Literature Review


This article briefly describes the function of sarracenias, but mainly features the sarracenia art of Marcia Cohen which has been mentioned in reviews in previous issues. Ms. Cohen spent three years in the field producing her pastels with color pencil and they are accurate and beautiful. The production is nicely done with quality publishing in this relatively new state wildlife magazine. Ms. Cohen's artwork will begin gracing these pages as well.

Cagliardo, Ron. Atlanta Botanical Garden carnivorous plant collection.

Kanel, John de and Rolfe Smith. The Nepenthes collection at Longwood Gardens.

Gardner, Rob. The carnivorous plant collection at the North Carolina Botanical garden.


This is a group of four articles on CP collections at four public gardens. The magazine is published by a consortium of botanical gardens. In addition to a brief summary of a sentence or two on each garden, I (DES) will also give my impressions since I have visited all of them.

There is little we need to add about the Atlanta Botanical Garden since we have written it up several times in these pages. The author, who just joined the Garden to work principally with tissue culture, describes the public indoor displays as well as the outdoor southern coastal plain bog exhibit. These are easily publicly accessible. Less accessible, is the greenhouse or "prop house" area where unexhibited species—often of great interest—arid propagation occur. These places are generally less accessible in most gardens. However those identified with particularly serious interest in CP may be admitted if you can catch Ron Determann or Ron Cagliardo. The displays are excellent.

Longwood has reduced to a modest public display of Nepenthes since, as the author admits and I have found from other sources, the Garden is reverting to horticultural displays as its main mission. The small terrarium display of other CP I saw there a couple of years ago is in very poor condition, and admission to the prop area is nearly impossible.

The North Carolina Botanical Garden is entirely open—All CP are displayed. There is an artificial coastal plain habitat, labeled pots in a greenhouse area which are portable for moving exhibits around town, and a larger area of sunken pots. In addition to CP, the Garden is a fine example of native plant gardens.

Larry Mellichamp's place at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte has all displays open to the public. The CP display is heavy on sarracenias which are being used to develop horticulturally desirable hybrids, some containing as many as six species. Larry emphasizes his growing methods which include plenty of light and salt-free water, and a medium consisting of 2 parts peak 1 part perlite and 1 part vermiculite with light liquid fertilization every three weeks during the growing season. As a bonus, the visitor may also see the extensive native plant garden on a wooded hillside that features many naturalized species of rhododendron.

In summary, at present, visits to Atlanta, Chapel Hill and Charlotte are well-worth a special effort. Stop at Longwood if you are in the neighborhood.