

Editorial

by JAN SCHLAUER

Dear fellow carnivorous plant enthusiasts,

All this time passed by, presenting us with news and excitement, posing new questions where old ones were apparently answered, and revealing more and more the oddity and beauty of Nature. Yes, it is twenty-five years since you received your very first issue of Carnivorous Plant Newsletter (CPN), from its first days a steady source of information and delight for all of us strange people who seek the most unusual amongst the (only seemingly) most peaceful creatures. The development of the newsletter was the achievement of two men, viz. Donald E. Schnell and Joe A. Mazrimas, and the additional labours of Leo Song and Larry Mellichamp. Under their lead, CPN grew and flourished, gaining reputation among amateur plant lovers and professional botanists alike. Its popularity with amateurs is testified by the many excellent field trip reports by correspondents from around the globe and by CPN being the official registration authority for all carnivorous plant cultivars. The facts that CPN is reviewed regularly by the Kew Record of Taxonomic Literature and that recently even formal descriptions of new species appeared in CPN are sufficient indication of its standing in the professional community.

But now, Don Schnell has decided to retire from his duties as a co-editor of CPN. I want to take this opportunity to express my gratitude and certainly also the gratitude of many others for all the work he invested in the foundation and steady improvement of this fine piece of carnivorous plant literature. Barry A. Meyers-Rice and I have been appointed as successors to fill the gap Don leaves behind. It certainly cost us some thought before we accepted this honour because we were well aware of the difficulties in fulfilling the high standards set. All I can say now is that we will try our very best. But, dear readers, please do not forget to remind us of our shortcomings wherever perceived, as we aim to present you with the best we can manage to produce here.

The fact that I will be the first CPN staff member from the Old World does not only manifest the "International" nature of the ICPS but it is at the same time a special obligation to me. Together with Joe Mazrimas and Barry Meyers-Rice, we have settled on a new, internet-based editing procedure in order to streamline it across national and continental borders. This brings about some changes also for the authors. Please consult our new "Instructions to Authors" (printed in this issue) previous to the preparation of manuscripts intended for publication in CPN.

Let me close with an announcement. We are planning to devote a special issue of CPN this year to *Aldrovanda vesiculosa* (an Old World dweller like myself!), which could in comparison with its close American relative (Venus's fly-trap, Darwin's "most wonderful plant") be called the "most neglected plant", regarding its outstanding position in systematics as well as its ecology, rarity and cultivation. Please consider if you could contribute to this issue and submit your material before July 5, 1997. Thank you very much in advance.