

EDITOR'S CORNER

First, let me welcome all you new subscribers and a hearty welcome back to the old-timers. Many things have happened during the past year. We have added two new co-editors, and The Arboretum at California State University, Fullerton, has assumed the task of publishing and distributing CPN. All subscriptions, as well as any claims for missing or defective issues, should be addressed to The Arboretum. The Arboretum is also handling all business related to the sale of the back volumes. Pat Hansen, a long time friend of the Arboretum, is doing all of the typing and layout and bookkeeping. Please address your inquiries/orders to The Arboretum; Department of Biological Science; California State University, Fullerton; Fullerton CA 92634; USA. All checks and money orders should be made payable to "Arboretum Foundation Fund." Until further notice, all subscriptions will be on an annual basis only.

We would also like to announce the beginning of a membership drive. Last year the number of subscribers reached 650 by mid-July when the available spaces ran out. This year we plan to take all comers. As the number of subscribers grows, the price for each copy of CPN drops. Rapid growth will also help to keep the subscription price stable while allowing for more extras such as more illustrations, some of which we would like to publish in color once we have a sufficient number--about 3000. So every member get at least one new member or more for Volume VI.

The record cold in some parts of the world, especially in the Eastern United States and the resulting energy shortage may have affected some of our readers. We would be pleased to hear of how they are dealing with gas/oil shortages as well as other weather-related problems (drought, freezes, etc.). Any information on the effect of these weather extremes on the natural populations of CP would also be greatly appreciated and will be published as soon as possible.

BEGINNER'S CORNER by L. C. Song

This marks the beginning of a new column in response to many inquiries received by your editors about the culture, propagation, hybridization, etc., of CP. Each of the co-editors will take turns writing about various aspects of CP; at first, the column will contain general information. This is to establish a foundation on which to build for later columns which will contain more specialized information limited to specific genera and possibly specific species.

Much has been written on the culture of CP in the last few years, and many excellent reference works are available that cover general cultural practices for all groups of CP. One of the best sources of cultural information is contained in a book by Don Schnell, *Carnivorous Plants of the U.S. and Canada*. Another source is Alan Swensen's book, *Cultivating Carnivorous Plants*. (See Review of Recent Literature section). My advice to serious beginners is to review the chapters on the cultivation of CP. This should answer the majority of questions concerning basic cultural practices.

These basic practices can be summed up as the light, temperature, water relations, edaphic (soil or growing medium), and nutrient factors. Other things to be considered are basic horticultural techniques such as propagation, potting practices, pest control, structures for housing of plants, etc.

Now for a brief definition of terms. The light factor takes into consideration the intensity of quantity (brightness), quality (spectral composition), and photo-period (the duration of light during a diurnal or daily period as well as a seasonal time period). The temperature factor would be the diurnal (day-night) and seasonal range in temperature. Water relations as used here would concern the maintenance of proper moisture levels within the plant through regulation of humidity (amount of water vapor in the air) and irrigation (both pertaining to quantity of water) as well as the quality of water (purity--amount of dissolved salts, pH, etc.), taken on a daily and seasonal basis. The edaphic (soil or growing medium) factor concerns the type of materials that would be used to grow CP. The nutrient factor would concern itself with the application of fertilizers as organics (animal/plant derived products such as fish emulsion, bone-meal, kelp extract, living or dead insects, worms, etc.) or inorganics (mineral nutrients such as chemical compounds containing nitrogen, phosphorous, potassium, etc.).

Basic horticultural techniques would include categories such as propagation (making more numbers of a given plant by either sexual means--by seeds, or asexual means--any type of cutting such as leaf, stem or root or the newer methods using aseptic culture), plant handling techniques (the actual how to plant the seeds, make the cuttings, transplanting, proper types of containers, etc.), pest control (detection and treatment of plant diseases and disorders caused by bacterial, viral, fungal, insects and other animals, environmental factors which would include any imbalance in the factors mentioned previously as well as toxic substances such as smog, other pollutants, etc.). Structures for the housing of CP could be most anything that would contribute to the maintenance of a proper balance of the basic factors.

NEXT: The Light Factor

We are looking for a catchy logo for this column. The winner will get a free subscription for 1978. Please send them to Leo Song, address on front cover.