SOUTHEASTERN GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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

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www.segs.org

Spring 2009 Newsletter

Retirement Celebration for Tom Scott

As many of you likely know by now, our esteemed colleague and friend Dr. Tom Scott is now retiring after 35 years of service with the Florida Geological Survey. As our Assistant State Geologist since 1984, the "RockDoc" has contributed immensely to our understanding of Florida geology, notably for the Hawthorn Group sediments. Additionally, Tom has been a leader in the SEGS in countless ways, including leading and participating in many memorable field trips. This notwithstanding, Tom survived quite an entertaining evening (at least for the rest of us) of roasting and toasting on March 21, with a well-attended (~100 or more) "retirement" celebration at the pavilion on Lake Tallavana (see pic below), near Tallahassee. We understand Tom will remain based in the Tallahassee area but will be working (???) closely with Dr. Sam Upchurch in association with SDII Global, headquartered in Tampa. We thank Dr. Scott for his long and continuing dedication to the SEGS and wish him the best in his new endeavors.

Pictured Left to Right: Tom Scott, Sam Upchurch, and Jon Arthur

URGENT ACTION ITEM:
Funding for UF and FSU Geology Programs

Funding for continuation of the geology programs at the University of Florida and at Florida State University is currently very much in jeopardy, and it is possible that these important long-standing programs may be discontinued unless the current tide turns. The SEGS Executive Committee will be sending letters in support of these programs. Other important departments at state universities are also on the chopping block at present. We strongly urge everyone, particularly Florida geologists, to contact the respective university presidents, geology departments, state legislators, and newspaper editors in support of geology programs and other departments you may consider essential. Hopefully, other geology departments around the state are not currently in jeopardy.

Link to FSU article: www.tallahassee.com/article/20090413/BREAKINGNEWS/90413030
UF: www.orlandosentinel.com/news/local/orl-asecdeepcuts17041709apr17,0,5438476.story

Key Florida Legislators to Contact:

Senator Jeff Atwater
Room 312, SOB
404 S. Monroe Street
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561.625.5101; or 850.487.5100 (Tallahassee)

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SEGS Officer Elections!

Soon "Active" SEGS Members should be receiving (via US Mail) the ballot for your 2009 Society officers. Once received, please take a few moments to vote, and return the ballot and your updated contact information (see below) to the SEGS address shown above. For your consideration, the 2009 officer candidates are:

Tom Jackson - President;
David DeWitt - Vice President;
Harley Means - Secretary/Treasurer;
Bruce Rodgers, Membership Secretary.

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

Contact / Member Information Update

All members ("Active" and "Associate") will be mailed a form for confirming and/or updating your membership information. Society membership dues for 2009 should be submitted along with the information form. Your Executive Committee has been working hard to resolve issues with processing your checks timely.

Announcement – FAPG / AIPG Conference and Field Trip April 30 – May 2, 2009

FAPG/AIPG has scheduled a heavy minerals field trip for May 2, 2009 in conjunction with the FAPG/AIPG Annual Meeting and Technical Conference scheduled for April 30 – May 2, 2009 in St. Augustine. For conference and field trip details and registration information go to the conference website at www.aipg.org/Seminars/water_conf.htm. SEGS is co-sponsoring the field trip and encourages everyone interested to sign up quickly, as the fee has been reduced to only $30.00 and the available spaces (limited to 30 participants) likely will fill up quickly.

The Saturday (May 2, 2009) field trip, entitled "The Stratigraphy and Mineral Resource Significance of the North Florida Plio-Pleistocene" will focus on the geology and industrial mineral resource potential of the Cypresshead Formation and the younger Trail Ridge system in northern peninsular Florida. Highlights of the field trip will include stops at active mining and processing facilities engaged in the production of fine aggregate sands, kaolin clays and heavy minerals, as well as a field-based evaluation of depositional models used to explain the origin of both units and their context within the broader scope of siliciclastic deposition on the Florida Platform.

Ongoing SEGS Activities and Plans

SEGS Field Trip Guidebooks – Since 1944, the SEGS has conducted field trips to a wide variety of locations in the Southeastern US (primarily Florida in recent years). To date, guidebooks have been printed for 48 of these field trips, and many of the earlier guidebooks are now rare and not readily available. To remedy this, SEGS is currently working on making high-quality electronic PDF copies of many (eventually all) of these guidebooks available, in addition to digital versions already available for of our more recent guidebooks. A current list of SEGS publications, including availability, is maintained on the SEGS website www.SEGS.org. Harley Means (guy.means@dep.state.fl.us;) maintains a collection of all SEGS guidebooks and can provide copies of guidebooks that are currently available.

SEGS Continued Affiliation with the Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies (GCGAS) – You may not be aware of this, but SEGS is one of the oldest members of the Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies (GCAGS). The GCAGS holds an annual convention every Fall. This past year, it was held in Houston on October 5-9. GCAGS is a vibrant group with over 12,000 members and has eleven affiliated "sister" societies. Because we are geographically isolated (i.e., the farthest east) relative to the other member organizations, it has often been difficult to participate fully with this group. However, we are now shoring up our relationship with GCAGS, as this provides considerable value and benefit to all. Harley Means recently served as our SEGS representative to the 2008 GCAGS Conference in Houston, We look forward to further strengthening our relationship with the GCAGS in the coming years For more information about GCAGS, please look at their website at: http://www.gcags.org/

GCGAS Maps in Schools Program – SEGS looks forward to participating in the outstanding and highly-successful Maps in Schools Program sponsored by the GCAGS. We all understand the critical role of public awareness of our geological world and the need to engage and educate our youth. While at the 2008 GCAGS Conference, Harley Means met with GCAGS President Ken Nemeth and GCAGS Maps in School Chairman Owen Hopkins to initiate a SEGS-run Maps-In-School program in Florida. GCACS generously provided SEGS with $1,000 in "seed money" to get our program rolling. This funding is to be used for placing framed and laminated full-color USGS geologic maps of the USA in Florida schools that agree to display the map in a permanent high-visibility location within the school. We much appreciate the initiative taken by GCAGS in making this basic Earth Science resource available in our schools. SEGS plans to make select Florida-specific maps and educational posters available free of charge for display at schools.

Planned SEGS Website Enhancements – We are updating the current SEGS website (www.SEGS.org) and plan to launch an enhanced SEGS website later this year. The GCAGS and several of our sister societies have been contacted to see how/if we can share resources, enhance and link content, and contain overhead. Suggestions and/or assistance from our members is most welcome and encouraged.

Upcoming SEGS Alum Bluff / Torreya State Park Field Trip – Originally considered for March 21, 2009 in conjunction with the RockDoc Retirement Party, we will soon announce the date and details for a Tom Scott led field trip to these outstanding locations that feature some of Florida's best exposures (Alum Bluff Fm. type section) scenic vistas, and biological diversity

Selected Books of Note

"Roadside Geology of Florida" –
Jonathan Bryan, along with Florida Geological Survey geologists and longtime SEGS stalwarts Tom Scott and Harley Means, recently co-authored this excellent addition to the Roadside Geology series published by Mountain Press. Copies of this outstanding book are readily available through booksellers, and signed copies have been available directly from Harley Means or Tom Scott if you are interested.

"From Eden to Sahara – *Florida's Tragedy*" –
Link: *www.conserveseminole.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=50&Itemid=48*
The Seminole Soil and Water Conservation District recently republished at only $15 /copy the classic 1929 book by John Kunkel Small, noted curator of the New York Botanical Gardens who regularly visited Florida from ~1900 to the 1930s collecting and describing Florida's unique flora and fauna. Small, far ahead of his time, was keenly aware of the important role water resources play in maintaining the ecological health of our natural systems. He authored over 400 botanical monographs, and over 2,000 of his photographs are available online via the State Archives' Florida Memory Project / Florida Photographic Collection at:
www.floridamemory.com/PhotographicCollection/Collection_page.cfm?PR_ID=26

Spring 2008 Field Trip and Dinner Meeting Summary
Upper Peace River Hydrologic Area and Historic Kissengen Spring Site Located Near Bartow, Florida

More than 40 members of the Southeastern Geological Society (SEGS) and the interested public participated in this field trip on Saturday, May 3, 2008. A Friday night (May 2, 2008) dinner meeting, held at Mike's Fine Food Restaurant in Bartow, featured PowerPoint presentations on historic Kissengen Spring and on the nearly-completed United States Geological Survey (USGS) study of the hydrogeology and stream losses to karst features in the Upper Peace River Hydrologic Area (UPRHA). The Saturday (May 3, 2008) field trip was an all-day excursion in 15-passenger vans to the UPRHA, the historic Kissengen Spring site, and to the Circle B Bar Reserve, located nearby on Lake Hancock.

Gator Sink

The field trip was scheduled for the "dry season" when the Peace River stage is typically low enough to expose many of the various karst features (i.e., sinkholes, swallets, and fractures) in the main river channel. Sections of the river within the UPRHA have gone completely dry during recent years as river flow is captured by the karst features. The group visited Gator Sink (a large sinkhole with great exposures), Dover Sink, the Crevasses, and many other interesting karst features. Charles Cook, biologist and land manager with FDEP's Bureau of Mining and Mineral Regulation, led the group to many key features and provided great insight into the dynamic nature of the area and the recent timing of river stages, as well as the important relationship between hydrology and the health and nature of the plant communities and wildlife so dependent on sustainable water resources.

Excellent Exposures of the Arcadia Fm. At Dover Sink

Patty Metz (USGS hydrologist) and Billy Lewelling (former USGS biologist now with SWFWMD), were among the highly talented group that participated. The USGS has been studying the UPRHA for quite a few years now, and Metz and Lewelling are now in the final stages of a SWFWMD-funded USGS study of the area. For excellent background information and a map showing the 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/

Historic Photo "Family Kissengen" circa 1920s

Kissengen spring pool basin May 2. 2008

During the lunch break, the group visited the historic site of Kissengen Spring and the adjacent "old picnic area", both enjoyed for many generations before flow at the spring waned and eventually ceased flow due to overpumpage of the underlying aquifer system. Kissengen Spring served as an important social and recreational facility for both local residents and visitors from afar for many generations before it ceased continuous flow in February 1950. Thomas Edison visited the spring in 1887. Florida Governors Spessard Holland and Lawton Chiles once frolicked in this spring, as did countless others. Recent data provide some hope that with the right management strategies, unplugging of the spring vent, and public commitment to water conservation and land stewardship, flow at this historic site might be restored once again.

President's Message

Dear members,

Thank you for the opportunity to work for SEGS these past couple of years as Vice President and President. I have been and remain excited about and committed to our organization's goals to enhance professional communication and exchange in an active manner. In this regard, our field trips have been and remain unique in the professional community because we actually get out and see some of the things and places relevant to our profession. While meetings are great, I think it's the field trip setting that opens minds and also gets us to drop our guard and really share experiences and knowledge with our colleagues.

It's no secret that SEGS is a small and not entirely organized organization. We have however been working to address these issues and I hope that I've been able to contribute in that regard. As we're gearing up for another election and looking forward to new leadership, I would like to do a little bragging about our record. Despite our imperfections and the broader problems that have cropped up all around us in recent times, we have consistently been able to organize and lead topical, informative, and fun field trips that have been very well received by the participants. In my mind, that is our primary organizational objective and despite being rough around the edges we have consistently delivered. I'd personally like to thank my fellow officers, the field trip organizers, and all the volunteers that have helped SEGS consistently meet that goal. Thank you all. For those of you who haven't had an opportunity to lead a trip yet, please consider it. We can all benefit for the knowledge you have of your own filed area and professional issues.

As we move forward, we're adding new objectives that I'm confident will broaden and strengthen our organization. We've adopted the Maps and Schools program from our alliance with GCAGS. We've got several maps slated for schools now and I anticipate the number growing significantly as we get some traction in the program. We've also decided to re-engage with GCAGS on a more significant level by sending a representative to the annual meeting and getting a formal report on partnering opportunities from them to be annually incorporated in one of our newsletters. In doing this, I'm confident that we'll find new ways, like the Maps in Schools program, to contribute more to geological education in Florida.

Organizationally, we've been working to update our operations in order to better serve our membership. We've initiated a plan to update and upgrade our website such that our materials and newsletters are more accessible. We've consolidated our membership lists in order to resolve communications problems that unfortunately plagued some of our members. And, we are shooting to be more transparent with our book-keeping by including financial statements in at least one of our newsletters every year. All of these initiatives were undertaken to address comments and feedback that we've received from our members over the past couple of years so please – keep them coming. I'm confident that the new officers will work to address them and in so doing continue to improve our organization.

Finally, I'd like to thank you again for the opportunity to serve SEGS these past couple of years. We have a great organization and I'm looking forward to seeing you all again on a future field trip.

Best –
Todd Kincaid

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