

Dear SWCS Members,

The Nebraska Chapter of the Soil & Water Conservation is proud to be involved with an exciting national event - right in our own back yard! *Dig It! The Secrets of Soil*, an exhibit displayed at the Smithsonian's Natural History Museum in 2008 and 2009, will be featured at the Durham Museum in Omaha, Nebraska, beginning October 2 through December 26, 2010. Please see the attached press release to get a better feel for what will be offered. It looks to be a great way to educate children and adults alike about what soil is, how it functions, and the diversity of soils across the nation.

Members of the Nebraska and Iowa Chapters have met with personnel at the museum, and are happy to report that there are opportunities for SWCS members to assist in the successful showing of this exhibit.

First, the Durham Museum has been kind enough to give us a *Dig It!* promotional banner stand and promotional handouts to display at various meetings and functions. To make a reservation to have this for your use, contact Craig Romary at craig.romary@nebraska.gov and we'll work out arrangements to get it to you. Below is a listing of events that have been, or are being, planned, to give you an idea of availability. If the banner stand is booked for your event, we have plenty of informational cards that can be displayed at events or at your office.

- August 29 - September 1. NRCS Personnel Meeting in Kearney
- September 2 - 6. Nebraska State Fair?? (need someone to take this on)
- September 14 - 16. Husker Harvest Days (NARD tent w/ NDA, NRCS, or an NRD?)
- September 27-28. NARD Fall Conference (tentative)

As you can see, there is plenty of time between now and the end of the exhibit to help out!

Next, does the idea of answering questions about soil and the *Dig It!* exhibit, and possibly interjecting how soil factors into your job seem like a good way to kill a couple of hours? Then Durham is looking for you! Docents (tour guides) are needed at the museum opening weekend (October 2-3). The museum will be open 10AM – 5PM on Saturday and 1- 5PM on Sunday, and docents will serve 2-3 hour shifts with 2 people on each shift, for a total of 10-12 volunteers needed. If you're interested, please contact Shawna Forsberg at the Durham (402.444.5071 ext. 560 or by email: sforsberg@durhammuseum.org). She can give you more information, answer your questions, and get you signed up!

Third, the Durham Museum makes travel scholarships available for schools with limited travel funding who wish to visit the exhibit. Your donation to the museum will increase the opportunity for schools to educate students about this important resource! See the attached "field trip initiative" information sheet, and contact Durham for more information. (NOTE: Due to the size of this file we removed the attachment prior to forwarding this message. Contact Craig if you are interested in more information on how to donate to the museum for field trips. SWCS List Serve Manager DDG) Along this line, Durham will also be offering a teacher night for educators on Friday, October 8, 2010, 5 to 8 pm. This festive, after-hours open house, gives teachers a chance to hear what's new at The Durham and other regional institutions. Highlighting this year's event will be educators from the Smithsonian Institution presenting lessons from the *Dig It!* exhibit. Participants will enjoy a cocktail reception, live entertainment and take home free classroom-ready materials and information about field trips and programs available to students.

Are you acquainted with a teacher in your hometown who might be interested in attending this? Schools should be receiving a notification directly from Durham through various sources, but it might make a difference if they were encouraged by someone locally who is involved in soil or natural resources conservation. Teachers' Night is free but requires registration. Registration opens on Tuesday, September 14, 2010 at www.teachersnight.org. Questions can be directed to mhale@durhammuseum.org or (402) 444-5027.

And lastly - help spread the word! Perhaps there are individuals, organizations, or businesses outside SWCS who would be interested in assisting with this event. Feel free to forward this information on to others. More information will be forthcoming on the Durham's web site (www.durhammuseum.org)

Thanks for your consideration with this important educational event!

Sincerely,

Craig Romary

Kris Ethridge