

Editor's Corner

WE ALMOST KISSED SARRACENIA OREOPHILA GOODBYE!

It was an excellent idea for Congress to pass the Endangered Species Act of 1973 which made it possible to prevent the extinction of many plants and animals. Thanks also goes to the Smithsonian Institution for identifying some 3,000 species of plants considered to be in danger of extinction. From this list about 1700 species needed immediate protection if they were to survive in their natural habitats. *Sarracenia oreophila* was one of these plants.

So far only 56 plant species passed the long legal process and studies needed to protect the plants under the Endangered Species Act. Now with several recent developments, I wonder if any more can be saved.

The problem now is that Congress amended the 1973 law in direct response to the snail darter problem (a little fish that was delaying the construction of a Tennessee dam). This incident created such a furor in Congress that they now require not only the *biological* evaluation but also several kinds of *socioeconomic* studies as part of the legal package to protect a plant. In addition, they added a time limit of *two* years to complete all studies or else the plant cannot be considered as endangered unless new information is presented.

These recent changes now have increased expenses and effort for the protection of each plant species to the point where they are so excessive that it may be beyond the current abilities of the limited staff and budget of the Endangered Species Office to complete all the paperwork.

What can you do? Write to your Senator or Representative and let them know how you feel about protecting *S. oreophila* and the 7 other Carnivorous Plant species on the Endangered List.

REF: AMER. HORT. 52(2):3 (1980)

(Late note: We have been informed that *S. oreophila* made the Endangered List before the new guidelines became effective.)

News and Views

CRAIG J. BOLTON (P.O. Box 501, University of Dallas Station, Irving, Texas, 75061) asks: If you know of collectors, local societies or nurseries specializing in carnivorous plants in the Dallas—Ft. Worth area I would appreciate hearing from you.

JOHN B. BURNS (6304-H South Padre Island Drive, Corpus Christi, Texas, 78412) writes: Found a use for the 2-liter plastic soft drink bottles that have the black or green bottoms. (Coca-Cola, Tab, etc.) See fig 1.

First, pull off the black or green bottom of the bottle. This is usually fairly easy. You

now have a plastic pot and a dome bottomed bottle. See fig 2.

With heavy scissors cut off the top of the bottle about one inch above the point where it starts to taper toward the neck. See fig. 3. If you cut below the taper the plastic dome will be the same size as the pot and will not fit.

Check by fitting dome into pot. The dome should go in only as far as needed in order to be stable. If the dome goes in too far trim off the excess.

The adhesive under the label can be removed with 'Varsol' or charcoal starter fluid. Removing as much paper as possible