



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.

4-29-98

Webster, Iowa.
April 23 98.

My dear Mr. Ball :

Received your letter with labels. I regret to say that I shall not be at home during willow season, so shall not be able to do as you request; shall, however, do the next best thing- submit for inspection our present stock, which comprises all species likely to be found in Scott Co. They are :

<i>S. nigra.</i>	<i>S. cordata.</i>	<i>S. babylonica.</i>
<i>S. amygdaloides.</i>	<i>S. fragilis.</i>	<i>S. petiolaris.</i>
<i>S. longifolia.</i>	<i>S. discolor.</i>	<i>S. rostrata.</i>
<i>S. humilis.</i>	<i>S. alba, var. vitellina.</i>	

As I may not be able to write you again for some time, shall give data concerning several species. There is a single tree of *S. fragilis* at Blue Grass; its twigs and small limbs show plainly the fracture characteristic of that species. There is a tree of *S. amygdaloides* near same place which bears each year hermaphrodite flowers. For a similar tree see B. Shimek in a recent volume of the Proc. Ia. Acad. Sci. found but a small shrub of *S. rostrata* in a swamp near Eldridge. Our specimens are poor and we have not been able to refind it. I am familiar with the species from Cook Co. Ill. and there is no doubt of its identity. When fresh the scales were rose colored and the staminate catkins obovoid. *S. babylonica* grows out of cultivation in several localities in Scott and Muscatine Cos. Am sorry that I cannot do more for you and hope what I have may be of use.

Very truly,

Wm. Barnes

Mr. C. R. Ball -

5-13-98

Dear Sir -

I send specimens of a willow that once attracted my attention near Blue Grass. The tree is about 30 ft. high and has the slender polished branches of *S. amygdaloides* but note size of aments and glands. I suspect a hybrid but have not studied the matter closely. The plant with the willows is a hybrid between *Persea bracteata* and the cultivated species. If you care for more material from above willow ask Minerva Benshoof, Blue Grass, Ia. for willow No. 6. She sent the enclosed specimens under my direction.

Very truly

W. D. Barnes

Webster, Ia.

4-28-98

Please excuse scrap of paper.

1-24-99.

from W. D. Barnes

My dear Mr. Ball.

Your letter of
inquiry regarding the willows sent you
came several days ago. Miss B's
numbering is wholly independent of
ours. I never numbered the willows
consecutively (1-19) and suspect Miller
did so just before he sent them to you.
I gave Miss Benckhoff the location of
the supposed hybrid *S. amygdaloides*,
so suppose she sent you the foliage
of that tree. Our willows were collected
early in our experience as botanists
and from trees near to Blue Grass
and Eldridge so were not care-
fully distinguished by no., except as
we sent them back and forth to
each other for identification &
comparison. I give you the location
of that tree so you can be explicit
in referring to it if you write Miss

B. concerning it.

Large tree beside stream, 100 yards W. of big stone bridge, near Buncibi. I cannot give you further data.

My mother wrote that you had called and I was very sorry ^{I was} ~~to be~~ away for I am always glad to meet my botanical correspondents. I should have been delighted to have the pleasure of your company so long as you could have found it convenient to stay. I am sure you found "The Den" a place of rare interest and I regret not being your guide for there are nooks & crannies which escape me easily. I hope you met Miller and Reppert. I hope you will consider our specimens as your disposal whenever you care to see them. I am not likely

24-I-99
from W.D. Barnes

to be in Blue Lane again but
any inquiry addressed to me will
reach Miller.

Very sincerely

W.D. Barnes

Morgan Park, Ill.

Oct. 9. 98