

## Richard M. Powers, CPG 6765



2012 Recipient of  
the AIPG

Ben H. Parker  
Memorial Medal

Rick received his A.B. in geology from Boston University in 1974. He began his career working in the coal and uranium production and exploration areas of the western United States focusing on geophysical data collection and interpretation. He became a consultant working primarily on uranium development projects and subsequently joined the Tennessee Valley Authority. In 1981 Rick and wife Nikki moved to central Florida where he joined a small consulting company working in the phosphate mining and processing industry. Rick began working at Bromwell Engineering as the only geologist and in the mid-1980's became an officer of the company. Rick purchased the majority ownership of BCI in 1997, the company grew from 38 employees to 200 employees by 2010 with offices in Florida, Michigan, Missouri and Colorado. In 2011 Rick and the stockholders of BCI sold the company to amec Environment & Infrastructure, a 27,000 person international consulting company. Today Rick is semi-retired and continues to work with amec as an on-call employee with the title Principal Geologist.

Rick is a registered professional geologist in Florida and has been an AIPG Certified Professional Geologist since 1985. He is a member of AIPG (+25 years), SME (+25 years), GSA, ABG, AWRA, Western Dredging Association and North American Lakes Management Society (corporate). As an active member of AIPG he has served the Florida Section as Vice President, President, and on the screening board. In 1991 Rick received the Florida "Hero of the Industry Award" from the Florida section. Over three decades he has served AIPG as a national screening board member, advisory board member, Intersociety Liaison Committee - Chair, American Geosciences Institute (AGI) Environmental Committee Representative, Subcommittee on Competition between Government and Private Sector, President-Elect, President and Past President and currently serves as a Trustee of the AIPG Foundation. He is also Past Chair of the AIPG Finance Committee and Awards Committee and in 2006 was the recipient of the Martin Van Couvering Memorial Award. Rick has also served the American Geosciences Institute as a Member at Large of the AGI Executive Committee and as AGI's President-Elect, President and Past President. Currently Rick serves as AGI's Foundation Chairman.

Today Rick is enjoying his semi-retirement with his wife Nikki spending half their time in Montana and half in Florida. They also enjoy watching the progression of their sons' Mike and Tyler early careers in the oil industry. Rick's sons are both geology graduates of the University of Wyoming and working in the Bakken, drilling oil and gas wells.

## Recipients of the AIPG Presidential Certificate of Merit

Presented by

Barbara H. Murphy, 2012 President



Lawrence M. Austin, CPG 5181

For dedicated leadership of the Screening  
Committee and other AIPG service.



Robert G. Font, CPG 3953

For service to AIPG - his column in TPG,  
participation of EFG and AIPGC meetings as a  
representative of AIPG, and other  
AIPG service.

## J.P. Gries Geologist of the Year Award

Mark D. Fahrenbach

Mark D. Fahrenbach earned an A.S. in geology in 1980 from Lansing Community College, his B.S. in 1984 from Michigan State University, and his Ph.D. in Geology in 1995 from SDSM&T.

Mark has quietly gone about the business of producing geologic information and maps that are the foundation for understanding South Dakota's geologic resources. He has become a respected authority on the geology of the Black Hills and has routinely hiked several hundred miles through rugged terrain during a field season. In his own words, he is a perfectionist to a fault. That particular character trait provides the assurance that geologic maps produced by Mark are accurate, scientifically defensible, and of value to the State of South Dakota.

The J.P. Gries Geologist of the Year Award is in honor of the late Dr. John Paul Gries, a longtime professor of geology at SDSM&T. The award is presented annually by AIPG's South Dakota Section to a South Dakota geologist in recognition of exceptional work and service to the profession of geology.

## Special Recognition

Thomas V. Durkin, CPG 9183

Special recognition goes to Thomas V. Durkin, CPG 9183, President of the South Dakota Section. The AIPG South Dakota Section Executive Committee is pleased to honor Tom "In recognition of outstanding service to the American Institute of Professional Geologists".

## AIPG's Honors and Awards Program

The American Institute of Professional Geologists (AIPG) has a history of effective and outstanding service to the profession of geology since 1963. Descriptions of the awards, past recipients, and the nomination form can be found on the AIPG National website at [www.aipg.org](http://www.aipg.org) or contact the AIPG National Headquarters office at:

AIPG, 12000 Washington Street, Suite 285, Thornton, CO 80241  
(303) 412-6205 - [aipg@aipg.org](mailto:aipg@aipg.org) - [www.aipg.org](http://www.aipg.org)

## American Institute of Professional Geologists 2012 National Conference

Honors  
&  
Awards



Best Western Ramkota Hotel  
Rapid City, South Dakota

September 24, 2012

## John L. Bognar, CPG 8341



### 2012 Recipient of the Award of AIPG Honorary Membership

John received his degree from Missouri State University 33 years ago. He began his career as a petroleum exploration geologist, then he changed pace to a multi-million dollar groundwater clean-up project in the environmental arena. Then after creating a small geologic consulting business as its president, John ran a profit center for the oldest groundwater geology consulting firm in the nation. He is now directing a geologic services group for a 200 person consulting firm. John's experience includes working on and directing executive boards, interrelating with CEOs and technical staff, corporate officers of large and small companies, executive directors of professional societies, attorneys, heads of federal and state regulatory agencies, two state governors, and state and federal legislators.

John served AIPG as the Missouri Section President and participated in several section level committees. Later, he contributed time and energy to the AIPG National Executive Committee for 7 years as the Secretary, the Treasurer, President Elect, President in 2009 and Past President, as well as a few ad hoc and other AIPG committees. John is chairman of the Foundation of the American Institute of Professional Geologists.

John organized and led a group of AIPG geologists across the nation to create an AIPG statement of American Domestic Energy. He was a contributing Writer of the Missouri Geologist Licensing Act, co-founder of Missouri Geologic Engineering Advisory Counsel for political action in public safety, chairman of the Missouri State Board of Registered Geologists by appointment from the Missouri Governor and continues serving on the Board, guest speaker at several universities on topic of professionalism in geology, a volunteer to the Missouri Attorney General for professional opinion in geologic civil and criminal cases, subject matter expert for the Association of State Boards of Geology, member of Legislative and Environmental Committees for the Missouri Limestone Producers, and member of the Legislative Committee for the Illinois Association of Aggregate Producers.

#### Awards and Personal

- Recipient of the AIPG Presidential Certificate of Merit Award
- Leader of the "Green Team" that received the prestigious National Honor Award for Engineering Excellence for 2009 from the American Council of Engineering Companies.
- Leader of project team to receive the Outstanding Achievement Award for Environmental Innovation given by the Missouri Waste Control Coalition (June 2009).
- John's reading interests are the American Revolution, the US Constitution and Early American political biography as well as Baseball History.
- True Interest – His wife Colleen and his two children; Erin and Brendan.

## James R. Burnell, MEM 205



### 2012 Recipient of the Award of John T. Galey, Sr. Memorial Public Service Award

This award recognizes Dr. Burnell's efforts to publicize the importance of the mining industry by pointing out the US's needs for mineral commodities. In a political atmosphere that generally doesn't view mining favorably, Jim has been pointing out the uncomfortable fact that the US is dependent on imports for most of the mineral commodities we need for our modern technology and our economic health. Much of our supplies come from countries that are not necessarily friendly or reliable.

Jim has been working in various aspects of geology for over forty years. In some of his diverse experience, Jim has conducted minerals exploration in the Southern Appalachians and the Great Lakes Region, conducted research in the mobility of various radionuclides in the natural environment, directed investigations on contaminated sites in six states from Maine to California.

He has delivered 70 talks to various groups in Colorado and the U.S. on the topic of the US's mineral dependence. His presentations carefully point out the uses for these minerals in areas from aerospace to industry to electronics. Most relevant to many audiences is the recognition that our modern electronic devices and alternative energy technologies depend on the products of the mining industry brought from abroad.

Jim has shared this knowledge to groups ranging in scope from civic clubs to alternative energy advocacy groups to politicians at the state and national level. Included have been webinars for the AGI/AIPG and the Western Business Roundtable, courses for continuing legal education (CLE), continuing education for teachers, the Energy and Minerals Field Institute (EMFI) for legislative and executive staffers from Washington D.C., courses for the Bureau of Land Management, county commissioners and staff and university lectures. Informing the public on the need for natural resources for our country to thrive and even survive has brought Jim back to where he started - education.

## Mark W. Rogers, CPG 8926



### 2012 Recipient of the Award of Martin Van Couvering Memorial Award

Mark's interest in geology began with a 7<sup>th</sup> grade earth science class at Monticello Jr. High, Longview, WA. Mark went to the University of Idaho in Moscow from 1979 – 1983, where he took classes in glaciology, metallurgy, and geochemical and geophysical exploration, and summer field camp in Dillon, Montana mapping the Belt Series (Igneous /Sedimentary) formation. Mark applied his college studies during the summer months in Nome, Alaska working for various mining companies to help pay for his education. Mark started out as a field laborer and worked his way up to supervising exploration operations (paleo-beach placer deposits buried in permafrost) for the Alaska Gold Company, which mined about 70,000-troy ounces of gold per year.

After graduating college in 1983, Mark went back to Nome, Alaska where he continued work year-around as a project geologist supervising smelting / metallurgical dressing and assay sampling of concentrate for gold bullion shipments to the Engelhard Refinery, Anaheim, CA and offshore exploration of gold placer deposits in the Bering Sea. Volunteer work in Nome included coaching youth sports programs and assisting finish line logistics for the Annual Iditarod Dog Sled Race from 1984-1988.

From 1989 to 1992, Mark worked for WGM Mining Consultants where he supervised numerous exploration projects for base metals and gold lode deposits in Alaska. At this time, Mark started a family and had two sons. In 1993, Mark obtained his CPG with AIPG and his PG with the State of Alaska. Mark supported various committees for the AIPG Alaska Section leading up to the Girdwood Annual Meeting in 1999, where he was the technical programs chair and later 2001 President-Elect. From 1994 to 2001, Mark worked for various engineering consulting firms performing environmental / geotechnical work at numerous oilfield / fuel storage facilities, and at Department of Defense (DoD) sites throughout Alaska.

In 2001, Mark and his family moved to Honolulu, Hawaii, where he continued his environmental / geotechnical / munitions response consulting and construction management at numerous DoD installations throughout the Hawaiian islands. Mark re-established the AIPG Hawaii Section. Mark now works for Kleinfelder in California and is active in the AIPG California Section. Volunteer work in California includes participation in Kleinfelder's charity program to support the Ronald McDonald House (RMC). In his spare time, Mark enjoys travel, competitive running, hiking, and bicycling. Mark and his wife Patricia, have two sons, Daniel and Kyle. Recent travels include Fiji and Guam this past year, and are planning a trip to New Zealand in 2013. Mark appreciates the many opportunities made through AIPG via relationships and networking with his many friends and professional colleagues, and through volunteer organizations.