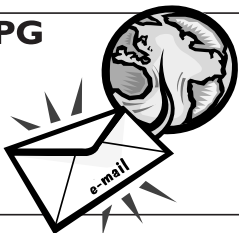
\*Notes from this meeting were distributed via e-mail when they first became available. Items/events that have already occurred have been left in for informational purposes.

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**Show Us Your Work!**

**Submit Photos of PGs at Work**

The front page of our website features photos of geologists at work. We will post the best photos that we receive on our home page. Photos can be submitted electronically to [corey@fapg.org](mailto:corey@fapg.org) or as prints to P.O. Box 14629, Tallahassee, FL 32317. We cannot return prints, so please keep a copy for yourself.

**FAPG INDUSTRY SUPPORTERS**

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

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