

**In This Issue—**

2010 NCSS Regional Conferences ... 1  
 NASIS 6.0 Release ..... 3  
 Shawn McVey Joins NSSC Staff ..... 4  
 Is He or Isn't He Retiring? ..... 4  
 12 Soil Orders in the 2008 GPO Style  
 Manual ..... 7  
 A Colorado Legend Retires ..... 8  
 Retirement of Arlene Tugel ..... 10  
 Retirement of Dave Lightle ..... 10  
 Retirement of Alan Price ..... 11  
 Ground-Penetrating Radar (GPR)  
 Used To Investigate Subaqueous  
 Soils ..... 12  
 State Soil Scientist Workshop Held in  
 Columbia, South Carolina ..... 13  
 National Soil Geographic Database  
 Analysis Team Meets ..... 13  
 A Thank-You Note ..... 14

**Editor's Note**

Issues of this newsletter are available on the World Wide Web (<http://soils.usda.gov/>). Under Quick Access, click on NCSS, then on Newsletters, and then on the desired issue number.



You are invited to submit stories for this newsletter to Stanley Anderson, National Soil Survey Center, Lincoln, Nebraska. Phone—402-437-5357; FAX—402-437-5336; email—[stan.anderson@lin.usda.gov](mailto:stan.anderson@lin.usda.gov).

**2010 NCSS Regional Conferences**

The biennial National Cooperative Soil Survey (NCSS) Regional Conferences will be held this summer, in June and July. The dates and places of the conferences are as follows:

**North Central:** Columbus, Ohio—  
 June 14-17, 2010

**Northeast:** Elizabethtown,  
 Pennsylvania—June 6-10, 2010

**South:** College Station, Texas—  
 July 12-15, 2010

**West:** Las Vegas, Nevada—  
 June 21-24, 2010

The North Central conference will focus on such issues as Ecological Site Inventory and Description, soil survey in urban and highly disturbed areas, and dynamic soil properties. This conference will include a tour of the USDA-ARS North Appalachian Experimental Watershed, near Coshocton, Ohio (fig. 1).

The Northeast conference will feature timely soil, watershed, and land use topics. It will include a tour that will explore soil-related issues in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania (fig. 2).

The theme of the Southern conference is "Applying Science to the Field." A 1-day field trip during this conference will demonstrate state-of-the-art soil mapping tools at the Walnut Creek Lignite Mine in Calvert, Texas.

The theme of the Western conference is "Integrating 21st century soil survey with advances in plant and soil research." A field trip (fig. 3) during this conference will include stops at the Nellis Dunes area in Las Vegas; the Mormon Mesa area, where relict soils more than 5 million years old have been identified; and Lake Mead National Recreation Area.

These conferences will provide an opportunity for representatives from

cooperating universities, governmental agencies, and the private sector to meet and address issues of concern to soil science and to the National Cooperative Soil Survey. All State Soil Scientists are encouraged to participate in their appropriate regional conference and to encourage their NCSS cooperators to participate in either the regional conference or the committees. For further information about the conferences, including information about the agenda, field trips, registration, and lodging, click on the above hotlinks to the Web sites of the four regional conferences or visit the Web site <http://soils.usda.gov/partnerships/ncss/conferences/regional.html>.



**Figure 1.—Overview of Coshocton, Ohio, near the site of the 1-day field trip that will be part of the North Central Regional Cooperative Soil Survey Conference.**



**Figure 2.—A tour during the Northeast Regional Cooperative Soil Survey Conference will explore soil-related issues in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, one of the most intensively farmed regions in the country.**



**Figure 3.—The landform of the Drygyp series, a Loamy, Gypsic, Hyperthermic, Shallow Typic Petrogypsid. This series will be part of the Western conference field trip.**

## **NASIS 6.0 Release**

Email sent on April 16, 2010, by Alan B. Price, Soil Scientist/Business Analyst, USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Fort Collins, Colorado.

NCSS Federal cooperators,

We are pleased to announce the release of NASIS 6.0, the latest update of the NCSS software to store, query, edit, interpret, and certify soil survey data. Anyone who needs access to the NASIS database must use this new software. Older versions of NASIS are no longer available.

NASIS 6.0 software and installation instructions can be freely downloaded from the NRCS Web site at:

<http://soils.usda.gov/technical/nasis/downloads/index.html#NASIS>

In addition to the NASIS 6.0 software, Microsoft's SQL Server 2005 Express Edition Service Pack 3 must be downloaded (free) and installed from:

<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?displaylang=en&FamilyID=3181842a-4090-4431-acdd-9a1c832e65a6>

Use the NASIS 6.0 installation instructions to install and create the NASIS instance of SQL Server Express.

The NASIS 6.0 user guide, training materials, and other support documents can be viewed or downloaded from:

[http://soils.usda.gov/technical/nasis/documents/documentation\\_6/index.html](http://soils.usda.gov/technical/nasis/documents/documentation_6/index.html)

Login to NASIS requires a Level 2 eAUTH account and a NASIS user account. The actual NASIS login and password are not used with NASIS 6.0. If you were a previous NASIS user, you should already have a NASIS user account. If you used Citrix to access NASIS, you also have the necessary eAUTH login. If you do not have either, or have problems getting into NASIS, please contact the Soils Hotline staff at [SoilsHotline@lin.usda.gov](mailto:SoilsHotline@lin.usda.gov) or by phone at 402-437-5379 or 5378.

Please share this information with others who may have a need to use NASIS 6.0. ■

## Shawn McVey Joins NSSC Staff

In April, Shawn McVey joined the Soil Survey Standards Staff of the National Soil Survey Center in Lincoln, Nebraska. He will assist with training coordination and development of new training for soil scientists and with maintenance of soil survey standards.

McVey comes to Nebraska from Connecticut and Idaho. He has a broad and varied experience in NRCS. Most recently, he was the Assistant State Soil Scientist in Connecticut assigned to technical soil services for Farm Bill activities in agricultural and urbanizing settings. He started in this position in 1997. Other positions in NRCS include Backup Program Manager for the Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program in Connecticut from 2003 to 2010 and Soil Survey Project Leader in Idaho, where he authored or co-authored two soil survey reports in southeastern Idaho between 1991 and 1997. Shawn began his career in 1987 as a field soil scientist in Soda Springs, Idaho, and served on details to the Fort Hall Indian Reservation and to Phillips County, Montana.

"Soil scientists are in an era of lifelong learning. The technology used to improve our soil survey data has advanced, and our employees need training in how to use these tools. I recently participated in the Basic Soil Survey Course. It was interesting to see the skill set these entry level soil scientists bring to soil survey compared to the skills I started with in the agency," said McVey. The NSSC is planning 10 courses/institutes next fiscal year utilizing blended learning techniques.

McVey was raised in Lee County, Iowa, on a small, diversified farm. He graduated from Iowa State University with a B.S. degree in Agronomy in 1987 and earned his M.S. degree in Plant Science (soil classification) from the Plant Science Department at the University of Connecticut in 2006. Shawn and wife, Mindy, have one daughter. ■

## Is He or Isn't He Retiring?

By Craig Ditzler, National Leader for Soil Survey Standards, NRCS, National Soil Survey Center, Lincoln, Nebraska.

I recently announced my retirement, effective June 1, 2010. So as you read this article, my office is undoubtedly vacant, waiting for the next occupant to arrive. The decision to retire was motivated by an unexpected opportunity that my wife, Flo, and I decided to pursue. But I'm not really retiring. I have accepted an offer from an international development company ([www.grminternational.com](http://www.grminternational.com)) to oversee the mapping and correlation activities of a soil survey for the Northern portion of the United Arab Emirates. Flo and I will be living in the city of Dubai, a large, very modern city situated on the Arabian Gulf (fig. 1). So although I am retiring from my job with NRCS, actual retirement will have to wait until we get back from this adventure.

My nearly 35 years with SCS/NRCS have been rewarding. I began my career in Rhode Island after graduation from college (URI) in 1975. Upon completion of the mapping there, Flo and I packed up our belongings and three small children and



Figure 1.—Google Earth image of Dubai. Note the two sets of constructed islands, one shaped as a palm tree and another that represents a map of the world.

headed off to Sparta, Wisconsin. That was one of the prettiest places I ever worked. From there, we moved on to Henderson, Tennessee, where I had my first job as a soil survey project leader. The office left a bit to be desired (fig. 2), but it was free! The experience of conducting a soil survey project from beginning to end in less than 2 years was very valuable to me. Compressing the whole thing into a short timeframe really allows you to see how to do the whole soil survey process as it moves from legend development to final correlation and publication.

After I completed this project, my career took an interesting turn. I became part of a nine-person soil survey team making a general soil map of Saudi Arabia. Other team members (fig. 3) were John Witty (our leader), Jim Seaholm, Norm Helzer, Lou Campbell, Willie Crenwelge, Marc Crouch, Daryl Lund, and Hayes Dye.

From there I worked as soil survey project leader in Levi County, Florida, before moving on (twice) to Raleigh, North Carolina, once as Assistant State Soil Scientist and then again in the great 1995 reorganization as MO Leader. I also had the unique opportunity to serve as Director of the NRCS Soil Quality Institute at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa. I have been assigned to the National Soil Survey Center twice. First as a member of the old Quality Assurance Staff (where I had the wonderful opportunity



Figure 2.—My office in Henderson, Tennessee.



Figure 3.—NRCS soil scientists in Saudi Arabia. *Front row (left to right):* Jim Seaholm, Craig Ditzler, Norm Helzer, Lou Campbell, John Witty, and Willie Crenwelge. *Back row:* Marc Crouch, Daryl Lund, and Hayes Dye.

to obtain M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Nebraska, Lincoln), and then again after I left Ames to take on my current role as National Leader for Soil Survey Standards. So my career has been varied and interesting, and I have managed to stay one step ahead of any problems I may have created at the last assignment!

Now Flo and I are going to move on to another adventure. She has always been my best friend and number one supporter. As you can see from this somewhat dated photo, she treats me nice and watches my back at the same time (fig. 4). Our current plans are to be in Dubai for about 18 months and then return to our home in Lincoln, Nebraska. Maybe we'll be ready to really give retirement a try; who knows? One of our current and future activities is spending time with our grandson Wyatt (fig. 5). He is planning to visit us next year in Dubai, and of course we will manage to find our way to his house in Alexandria, Virginia, a time or two also.

So I'm off to try something new. I wish all of my friends in the National Cooperative Soil Survey the best.



Figure 4.—Flo and Craig.



Figure 5.—Grampy and Wyatt sporting dinosaur ties.

## 12 Soil Orders in the 2008 GPO Style Manual

By Stanley P. Anderson, Editor, USDA, NRCS, National Soil Survey Center, Lincoln, Nebraska.

The latest GPO Style Manual lists the 12 orders of the current U.S. soil taxonomic system. This is the first time that the orders have been included in a GPO Style Manual. In the previous editions, “soil classifications” or “great soil groups” were listed, even when they were outdated. For the 12 orders, see chapter 4 of the 2008 manual:

[http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=2008\\_style\\_manual&docid=f:chapter4.pdf](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=2008_style_manual&docid=f:chapter4.pdf).

Go to “soil orders” (page 72 of the book and page 30 of the PDF file).

Also see chapter 3:

[http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=2008\\_style\\_manual&docid=f:chapter3.pdf](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=2008_style_manual&docid=f:chapter3.pdf).

Go to 3.29 (page 35 of the book and page 9 of the PDF file).

For the role of NRCS in substituting the names of the current soil orders, see:

[http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=2008\\_style\\_manual&docid=f:chappre.pdf](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=2008_style_manual&docid=f:chappre.pdf).

On page 6, note the first item on the list of the Acknowledgments.

Also see “A Blast From the Past” on page 3 of Issue 44 of the NCSS Newsletter (August 2008):

<ftp://ftp-fc.sc.egov.usda.gov/NSSC/NCSS/Newsletters/issue44.pdf>. ■



## A Colorado Legend Retires

By Carla Green Adams, Editor/Multimedia Publications Specialist, NRCS, Lakewood, Colorado; story first published in "The Colorado Connection Newsletter," Winter 2010.

James "JP" Pannell retired December 3, 2009, in a typically low-key manner. "Thanks for all coming," he said. After more than 60 years of Federal service, during which it is thought he never took a single day of sick leave, JP decided to scale back his work to a mere 30 or so hours per week as an ACES employee in his "old" office.

His retirement party on December 2 was attended by his coworkers in Durango, of course, by active and retired soil scientists and other NRCS employees from around our state, and by Allen Green, State Conservationist. Friends and two of his nephews also attended. An impressive man was retiring from Federal service, and everyone who knew him wanted to pay tribute to the quiet legend.

Alan Price (Soil Scientist/Business Analyst) said of the party:

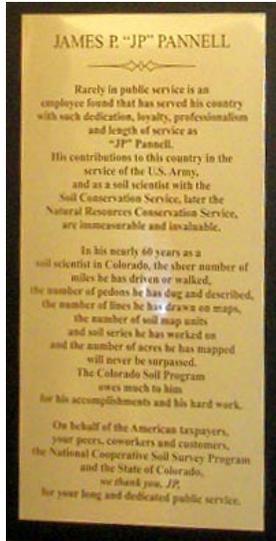
JP was roasted by several attendees who recalled (and embellished) some of their remembrances working and interacting with him. JP received several gifts and an impressive plaque complete with tile spade to honor this amazing accomplishment.

His career, both in longevity and accomplishments, sets a standard that few, if any, will ever equal. We all wish him the best in whatever is next for this amazing person.

Steve Park, State Soil Scientist and JP's last "boss," wrote this tribute for JP's retirement plaque:

Rarely in public service is an employee found that has served his country with such dedication, loyalty, professionalism, and length of service as "JP" Pannell. His contributions to this country in the service of the U.S. Army, and as a soil scientist with the Soil Conservation Service, later the Natural Resources Conservation Service, are immeasurable and invaluable.

On behalf of the American taxpayers, your peers, coworkers, and customers, the National Cooperative Soil Survey Program, and the State of Colorado, we thank you "JP" for your long and dedicated public service.



**JP's Career Path in the SCS/NRCS**

- 1950—Student Trainee at Monte Vista
- 1951—Soil Scientist on Mobile Soil Survey Crew at Steamboat Springs
- 1952—Soil Survey Party Leader on Mobile Soil Survey Crew at Steamboat Springs
- 1955—Soil Survey Party Leader at Lamar
- 1962—Soil Survey Party Leader at Cortez
- 1963—Soil Survey Party Leader at Alamosa
- 1971 to present—Soil Survey Project Leader at Durango

**“Like the soil, he is also a very valuable resource.”**

I thought Steve had said it all. Then I read the letter he wrote a couple of years ago, successfully nominating JP for the 2008 Soil Scientist Achievement Award, and was impressed even more. An excerpt of that nomination reads as follows:

Think about how many state soil scientists he has broken in or how many younger soil scientists he has trained and passed his wisdom to. He knows more about the soils in Colorado than anyone alive today, or in the future. His knowledge and wisdom is often sought out by me and many of the other soil scientists and conservationists in the state. He is a living legend to soil scientists in this part of the world.

He is a steady, dedicated, and consistent employee producing high quality products with little direction or oversight. He goes about his work quietly, passionately, and efficiently, avoiding the limelight, and never complaining. He is fulfilled anytime soil survey information is used in conservation planning, thereby benefiting the land.

His body has forced him to slow down a little, but his mind and desire are still strong. He disproved the old saying, “You can’t teach old dogs new tricks,” by readily adapting to the computer age and all the new technology. Not only has he readily adapted to the changing technology, but he has excelled with the new technology, including NASIS and ArcGIS geospatial applications. He is very proficient in NASIS, enjoys editing digital soil layers, and collecting and analyzing soil temperature data using the latest datalogger technology.

I can’t point to any one outstanding achievement during his career. However, it is the summation of all his career efforts and contributions towards this country’s soil survey program that is the achievement of a lifetime that most likely will never be matched or exceeded. Very few public servants in any agency can come close to the service he has provided to this country. Like the soil, he is also a very valuable resource.

Indeed, JP Pannell is a special guy. How much conservation work could we achieve if we all tried to be more like him?

Congratulations, JP, upon your amazing career, your professional achievements, and the many friends and admirers you have in Colorado and beyond! ■

## Retirement of Arlene Tugel

**A**rlene Tugel retired on April 2, 2010, after nearly 36 years with NRCS. In her last position with NRCS, Arlene was a Soil Scientist with the National Soil Survey Center Interpretations Staff. She was located in Las Cruces, New Mexico, and served as a liaison to the Jornada Experimental Range of the USDA Agricultural Research Service.

Arlene is a graduate of the University of California at Davis and started working for NRCS in 1974. During the first part of her career, she worked at numerous locations throughout California, including Stockton, Redding, Riverside, Sacramento, and Davis. She worked as a Soil Scientist, Soil Conservationist, Area Soil Scientist, Soil Survey Project Leader, STATSGO Coordinator, Soil Scientist for Manuscripts, State Soil Correlator, and Acting State Soil Scientist.

After leaving California, Arlene served as the Soil Scientist for Interpretations at the former West National Technical Center and spent a year as Assistant State Conservationist for RC&D and Urban Programs in Portland, Oregon. Arlene was a founding member of the former NRCS Soil Quality Institute. She was located in Corvallis, Oregon, and then Las Cruces, New Mexico, as a member of the institute. During her career, Arlene coordinated the development of many technical materials, including the *Soil Biology Primer*, "Introduction to Biological Soil Crusts," Rangeland Soil Quality Information Sheets, and the *Soil Change Guide: Procedures for Soil Survey and Resource Inventory*.

Arlene says she enjoyed her career with NRCS because of the people, the field work, and the wide range of resource issues that she addressed. She plans to stay in Las Cruces and spend more time with family, friends, and her hobbies—hiking, painting, golfing, and reading. ■

## Retirement of Dave Lightle

**D**ave Lightle was born and raised on a grain and livestock farm in west-central Illinois. He began his career as a soil scientist student trainee in August 1966 in Effingham, Illinois. He obtained a B.S. in Agronomy from the University of Illinois in 1967 and soon after was called to active duty with the U.S. Army and served as an infantryman in Vietnam, where he received the Purple Heart for wounds received during combat. After returning to civilian life, Dave served as Soil Conservationist with the Soil Conservation Service in Shelbyville, Illinois; as District Conservationist in Mt. Vernon, Geneva, and St. Charles, Illinois; and as Area Agronomist in Edwardsville, Illinois. In 1983, he moved to Ohio and served as the State Agronomist until 1989. Dave then joined the Midwest National Technical Center staff in Lincoln, Nebraska, and served as Regional Agronomist until 1995, when he joined the Interpretations Staff of the National Soil Survey Center.



**In October 2006, NRCS Chief Arlen Lancaster recognizes Dave Lightle for contributions to the Energy Estimator Development team, which received the prestigious USDA Group Honor Award for Excellence.**

Dave's career spanned over 43 years, during which time he developed and transferred agronomic, conservation, and soil erosion prediction technology. The products of his efforts are all widely used throughout the agency and by the private sector. Dave has received numerous awards and recognition for his efforts during his career, including a USDA Group Honor Award in 2006 presented by the Secretary of Agriculture for his help in developing a series of Energy Estimator Web tools for agricultural producers. Less than 2 percent of USDA employees receive the USDA Honor Award from the Secretary of Agriculture.

Dave and his wife, Sandy, are looking forward to spending more time with their families in Illinois and Ohio and golfing on a regular schedule. Dave also will continue with his hobby of restoring cars and farm implements. ■

## Retirement of Alan Price

After over 33 years of service in SCS/NRCS, Alan is retiring. His last official day on the job is July 3, 2010. In 1977, Alan started as a field soil scientist working for the Jefferson County, Colorado, planning department on a cooperative soil survey with SCS. Within a year, he switched to SCS as a soil scientist. He next served as a soil survey party leader (aka project leader) in Cortez, Colorado, and then as Assistant State Soil Scientist in Lakewood, Colorado, and was later converted to a Soil Data Quality Specialist in the MLRA Regional Office, also in Lakewood. In 2005, he accepted a position as a Soil Scientist/Business Analyst with the National Soil Survey Center (NSSC) and was remotely located at the Information Technology Center (ITC) in Fort Collins, Colorado. Since that time, he has worked with ITC and NSSC staffs as well as other internal NRCS and external customers on many facets of the National Cooperative Soil Survey. His particular areas of interest involved using different technologies to assist with the agency's soil survey efforts.

Alan and his wife, Kari, have plans to spoil their grandchildren, travel a bit, finally start working on all the stockpile of retirement projects, volunteer for their church, and do whatever else strikes their fancy. He has stated that he will most miss the friendships and daily interactions with the great people who work for NRCS. Soil survey is a noble and valuable program that has brought him many fond memories.



Alan when he was much younger and less experienced at jumping washed-out dams.



Alan viewing the retirement possibilities from the top.



Roger Dekett, Vermont NRCS, and Jim Doolittle, NSSC, use GPR to investigate subaqueous soils.

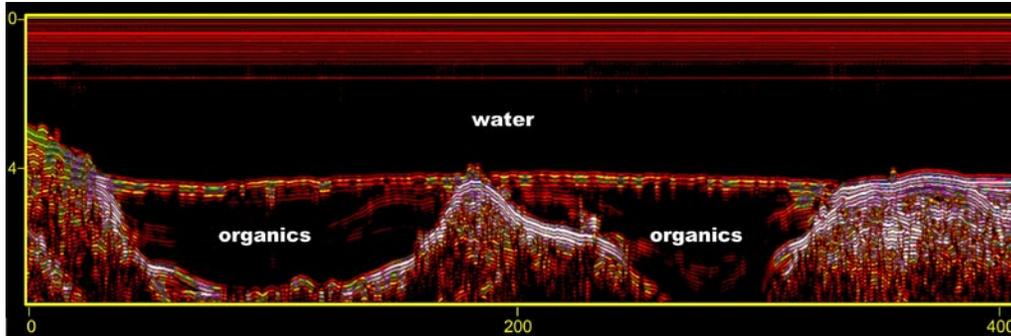


Icy conditions.

## Ground-Penetrating Radar (GPR) Used To Investigate Subaqueous Soils

From Soil Survey Division, "Weekly Update," March 1, 2010.

During the weeks of February 8 and 15, 2010, Jim Doolittle helped NRCS soil scientists from Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Vermont and staffs from the Universities of Rhode Island and Vermont conduct ground-penetrating radar (GPR) surveys of subaqueous soils and freshwater aquatic systems in Rhode Island and Vermont. Multiple GPR traverses were completed on ice over two natural lakes and two impoundments in Rhode Island and in Missisquoi Bay (a northern arm of Lake Champlain) in Vermont. These surveys provide information on the depth of water, on the occurrence and thickness of inundated organic deposits, and on the distribution of subaqueous great groups (Frassiwassents and Frassiwassists). A goal of these investigations is to develop field methods and procedures for identifying, classifying, and mapping subaqueous soils and landscapes. Local, State, and Federal agencies managing these freshwater aquatic systems need information and interpretations on sedimentation rates, nutrient inputs, and the carbon pools and sequestration rates in subaqueous soils.



Radar records show water depth, subbottom topography, and different subaqueous soil materials. The presence and thickness of the organic and mineral subbottom materials shown on this record allow the differentiation of Frassiwassents and Frassiwassists. The scale is in meters.

## State Soil Scientist Workshop Held in Columbia, South Carolina

From Soil Survey Division, "Weekly Update," April 5, 2010.

The 2010 State Soil Scientist Workshop was held March 30–April 1 in Columbia, South Carolina. Emphasis during the week was placed on discussing the National Rapid Carbon Assessment, the acceleration of the Ecological Site Inventory, and Finalizing Initial Soils Mapping. There were also presentations and breakout sessions covering NASIS 6.0, point data management, wetland issues, NCGC assistance, dynamic soil properties, soil survey management, technical soil services, and other topics. Several representatives from the Science and Technology staff were on the agenda and participated, including Mike Hubbs, Director of Ecological Sciences Division; Susan Andrews, Soil Quality Team Leader; and the three National Technology Support Center Soil Scientists—Leander Brown, Ed Griffin, and Steve Campbell. The South Carolina Soil Survey staff did an outstanding job of hosting and facilitating the workshop. ■

## National Soil Geographic Database Analysis Team Meets

From Soil Survey Division, "Weekly Update," March 1, 2010.

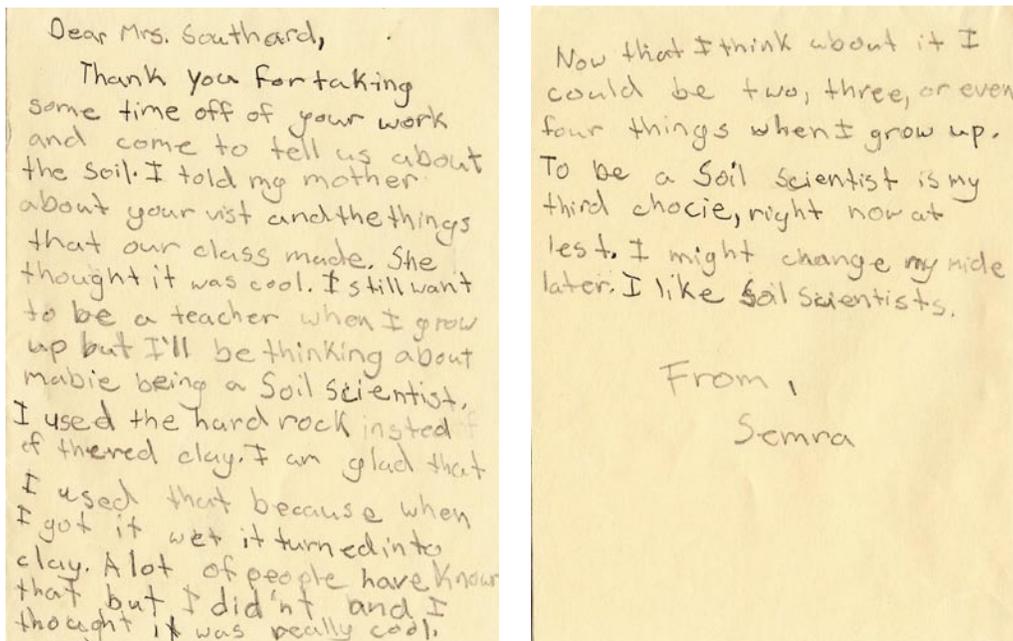
The National Soil Geographic Database (NSGD) analysis team met for four days during the week of February 16th at the National Soil Survey Center in Lincoln, Nebraska, to discuss and document detailed business and functional requirements for NSGD 1.0. The vision for NSGD 1.0 is a national transactional spatial database that is logically integrated with the NASIS tabular database to facilitate the management of initial and update soil survey projects and the development, updating, quality control/assurance, and publication of soil survey data and information. Additional capabilities will be added with later releases. The long-term term goal is a fully capable and integrated geospatial transactional soil data system. NSGD 1.0 team members represent all levels of soil survey operations from the Soil Survey Office to State and National Offices and Centers. All team members bring a range of soil survey experience and expertise, including soil and natural resource sciences, GIS technology and application, program and project management, and information system analysis and design.

When deployed, NSGD 1.0 will enhance the soil survey program's capability to deliver consistent, reliable, high-quality data in a timely fashion and will support a number of government-wide, agency, and Soil Survey Division information system strategies and initiatives. NSGD 1.0 together with NASIS 6.0 will provide the backend

information technology and information subsystems to more fully facilitate completion of the once-over soil survey and support the MLRA Soil Survey process. MLRA Soil Survey is a key component of Soil Survey Division's mission objective to keep the soil survey relevant to emerging and ever changing needs. NSGD 1.0 will also support various aspects of the NRCS 2009-2013 Information Technology Investment Strategy, including natural resource technology transfer, increased transparency and accountability, the consolidated geospatial business case and NRCS' responsibility for soil survey geospatial data. Improving the consistency, completeness, and accuracy of soil survey data across traditional soil survey area boundaries directly benefits the goals and objectives of the Conservation Streamlining Delivery Initiative and equitable access to Farm Bill programs. ■

## A Thank-You Note

After doing some outreach work, Sue Southard, National Park Service Liaison, USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service, received the following note:



The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.