

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

### Let us hear from you

*By Walter Wood*



I feel it is important for you to know the state of your organization. FAPG is very sound from a financial and organization standpoint. However, it is languishing from apathy. There is so much that we have the potential to do that is not

being done due to a lack of participation of our members.

There are few quick examples I can think of. First while meetings in Tampa and Jacksonville were a success, two other events were poorly supported. The Family Fun Day at Wekiwa Spring State was organized in direct response to requests from members in that area. Unfortunately none of these members responded to requests for help in planning and none of them showed up for the event. A meeting scheduled for Tallahassee to kick-off our legislative agenda was canceled when only a few members indicated they were interested in attending. Finally, our FAPG email list was announced in the last newsletter. This list was designed to increase communication and provide a means to disseminate urgent issues rapidly. The response has been very poor with less than 10% of our members subscribing.

Because of this lack of interest, your board members are trying to determine if we are doing what you elected us to do. In order to do this we went to the published Strategies and Goals of FAPG. (You can find them by going to <http://www.fapg.org/> and clicking on Organization Goals.) Judging from our reading of these goals, your board is right on track.

For example, we have provided an incentive for our members to sign up new members by giving them free dues with the registration of two new members. We planned and publicized four regional events plus an annual meeting in 2001. Sponsors were obtained for many of these in order to minimize our expense costs. We have made plans to publish information on the mailing

list information on the 2002 legislative session obtained from two other organizations. We are trying to establish a network of local groups throughout the state. Also, one or more of your board members have attended and provided input at every Florida PG Board meeting this year.

However based on our members lack of participation it appears that we are missing something. Do our published Strategies and Goals really reflect our member's wishes? We need to know this. Would you please take a few minutes and review these. Did these strategies and goals influence the reason you joined and continue to pay your dues to FAPG? Once you review them, contact us! Write, call or email. Let us hear from you about the issues you care about. Our addresses and phone numbers are at the web site.

We need you help us accomplish FAPG's goals. We need your participation. We need you to help organize and attend meetings. We need you as Officers. We need you to help us accomplish FAPG's goals.

# The 5 Goals

**Working together, Florida geologists established five goals for the Florida Association of Professional Geologists.**

**You can view them at  
[http://www.fapg.org/organizational\\_goals.htm](http://www.fapg.org/organizational_goals.htm)**

**Executive Committee  
2001-2002**

**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  
wwood@cfl.rr.com

**Vice President**

Stew Magenheimer, PG  
Camp, Dresser & McKee  
6365 NW 6<sup>th</sup> Way, Ste. 320  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33309  
Phone: 954-776-1731  
Fax: 954-928-1649  
E-mail: Magenheimersj@cdm.com

**Treasurer**

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

**Secretary**

Rick Rachal, PG  
Florida Department of Environmental  
Protection  
7825 Baymeadows Way, Suite 200  
Jacksonville, FL 32256  
Phone: 904/448-4320  
Fax: 904-448-4366  
E-mail: richard.rachal@Dep.state.fl.us

**Past President**

Jackie Lloyd, PG  
Assistant State Geologist  
Florida Geological Survey  
903 West Tennessee Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32304  
Phone: 850/488-9380  
Fax: 850/488-8086  
E-mail: jackie.lloyd@dep.state.fl.us

**Staff**

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

# Member Feedback Requested

The PG Board would like input from the professional geologist community concerning the possibility of implementing a Geologist in Training (GIT) program in the State of Florida. Under the proposed program, graduating geologists would be allowed to take the first part of the PG exam (the fundamentals/ general geology portion) upon graduation. Individual university geology departments could choose to use this as an "exit" exam and possibly make passing the exam a requirement for graduation. The geologist would be designated as a Geologist in Training upon successfully passing this part of the exam.

The second (Applied Experience) part of the exam would be taken after the geologist meets the experience requirements. This would be taken upon being approved by the PG Board as having met the experience and other statutory requirements leading to becoming a PG.

As written, the Florida Statutes currently do not allow for splitting the exam in this manner. In order to implement this GIT program, the Board must first propose changes to the Statute and the changes must be approved.

Before beginning the long, sometimes arduous process required to effect a change in the statute, the PG Board would like input from FAPG members. We would like to know if the formation of a GIT program is something the geology practitioners in Florida would be interested in pursuing before we undertake the steps necessary to put it in place. Also, your thoughts on some potential pros and cons of having such a program would be greatly appreciated.

Several states, including Mississippi, have instituted a GIT program. One of the potential benefits to having a GIT program would include the issuance of a wall certificate naming the individual as a GIT. This can be displayed in their office and identifies them as a person with the professional goal of becoming a licensed professional geologist. The



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initials G.I.T. could be placed after their names on business cards and such, giving them a professional demeanor while acquiring their experience and possibly earning them more money while they do it. Perhaps a more important benefit would be the additional protection of public safety and welfare by assuring that all practicing geologists, even those who are still journeymen and are not yet licensed, have met the standards of minimum geologic competency prior to being employed and serving the public.

Please e-mail your comments on this issue to FAPG President at wwood@cfl.rr.com or -mail them to the FAPG Executive Office at 335 Beard Street, Tallahassee, FL 32303. Once they are processed, the results can be forwarded to the PG Board.

# Drycleaning Voluntary Cleanups – An Alternative to Enforcement Actions

By Rick Rachal, PG  
Florida Department of Environmental Protection

As everyone is aware by this point, the Florida State Legislature established a state-funded cleanup program to address groundwater and soil contamination at active and historic drycleaner sites. That statute was sponsored by the drycleaning industry to address the environmental, economic and liability issues for operators and landowners. The program limits the liability of the owner, operator and real property owners of drycleaning or wholesale supply facilities for cleanup of drycleaning solvent related contamination if the parties meet the conditions stated in the statute. The application deadline for entering the Drycleaning Solvent Cleanup Program ended on December 31, 2001. Using an existing ranking system to prioritize the sites, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) is methodically assessing and cleaning up a limited number of these sites each year, based upon an existing ranking system.

While program sites are handled at FDEP in Tallahassee, newly identified drycleaner contamination sites or sites which are being brought to regulatory scrutiny are handled by FDEP District Offices. For chlorinated solvent contamination that can be linked to former drycleaning activities, options other than traditional FDEP enforcement actions exist. It is possible for a property owner to address his or her site through a Voluntary Cleanup agreement. This agreement provides the real property owner with limited liability protection for that contamination. This provides immunity from compulsion to cleanup the site or fines and penalties for the contamination so long as the site rehabilitation is conducted in accordance with the schedule negotiated with the FDEP. A substantial tax credit may also be available.

The Voluntary Agreement also allows the real property owner and his consultants to directly utilize the Drycleaning Solvent Cleanup Criteria Rule, (Ch. 62-782) and the Contaminant Cleanup Target Levels Rule (Ch. 62-777). For a large number of sites, this may make final cleanup less difficult. In addition, based upon FDEP's experiences with conducting cleanups, innovative assessment techniques and cleanup technology may be viewed in a more receptive light. Particularly for in-situ technologies, the process for approval of a number of technologies has been streamlined over the last several years. The FDEP maintains a listing of technologies that have received Underground Injection Control approval in the Hazardous Waste Cleanup section of the FDEP's webpage.

In summary, for those individuals involved in the environmental cleanup area of geology, merit exists in exploring with your clients and their legal representation a proactive agreement with the FDEP to address these sites. These agreements may streamline the activities necessary for assessment and cleanup and may provide some limits to liability and even possible tax credits to offset at least a portion of expenses.



## Annual Business Meeting

FAPG is pleased to announce its annual business meeting held in conjunction with the DBPR Board of Professional Geology meeting and the Florida Ground Water Association (FGWA) Convention and Trade Show.

FAPG will hold a reception and meeting on Friday, Feb. 8th at the Radisson Resort at the Port. FAPG will host a complimentary reception and then convene for the FAPG business meeting.

### Schedule

#### Radisson Resort at the Port

8701 Astronaut Boulevard  
Cape Canaveral, FL 32920  
Phone: (321) 784-0000

### Thursday, February 7th

9:00 am. DBPR PG Board Meets  
9:00 a.m. FGWA Convention Commences

### Friday, February 8th

9:00 - 12:00 p.m. FGWA DEP Workgroup Meeting  
9:30 - 2:50 p.m. FGWA Educational Sessions  
3:00. - 6:00 p.m. FGWA Grand Opening of Trade Show  
4:30 - 5:30 p.m. FAPG Reception  
5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Annual Business Meeting\*  
6:30 - 9:00 p.m. FGWA Poolside Dinner Party, and Casino Games

### Saturday, February 9th

7:30 a.m.- 2:35 p.m. FGWA

\* Agenda items at the FAPG business meeting include election of the 2002 Executive Committee.

**Please advise the FAPG office of your intent to attend either function, by fax to 850/222-6002, email to robert@fapg.org or mail, by February 1st.**

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**Member Reception  
graciously provided by**

**Comegys Insurance Corner  
(727) 521-2100**

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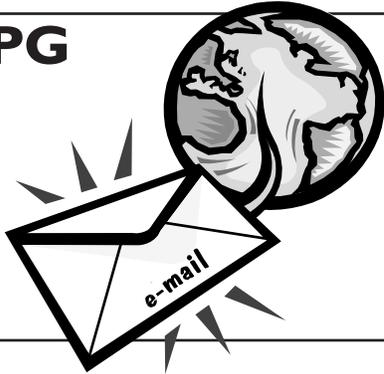
**To register for the FGWA meeting and events, contact them at (863) 293-5710**

Call about hotel rooms by identifying the "FGWA Convention."

## Subscribe to the FAPG email list serve!

*The email communication forum  
for the Florida geologist profession*

Simply send an email message to:  
fla\_geologists-subscribe@yahogroups.com



## FAPG INDUSTRY SUPPORTERS

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

<b>Company</b>	<b>Contact</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>
Clark Environmental, Inc. -----	Steve Hall.....	800/276-2187
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
	Doug Dufresne.....	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
Water Resource Solutions -----	Justin A. Chamberlain.....	941/574-1919