

FAPG FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGISTS

SUMMER 2004

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Building On Success

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

How is it possible? One year ago we had only a rough idea of the legislative changes we hoped to achieve. We had no lobbyist and only a basic understanding of what it would take to get a bill passed. We had no way to fund a legislative action plan, if we created one. Our political action game plan was in its infancy. Many told us that legislation usually requires two to three years of planning and hard work before anything gets accomplished. Bad timing or even a missed phone call can mean the difference between a bill passing or not. One year ago, the FAPG membership was active, but there was room to grow in the "proactive" category.

Look at us now! The FAPG stepped up to the plate to improve the integrity of our profession, gain parity with other established professions and make ourselves known before the Florida Legislature. Did we accomplish everything we set out to do? No, but we have come far, and there is no doubt that our momentum continues to increase. During the past 12 months, the FAPG accomplished the following:

- We surveyed members, telephoned respondents and held meetings to determine the

legislative issues and priorities in the PG community.

- We held a Legislative Summit to develop an effective game plan.
- We sent out an RFP, evaluated respondents and interviewed lobbying firms.
- We embarked on a successful fund-raising campaign and raised more than \$15,000 to help fund our lobbyist contract.
- We contracted McLeod & Associates (M&A) as our lobbyists.
- Professional geology received positive exposure at the Florida Capitol.
- Through M&A, we finalized four bills (two in the House and two in the Senate) and obtained legislative sponsors for each bill.
- We initiated a membership campaign that has led to more than 40 percent growth in our association!

Governor Signs Geology Bill!

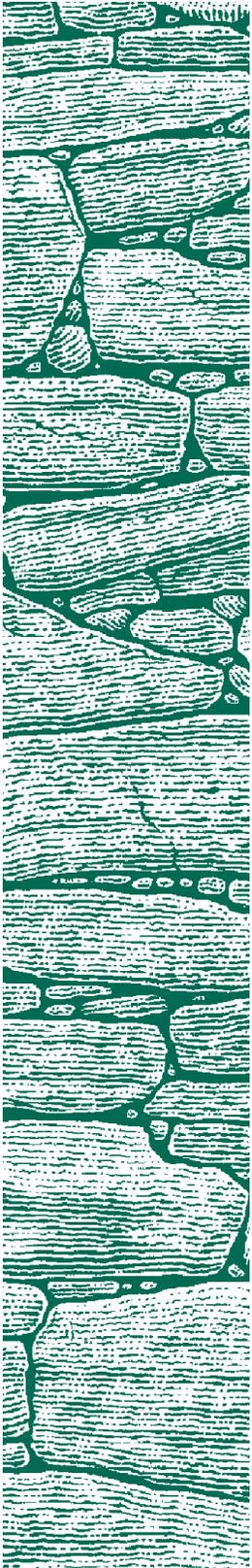
See President's Message on page 3

FAPG Leads the Way to Improvements in Florida PG Law!

During the 2004 session of the Florida Legislature, Senate Bill (SB) 2276 and its companion, House Bill (HB) 991, were passed! This legislation provides that violating a rule or order of the Board of Professional Geologists (BPG) is grounds for disciplinary action. The bill also transfers disciplinary authority from the Department of Business and Professional Regulation to the BPG and corrects terminology to conform to other provisions of the PG law (Chapter 492, Florida Statutes). Success in passing these bills could not have occurred without sponsorship by Senator Charlie Clary, District 4, (Western Florida Panhandle counties) and Representative Stan Jordan, District 17 (Jacksonville).

Attempts to make changes to the Water Resources Act and the Competitive Consultants Negotiation Act were not entirely successful this year; however, we believe the stage is set for a better result in the 2005 session. The bills in 2004 that proposed parity for our profession in these two Acts were HB 513 and SB 1878. We are extremely grateful to our sponsors for these bills, Senator Burt Saunders, District 37 (Lee and Collier counties), and Representative Faye Culp, District 57 (Hillsborough County).

See PG Law Improvements on page 3



**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

2004 Session Yields Excellent Results for PGs

*by Laura McLeod, President
McLeod & Associates
FAPG Lobbyist*

What an incredible legislative session for the Florida Association of Professional Geologists! McLeod & Associates is proud to have been a part of the success, as well as helping shape where we need to go from here. It is important to realize the presence created this session for Florida's geologists. Now we must use the interim to build a solid foundation of knowledge and understanding of the vital role of professional geology in Florida.

Senate Bill 2276 (House Bill 991) passed and was signed by Governor Bush. This bill was the third to the last bill to pass the last night of session. We must count ourselves fortunate whenever we help pass a bill out of the Legislature, especially given these statistics from the 2004 session: 91 Senate bills died in House messages, and two House bills died in Senate messages. These 93 bills passed all committees of reference, but the Legislature concluded before they were taken up for final passage. Also, 150 bills died on the House calendar, and 88 bills died on the Senate calendar. These additional 238 bills passed their committees and made it to the calendar but were not called up for a hearing on the floor of the Senate or the House.

Our efforts to add professional geologist to the Competitive Consultants Negotiation Act (CCNA) and the Water Resources Act (WRA) were excellent. We made progress toward these goals and are now able to see what obstacles, concerns and problems we need to overcome. We have the opportunity to set ourselves up for success by doing further research in preparation for the 2005 Legislature.

Although we have completed substantive research on the CCNA and the WRA, and have drafted white papers regarding how each law affects the geology profession, further research is required. We need to understand why the CCNA was created and how it is being administered across the state, and we need additional specific examples of

how and why it affects Florida's PGs, government budgets and the environment. Additionally, we must conduct a substantive analysis of what professional geologists do in relation to the WRA. In our research, we also will want to look at what other statutes need change in order for our efforts to be comprehensive. We will need to have meetings with the other professional groups and government entities that will be impacted by any proposed changes. It also will be important to maintain a dialogue with the state departments that are a part of the process in the different areas of the law.

Late summer and early fall we will begin to meet with legislators in their districts to educate and build the foundation for our initiatives. McLeod & Associates will want to coordinate these meetings with the FAPG membership to create continuity and connection for the legislators, geology and your lobbyist. Please let us know of any relationships you already enjoy with your local legislators so we can build upon them.

The summer and fall months will be an important time to get involved in your local legislative campaigns. Qualifying for these campaigns will end July 16. McLeod & Associates will create a plan to have an FAPG presence in key campaigns. Involvement in campaigns and meeting with legislators in local districts is vital toward continuing to build upon the foundation we established during the recent session.

The FAPG has a bright future! To build on this, you must all continue to spread knowledge of the importance of your profession. With water and solid-earth resources becoming more and more prevalent on the legislative radar, the FAPG has an opportunity to become an important resource for Florida legislators, their



Laura McLeod

See Legislative Wrap-up on page 3

- We attended and testified before legislative committees in the House and Senate.
- For the first time in the FAPG's history, we held an FAPG "Day at the Capitol" where members of the Florida Legislature learned first-hand the importance of what we do as a profession.
- We worked closely with our professional engineer colleagues.
- For the first time since the FAPG's inception, dues were raised to be commensurate with other professional organizations.
- Under the experienced leadership of LM&A and our legislative sponsors, the Florida Legislature passed Senate Bill 2276 (and its companion, House Bill 991).
- **On June 10, Governor Bush signed the bill.**

I'll ask again, how is it possible? Because of you—the FAPG membership. You contributed funds, you wrote

letters of support, you helped spread the good news about our efforts, you helped non-members see the benefits of joining our organization and you are among our strength in numbers.

Is our job done? By no means ... there's plenty to do! Although our membership has grown, many PGs have not yet chosen to participate in the FAPG. Just think what we could accomplish with twice our numbers, or better yet, with 100 percent of Florida's PG enrollment!

In addition, we have very important legislative goals to accomplish, including changes to the Competitive Consultants Negotiation Act, the Water Resources Act and the Florida Lien Law. Other legislative issues of interest to our members include the Geologist in Training Program, and continuing education requirements.

We need your ideas, your support and your time! During the coming months, you will receive member

surveys regarding our legislative goals. You will receive announcements about regional meetings. You may be asked to serve on a committee or become a regional FAPG representative. Get involved! Let's keep up the momentum! To make things easy for you, an opportunity to help is only a few days away: the 2004 FAPG Long-range Planning Workshop, which will be held on July 1, 2004, in Orlando. More information and a registration form is on page 4 of this newsletter. If you have questions about the workshop, call Michelle Underhill at 850/222-6000.

On behalf of the FAPG Executive Committee, thank you for all you have done to make this past year successful. I also extend special thanks for the efforts of McLeod and Associates, Robert Skrob (FAPG executive director) and the staff at Membership Services Inc.

FAPG Member Receives Award

Ambient Technologies Inc. received an Award for Excellence, Small Regional Subcontractor of the Year 2004, during the Small Business Administration's 50th anniversary conference in Orlando last month. About 20 small businesses from the southeast region of the country received the awards. Black & Veatch and EPA Region 4 nominated Ambient Technologies Inc. for the award in the

Small Business Administration's Southeast Region (which includes Florida). The reason for the nomination was the dedicated efforts of Ambient's drilling subsidiary (ATI Drilling Inc.) on three Florida Superfund sites. The work included direct push drilling, conventional and sonic drilling. Projects were completed within budget and on time.

Congratulations, Ambient Technologies!

PG LAW IMPROVEMENTS continued from page 1

Each and every member of the FAPG is encouraged to write all of our legislative sponsors to thank them for their efforts and support. Please visit the FAPG website (see "Legislative Information Center") for downloadable sample letters that include the mailing and e-mail addresses for these elected officials. Additionally, we must thank the legisla-

tive assistants who went beyond the call of duty for our bills. These staff include Randi Rosete in Senator Saunders' office, Paul Runk in Senator Clary's office, Lynne Adams in Representative Jordan's office and Melonie Hoyt in Representative Culp's office. **Please write letters to thank these individuals!**

LEGISLATIVE WRAP-UP continued from page 2

staff and legislative committee staff. This will help us build the credibility and muscle to bring forward the changes needed by the geology profession in Florida Statutes.

McLeod & Associates is pleased to be a part of your journey and success!

Mark Your Calendar

July 1

FAPG Long-range Planning Workshop
10:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Orlando, FL

July 17

SEGS/AIPG Fieldtrip
Palm Beach Area
www.segs.org

July 28-29

Board of Professional Geologists Meeting
St Petersburg, FL

September 22-24

Suwannee River Basin USGS Workshop
Cedar Key, FL
www.gulfsci.usgs.gov/suwannee

October 10-16

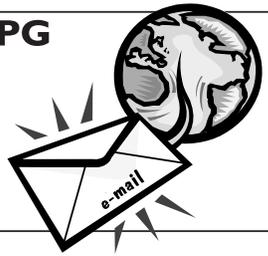
Earth Science Week
www.earthsciweek.org

P.O. Box 14629, Tallahassee, FL 32317-4629
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**Subscribe to the FAPG
e-mail listserv!**

*The e-mail communication forum
for the Florida geologist profession*

Simply send an e-mail message to:
fla_geologists-subscribe@yahoogroups.com



2004 Long-range Planning Workshop Orlando, Florida

The Florida Association of Professional Geologists (FAPG) will hold a workshop and lunch meeting to discuss long-range planning of the association in terms of legislative strategy, committee structure and fund-raising efforts.

Schedule of Events

- 10:00 a.m. **Welcome and Agenda Overview**
- 10:10 a.m. **New Committee Concepts**
- 10:20 a.m. **Communications**
 - Newsletter
 - Legislative Updates
 - Regional Meetings
- 11:00 a.m. **Membership Development**
 - New Members
 - Leadership Roles
- 11:30 a.m. **Budget Report and Projection**
2004-2005 Fund Raising
- Noon **Networking Lunch and Meeting**
- 1:30 p.m. **Political Action**
- 2:30 p.m. **Calendar Planning**
- 3:00 p.m. **Discussion and Action Items**
- 3:30 p.m. **Adjourn**

When?

Thursday, July 1, 2004
10:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Where?

Lake Eola Yacht Club
407 E. Central Blvd., Orlando, FL 32801

2004 Long-range Planning Workshop Registration Form

Registration is set to simply cover the cost of the lunch and is only \$25 with advance discount. The on-site price will be \$30.

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Phone: _____

FAX: _____

Payment Information: _____

Mastercard Visa Check (payable to FAPG)

Card #: _____ Exp: _____

Name on Card: _____

Signature: _____

Our meeting is graciously sponsored by Severn Trent Laboratories.