



FAPG

FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF
PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGISTS

THE FLORIDA SECTION of AIPG



NOVEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

We want to hear from

YOU!

Call for articles is out!

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From the President's Desk

Clint Noble



Fellow Florida Geologists,

It is that time of year when FAPG is ramping up to promote and

protect your license by remaining visible to lawmakers at the Capitol. We will be discussing pertinent geoscience topics with lawmakers and educating them on how we serve the public in Florida during lobby days in Tallahassee on November 17-18, 2025. We have new leadership entering FAPG (announcement forthcoming) which is inspiring, and the door is open for more. *Feel free to contact us if you are ready to answer your call or if you simply want to attend lobby day with us.*

This fall, I will be attending the annual American Institute of Professional Geologists Conference in St. Louis, MO. I will be attending the annual business meeting representing the Florida Section and collaborating with other Sections (States) on best licensing practices and organizational synergies. I will also be giving a presentation on the State of the PG Practice in Florida and what the

future may mean for us integrating with AI. Feel free to reach out to me directly if you will be there or if there is an issue I can raise for you with AIPG - National.

To meet the needs of Florida PGs and PGs-to-be, new leadership initiatives have carved up a Fundraising Committee, a Grassroots Committee, and a Legislative Committee. Priorities include starting field trip events, revamping our online presence, and this very own newsletter with more to come.

On October 8-9, FAPG was proud to present the Hero of the Industry Award at the 38th Annual Florida Regional Mining and Phosphate Conference to Chuck Drake.

Thank you to all the recent sponsors including Elliot Mallard, Joe Crownover, Integrated Geotechnical Solutions, Geosyntec, Drummond Carpenter, SurvTech, Lampl-Herbet, Ambient Technologies, and Environmental Remediation Services Corp. - we are so very grateful.

Your FAPG President,

Clint Noble, PG, PMP

Legislative Update

Natalie Kato



It's hard to believe it, but the 2026 legislative session is already kicking in to gear. Under the state constitution, the legislature must meet for 60 days every year to pass a budget for the upcoming fiscal year and consider legislation. Because 2026 is an election year, the upcoming session will meet in January and February, and conclude by the first week of March.

With such a short session, Florida legislators travel to Tallahassee for 6-8 committee weeks in the months leading up to session. Because of the early session, these committee weeks will begin in October. A committee week is exactly what it sounds like; a week in Tallahassee for committees to meet and consider legislation, or workshop issues that may be coming for the next session. Legislation can move through committees during this time. In fact, the only real difference between a committee week and session is that the

legislature cannot pass legislation out of the respective chambers during a committee week.

This year, there will be six committee weeks: two in October, two in November, and two in December. FAPG's annual lobby day will be held November 17 and 18 during the 4th committee week. We hope to see as many of you there as possible. FAPG's lobby day is an excellent opportunity for our members to engage with their fellow geologists and also educate legislators about the profession.

Since it is still very early in the 2026 session cycle, we're still awaiting specific legislative proposals. We expect that the legislature may consider occupational licensing reform, though it remains to be seen whether that proposal will be similar to what the House put forward last year, or something entirely different. FAPG was opposed to the 2025 House proposal, which dismantled professional licensing boards at the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation and transferred the regulatory authority directly to the Department. Fortunately, the Senate was

unwilling to consider that language and the bill died.

More broadly, we expect that the 2026 session will be focused on property tax issues, and may be considering redrawing the Congressional districts in the state. If both of these issues gain traction, they are likely to take up a lot of bandwidth over the next few months.

We hope to see you all at lobby day!

RSVP – Lobby Day

To RSVP for our annual lobby day, you can e-mail our team at info@fapg.org or go to the following page:

https://fapg.org/Lobby_Day

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“Why I Want to Be a Geologist”

Student Scholarship Essay

Casper Graham, Eckerd College, Florida Section Winner

Unearthing a Deeper Understanding

I first looked through a petrographic microscope to see the mineral muscovite. I was mesmerized as the normally pearly white mineral became a speckled rainbow of color. Electric blues, hot pinks, and brilliant yellows rippled across the surface as I rotated the microscope stage. The sight was truly remarkable. During the term, I was fascinated to learn how light interacts with a mineral's crystalline structure to create unique optical properties. Using these characteristics to identify rocks and minerals in thin sections remains some of the most engaging work in my degree program.

I gained a greater appreciation for our world by studying mineralogy. It gave me a new perspective on the rocks and minerals I had only observed on a surface level. For example, under crosspolarized light, an unsuspecting gray rock becomes a matrix of clouded quartz, stripped plagioclase, and plaid microcline. Cutting across the shades of

gray are colorful shards of muscovite and biotite. Seeing this showed me something new and exciting. Geology continues to surprise me, and learning more about the Earth is part of why I am a geologist.

The other half comes from the positive impact I can have by researching geology. In my first years of college, I worked on an independent research project on the sedimentological effects of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. For the project, I collected sediment core samples in the Gulf of Mexico while aboard the Research Vessel Weatherbird II. My time on the boat was wonderful. The night sky and creatures I saw are still some of the most stunning sights I have experienced. Once I returned to the lab, I analyzed the samples and mapped the spatial distribution of sediment properties to identify which areas would be most susceptible to oiled sediment accumulation. In the case of a future spill, my findings could inform clean-up efforts making them



more cost-effective and time-efficient. During this project, I felt for the first

Pictured: Casper Graham holds their AIPG scholarship award certificate.

time the significance of my geological research. It made me realize that as a geologist I have the power to conserve and protect the natural environment.

After completing my project, I continued researching anthropogenic impacts on the environment. Currently, I am researching the effects of dredge and fill operations on seagrass meadows. I am discovering how past operations may have affected coastal marine ecosystems through sedimentological, elemental, and paleontological analysis of sediment cores. I will soon publish these findings

so they can be used to understand the potential consequences of dredge and fill projects, helping to write more effective environmental policies.

By being a geologist, I have gained a greater understanding of how our world functions, which is crucial in our work to protect and restore the natural environment. I share my research and observations with people outside of my field through symposiums and volunteer outreach. I enjoy breaking down complex scientific topics into engaging stories that spark curiosity. It is incredibly rewarding to share my experiences as a geologist and have my fascination for our wonderful planet reciprocated.

This essay was originally printed in the Summer 2025 issue of AIPG's The Professional Geologist.

Follow FAPG

Follow FAPG on our new Facebook & LinkedIn pages to stay informed of our upcoming activities and events!

Links:

[Facebook](#)

[LinkedIn](#)

Upcoming Events

SEGS Crystal River Quarry Field Trip

Saturday, November 15th, 2025

Crystal River, FL

SEGS is offering a trip to explore the quarries of Crystal River, FL, where attendees can see exposures of Ocala Limestone and have ample opportunity for sample collection at two sites. The trip will include discussion of the local geology, followed by a visit to three local mines, where you can spend time collecting samples after brief safety meetings and geological discussions at each site. For more information and registration:

<https://segs.org/product/field-trip-crystal-river-quarries-november-15th-2025/>

FAPG Lobby Day

Tuesday, November 18th, 2025

Tallahassee, FL

Join the Florida Association of Professional Geologists for our annual Lobby Day in Tallahassee. This important advocacy event brings geologists together with legislators to discuss key issues affecting licensure, public safety, and the future of professional geoscience in Florida. Members will have the opportunity to attend meetings at the Capitol, network with fellow professionals, and help shape public policy. More details and registration information will be available soon.

Want to Get Involved?

FAPG's **Legislative, Grassroots, and Fundraising** Committees are volunteer-led and preparing for Lobby Day & 2026 Session. Sign up [here](#) or email info@fapg.org

RSVP – Lobby Day

To RSVP for our annual lobby day, you can email our team at info@fapg.org or go to the following page:

https://fapg.org/Lobby_Day

FAPG Field Trip

Friday, January 16th, 2026

Riviera Beach, FL

FAPG invites you to a unique field trip to active water well drilling sites in Riviera Beach, FL, where hydrogeologists are helping shape the future of water security in Southeast Florida. This behind-the-scenes look at the City of Riviera Beach’s new advanced water treatment facility—currently under construction—will showcase a diverse system of wells tapping into multiple aquifers at varying depths. From surficial aquifer system and Floridan aquifer system water supply wells to a lower Floridan aquifer deep injection well for concentrate disposal, attendees will witness how hydrogeologic expertise is being applied to build a resilient and sustainable water resource for the region.

Don’t miss this opportunity to connect with fellow professionals and see hydrogeology in action!



RSVP – Field Trip

To RSVP for our Riviera Beach Field Trip, please email Jorge Valdes at valdesjd@cdmsmith.com

Facility Address: 2391 Avenue L,
Riviera Beach, FL 33404

Time: 10am - Noon

FAPG Political Action Committee

FAQs

You've probably noticed a significant increase in communications from FAPG the past few months. If so, you already know that the association is working to fundraise to grow our association and better support our lobbying efforts in Tallahassee. If you've already given, thank you! If you want to give, it's never too late.

However, our association resources are not our only fundraising effort. We also need to grow our political giving program, and we do that by increasing the resources in our Political Committee: The Florida Association of Professional Geologists Political Action Committee, or FAPGPAC for short.

We're sure you have questions about the PAC and what it does. Here's some Frequently Asked Questions:

How is the FAPGPAC different from the FAPG?

FAPGPAC is an affiliated organization of the FAPG, but has a separate budget and mission. It is the political arm of FAPG, and is controlled by the board. However, monies raised into the PAC

can only be used to support candidates for office in Florida. PAC funds cannot be used to pay for the lobbyist, general expenses for the association, or other operational expenses.

Why does FAPG need a PAC?

Having a PAC means that FAPG members can engage in the political process with a unified voice, which increases the profession's influence in Tallahassee and beyond. It also provides transparency for our members, because under state law, the PAC has to disclose its donors and who it gives contributions to. That information is publicly available.

Who does FAPG support with our PAC dollars?

In consultation with our lobbyist, FAPG supports candidates who support the goals of FAPG and the profession of geology in general. We look at many factors, including support of or opposition to legislation of interest to FAPG and the office the candidate is running for.

Are donations to the PAC tax deductible?

No. Like contributions to any other political entity, contributions to FAPG PAC are not tax deductible.

Are there limits on donations to the PAC?

No. Under Florida law, the PAC can accept unlimited contributions, and

those contributions can be from either individuals or corporations.

How do I donate to the PAC?

If you're interested in donating to the PAC, all you have to do is click the following link:

<https://secure.anedot.com/flgeos/fapgp.ac>

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Alum Bluff Designated Florida's First State Invertebrate Paleontological Site

BRISTOL, Fla. – The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has recognized Alum Bluff in Liberty County as one of Florida's most significant geological and paleontological locations, designating it as the first State Invertebrate Paleontological Site and the ninth State Geological Site. The towering bluff along the Apalachicola River reveals layers of ancient rock that record millions of years of Earth's history, offering a rare glimpse into Florida's geologic past.

Located within The Nature Conservancy's Apalachicola Bluffs and

Ravines Preserve, Alum Bluff rises approximately 120 feet above the river, where erosion has uncovered fossil-bearing limestone, sand, silt and clay. The site features some of the most diverse and well-preserved fossil deposits in the southeastern United States.

"Alum Bluff is the tallest natural exposure in Florida and one of the few places where you can see four different geological formations," said Florida State Geologist and Florida Geological Survey Director Guy "Harley" Means, P.G. "Each formation contains clues, like

Pictured: Florida State Geologist Guy "Harley" Means, P.G., presents the official designation for Alum Bluff to Apalachicola Bluffs and Ravines Preserve Manager Catherine Ricketts during a ceremony in Liberty County.



diverse and well-preserved fossil assemblages, that help geologists interpret Florida’s geologic history over the past 18 million years. Geologists have been studying the strata exposed at this important site for more than 100 years, and we are still learning new things about it.”

In addition to its fossil record, Alum Bluff has several examples of steep sided ravines, called steepheads, which harbor plant and animal species that have persisted since the last ice age.

“When The Nature Conservancy acquired the property, now known as Apalachicola Bluffs and Ravines Preserve, in the 1980s, we named it for the unique geologic features, the bluffs and ravines, that motivated the organization to protect this landscape,” said The Nature Conservancy’s Apalachicola Bluffs and Ravines Preserve



Pictured: Alum Bluff along the Apalachicola River.

Manager Catherine Ricketts. “After decades of restoration and management work to conserve the preserve’s biodiversity, The Nature Conservancy is proud to continue to support and protect Florida’s natural heritage with these designations for Alum Bluff from the Florida Geological Survey.”

State Invertebrate Paleontological Sites are designated to protect areas containing invertebrate fossils that are rare, unique, exceptionally preserved or of scientific importance. State Geological Sites highlight locations that offer opportunities to experience and learn about Florida’s geological features, their connection to the local ecosystem and their significance in past and present cultures.

Visitors to Alum Bluff are encouraged to help protect this unique landscape by following Leave No Trace principles: stay



Pictured: Fossilized palm frond preserved in the exposed bluff.

on designated trails, pack out all trash and leave natural and cultural features undisturbed.

Legislation authorizes the state geologist to designate sites that are of great and continuing significance for the scientific study and understanding of Florida's geological history. Other designated sites include Jennings Bluff Tract, Torreya State Park, Falling Waters State Park, Edward Ball Wakulla Springs State Park, Florida Caverns State Park, Devil's Millhopper Geological State Park, Paynes Prairie Preserve State

Park and Windley Key Fossil Reef Geological State Park.

This article is a reprint of a Florida DEP Press Office release; the original is available here:

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/FLDEP/bulletins/3f79313>

Hero of Industry: Chuck Drake

FAPG was delighted to present Chuck Drake the Hero of the Industry award at the recent Society for Mining, Metallurgy & Exploration Inc. (SME) conference in Plant City, FL. Chuck has spent over 40 years serving the profession of geology in various capacities. Chuck's career has spanned both private and public sectors, and he played a role in shaping Florida water policy as we know it today. Chuck has devoted his "retirement" to promoting the field of geology and is the incoming American Institute of Professional Geologists President. Congratulations, Chuck! We could not have a more worthy recipient.



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Certified Professional Geologist (CPG) Application Tips

Thomas A. Herbert, PG, CPG

If you are not a CPG and you were ever turned off by the paperwork and long review process, I am reporting that there are great improvements. Don't hold back if you want to seek a CPG designation. FAPG has a plan to help.

I speak with experience having become CPG 2551 in July of 1973. Back in the day when paperwork was mailed and remailed to assemble the credentials package, there were weeks and months of delays. My snail mail took from February to July in 1973. In our office, Greg Hitz applied with the revised process became CPG 12305 in six weeks. The process is working better.

Some tips for the application and review process.

1. Give the AIPG office headquarters a heads up that you are applying for CPG and a folder will be created by Cathy Duran, AIPG Professional Services Manager, at (303) 412-6205 or cld@aipg.org.
2. Read the requirements for verification and contact your sponsors, you will need two CPGs to vouch for your credentials. Our FAPG network will help you if you don't know a CPG.
3. Get university transcripts and have the registrar send them in PDF format directly to Cathy at AIPG headquarters.
4. Send confirmation forms to geologists or engineers who can recommend you and urge them to turn the documents around quickly by email to headquarters ... they don't need to write a manuscript to say you know your stuff and you are ethical.
5. Make a PDF of your resume or CV and send with other forms ... this a bonus for reviewers.

If you have any questions or snafus text or reach out to Tom Herbert at 850-443-4262.

Geological Society of America Issues New Position Statement on Professional Licensure for Geologists

Boulder, CO – The Geological Society of America (GSA) has released a new position statement affirming its support for professional licensure of geologists in fields directly tied to public health, safety, and welfare. The statement, ***The Benefits of Professional Geologist Licensure***, underscores the essential role licensed geologists play in ensuring competent, ethical, and accountable practice in areas such as natural resource management, infrastructure development, environmental protection, and hazard mitigation.

As of July 2025, 31 states and Puerto Rico require licensure for geologists whose work affects public safety. However, efforts in some states to weaken or eliminate licensure pose risks to the integrity of professional practice and, ultimately, to the public. GSA's position emphasizes the importance of safeguarding and strengthening licensure programs through supportive

legislation, institutional partnerships, and education.

"Professional licensure is essential for protecting the public and upholding the highest standards of geologic practice," says Jim Heller, a Professional Geologist and member of GSA Council. "As geologists, we are often responsible for decisions that affect infrastructure, natural resources, and public safety. Licensure ensures that those responsibilities are met with accountability, competence, and integrity."

The position statement highlights the many ways licensure advances public protection and professional standards. Licensed geologists are uniquely equipped to assess geohazards such as landslides, earthquakes, and flooding, provide reliable evaluations of groundwater and mineral resources, and ensure accurate environmental data collection. In infrastructure projects,

geologists and engineers work hand in hand: geologists evaluate the rock, soil, and groundwater conditions on which civil structures are built, while engineers design accordingly.

Like medicine, engineering, and architecture, geology involves applied expertise with direct consequences for society. Licensure provides a formal mechanism for oversight, accountability, and enforcement. It also creates pathways for professional development, enhancing career opportunities and supporting consistent educational standards in university geoscience departments.

"ASBOG is committed to promoting the competent practice of geology by delivering rigorous licensure examinations, expanding license availability and mobility, and fostering academic training that protects public health, safety, and welfare," says ASBOG Executive Director Deana Sneyd. "We welcome GSA's strong statement of support, which reinforces the value of licensure and helps ensure that geoscientists are prepared to meet the demands of practice in ways that protect communities and advance the profession."

GSA's position also stresses the importance of informing students of the

value of licensure early in their education. Universities play a key role in preparing graduates to meet the requirements of the Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG®) examinations and encouraging students to pursue the Geologist-in-Training designation soon after completing their undergraduate degrees.

GSA calls on governments, institutions of higher learning, industry leaders, and professional societies to work together in support of professional geologist licensure. Strong licensure programs help reduce risks, protect communities, and ensure that the nation's geologic resources are managed responsibly.

The full GSA position statement is available at:

<https://www.geosociety.org/GSA/Positions/position29.aspx>.

WANTED!

Your Articles for the Newsletter

- Technical
- Opinion
- Peer-Reviewed

Please submit your draft article to
Editor, Bud Davis:

jbuddavis@gmail.com

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All Granite Level benefits, plus:

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Fort Myers, FL 33919

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