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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.

November 6, 1944

Mr. Robert Leslie James,
Russellville, Alabama.
Dear Mr. James:

I have just read, with much interest, your paper entitled "Some Miscellaneous Botanical Observations" in Castanea.

When we consider the time and care required to make careful and abundant observations on plant structure and habits, I congratulate you on your work. It may be a thankless task to try correcting the imperfect or inadequate records published by others, but there is much satisfaction in it, after all, and it may stimulate young observers to greater accuracy.

My taxonomic work with the willows has been a sideline for most of 50 years but I have spent much time and effort in trying to correct the oftentimes wholly misleading distributions published in manuals, and State and local lists. One State, with able botanists conducting State-wide surveys for years, credited one species with State-wide distribution. It was well-known that this was not true but they made no effort to ascertain and publish the true record. After they had passed from the scene, I enlisted the cooperation of young local botanists and soon proved that the species occurred only in a half dozen counties in one corner of the State. That is but one of many cases.

By the way, *Salix cordata*, known to run down the Appalachian plateau to SW Va. and No. Ky. has been found by Harper in No. Ala. and just now found in 2 counties of NW. Ark. I'll send you the record. A few specimens for the

leading herbariums are urgently needed, as Harper collects but one or two.

Cordially yours, Carleton R. Ball, Collaborator

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Va Willows sent 11/6

Russellville, Alabama
November 27, 1944

Dr. Carleton R. Ball,
3814 Joyce Lane Street N.W.,
Washington, D. C.

Look up the Glob
co for *S. cordata*

Has native willows?

S. nigra
S. long. Werdii?
S. sericea?
S. tristis?

Dear Dr. Ball:-

Your letter of recent

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date was duly received. I thank
you very much for writing me and for
the good things you said in regard
to my article, *Some Miscellaneous
Botanical Observations, in Captanea*.
I also wish to thank you for the
bulletin on the "Willows of Virginia".
It is very interesting.
There are at least three native
willows in my section of the country.

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I don't ^{know} whether Salix cordata
grows here or not. I might send
you some for determination next
spring - if so I can.

We are having a very late fall
here in northwestern Alabama. It
has not been cold enough yet to pro-
duce ice on Urbesina virginica which
is unusually late.

Sincerely yours,
Robert Leslie James.

Tall shrubs or larger. ~~Leaves serrulate~~
~~Leaves linear-lanceolate, narrowly lanceolate~~
~~finely serrulate, vein islets very small, prominent~~
with the ~~on~~ ^{on} leafy peduncles; flower scales yellow
Leaves green on both sides S. Ingra
Leaves densely white beneath Strong Woodii
Leaves lanceolate or elliptic lanceolate, serrate
vein islets coarse, anthesis sessile to subsessile
Some white before to with loss of pale back
Leaves silvery only to leaf base S. Ingra
Low shrub, 1-2 ft. or in soil, very small, all green, with, ^{in flower}

Russellville, Alabama
August 4, 1945

Dr. Carleton R. Ball,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Dr. Dr. Ball:

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A few days ago I was
on Little Bear Creek in the deep
interior of Franklin County and I
am rather sure I saw "Ward's
millers". But it was practically
impossible for me to collect any at
the time. That is a long way from
my home and as I don't have
a car I would have to make the
trip by bus - as far as the bus

See that way.

I am writing to tell you if you desire a specimen of this species from Franklin County, Alabama for the Spot map you are making I will take a day off (although I always have plenty to do) and go and collect for you if you will send \$1.50 to pay for fare, for lunch etc.

Perhaps you can't do this and remain true to your Policy but it looks that I am making you a liberal offer as I can well afford.

Sincerely yours,
Robert Leslie James.

August 12, 1945

Mr. Robert Leslie James,
Russellville, Alabama.

Dear Mr. James:

It was very good of you to write me about your belief that you saw *Salix longipes* var. *Wardii* in the Little Bear Creek area of Interior Franklin Co. and to offer to make an attempt to get it later if your expenses were paid.

If this were a critically important matter, I would gladly send the \$1.50 but that part of Alabama is where we should expect it because it occurs in every direction from there. Eventually local collectors will work out such things for *State florae*.

War pressures have prevented my working on my spot maps and probably will do so for some time yet. In fact, I have gotten behind on routine determinations for collectors but am getting back to that now.

If this willow were at the very edge of its distribution in that area it would be well worth time, money, and energy to track it to its hidden lair, and we surely would do it.

Cordially yours,

Carleton R. Ball
Collaborator

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