



**FINDING AID TO
THE ALTON A. LINDSEY PAPERS, 1921-2000**

**Purdue University Libraries
Virginia Kelly Karnes Archives and Special Collections
Research Center
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Descriptive Summary

Creator Information	Lindsey, Alton A. (1907-1999)
Title	Alton A. Lindsey papers
Collection Identifier	MSF 225
Date Span	1921-2000
Abstract	Papers, publications, speeches, and related materials documenting the scientific and academic career of Alton Lindsey.
Extent	0.5 cubic feet (1 mss. box)
Finding Aid Author	Michael Maune
Languages	English
Repository	Virginia Kelly Karnes Archives and Special Collections Research Center, Purdue University Libraries

Administrative Information

Location Information:	ASC
Access Restrictions:	Collection is open for research.
Preferred Citation:	MSF 225, Alton A. Lindsey, Archives and Special Collections, Purdue University Libraries

Subjects and Genres

Persons

Lindsey, Alton A. (Alton Anthony), 1907-1999

Organizations

Purdue University

Topics

Antarctica

Indiana

Ecology

Form and Genre Types

Maps

Articles

Résumés

Black-and-white photographs

Color photographs

Newsletters

Pamphlets

Postcards

Poetry

Certificates

Obituaries

Biography of Alton A. Lindsey

Alton A. Lindsey, Purdue University professor emeritus of biology, is among the pioneers in the field of ecology, with a lifetime of research in areas as far-flung as Antarctica and as nearby as the Wabash River.

He received his undergraduate education at Allegheny College in his native Pennsylvania and pursued ecological studies at Cornell University, receiving his doctorate in 1937.

From 1933 to 1935, Dr. Lindsey was the vertebrate zoologist on Admiral Richard Byrd's second expedition to Antarctica, receiving a special Congressional medal for his contributions. In 1960, the Lindsey Islands off Antarctica were named in his honor. Around the 1950s, in a remote New Mexico volcanic area, he discovered the most productive site in the Southwest for research on past climates. In 1949, Dr. Lindsey founded the 65-acre Ross Biological Research Reserve along the Wabash River not far from the Purdue campus. Administered by the Department of Biological Sciences, it continues to provide an important outdoor site for research and teaching in ecology.

A Purdue faculty member from 1947 until his retirement 1973, Dr. Lindsey earlier taught at Cornell, American University, the University of Redlands, and the University of New Mexico. His legacy to Indiana includes his leading efforts to preserve areas of ecological and environmental importance in the state. One of his ten books, based on a statewide survey he directed on the state's natural areas, was the first such book for any state and influenced other states to develop similar inventories. From the 1950s to the 1970s, he was a leader in the conservation movement in the state, helping initiate the Division of Nature Preserves, and lending his advocacy and scientific expertise in the preservation of such areas as Pine Hills in Montgomery County and the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore.

Although retired from Purdue for over 20 years, Dr. Lindsey never retired from science and worked on a book about maple trees late in life. Among his wide range of honors and awards is the Eminent Ecologist Award of the Ecological Society of America, and an honorary degree from Allegheny College. The Alton A. Lindsey Fellowship in Ecology was established in Purdue's Department of Biological Sciences in 1992, and the Lindsey Fellowship in Environmental Education at Goshen College is named in his honor.

Lindsey died in December 1999.

Source:

Material from the collection.

Collection Description

Scope

The Alton A. Lindsey papers (1921-2000; 0.5 cubic feet) document the life, academic and scientific career, and publication history of Alton A. Lindsey. They feature publications and maps regarding geographical areas Lindsey studied, including the Lindsey Islands in Antarctica, the Ross Biological Reserve in Indiana, and Pine Hills Preserve in Indiana. Some of the ecological papers were authored by scholars other than Lindsey. Types of materials include: vitas, photographs, publications, articles, newsletters, pamphlets, maps, postcards, poetry, licenses, certificates, obituaries, and diplomas. Original order of materials has been maintained.

Descriptive Rules Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Processing Information

Whenever possible, original order of the materials has been retained. All materials have been housed in polyester sleeves, acid-free folders, and acid-free boxes.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

1 Box *Papers*

Folder

- 1 Newspaper Article and Publication, 1994-1995
2. Lindsey Islands of Antarctica by Alton Lindsey, 1993
3. A. Documents cited and others related in paper on early history of Indiana Natural Areas Preservation in Proc. of Indiana Academy of Science 1994 (a reprint copy will be supplied after printing)
B. Appendix of Related Preservation Materials
4. Indiana Dunes publications, 1966-1982
5. Pine Hills papers, 1953-1979
6. Ross Biological Reserve, 1978-1989
7. Vita and Biography, 1951-1991
8. Indiana Ecology, 1945-1990s
9. The Lindsey Fellowship Dept. of Biological Sciences Purdue University, 1993
10. Completed Packet of Publications, Vita, Etc. Ack, Oct. 27, 1999
11. Lindsey, Alton A. Deceased Obits, Dec. 19. 1999
12. Essay on Robert O. Petty, presented by Stephen J. Jay MD at meeting of Indianapolis Literary Club, Oct. 16, 2000 Mentor at Purdue Alton A. Lindsey
13. Naturalist on Watch by Alton A. Lindsey Donated by Prof. Robert W. Smith Dept. of Biological Sciences
14. Includes autobiographical sketch written in 1973 on retirement, edited in 1999 typed by Louise Lindsey in 1999 Received April 8, 1999
15. Miscellaneous papers, undated
16. Memories of an Old Ship, undated