

# Editorial

BARRY MEYERS-RICE

I looked with disbelief at my computer screen. The email from Rick Walker was jarring. Rick, president of the International Carnivorous Plant Society, had just informed me that Don Schnell was retiring from his editorial role at CPN. I read the message again. I blinked several times. The cursor on the screen blinked back, expectant.

Don Schnell leaving CPN after twenty-five years? Unacceptable! He was a fixture! When I was first learning about carnivorous plants, Don's book was frequently on my reading pile. Then as a CPN reader, Don's articles, photo essays, and reviews were my favorite features. And when I started writing contributions for CPN, Don always had suggestions on how to improve my work. But now this cofounder of CPN was retiring? And Rick wanted me to join the crew as a new coeditor? I was honored. Certainly, it was an offer I would not refuse. I emailed my acceptance to Rick.

The next time you get lost in your back issues of CPN, ponder the path the newsletter pioneered over the decades. After promising starts, many carnivorous plant journals have descended into the dregs of pure novelty interest, just to die as rapidly as they began. But under careful stewardship, CPN survived its adolescence and matured into a well respected resource. It provides a rich mulch of information for the cultivator, field reports for those who long for the smell of *Sphagnum* in the morning, and a prestigious home for scientific articles.

Reviewing the developments of just the last ten years testifies to how CPN has recorded exciting times. CPN followed the explosion of information and interest in South America—both on the tepuis and off. It taught us about the pygmy, tuberous, and tropical sundews of Australia. It documented the increased interest in *Utricularia* which followed the publication of Peter Taylor's monograph. And it tracked the increasing importance of tissue culture and the internet—two high-tech disciplines that may seem foreign to the traditional enthusiast who is often soiled from head to toe with peat and perlite.

At the same time, articles in CPN have noted that not all is well for our beloved plants. More than 95% of the wetland habitats in the U.S. have been drained or developed. Global habitat destruction is accelerating. Reports from those visiting *Nepenthes* habitats rarely contain good news. Some carnivorous plants are extinct, while many others are endangered. CPN has kept us updated on the alphabet soup of laws, treaties, and organizations (ESA, CITES, IUCN, USFWS, WWF, etc.) as well as the unfortunate disdain and backlash that many of these regulations have engendered.

Although CPN is already a magazine of great quality, it must continue to grow and improve. Jan's and my duties are clear. We have been redesigning the editorial process to accommodate the international nature of CPN's staff and its contributors. We have been reworking the prepublication machinations so your articles will appear in print with an absolute minimum of errors. We have been exploring the technological solutions (and new problems) introduced by the internet. And we will be maintaining and encouraging the diversity of articles in the newsletter. While we are implementing these improvements, what will you do to

help CPN? Our mailboxes are waiting to hear from you—if you are still pondering whether you should write that article, turn on your word processor or typewriter and get to work!

I am writing this editorial on Christmas day, so if Don's departure has left me bogged in maudlin sentimentality I hope you understand. We hope the inevitable changes in CPN will be for the better. Jan is a consummate botanist and will be the primary editor for articles addressing taxonomical issues. I too am a scientist, and will be editing your articles on conservation, cultivation, and field trips. Together we will do our best to fill Don's waders. And while that editor emeritus is no longer at CPN's helm, his influence is indelible.

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