



**AIPG** [www.aipg.org](http://www.aipg.org)

The **American Institute of Professional Geologists (AIPG)**, founded in 1963, is the largest association dedicated to promoting geology as a profession. It presently has more than 7,000 members in the U.S. and abroad, organized into 36 regional Sections. The Institute adheres to the principles of professional responsibility and public service and is the only international organization that certifies the competence and ethical conduct of geological scientists in all branches of the science with members employed in industry, government, and academia. AIPG emphasizes competence, integrity and ethics. AIPG is an advocate for the profession and communicates regularly to federal and state legislators and agencies on matters pertaining to the geosciences.

**SEGS** [www.segs.org](http://www.segs.org)

The **Southeastern Geological Society's (SEGS)** support of the FAPG was solidified in 2006 with a Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) between the two organizations. Then in September of 2006 the FAPG agreed to enter into a mutually beneficial merger with the Florida Section of the American Institute of Professional Geologists to form the FAPG-AIPG organization. The existing MOU with the SEGS remains in effect, and we encourage our professional members to be active in the FAPG-AIPG. If you are a geologist practicing or working in Florida, this association's efforts are important to you. Be a "giver" of your time or financial support to oversee the professional issues of your field of work. The current SEGS Executive Committee intends to move forward with facilitating the mutually agreed upon actions outlined in the MOU, but we need the participation of our members to make it a success.

**SPOTLIGHT**

LICENSING & LEGISLATION: The FAPG has been actively promoting legislative changes that are of interest to Florida registered Professional Geologists.

**Meet Our Lobbyist – Mr. Philip L. Leary, AICP**

Principal, Leary Governmental Affairs Consultants, Inc., representing private and public sector clients on agriculture, legislative, environmental, public policy, budget and agency programs at the local, state and federal government levels. Specific areas of representation include environmental regulation, program budgets, public policy, natural resource legislation, and business production and practices.

From 1993 to 2004 served as Director, Government & Community Affairs for the Florida Farm Bureau Federation, the largest general farm membership organization in the state of Florida. Represented Farm Bureau policy positions as they pertained to Local Government, State Legislature and U. S. Congress. Direct responsibility for agriculture production issues relating to regulatory agency rule making and implementation.

Formerly, Planning & Development Director for Clay and Putnam Counties respectively, and worked four years as Water Resource Specialist with St. Johns River Water Management District.

Received Bachelor of Science Degree in Agriculture - Curriculum: Natural Resources & Environmental Economics with Certificate Minor in Environmental Studies 1980 the University of Florida. Completed post graduate work in Public Administration, Policy and Planning at the University of North Florida (1992).

Member:  
 American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP)  
 Florida & American Planning Associations  
 Commissioner, City of Palatka  
 University of Florida Alumni Association  
 Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity



A Legislative Review – by Phil Leary, AICP

FAPG Newsletter Editor Claire Kramer and I agreed that a column on the legislative initiatives of the Association and my work would be included in this and all future publications. My Bio is also included in this edition, and for my first column I wanted to focus on what has transpired in the legislature over the last four years and what role the Association and individual PG's have in the process.

The FAPG Board retained me to represent the Association in 2011 to work on legislation that would give PG's limited liability in their scope-of practice. At the time Engineer's, Surveyors and Landscape Architects were all working on similar legislation for their professionals. Legislation that was filed during the session that year did not pass, but we learned a lot about what we would be up against in passing legislation in the future.

The next year, we fought a significant battle against a bill that would have deregulated the industry and eliminated licensure for PG's in the state. We were successful in killing that legislation but it was a formidable task

as House Republican leadership supported eliminating many licenses required for professionals in the state including Surveyors, thinking that deregulation would jump-start the economy. This was a good example of why it is so critical for PG's and the Association to be represented at the Capitol.

In 2013, we hit the proverbial "grand-slam" passing bills in both the House and Senate (SB 286) which redefined the statutory term "design professional"; specifying conditions under which a design professional employed by a business entity or an agent of the business entity may not be held individually liable for damages resulting from negligence occurring within the course and scope of a professional services contract. The Governor signed the legislation into law in July of 2013.

Prior to passing this legislation, PG's were not included in Florida Statutes Chapter 550 "Design Professionals" and subsequently could not have qualified for the limited liability protection. SB 286 changed the definition of design professionals to include PG's which in turn allowed them to be defined statutorily with PE's LA's and Surveyors.

In this year's session, we were successful in working to pass SB 404 Professional Geology; revising examination requirements for professional geologists; providing requirements for registration as a geologist-in-training; requiring geologist-in-training applicants to successfully complete the fundamentals of geology portion of the licensure examination; requiring the department to register each person as a geologist-in-training whom the board certifies has successfully completed the fundamentals portion of the geology examination. This bill was a priority for the Board of Professional Geologists and will be an asset to all those aspiring PG's.

My next column will highlight the importance of joining, maintaining membership and being involved in the legislative and campaign initiatives of FAPG. As I have learned in my over twenty years of lobbying, if you are not represented and "at the table", you will find yourself "on the table". Having an Association lobbyist and supporting legislators who support the profession, in this day and time are not a luxury but a necessity.

Yep, it's still a rock!

**Student Chapters:**

Congratulations to the **Florida State University** and **Florida Atlantic University** 2014-2016 AIPG Student Chapters board members!

This is going to be an exciting year and we look forward to hearing from you on your student chapter events and happenings!



AIPG offers valuable resources to students both nationally and locally. We encourage you to visit <http://www.aipg.org/Students/index.htm> or contact a Board member or Regional Coordinator!

**Events:** In May of this year, FAPG coordinator Clare Kramer presented at Pasco Elementary School in Pasco County; and in September, FAPG coordinator Clint Nobel presented at Durbin Creek Elementary School in St. Johns County.

The presentations were an introduction for school age children into the big-wide world of geology and what geologists do. The events were successful and we expect to do more in the future.

Photos of Clint performing in front of about 200 students!!!

Afterwards Clint commented that the 3rd-5th graders were extremely inquisitive and attentive. One boy even called him out on atmospheric CO2 levels during the Mesozoic!

...so, are geologists "smarter than a 5th grader" ☺



## 2014 AIPG NATIONAL CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS PRESCOTT, ARIZONA

By Helen V. Hickman PG (CPG 07535)

I have just returned from the AIPG Annual Conference in Prescott, Arizona (September 12th through 17<sup>th</sup>), and am providing a re-cap of the highlights for those of you who did not attend. It was an excellent event; so much to do, and not enough time!

Every year the AIPG Conference is held at a different location with different organizers, so there is a different flavor to each Conference. There are plenty of events to attend. This year, the business meetings convened on Saturday September 13, 2014 followed by an informal social event hosted by our new Executive Director, Bob Stewart. Several field trips were offered on Sunday through Tuesday including the Grand Canyon, Sedona, Prescott, and the Upper Verde River Watershed among others. The event was co-hosted with the Arizona Hydrologic Society and there were three days of technical sessions, poster sessions and vendors as well as evening events and gatherings. It was a great time to socialize with other members of the geologic community from all over the country.

At the Awards Dinner, Larry Weber from Tennessee was awarded the Martin Van Couvering Memorial Award; Bill Siok, our former Executive Director, was awarded the Ben H. Parker Memorial Medal; Richard Nielsen was awarded an Honorary Membership and Simon Winchester an Outstanding Achievement Award. A Student Scholarship was also established, The William J. Siok Student Scholarship Award, in honor of Bill Siok's service to AIPG and dedication to student involvement. Check the next TPG (now a quarterly publication) for more information on the awards, and visit the AIPG website for photographs of this year's conference.

The AIPG Executive Committee Meeting at the annual conference comprised a full agenda. The Board - President (Ray Talkington - NE), President-Elect (Foster Sawyer - SD), Past President (Ron Wallace - GA); Vice President (Brent Huntsman - OH), Secretary (Jim Burnell - CO), Treasurer (Larry Austin-MI), Editor (Bob Stewart- NE) and four Advisory Board members, Christine Lilek (Wisconsin), Todd McFarland (Tennessee), Keri Nutter (Alaska) and David Pyles (Illinois/Indiana). The Vice President, working directly with the Advisory Board, focuses on section events and activities and share their concerns and ideas across the country. Our up and coming professionals are a focus for the AIPG and growing opportunities for young geologists to develop interesting careers in a multitude of fields. We have many student members, about 3,000 nationwide. AIPG is developing a Young Geoscientists program and is working to fund it through the AIPG Foundation. Stay tuned for more on this.

Two students from Columbus State University in Georgia were awarded the opportunity to attend the National Conference this year, paid for in part by the Georgia Section. Their student section won the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Student Chapter of the Year Award. Their Award (a plaque and \$500 check) was presented by President Ray Talkington at a chapter meeting. Ron Wallace, AIPG Past President from Georgia has been responsible for establishing and mentoring several student chapters in the state and now serves as Chairman of the Education Committee; his enthusiasm is infectious!

Winner of next year's National Student Chapter Award will have the opportunity to attend the 2015 AIPG Conference, which will be held in Anchorage, Alaska. So, if you are a member of a Florida Student Chapter, or want to get one started, please contact one of the FAPG Committee members for Award Guidelines. While I am on the subject, I would like all our FAPG members to start to think about attending next year's AIPG conference. You have plenty of time to plan the conference as part of a wonderful family vacation, or attend with a friend or co-worker, or come alone. There are several FAPG members who attend the conference each year, and I guarantee that you will meet someone you know or meet someone who will become a good friend!

You can read more (about this trip and others) from Mr. Wayne Ranney at <http://earthly-musings.blogspot.com/>

The following photos were taken by Laura Crossey, University of New Mexico and are used with her permission.

**Field Trip:** The Arizona Hydrological Society (AHS) & AIPG National Conference was held September 2014 in Prescott, AZ. The Grand Canyon Field Trip was co-led by Wayne Ranney, Karl Karlstrom (co-designer of the Trail of Time) and Laura Crossey.

In front of the portal at the Precambrian end of the Trail of Time. On the left is Wayne Ranney and on the right is Karl Karlstrom.



Group photo with President Elect, Helen Hickman, sitting front and center.



Florida Section member, Jackson, at South Rim of Grand Canyon.



Sedona Jeep Tour up Bear Claw Canyon. Florida Section: Helen Hickman & Samantha Andrews (center), Anne Murray (right).



**Upcoming Events:****SEGS Alpha River/Cody Scarp Field Trip**

**November 07, 2014**  
6:00 PM to 5:00 PM

**Spirit Lodge/Spirit of Suwannee Music Park & Campground**  
3076 95th Drive, Live Oak, FL

We will examine karst geomorphology in the Cody Scarp Area, the largest topographic break in Florida. This trip is setup to be tech-info heavy because a similar expedition was done in 1981 and several of the original attendees will be present to share their knowledge. Presenters will include Andy Lawn, Clint Kromhout, Dr. Sam Upchurch, Dr. Tom Scott, and Dr. Rick Copeland.

**AIPG 2015 National Conference**

**September 19-22, 2015**

**Anchorage, Alaska**

Hilton Anchorage Hotel  
500 West Third Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99501

*Hosted by AIPG National and Co-hosted by AIPG Alaska Section*

For more information on upcoming events visit the FAPG website at [www.fapg.org](http://www.fapg.org)

**The 2015 Executive Committee**

From left to right: Keri Nutter (Advisory Board, AK); David Pyles (Advisory Board, IL/IN); Christine Lilek (Advisory Board, WI); Foster Sawyer (2015 President, SD); Ray Talkington (2014 President, NE); Helen Hickman (2015 President Elect, FL); Jim Burnell (2014/5 Secretary, CO); Doug Bartlett (2015/16 Treasurer, AZ); Ron Wallace (Advisory Board, GA); Todd McFarland (2015 Vice President.); Jean Neubeck (New TPG Editor, NE).

*If you would like to contribute an article, interview, case study or advertise an upcoming event you can send a request to [GeoSciClare@gmail.com](mailto:GeoSciClare@gmail.com) for consideration.*

**FLORIDA FOSSIL CORNER**

Primarily located on the **University of Florida** campus in Gainesville, the **Florida Museum of Natural History** has some of the most comprehensive and widely utilized collections of plants, animals, fossils and artifacts in the world. While the museum's primary geographic strengths are in Florida, the Southeastern U.S. and the Caribbean, its collections and research programs span the globe to include every continent and nearly every island group on earth. Most of the Museum's ever-growing collections rank among the top 10 nationally and internationally. It is one of the most comprehensive research centers of paleontology in North America, recognized internationally for research on fossil invertebrates, vertebrates, and plants.

<http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu>

**! SAFETY THOUGHT !**

This is Florida, which means most of the time it's Hot! While working outside, drink plenty of water, seek shade & rest often. Know the warning signs of Heat Stress.



Please contact the Newsletter Editor with questions/comments/suggestions at [GeoSciClare@gmail.com](mailto:GeoSciClare@gmail.com)