



Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation
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About the Institute

The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, a research division of Carnegie Mellon University, specializes in the history of botany and all aspects of plant science and serves the international scientific community through research and documentation. To this end, the Institute acquires and maintains authoritative collections of books, plant images, manuscripts, portraits and data files, and provides publications and other modes of information service. The Institute meets the reference needs of botanists, biologists, historians, conservationists, librarians, bibliographers and the public at large, especially those concerned with any aspect of the North American flora.

Hunt Institute was dedicated in 1961 as the Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Botanical Library, an international center for bibliographical research and service in the interests of botany and horticulture, as well as a center for the study of all aspects of the history of the plant sciences. By 1971 the Library's activities had so diversified that the name was changed to Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation. Growth in collections and research projects led to the establishment of four programmatic departments: Archives, Art, Bibliography and the Library.

ans. Nov. 4.

Delavan, Wis., Oct. 29, 1896.

Mr. Frederick V. Coville,
Washington, D. C.,

Dear Sir:-

Your letter asking for information regarding the sowing of the *Vallisneria* in Delavan Lake recd. several days ago, but I have delayed answering until I could find time to look up my notes and ascertain the exact time the pods were obtained.

We obtained the pods from Lake Koshkonong, Wisconsin, a noted resort of the *Canasabaw* (*Aythya Vallisneria*), & where the "wild celery" grows in profusion. There were four two-quart jars, eight quarts in all, instead of six, as I think I said in my letter of last week, the most of which was planted in Delavan Lake, about a quart however being placed in the village mill-pond, & a few pods we kept in one of the jars, placing a little dirt from the street in the bottom & changing the water from time to time. According to directions we planted the pods as soon after arrival as possible, which was Sunday & Monday, Oct. 27 & 28, 1895, and in from five to ten feet of water - the greater part in about six feet of water & on rather muddy bottom. As there was an immense number of the pods, being packed very tightly in the jars of water, there was enough to so thoroughly cover the most favorable parts of the lake

a few short stems, or rather, blades, undoubtedly of *Vallisneria*, were found, washed ashore, near one of the well sowed beds, which had the appearance of having been cut, as if by a duck's bill, from the bulb and cast adrift.

I have been unable to find any trace of it in the mill pond, but perhaps the ground or condition of the water there is not favorable for its growth.

The seed planted in the jar however, has, regardless of crowded quarters & neglect to change the water, made a thick growth of several inches.

Hoping that the information herein given may prove of some value to you & thanking yourself, your associates, for their kindness in identifying the tubers for me.

I remain

Very, Respy. Yours

N Hollister

Hollister, N.