

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Time Is Now!

by Jonathan D. Arthur, P.G., Ph.D.

Your association continues to make significant gains toward legislative goals for your chosen profession! Our priority issues now exist as bills before the House and Senate. Moreover, our Legislative Plan and fulfillment of the FAPG Mission are at full throttle. We continue to have productive meetings with stakeholders, (e.g., the Florida Engineering Society), we are renewing efforts to increase our membership base, regional meetings are in the works, a Day at the Capitol is planned for April, and our fund-raising effort continues. We are looking forward with excitement regarding what can be accomplished in the coming months for Florida's professional geologists.

All of the priority FAPG legislative issues now have bill numbers! For us to have come this far has required a daily effort from your FAPG officers and lobbyists, Laura McLeod and Associates. Having bill numbers is just

the beginning! Starting this month, legislative testimonies begin, as well as education of elected officials and continued communication with organizations that are following our efforts.

Here are the bills:

- **HB 991** – Dept. of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR)/Board of Professional Geologists issue; Sponsor: Rep. Stan Jordan, District 17, Duval County (jordan.stan@myfloridahouse.com)
- **SB 2276** – DBPR/Board of Professional Geologists issue; Sponsor: Sen. Charlie Clary, District 4, Western Florida Panhandle counties (clary.charlie.web@flsenate.gov)
- **HB 513** – Competitive Consultants Negotiation Act (CCNA)/Water Resources Act; Sponsor: Rep. Faye Culp, District 57, Hillsborough County (culp.faye@myfloridahouse.com)

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Geologists Propose Legal Changes

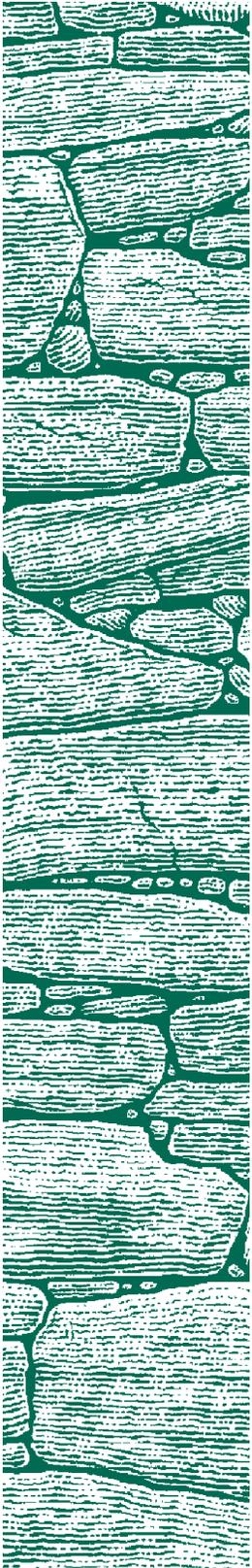
For the first time since its inception in 1995, the Florida Association of Professional Geologists (FAPG) has bill sponsors in the Florida House and Senate to propose legislative amendments.

HB 991, sponsored by Rep. Stan Jordan, and **SB 2276**, sponsored by Sen. Charlie Clary, provide improved discipline for professional geologists. Currently section 492.113, F.S., states that the Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) is the primary agency responsible for the disciplinary proceedings for professional geologists. The Board of Professional Geologists (BPG) currently is not involved in these proceedings, which has led to credibility concerns regarding complaints and investigations. The changes proposed in this bill would give the BPG authority to establish, by rule, acts that are in violation of Chapter 492, and administer disciplinary action. The proposal, which is supported by the DBPR and

the BPG, will benefit the profession and the public because those are who are most knowledgeable in the practice of geology would administer discipline for the profession.

HB 513, sponsored by Rep. Faye Culp, and **SB 1878**, sponsored by Sen. Burt Saunders, would modify the language in the Water Resources Act, specifically Chapter 373.44, F.S. (not revised since 1979), to include professional geologists as an identified profession to supply appropriate services and interpretations to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Water Management Districts. The Water Resources Act was written before licensing of professional geologists took place. Currently PG involvement is not recognized in various activities within Chapter 373, while professional engineers are specifically referenced. These bills would also amend the Consultants'

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

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- **SB 1878** – CCNA/Water Resources Act; Sponsor: Senator Burt Saunders, District 37, Lee and Collier counties
(saunders.burt.web@flsenate.gov)

To follow progress on these bills, visit these websites and search for the bill numbers:

<http://www.myfloridahouse.com>

<http://www.flsenate.gov>

Our legislative "cause" is a no-brainer. These bills are defensible and have "no negative financial impact." In fact, passing these bills may even save the taxpayers money, not to mention enhance environmental stewardship and protection. However, just because a bill is a good idea does not mean it will pass. Legislators are too busy to seek out the importance of our issues. Although FAPG officers and lobbyists are addressing this, we need your help.

Throughout the legislative session, you may receive e-mail from us asking you to send legislative committee members a letter supporting these bills. Please visit the FAPG website (www.fapg.org) and select "Legislative Issues" on the main page. On that page you will find sample "Letters of Support" for the bills. You can download, modify and send your local legislators a show of support. Elected officials respond very favorably to requests from their local constituents. They need to hear from you! We need them to hear from you!

Another important part of this process involves our physical presence at the Capitol. To accomplish this, the FAPG is sponsoring a **Day at the Capitol** event on April 12 and 13. The first day will include an open Executive Committee meeting followed by a general member dinner meeting. On the second day, we will spend the day at the Capitol meeting with legislators and their staffs to discuss the significance of our legislative efforts.

If you have read this far, I hope you are wondering what you can do to help. There's plenty, and it's not all about sending the FAPG money (although we absolutely need that too!).

What can you do?

- Send our legislative sponsors a letter thanking them for agreeing to sponsor our bills.
- Send your local legislative elected officials a letter supporting the bills. Sample letters are on the FAPG website.
- Upon request, send legislative committee members letters of support regarding our legislation.
- Stay informed! Visit our FAPG website often and follow the e-mail updates. Read our legislative "white papers" as they become available online.
- Attend the **FAPG Day at the Capitol** to meet and educate your elected officials.
- Help us with our membership campaign by encouraging geologists to join the FAPG!
- Volunteer your time as a committee member for legislative action, fund raising and membership.
- Sponsor a regional FAPG meeting.
- Help us find vendors willing to contribute funds in exchange for advertisement on our website, in our newsletter and at meetings.

The time is now to get involved! Your association needs you, as do your professional colleagues. Please don't count on somebody else to take action—the ball's in your court!

**Don't Miss Your
Opportunity to
Make Contact!**

By popular request the FAPG has made select space within its newsletter available for advertisers. The goals of this effort are to keep membership dues low by allowing advertisers to underwrite the cost of the newsletter and provide an avenue for vendors to communicate with professional geologists throughout Florida.

Get all of the details and requirements by contacting the FAPG office today at 850/222-6000 or sending an e-mail to Michelle@FAPG.org.

Membership Dues Increase First Time Since Association's Inception

by **Carlos Lemos, FAPG Treasurer**

In 1993 the FAPG took bold actions to promote the profession of geology and to protect the geologist's professional status. Since that time, the FAPG has offered regional meetings for education and developing professional contacts, and has been your "watchdog" regarding legislation that could harm our ability to do our jobs. Ten years later, we are now taking bold steps toward parity for our profession through legislation. Recent articles in our newsletters, web pages and e-mails describe these activities, which do not come without additional cost. One of the activities includes the fund raising needed to cover lobbying expenses. The funds collected for this purpose are set-aside in the FAPG Legislative Defense Fund to exclusively cover the contractual agreement signed with the lobbyists and related legislative efforts.

In an effort to expand our organization and become more proactive,

there have been additional costs for meetings such as the Legislative Summit, travel, administrative costs, graphic design, printing, mailings and conference calls. These things do add up, not only in dollars, but also in the form of an additional commitment from your executive officers and committee members, all of whom volunteer their time and financial resources (leave from work, cell phone bills, LDF contributions, etc.).

Every year, the FAPG management association (Membership Services, Inc.) provides progressively more "in-kind" services to us. MSi staff members have been personally committed to the FAPG from almost the beginning, and they want us to succeed. They have gone out of their way to help the FAPG become an active and beneficial association. Moreover, it has been years since MSi has increased its fees. The same is true of the FAPG regarding its \$75/year membership fee, which has been in effect for nearly a decade without inflation adjust-



ments. As you read this, also consider that annual membership fees for many professional organizations of our size and scope far exceed our current amount. After careful consideration of past and projected budgets and for reasons described herein, the FAPG is raising annual fees to \$130/year effective March 31, 2004.

The membership should embrace this change and support this increase in annual fees, which will be implemented over a transition period. For new members, the new annual membership fee becomes effective April 1, 2004. For existing members with renewal dates between now and August 31, 2004, they can pay the present membership annual fee (\$75) as long as payment is received by April 15, 2004.

LEGAL CHANGES

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Competitive Negotiation Act, Chapter 287.055, F.S., to include professional geologists as identified professionals, along with architects, engineers, landscape architects and surveyors. Currently, certified professional geologic firms are excluded from responding to Requests for Statements of Qualifications for professional services from various government agencies 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 harmful to the public and the environment. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection supports this legislation.

The Florida Association of Professional Geologists works continually to meet the needs of geologists and to ensure that geology remains strong as a profession. If you want further information about this legislation, you can visit www.FAPG.org.

Aquifer Storage Recovery IV

Tampa, Florida - April 15 -16, 2004

A two-day Information-Exchange Forum
Science, Technology, Management and Policy

An educational program sponsored by

American Ground Water Trust
FDEP/Florida Geological Survey
Florida Hydrogeology Consortium

Co-sponsored by

International Association of Hydrogeologists

Also co-sponsored by:

United States Geological Survey, Florida Association of Professional Geologists, Florida Ground Water Association, South Florida Water Management District, South West, Florida Water Management District, St Johns River Water Management District

Holiday Inn near Busch Gardens

2701 East Fowler Avenue, Tampa, Florida 33612

Register online at www.agwt.org (click on workshops and conferences)

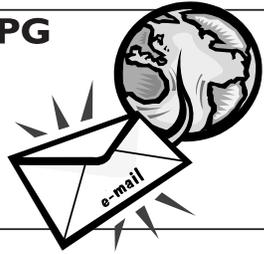
For more information, contact FAPG headquarters
at 850/222-6000, www.fapg.org

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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



FAPG Legislative Defense Fund Contributions

\$2,000 – Sapphire

Subsurface Evaluations

\$1,000 – Ruby

Ambient Technologies
Anonymous
Golder Associates
SDI Environmental Services, Inc.

\$500 – Topaz

Clark Environmental
Envirodyne Inc.
Geohazards, Inc.
HSW Engineering, Inc.
N.S. Nettles & Associates
Streamline Environmental, Inc.
URS Corporation
Sarah M. Whitaker

\$250 – Amethyst

Access Group, Inc.
Advanced Environmental Services, Inc.
Matthew L. Cain
Rick Copeland
Coastal Engineering Consultants, Inc.
Coey Environmental
Creative Environmental Solutions, Inc.
Geosphere Technologies, Inc.
Leggette, Brashears & Graham, Inc.
James McNeal
SCS Engineers
Water & Earth Sciences

Miscellaneous

Jon Arthur
Atlantic Drilling Supply
The Colinas Group, Inc.
Mervin Dale
Fermin Delacamara
Environmental Consulting
& Technology, Inc.

Environmental Site
Assessments, Inc.
Patrick Gleason
Global Environmental Services, Inc.
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Ralph Kerr, Jr.
Steve and Amanda Krupa
Robert D. Lewis
Jacqueline M. Lloyd
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Tauna Murphy
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S.D. Olmore & Associates
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