**Dig It!** Comes to North Carolina This Summer

by Susan Fisk

**Dig It!**, the popular interactive exhibit that SSSA developed in conjunction with the Smithsonian, will be visiting North Carolina from 16 May to 16 Aug. 2015. The North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences (http://naturalsciences.org) is located in Raleigh.

Members Dave Lindbo and John Havlin, both former presidents of SSSA, led the effort to get the exhibit to North Carolina. Its arrival comes right in the middle of SSSA’s year-long celebration of the International Year of Soils.

“North Carolina has a great diversity of soils, so it is a natural fit,” Lindbo says. “We owe much of our prosperity to our soils. From agriculture, to forestry, to land development, and water quality, our soils are truly the foundation of the state.”

“The **Dig It!** exhibit is a valuable component of our comprehensive soils’ education program,” Havlin says. “Our goals are to inspire our young people to understand soils as a natural resource essential to all life and to enhance awareness of the diverse career opportunities where knowledge of soils is crucial.”

**Dig It!** includes interactive displays, hands-on models, videos, and soil samples that illustrate the importance of soils and how they impact our daily lives. The exhibition includes 54 soil samples representing each U.S. state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands as well as soil maps from around the world.

Lindbo is looking forward to “seeing the expression of awe and wonder on the faces of children and adults (especially the policy makers) when they realize that soil is not dirt. The **Dig It!** exhibit is way cool, and I hope to see this view reflected in all who come see the exhibit.”

**Dig It!** was on display at the Smithsonian from 2008–2010 and has visited Omaha, NE; Spokane, WA; Minneapolis, MN; and Sacramento, CA.

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*Dig It!* is an interactive exhibit, with more than 4,000 ft² of computer simulations, tactile displays, and games, such as these “Match the Soil Profile” blocks.

Take a journey into the skin of the earth and explore the amazing world of soil in **Dig It! The Secrets of Soil**. Completely familiar yet largely unknown, soils help sustain virtually every form of life on earth. Still, it is said that we know more about the dark side of the moon than we do about the earth beneath our feet. Created by the Smithsonian’s National Museum of Natural History, **Dig It!** will transport you to the world of fungi, bacteria, worms and countless other organisms. Discover the amazing connections between soils and everyday life and think about this hidden world in a whole new way.

**Dig It!** was created with the support of the Soil Science Society of America and the Nutrients for Life Foundation, which is underwritten by The Fertilizer Institute.