

Kalamazoo Nature Center Study Internship Report:

- ✓ Dec. 7, 1922 – Mrs. Caroline I. Kleinstuck, formerly Caroline Hubbard, in her right as the survivor to her husband Carl G. Kleinstuck, deeded 48 acres of land to the Michigan Board of Education for one dollar. She designated that the land be used for "... educational and scientific purposes..." (deed to board of Education)
- ✓ ??? – In an undated letter to the State Board of Education, Mrs. Kleinstuck wrote, "My deceased husband, in his lifetime, had a keen desire to dedicate some land for use as a botanical garden, and it is in fulfillment of his wish that I have executed the enclosure." Also stated in the letter, "I hope the State Board of Education will see fit to extend the use of these premises for the purposes named... to the Western Normal School (Western Michigan University), Kalamazoo College, and other educational institutions." (letter from Mrs. Kleinstuck to Board of Education)
- ✓ Dec 11, 1922 – The President of Western Normal School (WMU), wrote a letter to the Board of Education expressing his desire to have the property maintained by one of the educational institutions designated for access to the area by the deed.
- ✓ 1922 – Dr. Leslie Kenoyer, Chairman of the Biology Dept. at Western Normal School was appointed supervisor of the Preserve. He served in this position until 1951.
- ✓ April 25, 1927 – Classes were adjourned and the entire student body of the Western Normal School (WMU), planted 12,000 trees on the barren portions of the northern end of the property. President Waldo planted the first tree.
- ✓ 1929 – Board of Education granted the city of Kalamazoo the right to construct a sewer outlet at Kleinstuck. This sewer line is an enclosed system which now nearly circles the entire Preserve.
- ✓ 1931 – E. V. Jötter from the Forestry and Conservation Depts. at the University of Michigan wrote a report on the use and development of Kleinstuck Preserve.
- 1932 – Blades Carlton was appointed the first caretaker of the property. He was employed by Western Normal to maintain trails and fencing, open fire lanes, build game cover, construct a tool house, and provide protection for game from hunters and dogs. He also performed the first documented surveys of flora and fauna at the property. (Blades Carlton, report on Kleinstuck Preserve, 1932)
- 1935 – LaVerne Argabright of the Biology Dept. at Western State College wrote a paper entitled, "Birds of Kleinstuck."
- 1939 – Kleinstuck received certification as a State Wildlife Sanctuary for five years.
- 1940 – Kleinstuck Preserve Committee was formed, consisting of professors from Western Normal, Kalamazoo College, and local citizens.
- 1940 – 1948 – Plans were submitted to the committee and improvements to the property were made. These included Western State College biology students working with Dr. Ray Deur to build a dam to retain water levels. Girl Scouts used the property for their day camps.
- June 2, 1948 – Meeting of persons involved in the property was held. Agenda items included; "pump broken by vandals, repairs of latrine, poison ivy control, DDT spraying of campsites, prevention of vandalism, and widening lake vistas."
- 1950 – Another student clean-up and planting took place. 150 shrubs including Michigan holly, grey stem dogwood, hawthorne, and sour gum were planted.

1950 – Kalamazoo Gazette reported that “High water has improved marsh conditions for birds at the Preserve. It is reported that the Florida Gallinule, absent for many years, has returned.”

1951 – 1951 – Problems with the Preserve were increasing. Vandalism, erosion problems and issues with dogs were recorded.

1951 – Ann Fuller was appointed chairman of Kleinstuck Preserve. She served from 1951 to 1967. Ann dealt with many problems at the preserve including limited funds for the management of the property.

1953 – Kalamazoo Gazette reported the efforts of a fraternity from Western that was working to improve the property.

1953 – To control some of the erosion problems the City Commission of Kalamazoo diverted a water main away from the one area with serious erosion problems.

1954 – Headed by Ann Fuller, students planted of about 600 shrubs and plants helped to control more of the erosion problems.

1954 – Max Alder constructed a large number of bird houses and placed them at various places around at the Preserve.

1954 – Wildlife Sanctuary classification for the Preserve was renewed for another 5 years.

1955 – Management problems continued at the property. Dr. VanDeventer, chair of the Biology Dept at WMU wrote a letter to the President of the University, Dr. Sangren urging that the only solution to the problem would be to hire a caretaker for the property. In response, Dr. Sangren appropriated \$100 a month for a student watchman, James F. Bowen.

1957 → *Western Michigan College became WMU*

1959 – State Wildlife Sanctuary classification for the Preserve was renewed for another 5 years.

→ 1961 – Ann Fuller, chairman of the Kleinstuck Preserve produced a soil and water conservation plan.

1961 – Other projects took place during the year, including the thinning of the red pine plantation, and added student patrol surveillance.

→ 1961 – A circular area of the marsh was dredged by students. Robert Humphrey of the Soil Conservation Service supported the marsh digging on the premise that, “The changed configuration would bring more water and consequently wildlife to the Preserve.” (William Wright, Kleinstuck Report, 1957) Mr. Robert Humphrey, whose Spruce Ave home overlooked the preserve, gave \$1500 toward the digging of a pond.

1963 – Storm sewer line was installed through the east end of the Preserve by the City of Kalamazoo. A planting was made in the area to help rehabilitate the digging area.

1964 – State Wildlife Sanctuary classification was renewed for another 5 years.

1965 – YMCA was given 5.5 acres of land for a new facility adjoining Kleinstuck.

1967 – Ray Deur was appointed chairman of Kleinstuck.

→ June 23, 1973 – E and J Aquatics, a water consulting firm from East Lansing, Michigan, conducted a survey on the marsh. Physical, biological, and chemical data was recorded. They concluded that the pond is following a natural succession process. (Timothy Ervin, Aquatic Survey Report – Kleinstuck Preserve, 1973)

This property has been used consistently for educational purposes by students and professors at WMU, K College, local secondary schools especially Kazoo School. The YMCA uses the main path around the Preserve as a running track. Area residents use the property for passive recreation. Girl Scout and Boy Scout troops have used the property for training, recreation and education purposes.

Records since the property was deeded to the Michigan Board of Education seem to indicate similar problems.

Timeline for Kleinstuck Preserve from Various Sources at Archives:

1885 – Kleinstucks purchased the farm, Bragg's Nursery. The pond, which was more extensive then, was known as Braggs Lake. Mr. Kleinstuck used the property to mine peat and investigate the use of peat for fuel. He was President of the National Peat Society.

December 7, 1922 – Caroline I. Kleinstuck, in her own right deeded 48 acres to the State Board of Education to be used for "research and educational purposes".

April 1927 – Students of Western State Normal School (later named WMU) through the Department of Biology planted 12000 pine trees (8000 Norway pines, 2000 white pines, and 2000 Jack pines) on the barren portions of the Preserve.

1930's – WMU women's physical education department built a brick overnight cabin. Vandals eventually tore down the structure.

1931 – Rustic entrance gate was erected by Western State Normal School students. Vandals destroyed the structure.

1935 – LaVerne Argabright of the Biology Dept. at WMU wrote a paper called "Birds of Kleinstuck."

1949-1967 – Anne V. Fuller was chairman of the Preserve. Produced a soil and water conservation plan for the property. Organized work days and rallied WMU administration for support.

1959 – 1964 Kleinstuck was certified by State of MI Dept. of Conservation as a State Wildlife Sanctuary. Said lands are dedicated for the protection of game birds, game animals, non-game birds and fur-bearing animals as defined in Asct 286, P.A. 1929. Hunting and trapping prohibited. Certification lasts for a period of five years.

1962 – Biology Department faculty constructed a land use program for Kleinstuck. Anne Fuller, Harriet Bartoo, and Harry Stevens.

1962 – Anne Fuller, Harriet Bartoo, and Harry Stevens of the WMU Biology Dept. constructed an expanded land use program for Kleinstuck.

1964 Arbor Day – Children from Hillcrest Elementary School planted trees and wildflowers and hung bird houses at Kleinstuck Preserve. Dr. Harriett Bartoo and Miss Anne Fuller from WMU piloted the project.

1973 – Water survey was conducted on the marsh.

1989 – Robert Buechler begins work with the city to investigate the cause behind dropping water levels at Kleinstuck. He finished his masters thesis on the topic

Throughout its history this property has been used by students for projects such as, bird surveys, path mapping, and geological surveys, botany and biology.