**Here are some secrets buried under the ground, so to speak.**

* Some of our soil is stardust, the remains of stars that fall to Earth after they’re caught by gravity, or some other kind of force field.
* Lightning provides our soil with nitrogen which plants need to grow
* Scientists have found about 70,000 types of soil in the United States.
* Soil reduces flood risk by storing up to 9200 tons of water per acre.
* A handful of healthy soil has more living organisms than there are people on Earth right now. The number of bacteria in one spoonful of healthy soil ranges from thousands to several billion with 5 to 7 thousand different species. They keep the soil balanced by regulating pH and degrading organic matter.
* Antibiotics, antidepressants, antifungal and anticancer medicines are made from soil bacteria.
* Soil filters out pollutants and wastes. Approximately 10% of the world’s carbon dioxide emissions are stored in soil. Over 1.1 billion pounds of pesticides are used each year, much of it ending up in the soil. That is over 4 pounds of pesticides per person.
* The United States has at least 36,000 hazardous waste sites present in our soils.
* About 4,200 years ago, the Chinese used a soil map to determine taxation amounts.

Soil is often at the bottom of the food chain. Plants and small invertebrates feed off of the soil and animals feed off of the plants. Soil may be at the bottom of the food chain, yet it is the cornerstone of life on earth.