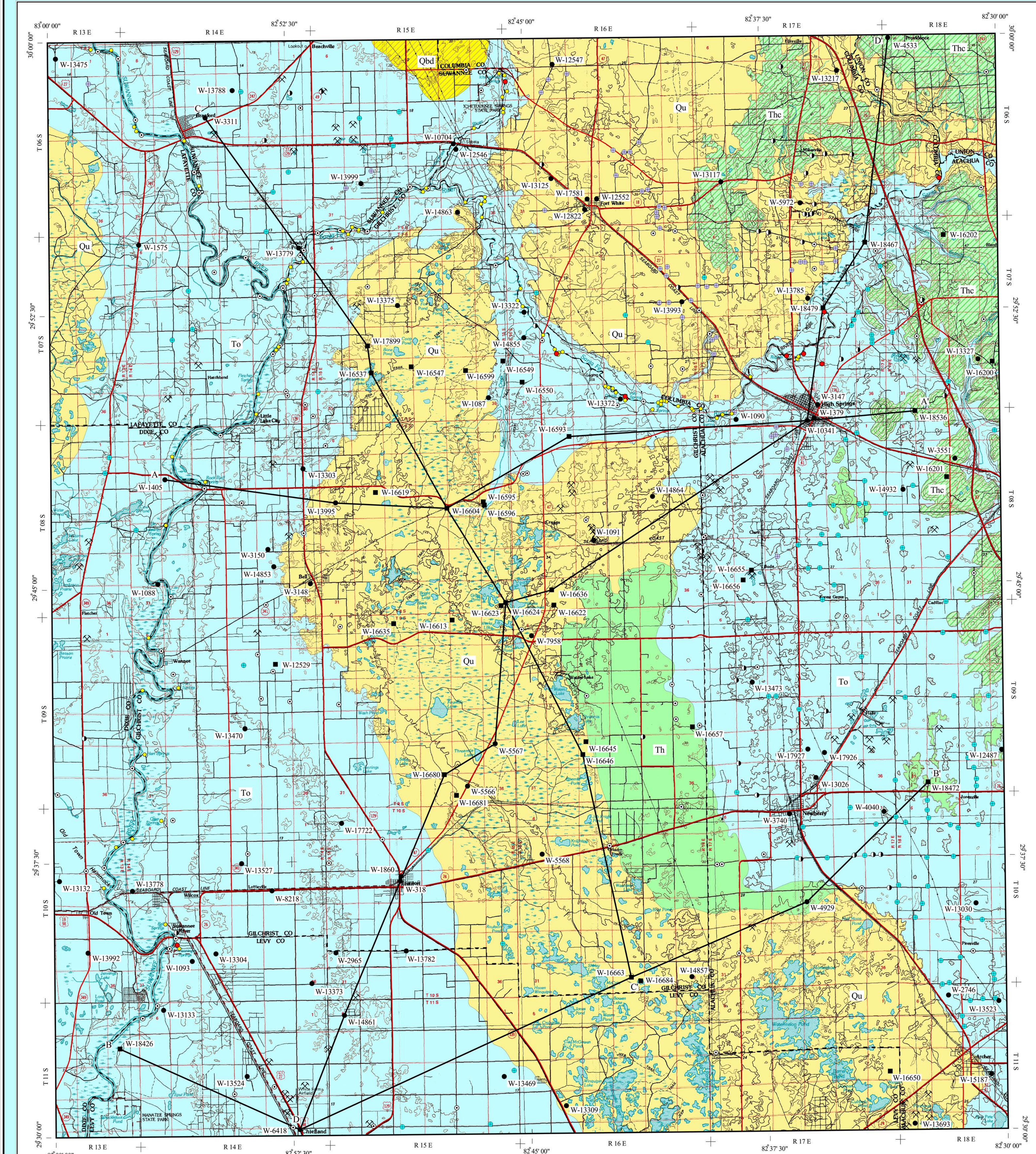
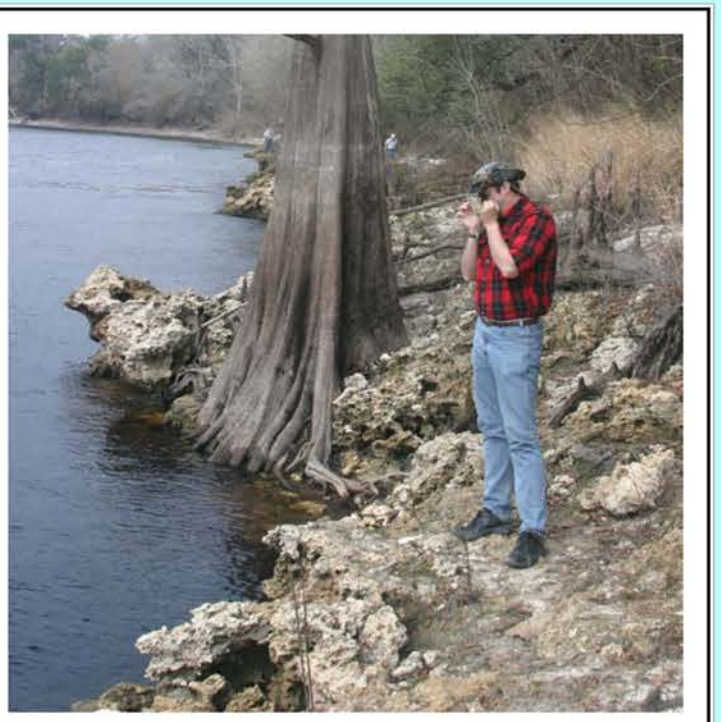
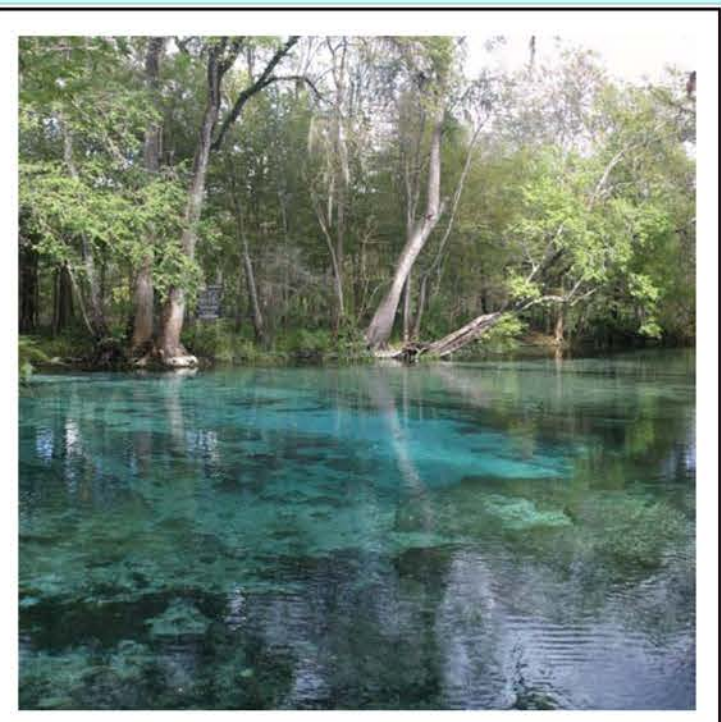




SELECTED PHOTOGRAPHS FROM STUDY AREA

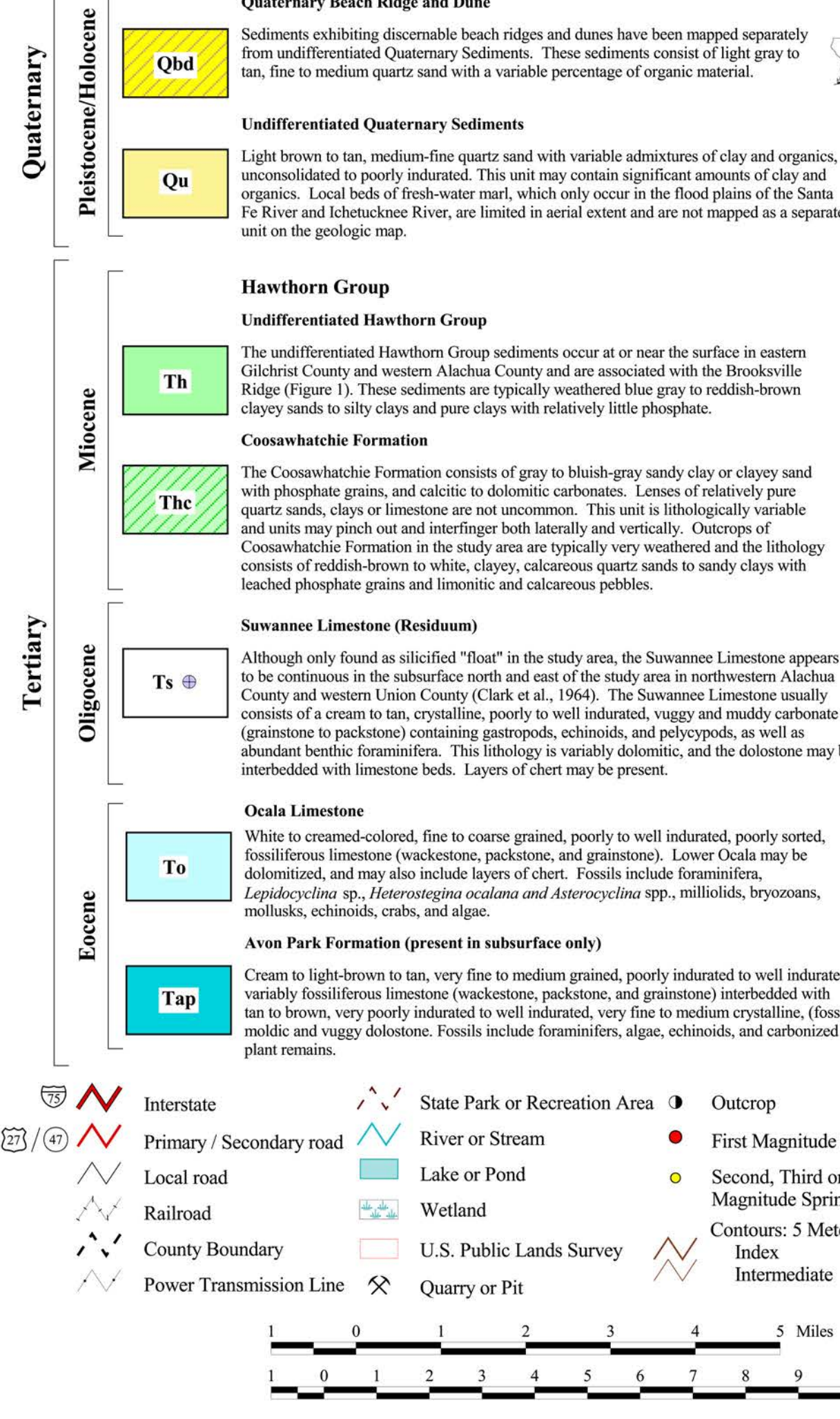


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GEOLOGIC MAP OF THE WESTERN PORTION OF THE U.S.G.S. 1:100,000 SCALE
GAINESVILLE QUADRANGLE, NORTHERN FLORIDA

2004
BY

WILLIAM L. EVANS III, P.G. #1821, RICHARD C. GREEN, P.G., JONATHAN R. BRYAN, AND DAVID T. PAUL

LEGEND FOR GEOLOGIC MAP



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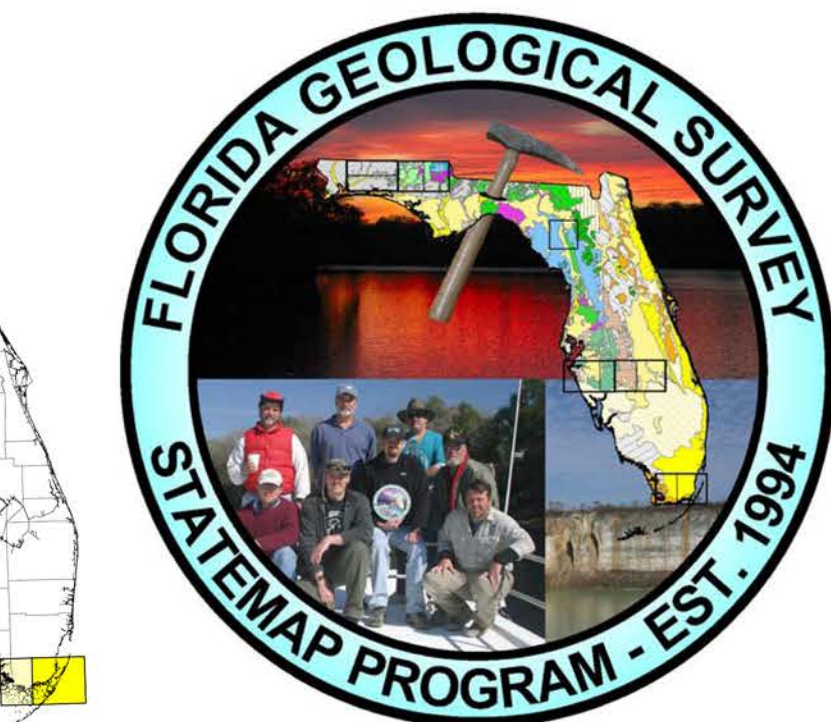
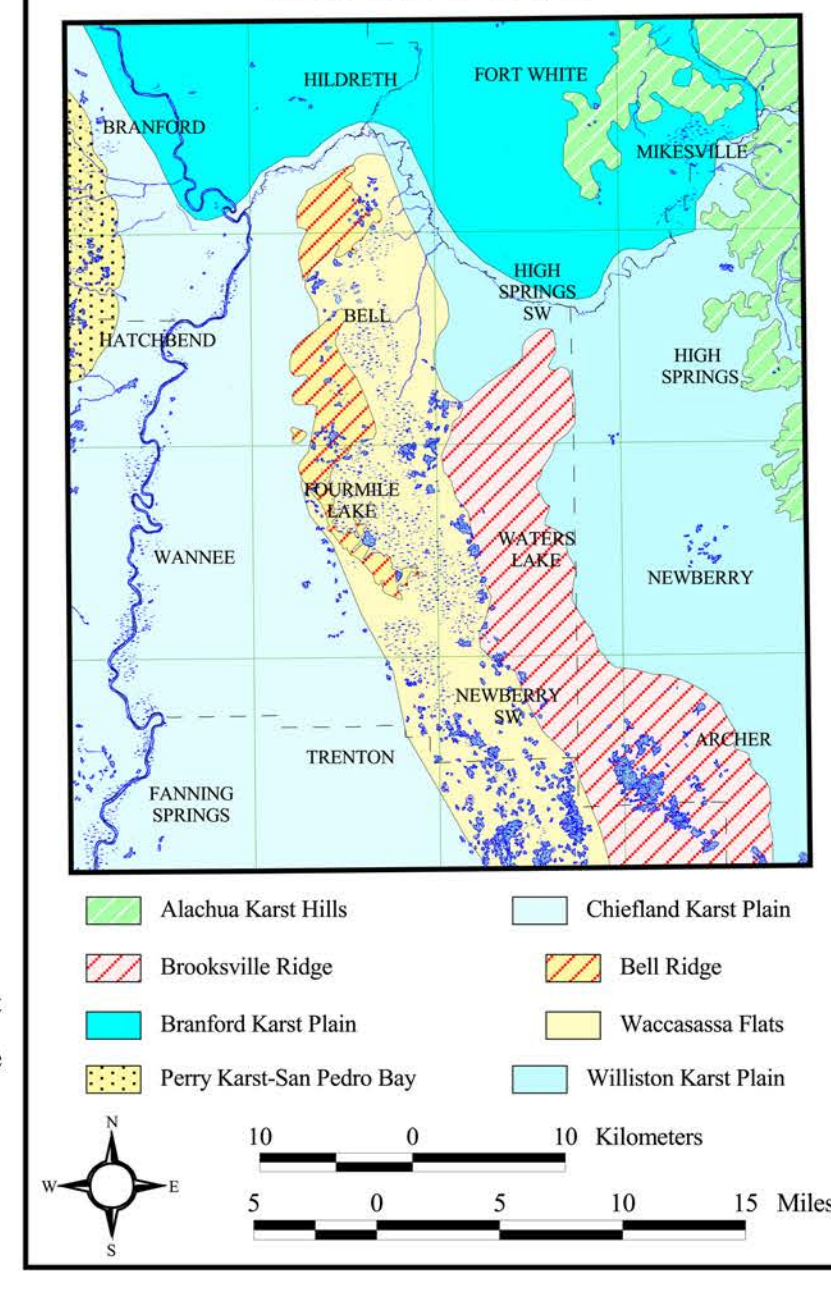


Figure 1. Generalized Geomorphology with 1:24,000 Scale Quadrangles.



Geologic Discussion

The near surface geology of the western portion of the U.S.G.S. 1:100,000 scale Gainesville quadrangle is composed of a complex mixture of carbonate and siliciclastic sediments ranging from Eocene to Holocene. A combination of factors, including fluvio-deltaic deposition, marine deposition, dissolution of underlying carbonates, erosion of sediments as a result of eustatic changes in sea level, and structural features, have influenced the geology of the study area.

Much of the western portion of the Gainesville quadrangle is located within the Suwannee River and Santa Fe River basins. In this area, the Suwannee River, the Santa Fe River, and their tributaries contain at least 55 documented springs, including 9 first magnitude springs (defined as having a minimum average flow of 100 cubic feet per second, or 64.6 million gallons per day). Of a total of 33 first magnitude springs in the state, approximately 27 percent are located within the study area. Many of these springs have evidenced significant increases in pollutants in the last few decades, particularly nitrate (Scott et al., 2002). Detailed geologic mapping of lithostratigraphic units in this area provides critical data needed to help in future assessments of the vulnerability of these aquifer systems to contamination.

Several structural, sedimentological and geomorphic variables have affected the geology of the region. The Peninsular Arch, a structurally high area which affected deposition from the early Cenozoic through the Oligocene (Williams et al., 1977; Miller, 1986; Randazzo and Jones, ed., 1997), is the dominant subsurface feature in the Florida peninsula (Scott, 1951). The axis of the Peninsular Arch extends from southeastern Georgia to the vicinity of Lake Okechobee in south Florida in a general northeast to south-central trend. The crest of the arch passes beneath Alachua County east of the study area and is highest just north of Alachua County in Union and Baker Counties. The arch was a topographic high during the Pliocene and had Upper Cretaceous sediments deposited over it (Applin, 1951). It formed a relatively stable base for Eocene carbonate deposition except during times of periodic land emergence due to lowered sea levels (Williams et al., 1977). The arch did not affect Neogene to Holocene sediment deposition (Williams et al., 1977).

The Ocala Platform is the most prominent structure affecting the near surface depositional and post-depositional environments within the study area. Hopkins (1920) originally named this feature the Ocala Uplift. Vernon (1951) described the Ocala Uplift as a gentle flexure developed in Tertiary sediments with a northwest-southeast trending crest. Because there is continuing uncertainty about the origin of this feature, Scott (1988) used the term Ocala Platform, rather than Ocala Uplift or Ocala Arch, since it does not have a structural connotation.

The Ocala Platform exerted its influence on Neogene sediment deposition, and Miocene sediments of the Hawthorn group are thought to have been deposited across the platform (Scott, 1988). Post-Miocene erosion, however, has removed sediments of the Hawthorn Group from much of the crest of the Ocala Platform, exposing Eocene carbonates (Cooke 1945; Pirkie 1956b; Eppenshade and Spencer 1963; Brooks, 1966; and Scott, 1981). Unconsolidated sediments have subsequently been deposited on the exposed Eocene carbonates. These consist of residual clays, sands, and silt clays deposited during the Pliocene to Holocene (Randazzo and Jones, ed., 1997).

Vernon (1951), utilizing aerial photographs, first mapped fracture patterns throughout northern peninsular Florida. Regionally, these fractures generally trend parallel to the axis of the Ocala Platform in a northwest-southeast orientation. A secondary system of fractures intersects these primary fractures at large angles in a northeast-southwest trend (Vernon, 1951). Orientation of stream meanders along the Suwannee and Santa Fe Rivers demonstrates that these fracture patterns may be a controlling factor in stream location. Lakes, sinkholes and other karst features also appear to be forming along these fracture trends.

Several recent Neogene coastal terraces, which developed as a result of fluctuating sea levels, have been documented in the study area. Healy (1973) recognized two marine terraces within the study area, the Wilcoxia terrace at elevations of 70 to 100 feet (21.0 to 30.5 meters) above MSL and the Suwannee terrace at elevations between 30 and 50 feet (9.1 to 15.2 meters) above MSL. The elevations between 150 and 170 feet (45.7 to 51.8 meters) above MSL were referred to as the Okefenokee Terrace by MacNeil (1950) and Alt and Brooks (1965). Detailed discussions and correlations of these marine terraces and related shorelines have been attempted by many authors, including MacNeil and Sanford (1913), Cooke (1951, 1959), Flint (1940, 1971), MacNeil (1950), Alt and Brooks (1965), Pirkie (1956), and Healy (1973).

According to Scott (in preparation), the study area falls within one geomorphic province - the Ocala Karst District. This province encompasses a broad area from Wakulla County in the panhandle, south to Hillsborough and Pinellas Counties in the west-central peninsula of Florida. Carbonate sediments ranging from the Middle Eocene Avon Park Formation to the Oligocene Suwannee Limestone lie at or near the land surface within this province.

The Ocala Karst District is dominated by dissolution sinkholes and shallow, bowl-shaped depressions, producing a rolling topography. Generally, these areas have a thin, permeable siliciclastic cover where downward percolating groundwater slowly dissolves the underlying limestone, leading to cover-collapse sinkholes and cover-subsidence features. Cover-collapse sinkholes form rather abruptly from the structural failure of an underlying cover roof. An excellent example of this is Devil's Millhopper, located in Alachua County just east of the present study area.

Cover subsidence features generally occur in areas where the overlying siliciclastics are thicker and the sediments sag as the carbonates dissolve underneath. Typically, areas such as these have only a few shallow sinks formed by the downward movement of the siliciclastic overburden filling voids created by the slow dissolution of the underlying carbonates. Springs, sinking and resurgent streams, and numerous caverns commonly occur within the Ocala Karst District.

The study area has been subdivided topographically into six regional physiographic units (Figure 1): the Branford Karst Plain, Perry Karst - San Pedro Bay, Chiefland Karst Plain, Brooksville Ridge, Williston Karst Plain and Alachua Karst Hills (White, 1970; Scott, in preparation). One of these regional physiographic units, the Chiefland Karst Plain, has been further subdivided into the Waccasassa Flats (Vernon, 1951) and Bell Ridge (Part and Vernon, 1964).

The Branford Karst Plain, located in the northern portion of the study area (Figure 1), extends south to the Santa Fe River on the Gilchrist County line (Scott, in preparation). The elevations range from more than 100 feet (30.5 meters) to less than 25 feet (7.6 meters) above MSL, along the Santa Fe and Suwannee Rivers. The Upper Eocene Ocala Limestone is near the surface in this area and silicified float boulders of remnant Suwannee Limestone commonly occur throughout the area.

The Chiefland Karst Plain, which lies to the west of the Brooksville Ridge and south of the Branford Karst Plain and Santa Fe River (Figure 1), has elevations ranging from below 25 feet (7.6 meters) to over 100 feet (30.5 meters) above MSL. This karst plain is internally drained, except in the Waccasassa Flats, where permeable siliciclastic sediments result in numerous wetland areas. Many springs are present within this karst plain, mainly along the Suwannee and Santa Fe Rivers. The entire karst plain is underlain by Upper Eocene Ocala Limestone.

The Chiefland Karst Plain was subdivided by Part and Vernon (1964) into the Waccasassa Flats and Bell Ridge. The Waccasassa Flats subunit is located in the central portion of Gilchrist County, extending northwards to just south of the Santa Fe River (Figure 1). The generally flat to gently rolling terrain in this region was inundated by transgressive Plio-Pleistocene seas (Col et al., 1997). This poorly drained area consists of Quaternary sand hills underlain by Plio-Pleistocene siliciclastics and the Ocala Limestone. Rupert (1989) described the Waccasassa Flats in Gilchrist County as being an average of 60 feet (18.3 meters) in elevation, but including isolated hills between 90 and 100 feet (27.4 and 30.5 meters).

The Bell Ridge, which is located along the western flanks of Waccasassa Flats and the eastern edge of the Chiefland Karst Plain, consists of a 20-mile long series of irregularly-shaped ridges. The crests of these ridges, which are most likely a part of the Wilcoxia Sea (Pleistocene) barrier island system (Yon and Part, 1962; Part et al., 1967), range from 80 to 100 feet (24.4 to 30.5 meters) above MSL. White (1970) believed that the Bell Ridge is an outlier of the Brooksville Ridge, to which it is roughly parallel. Because the sand hills of the Bell Ridge overlie karstic Ocala Limestone, the former extent of the ridge may be obscured by dissolution and collapse of the underlying limestone (Part et al., 1967).

The Williston Karst Plain, located on the eastern flank of the Brooksville Ridge, extends eastward to the Alachua Karst Hills (Figure 1) and is underlain by the Ocala Limestone (Scott, in preparation). It merges to the north with the Branford Karst Plain and Chiefland Karst Plain. Elevation of the Williston Karst Plain range from 50 feet (15.2 meters) to 100 feet (30.5 meters) above MSL. A few outlier hills, composed of weathered Hawthorn Group sediments, are present within this area and locally may exceed 150 feet (45.8 meters) in elevation. Although much of the plain is well drained, a number of springs occur within this area, mainly along the Santa Fe River.

White (1970) divided the Brooksville Ridge into northern and southern sections. Part of White's northern section extends into the southeastern portion of the study area. Elevations along this part of the Brooksville Ridge range from approximately 50 feet (15.2 meters) to greater than 150 feet (45.8 meters) above MSL. Topographically, this region exhibits low, rolling karst hills interspersed with moderately-shallow sinkholes. Well-developed sand dunes are often present on the flanks of the ridge. Numerous shallow lakes and ponds are present in the Brooksville Ridge as a result of clay Pleistocene sediments and weathered Miocene Hawthorn Group sediments acting as confining units for the underlying Plio-Pleistocene seas (Col et al., 1997). The Brooksville Ridge is bounded by the Waccasassa Flats to the west, where a distinct erosional escarpment at elevations of approximately 70 feet (21.3 meters) to 75 feet (22.9 meters) MSL, provides a line of demarcation between the two features (Col et al., 1997).

The Alachua Karst Hills extend from Columbia County to Central Alachua County with elevations from approximately 100 feet (30.5 meters) to an excess of 200 feet (61 meters) above MSL (Scott, in preparation). The karst hills are well drained

This map was created using FDEP datasets and data obtained from the Florida Geological Survey. It was completed August 31, 2004, minor revision November 2, 2005, by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Resource Assessment & Management, Florida Geological Survey, Geological Investigations Section. This document was prepared for the presentation of the geologic information and is not intended to replace site-specific or use-specific investigations. The Florida Geological Survey does not guarantee this document to be free from errors or inaccuracies and disclaims any responsibility or liability for inappropriate change of scale or interpretations or decisions based thereon.

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