

# Editor's Corner

The CPN co-editors get many letters from concerned subscribers imploring us to take an active part in preserving a threatened local bog or other CP stand, or wishing us to announce that a CP area is doomed and everyone should come and rescue the plants.

Concerning the first question of attempting to preserve a threatened area, it has been the experience of most conservationists that as much local or state activity as possible should be exercised at first rather than people or organizations from outside the area being called in. First of all, many local residents who have doubts about preserving such an area may immediately bridle at the concept of "federal," "national," and "outsider". Local people are much more amenable to their own. Also, there are often many local or statewide organizations that are closer to your problem and should be contacted first. The very efficient Nature Conservancy (a private but nationwide organization) has state named local chapters (such as North Carolina Nature Conservancy) that may be willing to help if not actively attempt to purchase the property. Also, many states now have a Heritage Program. The Audubon Society has many local chapters and they may be interested in the property as part of their sanctuary program. Many communities and states have lay or mixed botanical clubs and wildflower societies or clubs, often with well-established plant rescue operations. Finally, some combinations of the above can be effective. We know of instances where local chapters of national groups have been successful. Combinations (such as Nature Conservancy and Audubon) have secured lands, and even small countywide nature clubs have saved lands by persuading donation by the local owner! Thus, local attempts should be vigorously pursued through all channels possible prior to calling on a national effort. University botany departments in your area can help you with a list of local organizations and chapters of conservation groups.

## *Seed Bank*

*To send seed:* Please remove seed from the seed capsules and place it in small envelopes (preferably paper so that they dry out enough to prevent mold). Label with the origin and date of collection, including habitat if it is exotic. Fold the envelope over once or twice before taping so that the seeds don't stick to the tape. After the seed is received it will be placed in smaller packets; donors will be informed of how many packets they have donated. A donation of 10-19 packets earns one free seed packet of comparable rarity, with one free for each additional 10 packets.

Do not ask to trade for seed from the bank. Everyone will have to buy all but their

free packets. When you send seed, indicate whether it is for the seed bank, for Patrick's seed project or for a personal trade. The seed bank is separate from his collection.

*To order seed:* Please enclose payment. List the seeds desired and an equal number of substitutes in order of preference. If requested, Patrick will add any cultural instructions of which he is aware. Patrick will answer all letters and orders as quickly as possible; if you receive no response within two weeks (U.S.) to a month (outside U.S.) please write again. Each issue of CPN will include an update of the inventory. Cost per packet: 50¢. (Number of packets is listed if less than 15 are available). (Address next page.)