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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.

CRANBROOK INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE

BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MICHIGAN

17503 Kirkshire Rd.

Birmingham, Mich.

Dec. 16, 1949

Dr. C. R. Ball
3814 Jocelyn St., N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Dr. Ball;

For the past few years I have been collecting specimens in Leelanau County, Michigan as part of a project dealing with the "Flora of Leelanau County". It would be of considerable assistance to me if you would be willing to check the identification of specimens of *Salix* which I have collected. As I have duplicates of most specimens, you could retain those sent to you. I would appreciate it very much if you would consider this undertaking.

Sincerely yours,

Paul W. Thompson

Prof. Paul W. Thompson,
17503 Kirkshire Rd.,
Birmingham, Michigan.

3814 Jocelyn St., N.W.,
Washington 15, D.C.

23 December, 1949

Dear Prof. Thompson:

Your letter of Dec. 16 is just here. I will be glad to name your Leelanau Co. willows whenever you send them. I think I was briefly in Leelanau once but will have to look up records to know if any willows were collected there.

I always am just as happy to determine specimens when they are to be returned to sender as when I get part or all of them as duplicates. So send what you have collected and I will return them to you, except where plainly stated that they are to be kept by me.

I am much interested in the Natural-Areas Committee and its work. This is a splendid and much needed project. As a cooperative enterprise, it probably will be included in my forthcoming volume on official cooperation in natural resources.

With best holiday wishes, I am

Cordially yours,

Carleton R. Ball

3814 Jocelyn St., N.W., Washington 15, D.C.

Dear Professor Thompson: 28 January, 1950

In clearing my desk, I just came on your letter of 16 Dec. and my reply of 23 Dec., which was addressed to your home address.

I have heard nothing more from you and am just wondering whether my letter did not reach you. Perhaps, like myself, you cannot keep up with the various pressures.

Will be glad to do the willows at any time, with or without duplicates to be kept, as noted in previous letter. But I am not losing time waiting for them because I am writing steadily.

Cordially yours

Carleton R. Ball

NATURAL AREAS IN MICHIGAN

16-811-49
From F.W. Thompson

With the expansion of residential sections, industries, and agriculture more and more of the lands with natural vegetative cover throughout Michigan disappear each year.

THEREFORE, if adequate samples of native plant and animal communities are to be preserved permanently, these should be acquired at the present time while such lands are available.

Realizing this need, last year Mr. Walter Nickell, the President of the Michigan Botanical Club, appointed Miss Genevieve Gillette as Chairman of a "Natural Areas Committee" composed of two additional members - Miss Margaret Haigh and Mr. Paul Thompson. The Committee discussed various aspects of the problem of the preservation of Natural Areas.

It was believed that, tracts of land throughout the State, representing all types of plant and animal communities, such as sand dunes, forests, swamps, meadows, marshes, mountains, bogs, lakes, streams, etc. should be permanently preserved. At least one, possibly several, examples of each type of community should be selected in each different section of the State, ---in the Upper Peninsula, the northern part of the Lower Peninsula, and possibly both the eastern and western sections of the Lower Peninsula where the population is more dense.

As several national organizations had used the term "Natural Areas" for designating such tracts it seems advisable to accept this designation.

Since many of the State Parks in Michigan incorporate tracts which are desirable in "Natural Areas" the aid of the Michigan Department of Conservation was enlisted. Miss Gillette found they were willing to cooperate in any manner which was possible in this project. It is believed that portions of state-owned land should be selected which represent typical plant and animal communities, and these then classified as "Natural Areas" for permanent preservation by the Department of Conservation as a part of the recognized land-use classification.

The Natural Areas Committee has enlisted the aid of other conservation organizations throughout the State. Two meetings were held recently at which representatives of such groups met with the Committee and representatives of the Department of Conservation to discuss plans for the preservation of Natural Areas.

Representatives of the following organizations were present: Michigan Botanical Club, Michigan Audubon Society, Detroit Audubon Society, Cranbrook Institute of Science, University of Michigan, Michigan State College, Wayne University, Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority, Ecologist Union, Michigan Academy of Arts Sciences and Letters, Detroit Academy of Natural Sciences, Kiwanis Club and Federated Garden Clubs.

A list of proposed Natural Areas was compiled by this group.

Questionnaires have been designed by Miss Gillette to aid in collecting data for the purpose of evaluating these tracts as Natural Areas.

Any other groups or individuals who know of suitable tracts for Natural Areas, or who have suggestions to offer are asked to contact some member of the Committee.

It is hoped that in the near future an effective plan for the permanent preservation of Michigan wilderness areas will be in operation.

Paul W. Thompson-Natural Areas Committee
17503 Kirkshire Road, Birmingham, Michigan

CRANBROOK INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE

BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MICHIGAN

17503 Knickshire Rd.

Birmingham, Mich.

Feb. 4, 1950

Dear Dr. Ball;

Your card arrived just as I was mailing you some specimens. These are being sent express. Each folder should contain a card with the essential information. As I have duplicates you may keep the specimens which I am sending.

Our program for Preservation of Natural Areas is progressing nicely. It appears that we will have the full cooperation of the Michigan Dept. of Conservation. I am enclosing a copy of our tentative policy.

The "Keyser" Report on the Preservation of Wilderness Areas contains some interesting information on wilderness areas. Certainly such areas would be ideal for the protection of typical plant and animal communities. Would it not be possible to offer full protection to plants and animals in portions of these wilderness areas?

(over please)

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I was rather surprised to find that grazing
was allowed in some of these wilderness areas. Although
I am not acquainted with conditions that exist in
the West it would seem that grazing ^{by sheep and cattle} would
destroy at least in part the very condition of
true wilderness which is desired. From my own
observations in the Lake States Area I have found
that grazed tracts stand out like "sore thumbs"
when compared with similar areas in which natural
conditions exist. Many species of plants are
removed from certain areas because of grazing.

Thank you very much for your
help in the identification of *Salix*.

Sincerely yours,

Paul W. Thompson