



SOUTHEASTERN GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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AFFILIATED WITH THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF PETROLEUM GEOLOGISTS
And GULF COAST ASSOCIATION OF GEOLOGICAL SOCIETIES

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Spring 2008 Newsletter

Officer Election Results

It was a stiff competition but Todd Kincaid, Tom Jackson, Tom Greenhalgh, and Bruce Rodgers were able to narrowly defeat their opponents (“write-in”) in the 2008 SEGS officer elections. Thank you to all our members who participated in the election process and welcome to the new and continuing officers. Let’s hope they carry the flag as effectively as our former leaders. Please feel free to contact them with your comments and suggestions for this year’s agenda.

Thanks also to KT Moran who will continue to volunteer her time and will serve as our Education/ Outreach Advisor. KT can be reached at kmoran@pirnie.com.

Agenda for 2008

Field Trips

As with years past, our agenda for 2008 will primarily focus on field trips and dinner meetings. We will be trying to organize 3-4 field trips this year. The first one is scheduled for May and will focus on the Peace River Florida and be led by our new Vice-President Tom Jackson. An introduction to this trip is provided a subsequent section of this newsletter. Two other trips are currently being planned. One will be a repeat of last year’s Santa Fe River Springs trip led by Todd Kincaid. The other trip being planned will focus on Silver Springs and be led by Tom Scott and Harley Means of the Florida Geological Survey. We are currently entertaining options for a fourth trip and are welcoming suggestions and suggested trip leaders. Ideas currently include:

- Florida phosphate mining
- Florida minerals mining
- Karst Geology – Mammoth Cave Kentucky

Please contact one of the officers if you have concrete ideas about these or other potential trips and particularly if you’re willing and able to help organize and/or lead a trip.

Dinner Meetings

We’re tentatively planning to arrange at least two dinner meetings this year. One will be set to correspond with the Upper Peace River field trip in May. We’re planning to hold another to correspond with a joint FAPG/AIPG two-day forum titled “*Emerging Topics in Florida Geology*” that

is currently being planned for September in St. Augustine, Florida. The purpose of the forum will be to discuss ways of improving the dissemination of important research results to government entities and professional geologists working in Florida. The forum will take place over a Friday/Saturday where Friday will be the technical forum with Saturday reserved for a field trip. As SEGS commonly partners with FAPG for educational objectives, our goal is to encourage our members to join and participate in this important forum. We're planning to host a dinner meeting to coincide with the Friday forum and potentially team with FAPG for the following Saturday's field trip. We'll make sure that everyone receives a copy of the FAPG/AIPG flyers on the forum once they're drafted.

The dinner meeting agendas will include dinner, and pre and post dinner mixer, and an invited speaker. Once the agendas are finalized, we'll send out email announcements to let you know the date, time, and invited speaker for both dinner meetings.

Educational Presentations

This year we are also trying something a little different. Several of our members have periodically been asked to give presentations at their local schools about geology or hydrogeology. Teachers repeatedly tell us that such presentations and more importantly the opportunity they provide for young students to interact with motivated professionals is an exceptionally rewarding experience for the students. We'd therefore like to position the SEGS to encourage and support our members in these endeavors. To do that, this year we will begin to compile PowerPoint presentations that cover various aspects of geology such as karst, groundwater protection, mining, etc. We will then make these presentations available to our members via the SEGS website.

But to do this effectively, we are going to need your help. If you have any electronic materials that you'd be willing to contribute to this cause, please get in touch with one of the officers so that we can collect them and make sure that they are fully cited to the contributors. Once we get the program running, we're also thinking of making a website listing the members who are out there making the presentations along with the dates, schools, and teacher contact information for each one. In these ways, we're hoping to promote expanded outreach efforts and therefore broaden the public's understanding of geology and its importance to our society.

Ideas and suggestions are welcome.

Upper Peace River Karst Area / Lake Hancock Field Trip – May 3, 2008

Field Trip

- Saturday May 3, 2008
- Depart from the Davis Brothers Motor Lodge parking lot (see *Accommodations*)
- Departure time: 9 AM
- Expected return time: 5 PM

Dinner Meeting

- Friday May 2, 2008
- Speakers: Tom Jackson, Charles Cook, possibly others TBA
- Where: Mike's Fine Food Restaurant, 1590 N. Broadway (US 98), Bartow, FL
- When: Social Hour 6:PM; Dinner 7 PM

Overview

The Upper Peace River Karst Area (UPRKA), located between Bartow and Homeland (Polk County, central Florida) has received considerable attention and study in recent years, as this stretch of the Peace River has frequently gone dry during the spring in recent years and has not met statutory MFL requirements. The area includes the site of Kissengen Spring, reportedly the first major spring in Florida to cease continuous flow (February 1950) as a result of man's activities (overpumping of

the underlying aquifers). In addition to visiting many of the numerous karst features in the UPRKA, for additional context we will visit nearby sites related to the Lake Hancock lake level restoration and wetlands treatment project, which is being designed by the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) to help meet statutory Minimum Flows and Levels (MFLs) and improve water quality in the Upper Peace River.

Tom Jackson (Chastain-Skillman, Inc.), organizer of this field trip, has done extensive historical and technical research on historic Kissengen Spring. Patty Metz (USGS), Charles Cook (FDEP Bureau of Mine Reclamation), and Ron Basso (SWFWMD) are all scheduled to participate and offer their expertise about the areas we will visit. The USGS has been studying the UPRKA for quite a few years now, and Patty is currently working on the final report. As a Hydrobiologist and Land Manager, Charles has done significant research and public presentations on Kissengen Spring, and led numerous “walking tours” of the numerous karst features in the area. He also provides great insight into the relationship between water (quantity, quality, pH, etc.) and the health and nature of the Upper Peace River ecosystem so dependent on sustainable water resources. Ron had authored a SWFWMD report evaluating the prospects for restoring artesian flow in this highly impacted area, and is involved with District strategies for meeting MFL requirements for the Upper Peace. Strategies under consideration include dry-season release of stored water from lakes and reservoirs, and plugging and/or berming around some of the karst features in the river channel to prevent water flow losses to the underlying aquifers. Over \$200M is projected to be spent in this area in an effort to meet MFL requirements.

This field trip has been scheduled for the “dry season” when the river stage is typically low enough to expose many of the various karst features in the main river channel and before hot weather and the rainy season arrive. However, these conditions can be unpredictable, so we will adjust the itinerary depending on the river stage and access to the best exposures at the time of the field trip. We plan to visit the historic site of Kissengen Spring, Gator Sink (large sinkhole with great exposures), Dover Sink, the Crevasses, and many other interesting karst features along this stretch of the river. For excellent background information and a map showing the names and locations of many of the karst features in this area, USGS Fact Sheet 102-03 (Knochenmus, L.A, 2004) is available online at: <http://pubs.usgs.gov/fs/2003/fs-102-03/>

Registration Information

Registration fee for the field trip is \$60. The fee will include: local transportation, boxed lunch, snacks and water, and a printed field guide. **Registration will be limited to approximately 30 participants, so please confirm space availability** (call Tom Greenhalgh at 850.488.9380; or Tom Jackson at 863.646.1402 x1647) and sign up as soon as possible to ensure your space.

To complete your registration, please send a check (made out to the Southeastern Geological Society) by April 26, 2008 to Tom Greenhalgh at:

Dept Environmental Protection
Florida Geological Survey
Gunter Building MS #720
903 W. Tennessee St.
Tallahassee, FL 32304-7700

Children over 10 years old are welcome to attend for a reduced registration fee of \$30.

Dinner Meeting

The Friday night dinner meeting at Mikes will include presentations that will enhance your

understanding of the places and features we plan to visit on Saturday, so we encourage you to attend, if possible. We are not collecting money for the dinner – just order off the menu or get the buffet. Each party can then pay their own bill. When you register for the field trip, please **let us know if you plan to attend the Friday night dinner** so we can best accommodate the participants.

Accommodations

If you plan to stay the night, accommodations can be found at:

- Hotel Name: Davis Brothers Motor Lodge; www.davisbrosmotorlodge.com
- Hotel phone number: 863.533.0711; SEGS Group Rate \$62 single, \$67 double (+ tax)
- Block Group Rate Identifier: SEGS Field Trip;

GCAGS News

You may not be aware of this, but SEGS is one of the oldest members of the Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies (GCAGS) (<http://www.gcags.org/>). However, because we are geographically isolated (i.e., the farthest east) relative to the other member organizations, it has been difficult to participate with them in a meaningful manner. At present, our involvement has been limited to donating our allotted 1/4 page of advertisement space in the AAPG Explorer Magazine to announce the Annual GCAGS meetings. Because of this, we are considering if and how we want to continue our relationship. Benefits of the association primarily include: matching funds for approved programs and scholarships but we have not had the time or resources to actively pursue these. If we are to continue and cultivate this relationship we should consider pursuing the following two tasks as part of our yearly agenda.

- Appoint one or more volunteers to attend and represent the SEGs at the GCAGS board meetings. They hold two per year. This year's mid-year meeting is being held in Houston TX on April 11. Their annual meeting will also be held in Houston in conjunction with the Annual meeting of GSA (<https://www.acsmeetings.org/>) October 5-9.
- Appoint a committee of volunteers to identify and pursue program initiatives in conjunction with the GCAGS.

In our present condition and with our available budget, we would need assistance from the membership to pursue these tasks and we therefore need to assess the interest level in maintaining our relationship with GCAGS. If you are interested and have the time to become more involved with this group (particularly if you would like to attend future meetings), please notify the officers ASAP.

ASCE Karst Conference

SEGS is helping to sponsor the 11th Multidisciplinary Conference on sinkholes and the Engineering and Environmental Impacts of Karst, which is organized every two years by the American Society of Engineers – GEO Institute. This year's conference is being held in Tallahassee, Florida on September 22-26, 2008 and will have a special focus on the karst hydrogeology and groundwater problems in the Woodville Karst Plain (WKP). The WKP is an extensively karstified region south of Tallahassee containing three of Florida's largest springs as well as the largest underwater cave system in North America – the Wakulla-Leon Sinks Cave System. The conference will include short courses on karst hydrogeology and geophysics on Monday, a field trip through the WKP on Tuesday, and lectures on Wednesday-Friday. The short Courses and Field Trips will be open to SEGS members independent of the conference registrations.

The ASCE Karst Conference has become a series of highly successful interdisciplinary conferences which were first organized by the Florida Sinkhole Research Institute in 1984 as a means for geologists and geographers, who study how and where karst develops and how sinkholes form, to interact with engineers, planners and others, who must apply this information to build and maintain society's infrastructure and protect our environment. Since the first meeting in 1984, these biennial conferences have grown into the single most important international professional meeting concentrating on the practical application of karst science.

The goal of this conference is to share knowledge and experience among disciplines by emphasizing scientific and technological aspects of karst that have practical applications, together with case histories of those applications. Since karst topography impacts ground and surface water resources, waste disposal and management, highways and other transportation facilities, structural foundations and utilities and other infrastructure, civil, geotechnical and environmental professionals should all attend this most relevant conference.

Anyone interested in attending this conference or the short courses and field trip can learn more about them and register through the conference website:

<http://content.asce.org/conferences/KARST08/index.html>

ASCE is still seeking sponsors and contributors, so if you or your company or organization are interested in such an opportunity, please contact Todd Kincaid.

President's Message

I have only been involved with SEGS formally for the past couple of years but in that time I have been inspired by the level of interest and enthusiasm that our members have brought forward during our field trips and dinner meetings. In this busy time, one of our biggest challenges as professionals is to stay abreast of relevant current events, new ideas, and important work being done by our fellow geoscientists in the region. Facilitating these types of exchanges and educational opportunities is the primary goal of all of our SEGS trips and meetings and they work well because of the strong support our organization receives from the members. For that, I'd like to take a moment to thank everyone that has participated in recent events for their time, support, and enthusiasm.

We have a lot planned for this year including at least two field trips and a joint dinner meeting with the FAPG/AIPG and I am excited to be a part of it. We're already well into the year so expect announcements on these and hopefully other events to be coming out soon and when they do, please give serious thought to participating and helping us make them successful. And, keep in mind that we are always looking for new people to organize and run field trips and meetings and now for assistance in the development of educational presentations. If you or anyone you know can spare some time to help the organizations with these ongoing goals, please contact one of the officers at your earliest convenience. Don't put it off – time flies too fast to wait.

Thanks again for all you do and have done to support the SEGS. Look forward to seeing you all on a field trip.