Williams Soil Chosen as North Dakota’s State Soil of the Year

Hal C. Weiser

In a signing ceremony at the state capitol in Bismarck, North Dakota, governor Edward Schafer declared the Williams soil series as the “1995 State Soil of the Year.” The event coincided with the nationally observed Soil Stewardship Week, sponsored by soil conservation districts throughout the USA. This is the 2nd year of the State Soil proclamation. Last year the Barnes soil series was recognized.

The idea of a proclamation was developed by the Professional Soil Classifiers Association of North Dakota and the North Dakota Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society. The two organizations made several unsuccessful attempts to have a permanent state soil declared by the North Dakota legislature. The annual declaration by the governor has proven a worthy alternative. Information for each state soil is assembled in a pamphlet and distributed to the public. This provides an opportunity to educate state residents about the importance of our soil resource. The pamphlet details soil properties, extent of the soil, proper management to retain productivity, and economic importance to the state. A display proclaiming the state soil has been used at several locations and events to promote the project. A different soil chosen each year will provide a means to educate the public about the variety, use, and conservation of soil resources in the state.

Hard headed as the day is long.

1 Wetlands Specialist, USDA-NRCS, Jamestown Field Office, 1301 Business Loop East, Jamestown, North Dakota 58401-5946.