

Natural Resources Conservation Service

# Soil Science Division

Soil Survey Region 12



## Soil Survey Office at Paul Smiths, New York (12-PAS)

## Soil Scientists Conduct a Soils Tour at Paul Smith's College

### Purpose

On August 3, 2018, the Paul Smiths MLRA Soil Survey Office staff led a soils tour at the Paul Smith's College Visitors Interpretive Center (VIC). The soils tour focused on the formation and properties of soils and the geology of the Adirondacks, a mountainous region in northern New York. During the tour, soil scientists Janella Cruz, Rebecca Fox, and Gerald Smith led participants on a casual walk on the VIC property. The walking tour included stops at six different locations. At each stop, participants observed soil horizons and learned about the different soils of the Adirondacks.

To supplement the walking tour, participants were given a soils booklet designed specifically for the Adirondacks soils tour. The booklet, which was written by Cruz, Fox, and Smith and designed by Soil Survey Region 12 editor Kristie Wiley, included a block diagram of the VIC property, descriptions of the local parent materials and of the 12 soil orders, definitions for the master soil horizon designations, and a brief description of each of the six stops.

### Key Outcomes

Between the field observations and soils booklet, participants were very enthusiastic in learning about soils. They asked detailed and thoughtful questions, which led to good discussions about why soils are ecologically important and how soils data can help landowners properly manage and conserve their soil. Several participants requested custom soil reports for their property which is in an area where the soil survey data is not yet published.



Soil scientist Rebecca Fox describes the glacial outwash at the first stop of the soils tour.



Pictured to the right are three participants from the soils tour with soil scientists Janella Cruz and Gerald Smith on the far left.

