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## Nebraska Earth Systems Education Network – Spring 2002

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## **Nebraska Earth Science Education Network**

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# **Spring 2002 Newsletter**

Issue Number 30

## **Everything is Connected to Everything Else**

By Dave Gosselin

One of the aspects of K-12 education being emphasized by the National Science Education Standards and funding agencies such as NSF has been partnerships between K-12 systems and institutions of higher education. As a member of NESEN, literally hundreds of you have contributed to or participated in partnership opportunities since NESEN's inception almost 10 years ago. One thing I have learned over the years from these partnering activities is the importance of listening and responding in a meaningful way to input from you, our members. In our last newsletter, we solicited input from you about future NESEN activities, specifically workshops. The need for professional development workshops in the Earth sciences was identified in NESEN's formative stages by teachers as a key component for our organization. It is clear from the response, or should I say the lack of response (3 responses from over 500 members), that our workshops are not as important to teachers as they once were. It is also clear that we need to develop new strategies for meeting our members' needs, but we need to know what those are. I would like to strongly encourage each of you to consider ways in which a partnership between you, your school, ESU, etc. and an institution of higher education could be beneficial. Please feel free to share your ideas and thoughts with me on potential partnership activities. We are all in the business of improving what we do, and if we do it together not only is it easier, it is also more fun. Have a great summer and I look forward to hearing from you about new directions and opportunities for our organization, NESEN. I can be contacted at 402-472-8919 or [dgosselin2@unl.edu](mailto:dgosselin2@unl.edu).

## **WANTED: Presenters for the 2002 NATS Conference**

By Kylee Anderson

The Nebraska Association of Teachers of Science is getting ready for the fall 2002 conference. NATS is searching for individuals who are willing to share their innovative and creative approaches to science education at the conference. The conference is being held at Camp Calvin Crest on October 24<sup>th</sup> through the 26<sup>th</sup>. If you or someone you know are interested in presenting this year please contact Pat Crum, the NATS program chair, at [pacrum@mpsomaha.org](mailto:pacrum@mpsomaha.org), Dave Gosselin, at [dgosselin2@unl.edu](mailto:dgosselin2@unl.edu), or Kylee Anderson, [kander20@bigred.unl.edu](mailto:kander20@bigred.unl.edu) to obtain information for submitting a program proposal. All program proposals are due by June 1, 2002.

## **Near-surface Geology of the Platte River Valley Ready on CD**

By Charles Flowerday

Planners, developers, educators, consultants, county commissioners and others examining the relationships among and the quality of rural and urban communities should benefit from the release of a compact disk on the near-surface geology of the lower Platte River valley. This mapping has

been done in a traditionally rural area experiencing increasing levels of residential and commercial development.

Produced as a map with extensive text by Conservation and Survey Division (CSD) geologists Joe Mason and Matt Joeckel, "Surficial Geology of the Platte River Valley, Fremont to Ashland" is available from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's CSD. The maps and text are also available as a portable document file, or PDF, that can be printed out.

"This effort represents a continuation of the geologic mapping of seven-and-a-half minute quadrangles in the Lincoln to Omaha corridor in which we emphasize the near-surface geology," Mason explained.

Funded in part through a state-federal cooperative mapping program commonly known as STATEMAP, this project reflects a shift in the program in the last decade or so from mapping bedrock to mapping the near-surface geology in detail, Mason said. This shift has taken place in response to needs for detailed mapping related to groundwater and environmental geology, developmental pressures and in this vicinity, the occasional threat of flooding, among other concerns.

One practical aspect of this mapping connected both to economic development and groundwater issues concerns layers of silt and clay that overlie much of the local sand and gravel deposits. This overburden of fine-grained material makes mining sand and gravel in most of the area uneconomical. "It also retards recharge to groundwater, particularly during drought," Mason added.

## **U.S. Consortium of Soil Science Association Web Site Up and Running**

By Jim Culver and Duane Mohlman

The new web site of the United States Consortium of Soil Science Association (USCSSA) is ready to go. USCSSA is a new framework established to promote national communication and coordination among soils societies and associations. Currently, there are 44 individual state soil societies and associations. The ultimate goal is for each of them to excel in sharing information and working together in promoting common goals, objectives, and activities. USCSSA strongly supports the activities of field soil scientists, researchers, and educators in providing quality soil survey information needed and used by the public.

USCSSA's mission is to promote communications and visibility of state professional soil scientists societies and associations and similar societies or associations in the United States on common soil survey issues. These include soil interpretations, acquisitions, applications of soil survey data, and outreach to public and elected decision makers regarding wise use of science-based soil survey information for protection and management of our nation's soil resources. As an earth science educator, USCSSA encourages you to become familiar with the kinds of assistance, common interests, and information that these different organizations provide to the public and the National Cooperative Soil Survey.

The new USCSSA web site is located at <http://soilsassociation.org>. Because this web site is quite new, some parts are under construction. However, there is already a significant amount of information on the web site, and we are frequently adding more. The USCSSA web site is administered by the Conservation and Survey Division, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Our thanks to Tammy Nepple, National Soil Survey Center, Natural Resources Conservation Service – U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, for her assistance in designing this web site.

## **New Web Site and CD of Nebraska Well Drillers Association Archives**

By Jacki Vogel

In view of the long-standing cooperative relationship the University of Nebraska Conservation and Survey Division (CSD) has had with the Nebraska Well Drillers Association (NWDA), and with an eye to making the records and history of the association more accessible to NWDA members and the public, CSD has developed an NWDA archives web site. Produced by Duane Mohlman, CSD data-systems supervisor, and Jacki Vogel, CSD purchasing and accounting clerk, the primary features of this web site include: annual convention minutes, programs and group photographs; programs of the annual fun-fest and "dutch lunch"; and other interesting and historical items. The NWDA archives web site can be found at: <http://csd.unl.edu/nwda/nwda.htm>; or you can go to the CSD web site at <http://csd.unl.edu> and follow the NWDA link.

Also, at the annual convention, CSD introduced a new NWDA archives CD. This CD includes almost all of the archived items found on the web site. If you would like a copy of the CD, please contact Mohlman: (402) 472-7528; email: [dmohlman@unl.edu](mailto:dmohlman@unl.edu); or Vogel: (402) 472-7550; email: [jvogel2@unl.edu](mailto:jvogel2@unl.edu); or write one of these two at the Conservation and Survey Division, 113 Nebraska Hall, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, Nebraska 68588-0517. Fax is: (402) 472-4608. The CD is complimentary, courtesy of CSD.

## **New Fault Slides Available Through NESEN**

By Kylee Anderson

NESEN has recently purchased a set of slides depicting examples of the different types of faults from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). These slides are now available for checkout free to NESEN members. The set of 20 slides includes a diagram showing the three main types of fault motion and several examples of right- and left-lateral strike-slip faults, normal, oblique-slip, reverse, and thrust faults each. If you are interested in seeing the slides or learning more about other products NOAA offers, visit their web site at <http://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/seg>. The fault slides can be viewed by clicking on NATURAL HAZARDS under the Scientific Disciplines category; then select NATURAL HAZARDS SLIDE SETS. The slides are located in the OTHER GEOLOGIC HAZARDS section. If anyone is interested in checking out these or any other educational resources in the NESEN Lending Library, e-mail Kylee Anderson at [kander20@bigred.unl.edu](mailto:kander20@bigred.unl.edu) with your request. Resources may also be checked out through the Lending Library page on the NESEN web site, <http://nesen.unl.edu>.

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The NESEN Newsletter is compiled by Kylee Anderson and edited by Charles Flowerday of the Conservation and Survey Division, University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Information for the NESEN Newsletter can be sent to Kylee Anderson at 9 NE Hall, Lincoln, NE 68588-0517 or [kander20@bigred.unl.edu](mailto:kander20@bigred.unl.edu). NESEN's lead organizations are the 1) Conservation and Survey Division, 113 Nebraska Hall, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, NE 68588-0517; phone 402-472-3471; fax 402-472-4608; website <http://csd.unl.edu/csd.html> and the 2) School of Natural Resource Sciences, 303 Biochemistry Hall, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, NE 68583-0758; phone 402-472-9873.

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