receive 2 hours of direct morning light coupled with misting. I reuse the same water by
catching it in a 12 quart wastepaper basket seated underneath the pot. The pots sit on a
plastic saucer that have holes burned into them with a red-hot screw driver. This works out
well, for at the end of the day I empty the water back into the one quart jars and put them into
the refrigerator overnight. By morning, the 12 quarts of rainwater are at the desired
temperature of 45-50 degrees F.

I use an aquarium thermometer to measure the moss temperature inside the pot. The
readings fluctuate between 50-55 degrees after flushing and then they gradually go back up to
around 60-70 degrees about 4 hours later. These measurements are taken on a sunny day with
air temperatures of 90-95 degrees. I feel that the Darlingtonias tolerate a much higher
temperature at the roots than we realize. Mr. Powell only waters once a day even when his
temperature of the day is 95 degrees and his plants are healthy and strong.

I like to thank all those who wrote to me about my D. petiolaris article and my concern
for bog wildlife. A few additional notes on D. petiolaris follow. First, I noticed a movement
of the leaf blade and tentacles when feeding small fruit flies or bits of tubiflex worms.
Secondly, it's best to use distilled water and not mineral spring water for obvious reasons.
Also, a clean razor blade is preferred over scissors to make cuts, since scissors tend to crush
plant tissue causing rot to set in. The woolly sundew should not be disturbed too often with
dividing but should be allowed to clump. Young plants with new growth crowns will produce
normal leaves and traps but older plants seem to have less vigor and grow without traps until
they are divided.

I have found that a garlic natural non-toxic spray works well on ridding Sarracenias of
aphis. Crush one bulb of garlic (skin and everything), add two cups of rain or distilled water,
boil for 15 minutes and allow it to stand for one hour and strain. If you don't use it all, then
store it in the refrigerator. There is a garlic smell for only a few days but the only precaution is
to avoid getting the spray into your eyes.

I'd like to conclude here by saying it's nice to read articles and letters from young people
also.

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**Victorian Nepenthes, American Style**

by Bruce Bednar,
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Thirty years before the turn of the century, growing Nepenthes became very popular
among the well-to-do. Only the rich with large estates had stove houses and gardening staffs
and could afford to dabble with orchids and other exotic plants. This upper echelon
dealt with large established botanical gardens to obtain stock. At that time growing orchids
was a status symbol, and growing Nepenthes put you above the orchid growers. Most
Nepenthes growers were in Europe, however one stands out even today, as many of his
hybrids are still very popular in collections.

James Taplin began his work with Nepenthes at Chatsworth in England, but had no
success. He ended up moving to the United States, seeking a warmer climate. Taplin
succeeded much beyond his expectations when working for George Such of South Amboy,
New Jersey, and became the lone American Nepenthes hybridizer. It appears that Taplin
made no less than five different hybrid crosses over a fifteen-year period which in those days
was remarkable. The nucleus of the Such collection, which Taplin worked with, was five
major plants that flowered for him: *N. mirabilis, N. gracilis, N. rafflesiana, N. x hookeriana,*
and *N. x sedinii.* His three earliest crosses were late in the 1870's, *mirabilis x hookeriana,*
*sedinii x hookeriana* and *gracilis x domini.* Clones were chosen from the offspring and
named; some were very similar. Seed germination must have been poor with the *gracilis x*
**SOME OF TAPLIN'S EXTANT VICTORIAN HYBRIDS**

Upper right — counterclockwise *N. X: paradisae, williamstii, coccinea, dormanniana, atrosanguinea, hookeriana, wigleyana, outramiana* (small pitcher bottom) and *superba*. Photo by author.