



Florida Association of Professional Geologists (FAPG)

Florida Chapter of American Institute of
Professional Geologists (AIPG)

Summer 2023 Newsletter



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As only some of you may know, the entire weight of the protection and promotion of the Florida P.G. license through legislative activities over the past 5 years has been carried most significantly by a core group of about 12 members. When we obtained Natalie Kato as our lobbyist a few years ago, we engaged in a legislative campaign to enhance our visibility at the Capitol and educate key lawmakers on the value PGs bring to the State. Most of whom we meet with, were simply unaware of what Geologists do (what are you a rock club?) but after talking with them for 5 minutes the message is clearly conveyed that we are on the forefront of environmental issues, in particular public visibility in water supply protection and planning (which nearly all comes from groundwater in Florida). The goal is a grassroots movement that will enhance our visibility at the capital, where we have already made strides in making amendments/negotiations to potential bills that we feel are not in the best interests of the State, or the practicing Geologists that serve that State. **If you have a PG license in Florida, I say you are welcome! Without FAPG, the license would have been revoked in past legislative sessions simply because many legislators do not know what we do.** I urge you to donate and get involved so that the dozen soldiers pushing the message becomes a few dozen, so that the future PGs have a safe and honored place to practice this seemingly underground (pun!) profession of understanding and preserving the environment we depend on to live. **Donations can be made through links at fapg.org – we are a Nonprofit 100% volunteer organization working for YOU.**



Clint Noble, P.G., FAPG President.

In September I will be attending AIPG's 60th Anniversary National Conference in Covington, Kentucky. I will be attending the Annual Business meeting representing the State of Florida. I will be seeking the input of other State and National geologic leaders in discussions that will enhance our professional practice in Florida. **I thank my FAPG Board/Advisors and lobbyist Natalie Kato for the tremendous strides we have made that I can share and learn from on a National Level.** I will report back!

Donations to FAPG can be made at the QR code shown here or through links on the FAPG webpage here: fapg.org



Table of Contents

BACK IN THE DAY: ORIGINS OF FAPG	3
TRANSITION OF FAPG TREASURER ROLE	4
2023 END OF SESSION REPORT – FAPG	5
FAPG TALLAHASSEE LOBBY DAYS 2023.....	7
.....	8
RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF DEREGULATED PG LICENSING BOARD IN PUERTO RICO	8
A NOTE FROM GUY “HARLEY” MEANS, PG, DIRECTOR OF THE FLORIDA GEOLOGICAL SURVEY AND STATE GEOLOGIST.....	10
AIPG NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTED TO REID JANSON, UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI.....	12
WHY I WANT TO BE A GEOLOGIST	12
STUDENT CHAPTER UPDATES!	13
FAPG LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES.....	13
SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES	14
JOB OPPORTUNITIES	14
ADDITIONAL GEOLOGIC RESOURCES	14

BOARD MEMBERS

Clint Noble, P.G. – President
Anne Murray, P.G., CPG – Past President
Kim Arnold, P.G. – Treasurer
EMPTY SEAT – Secretary
William Aley, P.G. – Editor
Robert “Joey” McKinnon, P.G. –
Legislative Leader

BOARD ADVISORS

Tom Herbert, P.G., CPG
Guy “Harley” Means, P.G.
Chuck Drake, P.G., CPG
Wink Winkler, P.G.
Glenn McGraw, P.G.
Scott Sigler, P.G.

CONTACT FAPG

<https://fapg.org/contact.php>
editor@fapg.org

EDITOR’S MESSAGE

Greetings Geologists! It has been far too long since we have produced a newsletter. We have a lot to share with our members and the entire of Florida’s professional geologists. As we compiled this newsletter, I realized we are telling the important story of where FAPG came from, what our primary purpose is as an organization, and what could ultimately happen if we do not maintain our efforts as a community of professionals to communicate to our state government the vital role licensing plays in ensuring that P.G.s, practicing for the benefit of the public, have the academic requirements and professional expertise to

and appropriately experienced, services to our society to protect life, health, property, the environment, and public welfare. Thanks to all who contributed to this issue and to this issue’s sponsor **Johnson Well Screens**. Please consider participating in the organization, we have many important roles to fill. Also, FAPG is seeking support through Corporate and member donations to cover incoming expenses and future lobbying efforts, please consider supporting us.

Sincerely, Bill Aley, P.G.



**Johnson
Screens**
A brand of Aqseptence Group

Chlor-Safe
Nu-Well 420
Chlorine
Alternative

BACK IN THE DAY: ORIGINS OF FAPG

**By: Tom Herbert, PhD P.G., No. 5, Florida and
Sam Upchurch, PhD, P.G. No. 4, Florida**

The Backstory

Professional licensure began with the creation of Florida Statute Chapter 492 in 1987. We had the support from AIPG during the period 1980-1987 when we passed the hat for money to hire a lobbyist to gain passage in the Spring of 1987. The \$30,000 or so that we raised paid the lobbyist, who was former House Speaker Don Tucker. We recruited the Senate President at the time John Vogt, PE, from Orlando with Tucker's help. The bill was heavily scrutinized, and the last numbered paragraph was the gift to the PEs that guaranteed we would not take any work from them. The Senate President was a PE himself, so sponsorship got the job done. The original Geology Board was all PhDs and several years were required to develop rules, a test, and grandfather current geologists as licensed P.G.s. We had a strong link to University of Florida (UF) and University of South Florida (USF) through Tony Randazzo, as department chair and Sam Upchurch as former chair of USF.

Sunsetting

Also, back in the day there was a "sunset" requirement in law that Chapter 492 would be revisited every ten years to see if the original concept was working. So, 1996 was the start of the review of what PGs had been doing for the health, safety, and welfare of Floridians. The PGs had been working into their new licensed role and we had not been looking at another round in the Florida Legislature. We (Sam Upchurch and Tom Herbert) were on the PG Board, and we thought that we needed to protect ourselves in the sunset review. If we did not pass muster, Chapter 492 would have gone away or been heavily amended. We were talking with the engineers and their support organization, the Florida Engineering Society (FES), and realized that the PG Board needed a comparable support group. The result was incorporation of Florida Association of Professional Geologists (FAPG).



Florida Governor Bob Martinez, Dr. Tom Herbert, and Gov. Martinez's wife Mary Jane in 1987 after Dr. Herbert was appointed to the Florida Geology Board.

FAPG Created

The AIPG Florida Chapter did not have the money to help hire a lobbyist, so FAPG was formed and incorporated in 1996 as a not-for-profit corporation. With a corporate structure of Tom Herbert as President, Sam Upchurch as Secretary, and Gabrielle Enos as Treasurer, we began raising funds and going to geology groups to make the pitch for dollars and support. We raised a bit more than \$30,000 with substantial financial support from corporate members. Tom made trips to Pensacola, Ft. Myers, and Miami to pitch FAPG and preservation of our license law. Sam and Gabrielle worked in central Florida and within their networks to the fullest.

Lobbyist George Sheldon was retained to represent FAPG. He represented FAPG and the geology profession very well, and we are still in operation. Mr. Sheldon was well fixed in politics, having been an eight-year Florida House of Representatives member, Deputy Attorney General and Assistant Secretary of the US Department of Health and Human Services.

In the early 2000s, when deauthorization (sunsetting) of Chapter 492 came up a second time, FAPG's wonderful ladies in Professional Geology at Gabriel's direction saved the day. The Legislature was inundated with faxes, largely from Women in Geosciences. Several legislators contacted Sam to complain about the faxes



Dr. Sam Upchurch, original Florida Geology Board member, in the field back in the day.

and how much paper they wasted taking complaints and how P.G.s were pestering them.

Keeping the Plan Going

Sam and I have been giving continuing advice and counsel to FAPG for 25 years. In our view we must continue to be aware and diligent for the profession. Every day in the media there is a report of a natural event, geohazard, or fear prediction relating to health, safety, and welfare in our state. The P.G. views must be kept in the process. Some ideas for going forward are.

- Monitor what is being said about geoscience issues and remind agencies and groups of the role of P.G.s, maybe through a P.G. portal.
- Prepare statements as appropriate to geoscience issues, posting to the PG Portal to remind the media particularly of professional geoscience, encouraging review of concepts and statements involving professional geoscience.
- Establish FAPG links to selected statewide media to offer review services and comments.
- Maintain close contact with the political world as resiliency, water supply, karst, mineral extraction issues continue to be in the headlines.

- Increase efforts to raise funds for support of FAPG administrative and lobbying efforts.
- Support our legislative and local government allies with continuing impartial and quality information.

TRANSITION OF FAPG TREASURER ROLE

As of January 2023, the role of Treasurer has officially transferred from Kristina McCoy to Kim Arnold. I want to extend a HUGE thank you to Kristina, on behalf of FAPG and AIPG, for 10 years of service as our treasurer, keeping our bills and finances in order, and making sure our Nonprofit 501 (c) (3) status stays intact. We are an organization of volunteers. None of us receives monetary compensation, and the money we collect all goes to expenses. Kristina has been a loyal, committed Treasurer for a DECADE and we would NOT be here without her. We are in debt to her service and amazed at her longstanding contributions. THANK YOU, Kristina!

Kim Arnold is taking the helm as Treasurer with a natural background in finances and a highly reputable PG in the water resources industry. She has been gung-ho from the start and dedicated to FAPG through self-starting leadership and important attendance at Capital Lobby Days. We are so grateful to have Kim. Shown below is a picture of the Treasurer transition meeting at the



Kristina McCoy and Kim Arnold handing off FAPG secretary roles.

bank. We are honored to have your past and future service to FAPG!

2023 END OF SESSION REPORT – FAPG

By: Natalie Kato, Kato Law

Florida's 2023 legislative session ended early on Friday, May 5th, in a welcome change from previous years where the session had to extend for several days in order to finish the budget. The budget grew this year to \$117 billion, almost \$5 billion larger than the current fiscal year. Legislators this year were particularly proud of the \$11 billion in reserves that was held back this year, as well as a 5% pay increase for state workers, \$350 million in recovery grants for Hurricanes Ian and Nicole, an expansion of children's health insurance, and money spent on the environment and affordable housing. 1,873 bills were filed this session, but only 355 made it across the finish line, a slight increase from previous years.

This session was largely driven by the Governor's policy priorities, which included a number of "red meat" almost certainly designed for the Governor to campaign on in a presidential primary.

For Geologists and other licensed professions, this was largely a successful session. While we anticipated a licensing sunset bill like those that had been filed in previous years, one was never introduced. A "universal occupational licensing bill" (see recap of HB 1333/SB 1364 below) ultimately did not make it across the finish line, though we can anticipate it returning next year.

Overall, the 2023 session was a positive one for FAPG. Here are some highlights:

HB 1333/SB 1364-Interstate-Mobility and Universal Recognition Occupational Licensing Act. *FAILED*

HB 1333 and SB 1364 started out as identical bills sponsored by Representative Traci Koster (R- Safety Harbor) and Senator Jay Collins (R-Tampa). These bills were based on "model legislation" written by the conservative advocacy group Americans For Prosperity, an organization that advocates across the country for, among other things, reducing regulations related to professional licensing.

Under the original filed version of the act, any profession regulated under Chapter 455 (Department

of Business and Professional Regulation) and Chapter 456 (Department of Health) would have been required to issue an occupational license or government certification to any person applying for that license from out-of-state if they met certain criteria; For individuals already licensed in another state, they would simply have to show that they held a valid occupational license in another state for at least one year, or if they were applying from a state that did not issue an occupational license for the applicable profession, they would have to show three years of work experience in the applicable profession. While the bill had some guard rails, such as allowing a licensing board to require an exam specific to relevant state laws, advocates for the various professions covered under the bill universally opposed this legislation. For geologists specifically, the bill as originally written could have created a regulatory scheme where a geologist applying from one of the seventeen states that do not require licensure could have an easier path to obtaining a license in Florida than an in-state geologist (who are required to have five years of practice in the state and pass the ASBOG exam, per the requirements in Chapter 492-Professional Geology).



KATO LAW

We were able to work in coalition with the other design professions (Landscape Architects and Architects specifically) to highlight the problems created by the bill as filed. On the Senate side, we worked directly with the Senate sponsor to insert language in the bill that required out-of-state applicants applying from an unlicensed state to practice the same number of years required by an applicant applying for licensure by endorsement (for

P.G.s, ten years of practice) and give the relevant boards rulemaking authority to decide which examination would be required for licensure.

In the House, we again worked in coalition with the Landscape Architects and Architects to successfully pursue an amendment to exempt design professions from the bill completely. Sponsored by Representative Tyler Sirois (R-Merritt Island), we were able to get this amendment adopted in the last committee stop.

Because the bills were so far apart, it became clear to House and Senate leadership that the policy had a long way to go before successful implementation. Though both bills passed all their committees of reference, they were never heard on the floor.

We can expect that these bills will be back next year. We will begin working with the sponsors and proponents of the legislation this summer to ensure that our concerns are addressed moving forward.

HB 1091/SB 7046-Licensing Fee Relief. *PASSED*

HB 1091 and SB 7046 provides that for the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 the Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) is required to waive 50 percent of the initial licensing fee or fee renewal, up to a maximum of \$200. The legislature provided an appropriation of \$50 million in non-recurring general revenue into the Professional Regulation Trust Fund to implement the legislation. This legislation will apply to PGs, as the profession is regulated under DBPR.

HB 111/SB 1170-Flooding and Sea Level Rise

Vulnerability Studies. *PASSED*

HB 111 and SB 1170 revised and expanded the Resilient Florida Grant Program, originally passed in 2020, to include counties, municipalities, and water management districts. It directs the Department to engage in rulemaking to implement the bill.

Budget Issues

The Florida Geological Survey was funded at a total of \$5,214,456.

In addition, Florida State University received \$150,000 to create the Center for Rare Earth, Critical Minerals, and Industrial Products at the university. The Center: "shall evaluate Florida's potential as a production

center for rare earths, critical minerals, and industrial byproducts for national security, supply-chain independence, meeting state infrastructure needs, supporting emerging industries, and other beneficial uses." As part of the Center's duties, it will issue a report to the Legislature and the Governor that addresses existing and emerging industries that could benefit Florida's economy and environment through the production and processing of rare earths, critical minerals, and industrial byproducts.

Next Year

Legislators can begin filing bills for the 2024 session at any time. We will continue to monitor all filed legislation to identify potential threats or opportunities for the profession. The 2024 legislative session will kick off on January 9, 2024. In the interim, there will be seven committee weeks this fall, beginning in September. We will work with FAPG's legislative chair to identify a date for our lobby day, likely next fall.

The 2024 session committee weeks are as follows:

- Week of September 18th (House Only)
- Week of October 9th (Senate Only)
- Week of October 16th
- Week of November 6th
- Week of November 13th
- Week of December 4th
- Week of December 11th



Virtual meeting with a lawmaker.

Additional info on HB 1379/ SB 1632 An act relating to environmental protection. *PASSED*

By: Charles W. Drake, P.G., CPG

Chapter 373.469 Indian River Lagoon Protection Program is created in SB 1379. In this new section of 373, the Legislature finds that the Indian River Lagoon is a critical water resource of this state and that many factor, activities and facilities have caused excess nutrients to enter the Indian River Lagoon and adversely impact the lagoon's water quality.

Beginning on January 1, 2024, unless previously permitted, the installation of new onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems is prohibited within the Banana River Lagoon Basin Management Action Plan, Central Indian River Lagoon Basin Management Action Plan, North Indian River Lagoon Basin Management Action Plan, and Mosquito Lagoon Reasonable Assurance Plan areas where a publicly owned or investor-owned sewerage system is available. Where central sewerage is not available, only enhanced nutrient reducing onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems or other wastewater treatment systems that achieve at least 65 percent nitrogen reduction are authorized.

Enhanced nutrient-reducing onsite sewage treatment and disposal system is defined as an onsite sewage treatment and disposal system approved by the department as capable of meeting or exceeding a 50 percent total nitrogen reduction before disposal of wastewater in the drain field, or at least 65-percent total nitrogen reduction combined from onsite sewage tank or tanks and drain field.

SB 1379 also addresses new elements of comprehensive land use plans with respect to regional water supply plans implemented by the water management districts to meet future water demands.

FAPG TALLAHASSEE LOBBY DAYS 2023

By: Joey McKinnon, P.G.

The FAPG Team conducted two days of action at Florida State Capitol during the 2023 Legislative Session. They included an FAPG Member Lobby Day during the pre-Session Committee Weeks, as well as staffing an FAPG

table for education and visibility in the Capitol Rotunda during Session.



Meetings at the Capitol.

Lobby Day:

On February 23, the FAPG leadership team mobilized to the Florida Capitol for the 2023 FAPG Lobby Day! There we met with seven State Senators, Representatives and/or staff members to educate lawmakers on the vital role the P.G. license plays in our State's economy, development and stewardship of our environment and resources. The team shared materials and stories from the field to advocate for the protection of the P.G. License, as well as CEU's. In the morning FAPG met with Rep. Tyler Sirois and Sen. Tracie Davis. In the afternoon FAPG members met with Rep. Angie Nixon, Sen. Shevrin Jones, Rep. Mike Giallombardo, and Rep. Jeff Holcomb prior to holding an afternoon debriefing and heading to dinner.



Natalie Kato with Clint and Kim of FAPG.

Table Day:

On April 25, 2023, FAPG staffed an association table, for public education and visibility with lawmakers, in the Capitol Rotunda. At the table, we conducted the following: public education about what geologists do, answered questions why our profession is important in Florida, provided FAPG brochures and leave behind material, gave out Florida geologic maps to visitors, had signage and displayed rock and mineral samples provided by our State Geologist Harley Means. Pictured are: Rep. Allison Tant, Rep. Angie Nixon, Sen. Jay Collins staff member, Natalie Kato (FAPG Lobbyist), Joey McKinnon (Legislative Chair), Mara McKinnon (Joey's daughter/future geologist?).

FAPG members provided elected officials the 2-page handout attached to this newsletter, from the American Geosciences Institute (AGI), which provides summaries of critical geologic statistics and facts related to Florida.

To find your State Representative and State Senator use the websites below:

<https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/>

<https://www.flsenate.gov/>



Joey, Kim, and Clint from FAPG



Table day with a future geologist!

RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF DEREGULATED P.G. LICENSING BOARD IN PUERTO RICO

By: Yomari Soto-Lopez, P.G.

The Puerto Rico Board of Examiners of Geologists (the Board) was created under law No. 163 of August 26, 1996 (*Ley de la Junta Examinadora de Geólogos de Puerto Rico*). The Board was created for granting licenses to professionals who have the knowledge and skills to practice geology. Professional geologist licenses were issued for approximately 20 years and these licensed professionals provided, with great success and value, their expertise to private industry as well as Government agencies. Unfortunately, a newer Puerto Rican governor and his legislature failed to realize the importance of Geologists and neglected to re-appoint the Puerto Rico geology Board. As a result, the Board became inactive in 2018 due to political instability and administrative interruptions which resulted in



Earthquake rubble. Guánica, Puerto Rico



Landslide damage. Barranquitas, Puerto Rico

professional geologists of Puerto Rico not being able to renew their licenses and younger geologists not taking the National Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG) Fundamentals of Geology and Practice of Geology exams to obtain their licenses.

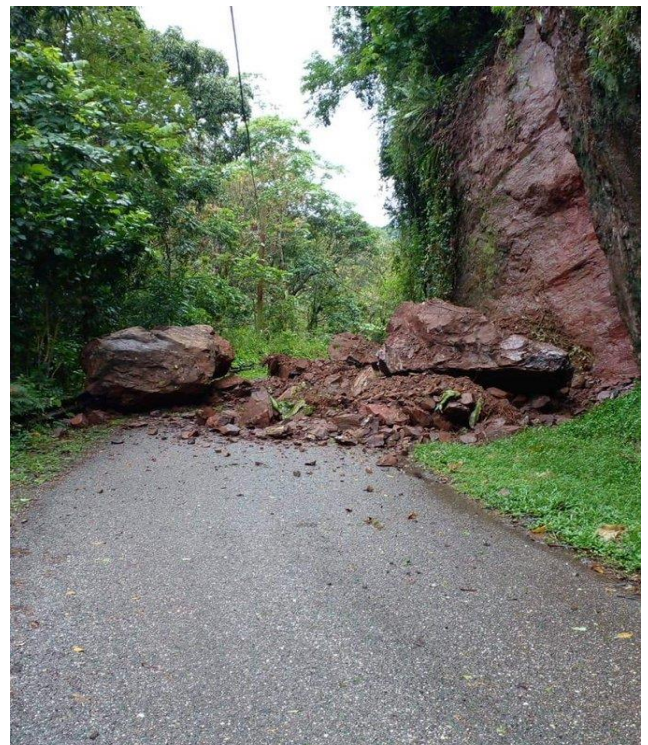
By 2022 all professional geologists' licenses had expired in Puerto Rico, yet the current administration of the government of Puerto Rico recognized the importance of professional geologists following continual lobbying and communication by local geologists and several recent natural disasters with extensive recovery efforts requiring Professional Geologists. Administrative project No. 1464 authorized the Boards' reinstatement. This administrative project was necessary for the Puerto Rico government to appoint new Board members because according to law No.163, the Board requires three geologists with a current license to be members, however all previous licenses had lapsed due to the inactive Board. The new Board was finally reinstated by the government of Puerto Rico in May 2023. Once it reorganizes, and the expired licenses are renewed, the Board will resume the process for administering the ASBOG examination for new PG candidates will commence.

Since 2018, Puerto Rico professional geologists have been struggling with the negative impact that resulted from having an inactive Board. Many geologists lost job opportunities or could not get promoted since the professional geologist license is a requirement for many local and federal government positions. In addition, many geologists could not complete and/or stamp their

jobs since they did not have a current license.

Geologists in Puerto Rico work in the environmental, construction, geotechnical, and seismological fields, among others. Soil, surface water, and groundwater contamination are a major concern due to limited natural resources, such as rivers and aquifers, on the island. The construction industry faces many geographic limitations on the island of Puerto Rico. There are not many lands available to be developed without susceptibility to a geologic process, such as landslides, erosion, seismic activity, and others. Puerto Rico is in an active seismic zone where earthquakes have in recent years caused a lot of damage to the southern areas of the island. Professional geologists with their expertise have a key role in all these areas and their public responsibility is of paramount importance.

An active licensing Board guarantees that professional geologists practicing geology for the benefit of the public in Puerto Rico have the academic requirements and professional expertise to be able to provide quality, and appropriately experienced, services to our society, to protect life, health, property, the environment, and public welfare, as established by law No. 163 for the Board of Examiners of Geologists in Puerto Rico. The new members of the Board will formulate plans to promote keeping the Board active, perhaps by



Rock fall roadblock. Juana Díaz, Puerto Rico

maintaining a continuous dialogue with legislature (as is the mission of FAPG) and communicating with active Puerto Rico geologists to encouraging them to support their professional Board and advocate for their profession so that deregulation does not occur again in the future.



Residential earthquake damage. Guánica, Puerto Rico

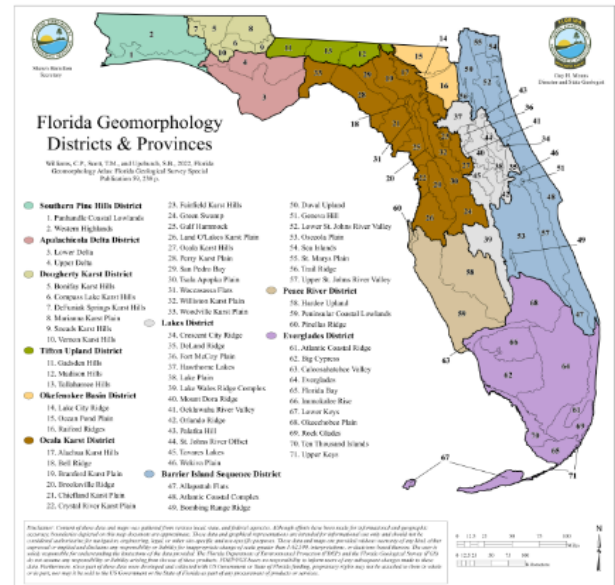
A NOTE FROM GUY “HARLEY” MEANS, PG, DIRECTOR OF THE FLORIDA GEOLOGICAL SURVEY AND STATE GEOLOGIST

FGS News and Research

Although only just scratching the surface of some of the amazing things that have been going on at the FGS since the previous FAPG newsletter, below is a summary of a few exciting new publications, projects and resources at FGS.

Perhaps it is best to begin by calling attention to the FGS News and Research page, which provides links to articles that describe our ongoing projects and outreach efforts. We plan to make this page searchable by topic and author in the coming months. Our newsletters contain numerous write-ups by our staff geologists about various topics that make Florida’s geology so unique and interesting. In our most recent issue, for example, we introduced “[A Guide to Identifying Springs and Seeps in Florida](#),” and the first of a three-part series on [Dye Tracing](#).

Some of these articles are part of a recurring series, like our “GEOFACT, Geology of a State Park and Featured



2022 Revised Florida Geomorphology Districts & Provinces map.

Formation” articles. The individual formation descriptions have been compiled and placed on our [Formations of Florida](#) webpage. If you visit this page and scroll down, links to articles about each formation can be found under “more information.”

Anastasia Formation late Pleistocene More information		Coquina limestone (coquina) and unconsolidated shelly sand	Eastern Florida Coast
--	---	--	-----------------------

The Florida Geomorphology Atlas

Published in 2022, the [Florida Geomorphology Atlas](#) is the first publication about Florida geomorphology with a systematic listing and description of statewide, regionally classified landforms whose boundaries have been discretely and rigorously defined. You can find more information here: https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/FLDEP/bulletins/3387975#link_4).

Other Items of Possible Interest

1. **Sinkholes (karst hazards)** – Check out our newly-published [Homeowner’s Guide to Sinkholes](#).
2. **State Geologic Sites** – we have 7 designated state geologic sites with plans to designate up

to ten more in the future.

<https://floridadep.gov/fgs/outreach-edu/content/state-geological-sites> .

3. **Renovation of the Walter Schmidt Museum of Florida Geology** – Installation of custom cabinets and new exhibits are part of a major renovation to our museum. When completed, exhibits will include Florida minerals, Florida calcite (Tom Scott collection), silicified coral, fulgurites, Florida formation reference samples, vertebrate and invertebrate fossils highlighting Florida's diverse and world-renowned fossil deposits.

4. Research Projects

- **Stratigraphic Reconciliation Projects** – These USGS cooperative projects support the U.S. GeoFramework Initiative (USGI) goal of providing maps for a new national digital geologic map of the United States by 2030. It is in the best interest of the southeastern states to resolve outstanding stratigraphic issues to facilitate the orderly development of interstate stratigraphic correlations. The FGS is engaged in two stratigraphic reconciliation projects, which include:
 - 1) Eastern Gulf Coast Stratigraphic Reconciliation Initiative (AL, MS, FL).
 - 2) Southeast Atlantic Stratigraphic Correlation Cooperative Project (VA, NC, SC, GA, FL). This project is still in the proposal stage.
- **National Geological and Geophysical Data Preservation Program (NGDDPP)** – Administered by the USGS, this federal grant program provides opportunities to state geological surveys and bureaus within the Department of the Interior (DOI) that maintain geological and geophysical data and samples. Current and previous data preservation grant projects conducted by the FGS through NGDDPP over the years include:
 - 1) Inventory of all samples in the Florida Geologic Sample Collection Facility.
 - 2) Historic field book scanning and transcription.
 - 3) Photograph and slide scanning/cataloging project.
 - 4) Rescue of unprocessed samples related to underground injection control wells.

- 5) Preservation of Florida's digital geophysical log data (current project).

- **FGS Mapping Initiative (FGSMI)** – The FGSMI encompasses a goal to publish a new surficial statewide geologic map. The FGSMI receives input from the three programs listed below:

STATEMAP – The USGS' [National Cooperative Geologic Mapping Program's \(NCGMP\) STATEMAP](#)

component provides funding through a competitive proposal process to assist states in completing geologic mapping. In Florida, 50 percent of the funding comes from the STATEMAP grant and 50 percent from DEP/FGS matching funds. The Florida State Mapping Advisory Committee (SMAC), in conjunction with the State Geologist, sets the mapping priorities. It consists of a broad-based and diverse group of geoscientists from around Florida, including representatives from private industry (mining), consulting, universities, DEP, water management districts, Florida Department of Transportation, and the USGS. FGS' STATEMAP Program has dedicated staff members who work to maximize the FGS' surficial geologic mapping efforts. To date, the STATEMAP



National geologic map illustration from STATEMAP

Program has mapped approximately 60 percent of the state and will continue to map 1:100,000-scale quadrangles each year.

Florida geologic mapping program (FLAGMAP) – Designed to increase the mapping efforts within the FGS. Geologists who are not part of the STATEMAP program contribute to the mapping effort.

Earth Mapping Resources Initiative (Earth MRI) – Administered by the USGS, the goal of Earth MRI is to improve our knowledge of the geologic framework in the United States and to identify areas that may have the potential to contain undiscovered critical mineral resources. Enhancement of our domestic mineral supply will decrease the nation's reliance on foreign sources of minerals that are fundamental to our security and economy. Current Earth MRI-funded FGS projects include:

- 1) Florida Focus Area – surficial geologic mapping along Trail Ridge where heavy mineral placer deposits are currently being mined (northeast Florida).
- 2) Develop standard operating procedures (SOP's) for sampling phosphate mining waste containing REE's.

AIPG NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTED TO REID JANSON, UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI

Reid Janson, a geosciences student at Rosenstiel School of Marine Atmospheric and Earth Sciences, University of Miami, was presented with an AIPG National Undergraduate Scholarship and award.

AIPG provides a limited number of National Undergraduate Scholarships annually to assist students with college education costs and to promote student participation in the American Institute of Professional Geologists (AIPG).

Details regarding Eligibility Requirements and Application Process can be obtained from AIPG's website linked below:

<https://aipg.org/page/UndergraduateScholarship>



AIPG National Scholarship presented to Reid Janson in May 2023 by James Klaus, University of Miami

WHY I WANT TO BE A GEOLOGIST

By: Reid Janson

I started my pursuit of geology as a shocking number of geologists do - by enrolling in college as a marine biologist. It took about a week of classes for me to realize that biology was not meant for me. The lecture that hinted me towards geology was surrounding planetary formation. Something about the accretion and differentiation of materials in our solar system had me on the edge of my seat. It helped that one of the professors teaching the introductory marine science course, Dr. Larry Peterson, had gone down a similar path. He also began his college career as a marine biologist before being convinced to come to the "dark side."

While the physical science aspects of my intro courses were what interested me, I decided that I needed to take a bona fide geology class before making any rash decisions. Similar to how it only took a week for me to decide against marine biology, it took one week of Earth System History for me to realize that I was home. It was not even the class itself that convinced me. As much as I love the rock cycle, the first week of Geology 110 did not teach me anything new. It was the realization that another piece of advice I learned from Dr. Peterson was true. When I first showed interest in being a geologist, he told me, "Geology attracts a certain type of person, and you seem the type." He was right. Every geologist I

have met has a shared trait that I have yet to pinpoint. Whether it is the universal love of rock-based puns or just a genuine passion for the science, there is some force that draws us all together. Every geologist I have met from that first class up until now has only furthered my passion towards the career. I cannot count the number of times that a professor or one of my peers have gone out of their way to assist me with no regard for themselves. Even when being more than altruistic, the level of brilliance maintained while keeping a sense of humor has always amazed me.

While the geologists themselves helped draw me into the profession, I have a burning passion for the science itself. As a kid I would spend hours outside scouring for the perfect rocks to run through my tumbler and digging through sediment piles in the pursuit of gold. It was no surprise to my family when I made the leap from biology to geology. As much fun as I had playing with rocks as a child, I have more fun as an adult reviewing sediment cores and analyzing speleothem bands. What appeals to me about geology is the thorough understanding it instills about the world we live in. Walking through a national park I am no longer filled with wonder and mystery but comprehension and amazement. Knowing the intense requirements that structures within our world must have gone through to form gives me a sense of appreciation greater than ever before. I like to think of it similar to watching a movie. You can watch a movie with no prior understanding of the intentions or events surrounding the film and still love it. Knowing the details and underlying meanings adds a whole new level of enjoyment.

Why do I want to be a geologist? It is a two-fold answer. The science of geology ignites a spark deep in my soul like nothing else. Nothing gets me excited like the idea of taking home a fresh sample showing an attribute of our world unique to my collection. While studying earth processes is thrilling in itself, the appeal of geology is heavily reinforced by the value of comradery found in this profession. Geology really does attract a certain type of people, and they are the most kind, funny, interesting group of people I have ever met. You never find yourself put out when you are surrounded by a group of rock-loving scientists. This is exactly why I chose to pursue a career in geology.

STUDENT CHAPTER UPDATES!

It seems like summer just started, but the beginning of the fall semester is right around the corner! FAPG would like to include a student chapter update in the next newsletter. We encourage student chapters to send us photos and a paragraph or two about your plans for the year, field trips, participation in conferences, and summer field camp/field work adventures. Please send any photos and write-ups to the editor at editor@fapg.org.

FAPG LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Have you ever considered serving in a leadership role for a professional organization? FAPG currently has vacant Board positions we're looking to fill. And we always welcome geologists—from current students to those who first picked up a Brunton during the late Cretaceous period—who would like to help with FAPG activities outside of a formal officer role. Current areas in need of assistance are Web Master, Secretary (vacant Board position!), student chapter liaisons, field trip organizers, Board Advisors. Please reach out to William Aley at editor@fapg.org if you're interested.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The FAPG's mission is to protect, enhance, and promote the geology profession in the State of Florida. We accomplish our mission by educating and lobbying state legislators on issues affecting geologists in Florida. The last several years have required extra lobbying efforts due to ongoing efforts to deregulate the practice of Professional Geology, along with many other professions. FAPG is seeking support through Corporate Donations to cover expenses and future lobbying and outreach efforts.

Please consider Sponsoring FAPG! Get your company's name and logo in the newsletter, support our legislative efforts, and support our student scholarship opportunities!

Sponsor logos and ads will be posted on our website (www.fapg.org) and as ads included in e-mails and all newsletters.

Quarter Page (\$200/year)

Half Page (\$500/year)

Full Page (\$1000/year)

Contact FAPG for more information: editor@fapg.org

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Project Engineering Geologist - PCI Government Services

Eglin Air Force Base, FL

[Project Engineering Geologist - PCI Government Services - Talenttrust \(loxo.co\)](#)

ADDITIONAL GEOLOGIC RESOURCES

American Geosciences Institute (AGI)
<https://www.americangeosciences.org/>

American Geophysical Union (AGU)
<https://www.agu.org/>

American Institute of Professional Geologists (AIPG) aipg.org

Association of Environmental and Engineering Geologists (AEG)
<https://www.aegweb.org/>

Southeastern Geological Society (SEGS)
<https://segs.org/>

Florida Geologic Survey (FGS)
<https://floridadep.gov/fgs>

Florida Museum of Natural History
<https://www.floridamuseum.ufl.edu/>

Florida Society of Mining Engineers (FLSME)
<http://flsme.org/>

National Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG)
<https://www.asbog.org/>