SOIL CLASSIFIERS BILL READY FOR IOWA LEGISLATURE

A Bill for registering soil classifiers in Iowa has been prepared and is ready for legislative action. This action was not accomplished during the first session of the current general assembly, but hopefully it will be during the 1976 session of the general assembly.

It is time to explain the need for such legislation and discuss this Bill with influential people in Iowa. We need to start a “soft sell” approach to explain the advantages of having registered soil classifiers in Iowa. Real estate brokers, bankers, and tax assessors are people that should be interested in such legislation. Of course, if you know anyone in the legislature you can explain the need to them.

We would like to receive as many letters endorsing the idea as we can between now and the time the Bill comes up for discussion in the legislature. All it takes is to ask some one from a profession that stands to benefit to write a short letter saying he supports the Bill. These endorsements will be helpful if we are called on to testify when the Bill is discussed. The “soft sell” approach only, leave the “hard sell” to someone else.

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Articles

SOILS AND MAYA MOUNDS IN HONDURAS

Gerald W. Olson and John S. Henderson

In Valle de Naco, about 20 km southwest of San Pedro Sula in northwestern Honduras, hundreds of mounds have been located on the nearly level alluvial plain and the gently sloping coalescing fans. These mounds are so numerous in places that more than a hundred can be seen from a single surveyor’s transit point. The valley soils, Inceptisols and Entisols, are not stony—but the mounds have many cobbles and stones carried to those construction sites about 1,000 years ago. Inside the mounds are cut stones, walls, mudbrick, plaster floors, pottery sherds, and other artifacts and living debris accumulated through centuries of occupations. Along the road southwest about 100 km to Copan many additional Maya mounds can be observed. About 15 km northeast of Copan is the recently discovered site at La Canteada, where a series of huge terraces were constructed on steep valley walls; pyramids and other structures occupy the level terraces which were connected with giant staircases.

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