

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

FAPG Expands Services in 2005

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

For many of us, geology is a passion, to the extent that some of us even joke that we get paid to do our hobby. While we may joke about it, we also know it is serious work. What we do can affect the health, safety and welfare of Florida's citizens. Moreover, among the many facets of our work, perhaps the most important is our role in the sustainability of Florida's water resources—a topic of major significance in the Florida Legislature.

Now more than ever, being a licensed geologist in Florida *is* all that it's cracked up to be. As a group of professionals, we are no longer relative unknowns in the Florida Legislature. No longer does the FAPG represent a small fraction of our total numbers. No longer are geologists OK with being relatively ignored in Florida law. With your help, the FAPG has become a more effective advocate for you, your company and your profession.

This past year, your association was successful on many fronts:

- We achieved our fund-raising goal;
- We contracted with the lobbying firm of Laura McLeod and Associates;
- During our first-ever "Day at the Capitol" we made contact with more than 40 legislative staff and elected officials, educating them on the importance of what we do as a profession;
- Through the diligence, skill and contacts of our lobbyist and our members, we witnessed passage of House Bill 991, which was signed into law by Governor Bush; and
- We experienced more than 40-percent growth in our membership.

The list of achievements continues, but our focus must be forward. This year, the FAPG will continue to push our legislative goals for parity in Florida law (see article by Laura McLeod) and improve member services, communications, finances and networking opportunities.

See President's Message on page 4

Session 2005: The Work Has Begun!

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

The official opening day of the 2005 Legislative Session is March 8, but committee meetings have been conducted since the organizational session in November. As you know, every two years after the November elections, there are new presiding officers for both the House of Representatives and the Florida Senate. Each new Senate president and House speaker appoint new committees as well as chairs and vice chairs of those committees. In light of this constant change, the FAPG has continued to allow McLeod & Associates to advocate on your behalf and continue helping lawmakers and their staff understand the critical role of the professional geologist in our state.

The FAPG has identified a number of statutory issues to enhance the geology profession:

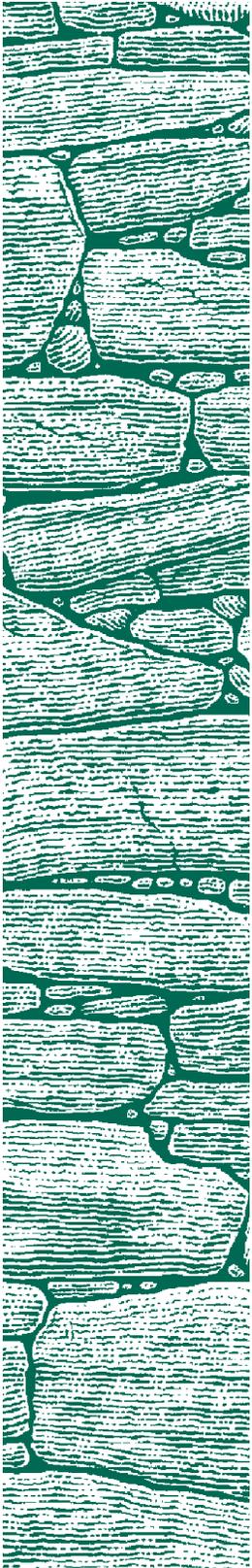
- Including PGs in the Water Resources Act (WRA);
- A Geologist in Training Program;
- Continuing education requirements;
- Including PGs in the Lien law; and
- Including PGs in the Consultants Competitive Negotiation Act.



Laura McLeod

We will focus our advocacy efforts on these identified priorities for the association as we work to increase the understanding of the geology profession by the Legislature, the executive branch and the public.

See 2005 Session on page 4



**Executive Committee
2005
www.fapg.org**

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Participate in FAPG Committees

Opportunities exist for individuals to learn about the leading-edge trends, legislative efforts and government administrative actions affecting professional geologists. By serving as a member of an FAPG committee you will be among the first to know about developing issues in our industry and be one of the first individuals invited to participate in the solutions. To maximize efficiency and productivity, each committee is limited to five participants. Volunteers will be assigned on a first-come, first-preference system. Please reply right away to assure you are placed in the committee that most interests you.

Legislative Action

Chair - Charles Drake, Hartman and Associates

Vice Chair - Jorge R. Caspary, Levine Fricke Recon

Meet with FAPG lobbyist to formulate and implement short- and long-term legislative plans. Attend meetings with legislators, their staff and other interested parties beginning immediately. Meetings will be held as needed before and during the legislative session. Assist in organization of the "Day at the Capitol" event.

Legislative Finance

Chair - Mark Hurst, Independent Geological Services Inc.

Provide oversight of the Legislative Defense Fund; this committee will implement the fund raising necessary for the FAPG to maintain its Legislative Action Plan and achieve organizational financial goals.

Communication

Chair - Merv Dale, Tetra Tech NUS Inc.

Through newsletters, e-mails and "as needed" legislative reports, improve contact and feedback with members, especially during the legislative session. Initiate letter-writing campaigns as directed by the FAPG lobbyist or the Legislative Action Committee.

Membership

Chair - Merv Dale, Tetra Tech NUS Inc.

Vice Chair - Tracy Thrift, Dick Environmental Services LLC

Ensure that an increasing and overwhelming majority of licensed professional geologists are represented as members of this association; welcoming new members and encouraging all members to become involved in FAPG activities.

If you are interested in profiting from firsthand knowledge of industry trends, professional contacts and legal changes by serving as an FAPG committee member, please complete the information below:

Committee Interest: _____

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Volunteer by completing this form and sending it to the FAPG office:
Robert Skrob, Executive Director
Florida Association of Professional Geologists
850/222-6000 • 850/222-6002, fax • Robert@FAPG.org

Please indicate if you accept the recommendation of the Nominating Committee for the officers listed below or indicate a nominee you believe would be a good candidate for the position listed.

President

Jon Arthur Yes No
 Current FAPG president; assistant state geologist for hydrogeology with the Florida Geological Survey; received his Ph.D. in geology from Florida State University in 1994; committed to advancing the role of geosciences in environmental stewardship and improving the PG profession in Florida.

Write-in: _____

Vice President

Charles Drake Yes No
 Since the early 1980s Chuck has worked in groundwater resources, well field development, effluent disposal, mining operations and consumptive use permitting throughout Florida. He graduated from the University of Florida in 1982, and has seen our profession grow tremendously and wants to work to increase our stature by working with the Legislature and our lobbyist.

Write-in: _____

Treasurer

Mark Hurst Yes No
 A consulting geologist who has practiced in Florida since 1985, Mark served as the FAPG's Legislative Defense Fund chair in 2004 and was among the FAPG team that opened discussions with other environmental industry leaders, such as the Florida Engineering Society.

Write-in: _____

Secretary

Mervin Dale Yes No
 Mervin Dale attended the University of Oklahoma where he received a BS in chemistry. After a tour as a naval officer, he attended the University of Florida where he earned both a BS and an MS in geology. Mr. Dale has been employed as a PG with Tetra Tech NUS Inc. since 1998 out of its Jacksonville, Florida, office.

Write-in: _____

Regional Coordinator – Northwest

Jorge R. Caspary Yes No
 A Florida PG since 1991, and former exploration geologist for DuPont Minerals, Jorge also served as the FDEP's federal programs superfund manager. A past member of the Everglades Restoration Task Force and former regional campaign manager for Senator Mel Martinez, Jorge has extensive contacts with the public, elected and appointed officials and environmental groups. He holds geology and civil engineering degrees from the University of Florida and Florida State University and is currently employed at Levine Fricke in Tallahassee.

Write-in: _____

Regional Coordinator – Suwannee River

James D. Hirsch Yes No
 James has worked with the environmental engineering firm Water & Air Research Inc. for the past 15 years, and is on the Water & Air board of directors. His specializations include environmental cleanup and water-resource investigations. He holds a BS and an MS in geology and is working on his Ph.D. in geology at the University of Florida.

Write-in: _____

Regional Coordinator – St. Johns River

Jorge Morales Yes No
 Jorge received his undergraduate degrees in geology/physics from the University of South Florida, and his MS in geophysics from University of Texas, Dallas. He has 14 years experience in groundwater hydrology. Six of those years he spent with the SJRWMD and the last five with Andreyev Engineering Inc., where he does groundwater modeling, well-construction specifications and hydrology field work.

Write-in: _____

Regional Coordinator – South Florida

Janet Peterson Yes No
 Janet is a 12-year veteran of REP Associates Inc. and is currently a project manager for REP in Miami. Her experience includes nearly 20 years as an environmental consultant in South Florida and three years as an exploration geologist with Shell Oil Company. In 1981, she received an MS in geological sciences from Brown University (Providence, RI) and received a bachelor's degree in geology from Franklin and Marshall College (Lancaster, PA).

Write-in: _____

Regional Coordinator – Southwest Florida

Carlos Lemos Yes No
 Born in Brazil, Carlos Lemos came to the United States in 1965 to attend college at N.C. State where he received a BA in geology and a minor in engineering. He joined Law Engineering in Charlotte, N.C., and has worked there for 22 years as a field geologist, department manager and branch manager.

Write-in: _____

Past President

Walter Wood (per bylaws)
 The senior hydrogeologist for Lake County, Walter has served as FAPG president for two years and the past president for two years.

Write-in: _____

How to Submit Your Ballot

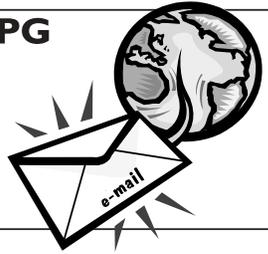
Please return this ballot to the Florida Association of Professional Geologists office in Tallahassee, Florida.
 By Mail: FAPG, P.O. Box 14629, Tallahassee, FL 32317-4629 • By Fax: 850/222-6002 24 hours per day
 By e-mail: Robert@FAPG.org • Online: www.fapg.org

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for the Florida geologist profession*

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fla_geologists-subscribe@yahoogroups.com



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE continued from page 1

It is an exciting time for the FAPG, but it is not without challenges. To achieve our ambitious goals, the 2005 revenue must increase by 25 percent over the current projection. This increased revenue is necessary to allow us to retain our lobbyist and better serve our members during the legislative process. Our fund raising last year required a great deal of time and effort, and it was generally the small- to mid-size firms that were the big contributors. While we are counting on last year's contributors to continue their financial support, we are looking for some new firms to join our contributor list. We appreciate all of our supporters!

As our membership continues to grow, many new opportunities exist for future FAPG leaders. These opportunities are based on a newly expanded organizational framework that is my pleasure to share with you in this newsletter. New committees are designed to foster growth and progress in every aspect of our service to Florida's professional geologists (see page 2). In addition, the committee chairs and the ballot on page 3 demonstrate that our base of volunteerism is growing, and also provide improved representation of our membership. Through

committee involvement and the new regional coordinator system, your voice can more readily be heard. You can also look for more regional FAPG meetings this year, thanks to your regional coordinator volunteers.

Regardless of your ability to financially support us this year by contributing to the Legislative

Defense Fund, there are many other ways to be actively involved in the FAPG. Please send in your ballot and consider writing yourself in on one of the committees. We look forward to an exciting and productive year, and your financial and personal support will contribute to our success.

2005 SESSION continued from page 1

We have already begun taking steps toward having professional geologists included in the WRA. We have a House of Representatives' member and a senator holding bill slots for us to sponsor our bills during the 2005 session. A meeting with the Florida Engineering Society is scheduled so we can work with our engineer colleagues toward a mutual understanding and support of the need to add PGs to the WRA while taking nothing away from the PEs. We will need all of you to take the time to speak to and write your local legislators in support of our efforts. As soon as we have bill numbers we will get that information to you so we can all advocate for this very important change, all the while taking the opportunity to foster a better understanding of the



geology profession by our elected officials.

We look forward to another successful year for the FAPG and McLeod & Associates!