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users struggled with the relative scarcity and expense of data. The availability of geospatial data, in terms of quantity, quality and variety, has grown exponentially. Consequently, the benefits of centrally managing this data are greater than ever."

The main idea given here is to fully utilize the geographic attributes of whatever business process is at hand. For the NCSS, it is to fully utilize the geographic attributes of soils. The access to and manipulation of the soil geography attributes (spatial objects) such as the area, perimeter, and unique identifier for soil map unit polygons will effectively accomplish the geospatial enablement of the traditional NASIS system.

These attributes involve the geometry of mapping soil polygon vectors on the surface of the earth to create published soil maps and provide geospatially related soil landscape data needed for modern scientific analysis, and the associated information gathered along the way. These associated data include the geographic coordinates of pedon descriptions and pedon laboratory sampling sites as well as vectors of soil transects of landscape segments.

It is that new soil attribute, "geography," that provides the needed context for scaling and validating consistency of field measurements to detailed soil maps, to generalized soil maps, to Major Land Resource Areas (MLRA regions) to better describe the Nation's soil resource. Geospatial Aggregation or "scaling" is the process of developing generalized soil maps (General Soil Map of the United States, also known as STATSGO2 or GSM) and in turn even broader MLRA Regions from the detailed Soil Survey Geographic Data base also known as SSURGO.

The soil geospatial objects (vector polygons, lines, points) feature-level attributes allow for assignment of GSM and MLRA region values that facilitate the geospatial scaling process. This access to feature level attribution is anticipated to assist in improving communication of various geographic concepts in the NSGD, including the linkage of pedon point measurements to the SSURGO map unit polygons.

Some of the goals of NSGD are:

- More consistent, accurate and reliable soil geographic data products.

- Scalable data model for detailed soil surveys that allows rapid response to queries from state/regional/national leaders.

- Linkage to useful GIS-based tools that provide consistent and timely evaluation of soil survey mapping.

- Seamless national soil geographic data.

In 2006, a test-bed team of national, regional and field staff were charged to research and develop the design for a science-based, geospatially integrated NSGD. This system is required to be logically accessible by USDA-NRCS staff from field to national levels for data gathering, development, manipulation, analysis and management of soil geospatial data and associated attributes as it relates to NCSS program delivery. These staffs were located across the nation.

Through testing and interview of these staffs, soil mapping workflows and an initial conceptual model were prepared. This team represents the overall NCSS staff that includes about 500 field soil scientists who are charged with the development/update of about 35 million SSURGO polygons and all associated attributes nationwide.

*Sharon W. Waltman works at the National Geospatial Development Center at West Virginia University in Morgantown, W.V. Daniel P. MacDonald is an employee of Vistrionix in Morgantown.*

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## How to Kick Them Out

**W**here there were once waiting lists to get into country clubs, now members are lining up to get out. One totally unofficial count says 11,000 memberships in the greater Palm Springs, Calif., area are finding no takers.

Whatever happened to the days when people thought you could take all this money with you to that Big 18 In The Sky National?

Normally, when clubs consider a prospective member, they post a short biographical sketch along an air-brushed photo of the candidate in case other members want to prevent the club from taking in a bad apple. However, a similar process does not occur when there are waiting lists to get out.

It's high time we change that.

Picture this: You post airbrushed portrait photos along with short full-of-lies bios with the hope of pushing the least favorites out of Bushwood Country Club. Granted, there will be the usual locker-room vandalism, so no flashing of their pearly whites in their photos, which are too easily blacked out by a Sharpie.

Why go to all this trouble, you ask?

If the candidates for departure are as wonderful as I suspect, you never know what might happen. Just maybe their fellow members might chip in and buy out the lucky souls, delivering much-needed cash to club coffers.

Don't believe that my economic stimulus plan has merit? Here are a few samples. Tell me this won't work!

Take Sal Monella. Mr. Monella

HERE'S AN IDEA TO DELIVER SOME MUCH-NEEDED CASH TO A CLUB'S COFFERS – AND DUMP SOME DISLIKED MEMBERS IN THE PROCESS

BY GEOFF SHACKELFORD



was, up until his investment bank's demise, a specialist in credit default swaps for Lehman Brothers in New York. Realizing there was little future at his firm, Mr. Monella left last summer before the collapse of Lehman to join Bernard Madoff's firm as a special consultant, recruiting club members to invest in the greatest Ponzi scheme since the official World Golf ranking. While the board understands that it will be difficult to buy out Mr. Monella's membership because he bankrupted so many of you, we still hope that you will consider sending him back to the public courses he so despises. While Mr. Monella carried an Index of 12.2, remarkably his last 12 posted scores were 84s.

And then there's Ginger "Home-wrecker" Wanton. She was formerly married to the beloved Jerry Wanton, who fell into the club pool while drunk and drowned despite being watched during the entire struggle by a giggly Ginger, who was acquitted of all charges. Ms. Wanton used her \$1 million settlement from the club to specially design a hand-crafted pendant with diamonds forming the club logo. As a member of the green committee, she lobbied successfully against the club master plan that would have

added forward tees, insisting the club's 200 female players with average handicaps of 35.8 enjoy playing a 6,300-yard course.

We can't forget O. Kevin Stevenson III. When he joined, the membership committee was under the impression that the "O." stood for Octavio, a beloved family name traced to Kevin's great-great-great grandmother, a mistress of a former king of Spain. But after eight years of membership and only his immediate family able to tolerate his stoic ways, we prefer to think of it as a "0" in front of Mr. Stevenson's name. Carrying an Index of 19.4 on a really good day, Mr. Stevenson has been plagued by extreme bitterness over the fact that his wife Mahogany and sons Robert Louis and O. Kevin IV are all better golfers than O. Kevin III.

The board is offering his membership at a very low price, so please contact Sheneesha O'Mulligan in the membership office for more information on this fine candidate, or any other members you'd like to see thrown out as soon as possible.

---

*Geoff Shackelford can be reached at [geoffshac@aol.com](mailto:geoffshac@aol.com). Visit his Web site at [www.geoffshackelford.com](http://www.geoffshackelford.com).*

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