

Smithsonian Soils Exhibit Update

Almost 200 soil scientists are already involved in the Smithsonian Soils Exhibit project, which includes plans for three project elements:

1. National Museum of Natural History (NMNH) multi-year interactive educational soil science exhibit
2. Permanent exhibit of state soil monoliths in the museum
3. Educational curricula for teachers and students as well as the public to explain the importance of soil science and explain soil careers

To ensure that the exhibit opens in time for visitors from the 2006 World Congress of Soil Science, committee members are asking all soil scientists to show grassroots involvement with the project this spring.

“With a large group of volunteers and donors supporting the project, we can leverage this into the ideas, time and support needed from corporations and

foundations to develop and fund the exhibit,” said co-chair Kevin McSweeney, Director, School of Natural Resources, University of Wisconsin-Madison. McSweeney co-chairs the project with H.H. Cheng, University of Minnesota and Patrick Drohan, University of Nevada-Las Vegas. Grassroots support is critical in showing other supporters that we all care about this important project.

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The Smithsonian Soils Exhibit project is coordinated nationally by a steering committee and a development committee and coordinated at the state level by state liaisons and state soil associations. (See lists elsewhere on this page.)

Although SSSA is spearheading the

project, other organizations and agencies (such as NRCS, SWCS, National Academies' National Committee on Soil Science, etc.) are actively working with the Smithsonian staff on the project. Project information can be found at www.soils.org/smithsonian. You can contact one of the co-chairs or your state liaison for more information and to support the project.



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