THE FLORIDA SECTION *of* AIPG

FAPG

Florida Association of Professional Geologists

JUNE 2026 NEWSLETTER

From the President's Desk

Clint Noble

Over the past several months, FAPG has continued the efforts on the lobbying front, field trips, internal restructuring and garnering support from individuals, legislators, organizations, and companies to continue the promotion and protection of the practice of geology and the Professional Geologist (PG) license in the State of Florida.

We have continued to press the message to our connections in House, Senate, and Executive Branch leadership in Tallahassee in follow up to our last lobbying event in November 2025 (see picture below) This assisted in the shutdown of HB-607 which would have removed or otherwise disempowered the PG license.

Since we have maintained a presence at the Capitol over the past several years now, it was refreshing talking to legislators on all sides: republican, democrat, House, Senate; who understand the value that Geologists provide the State and the public, and offer their full support (especially after some rock/fossils/drill core show and tell!) This is a testament to the support YOU have given us financially and in effort.

Being professionals that provide key services to waste management, remediation, and water resource projects in the State, we Geologists harnessed these relationships to provide input and support on HB-1019 (PFAS Regulation in biosolids and wastewater effluent) in a balanced and responsible manner.

In April/May 2026, I attended the Florida Association of Environmental Professionals Annual Conference and the Florida PFAS Forum Conference representing FAPG to partner organizations and garnering sponsors to our cause. Please see the list of individual sponsors in this newsletter who have helped us grow! We are continuing to have conversations with partners to promote our profession.

We have started revising the FAPG Bylaws to modernize them and enhance/diversify our Board. Once finalized, they will be shared to the public, and we will seek elections to our formalized leadership positions. Stay tuned and join us to define YOUR profession!

We have also had a couple great field trips recently focused on water resources/deep well installations and related hydrogeologic studies that educate and demonstrate to the geosciences and environmental engineering communities, and to the public, of what we do and how students and early career professionals can get involved and geared up for their careers to help our State manage the immensity of challenges we will face in potable water supply and the injection of treated wastewaters in the subsurface under growing demand.

Thank you all for the support and lets continue to carry our flag forward.

Your FAPG President,

Clint Noble, PG, PMP

Legislative Update

Natalie Kato

The 2026 Florida Legislative Session convened on January 13, 2026, and adjourned on March 13, 2026. The session was notable for passing only 237 bills — the lowest total in five years. It also ended without completion of the Legislature's constitutional obligation to pass the annual budget for 2026–2027. As of mid-May, the Legislature had convened a special session to work on the budget, but it has yet to be finalized.

The legislative gridlock that characterized 2026 is largely due to an ongoing and very public feud between Governor DeSantis and House Speaker Perez. Their animosity was on display from the very first day of the 2026 Session, when Governor DeSantis shook Senate President Ben Albritton's hand during the State of the State address but conspicuously declined to shake Perez's. Fundamental policy disagreements between the House and Senate regarding revenue and spending also contributed to the impasse.

FAPG stood with all affected professions and worked to successfully defeat this legislation.

One positive result of legislative dysfunction is that it is easier to stop bills. As in previous years, FAPG's top priority was defending against licensure deregulation. This session saw the introduction of HB 607 — Industries and Professional Activities. This legislation, sponsored by Representative Taylor Yarkosky (R-Tavares), closely tracked similar legislation filed in 2025 that FAPG helped defeat. HB 607, like previous proposals, affected virtually every licensed profession regulated under the Department of Business and Professional Regulation, from geologists and engineers to veterinarians, accountants, and barbers. The bill removed continuing education requirements for all DBPR-licensed professions and eliminated each profession's oversight board.

Unlike in 2025, the Senate counterpart, SB 1666, sponsored by Senator Danny Burgess, was not an identical match to HB 607 and did not include any of the provisions FAPG and other professions opposed in the House bill. This was our first indication that there was likely little appetite for a major deregulation effort.

FAPG stood with all affected professions and worked to successfully defeat this legislation. After extensive conversations with the bill sponsor and Commerce Committee Chair James Buchanan, the bill died at its final committee stop. It is unclear whether a proposal like this will return next session.

FAPG also closely tracked and supported the passage of HB 1019, related to PFAS substances. Specifically, the bill established a phased prohibition on the use, sale, and possession of aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF), a type of firefighting foam that is widely used at airports, military bases, and industrial facilities. Under the bill, AFFF is prohibited as of July 1, 2026, for nonemergency instruction, training, or testing. The sale, purchase, or distribution of AFFF is prohibited as of July 1, 2027, and as of July 1, 2029, possession and use of AFFF is prohibited, except for certain federal aviation facilities and specified military and emergency firefighting applications.

Professional geologists will likely see increased work opportunities under this legislation, as the bill requires entities possessing AFFF to submit inventories of the product to the Department of Environmental Protection and complete cleanup of the product before July 2029. FAPG will continue to monitor rulemaking on this legislation, which will provide more detail on implementation.

Though 2026 is an election year, with ongoing budget negotiations and a possible special session on property tax reform, it may be a busy summer on the legislative front. The FAPG lobbying team will continue to monitor these developments to ensure that our interests are well protected.

Drought Parches Florida

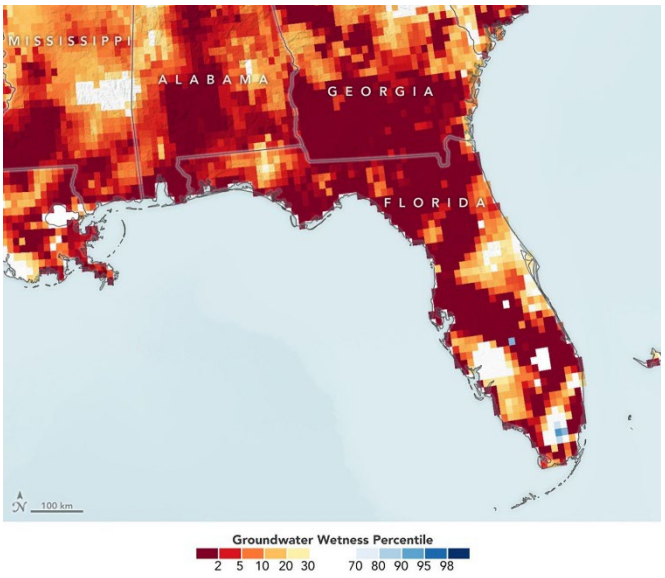
Adam Voiland

Reprinted with permission from NASA Earth Observatory.

Florida is among the wettest U.S. states, but that doesn't mean it is drought-free. Nearly all of Florida faced at least "moderate" drought, and nearly 80 percent faced "extreme" conditions in April 2026, according to data from the U.S. Drought Monitor. Unusually dry conditions gripped the state for much of 2025, but the intensity and extent of the drought ratcheted up starting in January 2026.

Data from a NASA and German Research Center for Geosciences satellite mission show that the drought has left its imprint on the state's underground water supplies, which are often tapped for drinking water and farming. The map above combines data from the twin GRACE-FO (Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment Follow-On) satellites and ground-based measurements to estimate the relative amount of groundwater stored underground as of March 30, 2026. The colors depict the wetness percentile, or how the amount of shallow groundwater compares to long-term records (1948–2010). Blue areas have more

water than usual, and orange and red areas have less. Aquifers in the northern and central regions of the state are particularly dry.

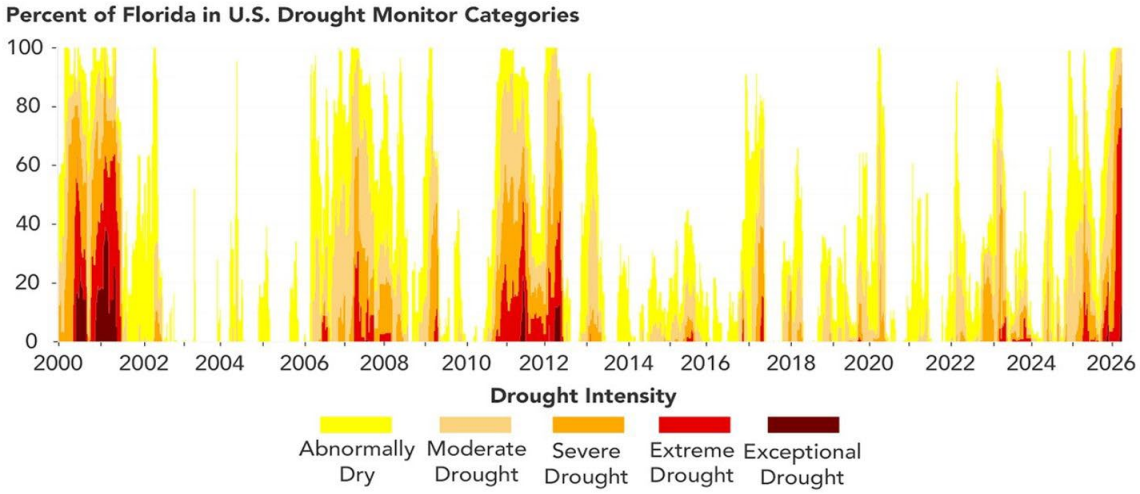


Shallow groundwater aquifers are driest in northern and central Florida in this map based on observations acquired on March 30, 2026, by the GRACE-FO (Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment Follow-On) satellites.

The drought is being felt throughout Florida. Some water districts have imposed restrictions on when water can be used for certain activities, such as lawn watering and car washes. News reports suggest that the dry weather poses a threat to crops, many of which already suffered severe damage during hard freezes in February. Large wildland fires have flared up in some areas, and even wetland ecosystems like the Everglades face unusually dry conditions.

U.S. Drought Monitor records indicate that the current drought is the most widespread and severe to affect the state since 2012. Many areas have received less than half their normal rainfall since September 1, 2025, according to the National Weather Service. St. Petersburg has seen only 7.7 inches (195.6 millimeters) of rain since September 1, compared to the normal 19.0 inches, making this the driest year on record for that period.

However, the current drought does not yet rival the worst drought that has parched the state, according to data from the U.S. Drought Monitor. Their analysis indicates that the 2000–2001 drought was more intense, lasted longer, and affected a larger area. GRACE-FO observations are among the sources of information that the U.S. Drought Monitor considers when mapping drought conditions in its weekly assessments.



The 2025-2026 drought is the most severe to affect Florida since 2012.

FAPG Fall 2026 Field Trip

Perma-Fix of Florida PFAS Treatment Facility

Gainesville, Florida | Friday, November 13, 2026

FAPG is pleased to announce plans for our Fall 2026 Field Trip to Perma-Fix of Florida's PFAS treatment facility in Gainesville, Florida, on Friday, November 13, 2026. This field trip will provide members with an opportunity to visit an active, licensed waste treatment facility and learn more about technologies being used to manage complex hazardous waste streams, including materials impacted by per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, commonly known as PFAS.

Perma-Fix of Florida is a licensed waste treatment facility specializing in the processing of hazardous, mixed, and radioactive wastes. The Gainesville facility handles a wide range of waste streams from industrial, medical, pharmaceutical, municipal, and other sources. The planned field trip will offer participants a valuable opportunity to learn about the facility's treatment capabilities and the technical challenges associated with managing difficult waste streams.

A major focus of the visit will be Perma-Fix's PFAS treatment technology. Perma-Fix's Perma-FAS technology is a water-based process designed to destroy PFAS contaminants at relatively low temperatures. For FAPG members working in environmental consulting, remediation, regulatory compliance, water resources, waste management, or related fields, this visit will provide a timely opportunity to better understand emerging treatment approaches for one of today's most challenging environmental issues.Participants can expect to gain a better understanding of how specialized waste treatment facilities operate, how different treatment technologies are selected for different waste streams, and how facilities like Perma-Fix of Florida support environmental protection through compliant waste processing and technological advancement.

Additional information regarding the schedule, arrival time, parking, and other participation details will be provided as the date approaches. Interested participants should be on the lookout for future announcements with additional details. **If you are interested in attending, please email bdavis@drummondcarpenter.com** so that we can begin developing an attendee list and provide updates. We look forward to seeing you in Gainesville for this unique opportunity to learn more about PFAS treatment technology and advanced waste management practices at Perma-Fix of Florida.

FAPG

Florida Association of Professional Geologists

Join. Support. Advocate.

Scan to become a member, contribute to our legislative fund, or become a sponsor and help strengthen our profession's voice.

To Join AIPG/FAPG

To Donate to the FAPG Legislative Fund

Thank You to Our Recent Individual Sponsors

FAPG gratefully recognizes the following individual sponsors for their support:

Kim Arnold
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Jeffrey Peters
Jeffery Day
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Meriam Senoussi
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Eric Silvers
David Martin
Thomas Scott
Marjorie Heidorn
Geoffrey Maddux

FAPG Members Get an Inside Look at the Riviera Beach AWTP Project

On January 16, 2026, FAPG members had the opportunity to tour the Riviera Beach Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant (AWTP) project site and learn more about how South Florida utilities are leveraging groundwater resources to support resilient water supply and disposal solutions.

During the visit, members learned how the facility will use surficial and Floridan aquifer groundwater for raw water supply, along with a lower Floridan deep injection well for concentrate disposal into a deep, confined zone. The field trip included discussion of the local and regional hydrogeologic setting, a tour of active well construction areas, and an engaging conversation on legislative issues affecting the geology profession in Florida.

FAPG members also got an up-close look at Florida Drilling's brand-new deep injection well rig, providing a unique opportunity to see specialized drilling equipment and project operations in action.

FAPG extends a special thank-you to Jorge Valdes for organizing this valuable field trip for our members. We also sincerely thank the Haskell-CDM Smith Joint Venture for hosting the group and providing lunch. Thank you to everyone who participated and helped make this a successful and informative FAPG field trip.

FAPG Call For Engagement

FAPG is looking for members who are interested in becoming more involved and helping support the continued growth and impact of the organization. Members are invited to participate in two important committees: the Grassroots Committee and the Fundraising Committee.

Grassroots Committee

The Grassroots Committee will focus on member outreach, engagement, and advocacy support. This committee will help strengthen communication across FAPG's network, encourage member participation, and support efforts related to issues impacting the geoscience profession in Florida.

Fundraising Committee

The Fundraising Committee will help identify sponsorship opportunities, support fundraising initiatives, and assist in developing resources that support FAPG programs, events, student engagement, and long-term organizational goals.

Serving on a committee is a great way to connect with other professionals, support the geoscience community, and help shape FAPG's future efforts.

If you are interested in serving on either committee, please email info@fapg.org.

Thank You to Our Recent Corporate Sponsors

FAPG gratefully recognizes the following corporate sponsors for their support:

Geosyntec consultants

INTEGRATED GEOTECHNICAL SOLUTIONS, INC.

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Interested in Sponsoring FAPG?

Support FAPG programs, events, student engagement, and professional outreach by becoming a sponsor. Visit fapg.org/sponsors or email info@fapg.org for more information.

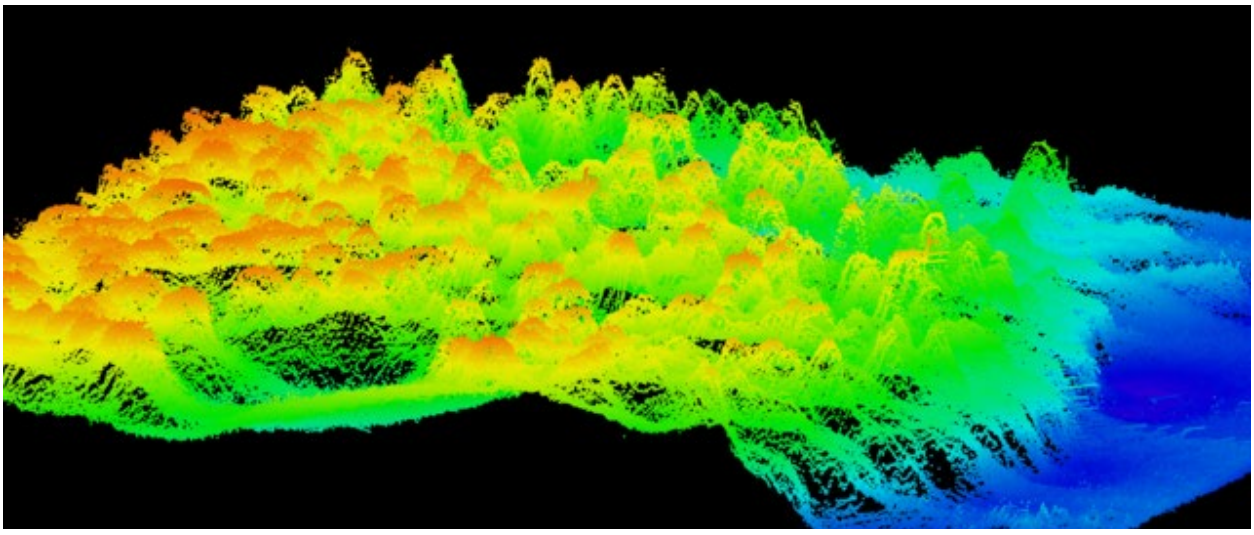
Florida Seafloor Mapping Initiative Reaches Major Milestone

Reprinted with permission from Florida DEP.

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has reached a major milestone in its Florida Seafloor Mapping Initiative (FSMI), completing all airborne LiDAR data collection and receiving the majority of vessel-based sonar data used to map Florida's coastal waters. Florida is the only state in the nation undertaking a seafloor mapping initiative at this scale. Once complete, FSMI will deliver the most comprehensive map of Florida's seafloor ever created, with data expected to be publicly available in fall 2026.

"Florida's coastline is one of our state's greatest natural and economic assets, supporting millions of residents, tourism, commercial fisheries and critical infrastructure," said DEP Secretary Alexis A. Lambert. "Understanding the seafloor and the features that shape our coast helps us make smart decisions about protecting communities, strengthening resilience and investing taxpayer dollars where they will have the greatest impact."

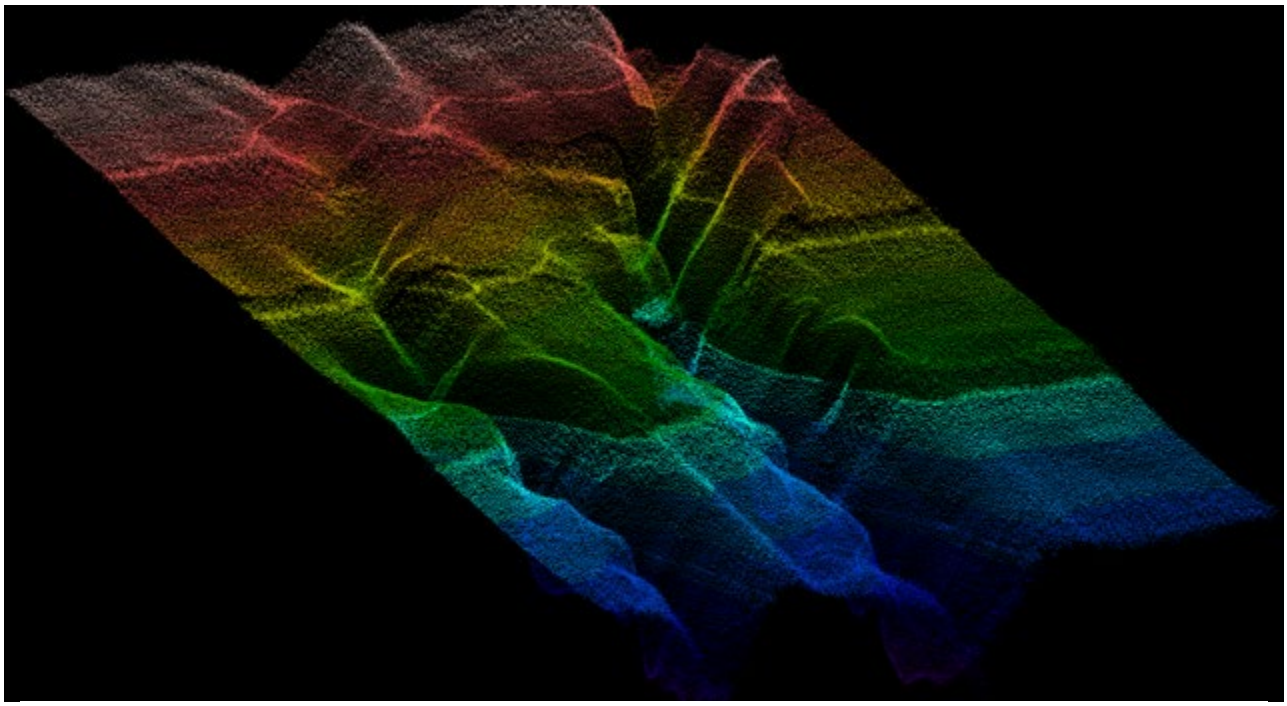
FSMI uses advanced technologies to capture detailed bathymetric data across shallow and deepwater environments. Airborne LiDAR systems measure water depths using laser pulses, while vessel-based multibeam sonar maps deeper waters in high resolution. High-resolution seafloor data supports a wide range of coastal management decisions, including identifying offshore sand sources for beach nourishment, improving storm surge and flood modeling, and guiding the protection and restoration of coral reefs and seagrass beds.



Previously unknown mesophotic coral reefs located more than 50 km offshore of Pensacola

"Through FSMI, we have mapped more than 75,500 square kilometers using LiDAR and more than 64,000 square kilometers using sonar technologies," said Florida Geographic Information Officer Kimberly Jackson. "Before this initiative began, only about 25,600 square kilometers of Florida's seafloor had been mapped. Today, we have mapped more than 14 times that amount, giving Florida an unprecedented understanding of its underwater landscape."

Early analysis of the data is already revealing new insights about Florida's unique continental shelf, including ancient shorelines, buried river channels, karst formations and offshore sand resources. Scientists have also identified previously unknown mesophotic coral reefs, an ecosystem that thrives in deeper waters with lower light levels than Florida's shallow reefs. DEP is collaborating with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to further study these reefs through remotely operated vehicle dives and scientific sampling to better understand their ecological importance and how they may contribute to Florida's marine biodiversity.



Newly discovered paleoriver channels near Miami help explain patterns in sediment movement, habitat distribution and coastal erosion, giving scientists and planners critical information to guide future beach restoration, habitat protection and resilient infrastructure projects.

FSMI data is being integrated with inland elevation datasets through collaboration with the U.S. Geological Survey's Coastal National Elevation Database Applications Project. This effort will create a seamless statewide digital elevation model extending from Florida's uplands to offshore bathymetry, giving planners and decision-makers a more complete view of the state's landscape to guide resilient and cost-effective investments.

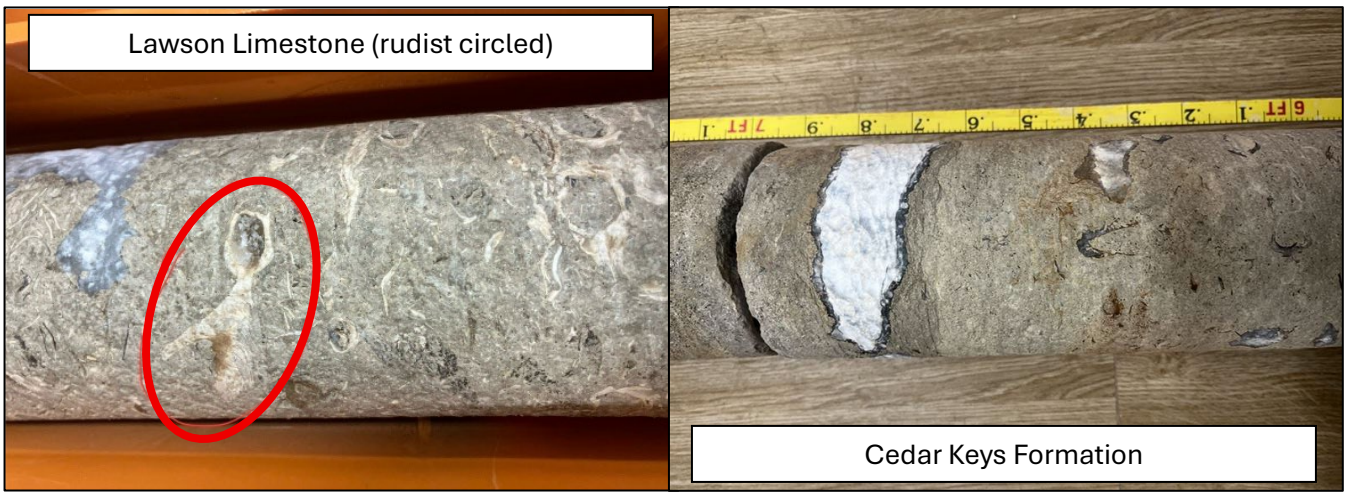
For more information about the Florida Seafloor Mapping Initiative, visit FloridaGIO.gov.

FAPG – CDM Smith – JEA Geology Field Trip to Deep Exploratory Well Site in Jacksonville, FL

Leah Palomo, GIT, Field Trip Geology Leader

FAPG, teamed with CDM Smith, JEA, and Youngquist Brothers, had the pleasure of hosting undergrads, graduate students, and faculty from the University of Florida's Department of Geological Sciences at an active deep exploratory well site at their Arlington East Water Reclamation Facility, giving them a firsthand look at how hydrogeologic concepts are applied in practice. We started off with a presentation (and donuts!) before taking a walk to visit the active drill site. This oriented the group to important concepts, such as the Floridan aquifer system, underground sources of drinking water, and confining zones, and placed the exploratory well within Florida's hydrogeologic framework, emphasizing the regulatory need to protect potable groundwater. By tying classroom theory to real-world conditions in North Florida, the material emphasized how regional geology, depth, and formation variability directly influence well design and decision-making in the field.

The presentation also highlighted the full sequence of deep well construction and testing, focusing on where and why critical data are collected. Topics included pilot-hole drilling, evaluation of cuttings, geophysical logging, coring, packer testing, and final mechanical integrity and injection testing. Due to the exploratory nature of the well, we were able to show off some very cool cores collected at this site. Fan favorites were a core collected from the Lawson Limestone (approx. 2,600 feet bls) of Cretaceous Age which had abundant rudist fossils, and a core collected in the Cedar Keys Formation (approx. 2,490 feet bls) with dramatic evaporites.



The site walk turned lecture slides into a full-scale, working system, towering rig, rotating drill string, cores coming up from thousands of feet below ground, and specialized tools staged for logging and testing, giving students a sense of what is required to collect this deep hydrogeologic data and why each step matters.

With observations in the field and candid perspectives from the project staff, the visit highlighted the teamwork and technical judgment required to construct the infrastructure critical to our lives. It was a vivid reminder that geologic science is not only interpreted on paper, but it is tested and verified in real time, and site experiences like this help students picture the work (and the careers) that begin beyond the classroom.

Many, many thanks and appreciation to JEA, CDM Smith, Youngquist Brothers (driller) and ASRus for putting this field trip together and leading it. Special thanks to the efforts of: Roberto Rivera-Lopez (JEA Project Manager), Yanni Polematidis (CDM Project Manager), Leah Palomo (Trip Leader, Geologist), Chuck Drake (FAPG), Anita Marshall (UF Geology Professor), and Clint Noble (FAPG-CDM).

Recent AIPG and FAPG Activity

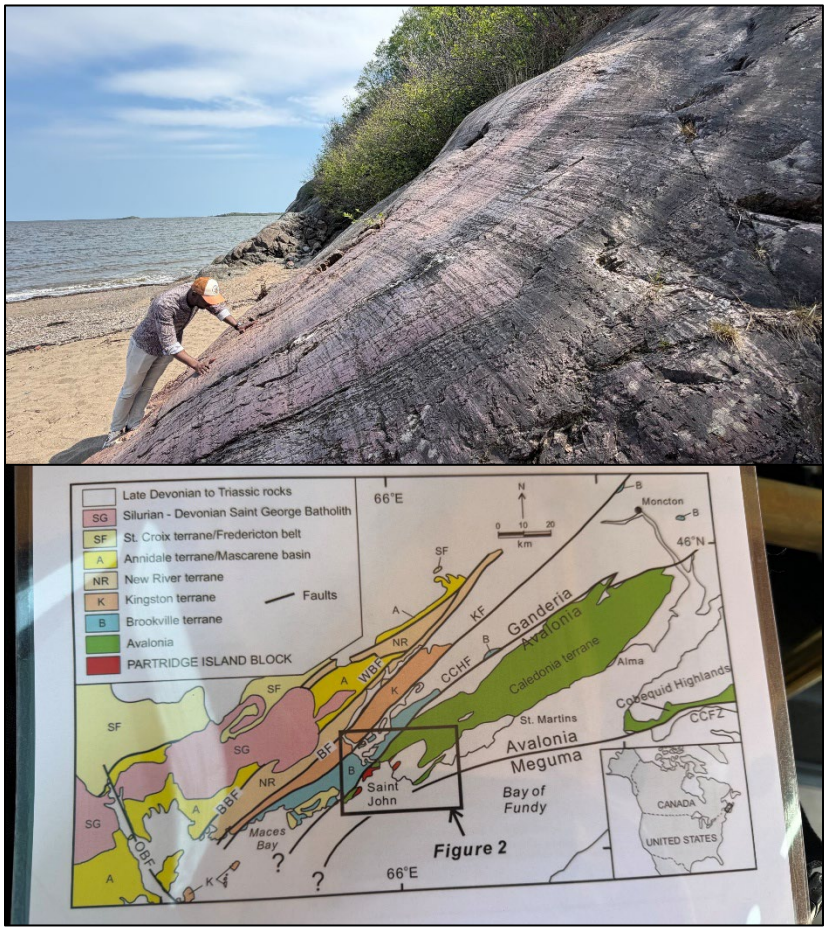
Chuck Drake, PG, CPG, AIPG President

The year is almost over and over the last 6 months, the AIPG and FAPG have been very active in public outreach to spread the word about the need for more geoscientists across the U.S. and protecting our Florida licenses.

At the National level, applications to the AIPG and issuance of CPGs have increased greatly this past year. The National Screening Committee and everyone at the AIPG HQ have contributed to processing and reviewing the applications in a timely manner. If you are considering applying for your CPG (Certified Professional Geologist) with AIPG, please do so! The process is very easy. If you have questions, email the AIPG, Kayla Casey, at aipgmembership.aipg.org.

Here in Orlando, I'm working with the Dean of the College of Sciences (COS) at the University of Central Florida to increase interest in the geosciences and develop some programs or workshops for students to take to develop real world marketable skills. If you didn't know, UCF

offers a minor in geosciences, and the Dean wants the program to continue. I'm getting good ideas from geologists around Florida and also from Aaron Johnson, the AIPG executive director.



In early June, I substituted for Aaron and attended on behalf of the AIPG the Geoscientists of Canada annual meeting in Saint John, New Brunswick. For a Florida geologist working in hydrogeology the field trip, led by a geoscientist and cultural historian, to see the remnants of glacial activity such as striations on the rocks and moraines, and clearly visible faults. The photos included here are from the field trip in and around Saint John. The geologic map shows that a lot of activity has occurred there, in addition to the glaciation.

On the business side, I gave a brief report on AIPG activity about increasing CPGs and working on the certificate program. I suggested that they become an AIPG member and CPG…

At their annual meeting, I heard stories similar to our in the U.S. that geoscience enrollment is on the decline and that the degrees being offered aren't as rigorous as in the past. Education of elected officials and licensure are also big topics. The discipline that is in growing and is in the most demand is hydrogeology, and the demand isn't being met. Paul Hubley, himself a hydrogeologist and CEO of Geoscientists of Canada, gave a detailed picture of the decline in enrollment and "watering down" of degrees.

Closer to home, I attended the Florida Ground Water Association annual conference in Orlando, on behalf of the AIPG/ FAPG. Sarah Whitaker, PG, was attending the conference and helped me out at the AIPG/ FAPG table. Thanks go to FGWA for giving us a price break on being an exhibitor!

In the short time that I was there, we had at least 10 people talk with us about a degree in geoscience, getting back into the geoscience profession, how to get their Florida PG license and/ or joining AIPG/ FAPG. Many more people stopped by the table to ask what AIPG is/ does. It was very encouraging to have that much interest in the geosciences!

The photo shows several family members of Well Master; the young generation came over and we talked well drilling.

As a reminder, the AIPG 63rd National Conference will be in Duluth, MN August 29-September 1, 2026. Please go to www.aipg.org for more information.

Please read The Professional Geologist magazine and consider writing an article for it; either on a project you've worked on or a short paragraph or two on funny or interesting things that've happened to you while doing field work. My example, which I haven't written yet, is that I dropped a water level probe a little too far down the well (as it was being pumped a couple of hundred gpm) and because the driller didn't have a strainer on the intake, the probe was pumped right up to the pump impellers, and that wasn't a good thing!

Have a great July 4th and Happy 250th Anniversary to the U.S.A.!