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## TWO CARNIVOROUS PLANT LAKES IN WASHINGTON STATE

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Keywords: travelogue: *Drosera*, hybrids, *Pinguicula macroceras*, *Utricularia minor*, Washington (USA).

### Bagley Lake

We, being my wife Cindy, daughter Brenna and I, set off on our annual *Pinguicula* site confirmation/fishing trip one Saturday morning in June of 1996. We had to set off early as it is a six hour drive one way to the site, located on the upper Bagley Lake at Mt. Baker summit in Whatcom County, Washington.

The site first came to my attention a few years ago when Kevin Snively invited me along to see if we could find it. We had found the lake rather easily and as I had brought my fishing tackle along in anticipation, got to fishing after being unable to locate any of the *Pinguicula macroceras* that were supposed to be growing there. The plants only became obvious when, in the process of landing a trout, I happened to look down and realized I had been standing on them and that they were everywhere. We had been looking where we thought they should be and not actually where they occurred. Photos, as well as a few trout, were taken. I have since returned to the site at least once a year to see how they are doing and to fish

the lake.

This trip was as rewarding as the previous. The site is interesting as the lake on which it borders sits in the bottom of a steep walled bowl, with one lip lower—it is there that the lake goes over a sort of dam. There are actually two lakes, the upper larger and rounder than the lower, the two being joined by a creek with a bridge over it. The lakes are crystal clear and very cold. There are lots of alpine plants and interesting rocks as well. When the breeze lets up, the surface mirrors the surrounding mountainsides beautifully. If the sun shines, then the trout start to rise and fishing becomes fun.

The plants occur on the upper lake and are easy to find (if you know what to look for). The plants are covered for at least seven months of the year by heavy snow (ten feet or more) and there is a ski lift nearby. I find it fascinating that anything could survive in conditions like this but they do, and quite well as you can see in the photo (Figure 1).

Brenna caught four nice brook trout and I caught two good sized cutthroat trout. We left there in the late afternoon, with the wind rising, the sun behind the 5400 foot rims, and the temperature becoming quite cold.

### Fish Lake

I found out about this site in the spring of 1995, but did not actually get to it until late in August of that year. I arrived to find a huge *Sphagnum* bog at the south end of the lake. The surface was bone dry and there were no carnivorous plants to find at all.

I returned to the site in the spring of 1996 with a friend, Tom Blaisdell. This time it was much different. After smashing our way through the dense screen of trees and brush that edged the lake and separated us from the bog, we emerged onto the now green and lush surface of the *Sphagnum*. Like walking on a waterbed, we bounced carefully in search of plants (Walking on a floating *Sphagnum* mat or on a “false lake bottom” is extremely dangerous and is not endorsed by Carnivorous Plant Newsletter!—eds). We were not to be disappointed. Soon we were encountering mats of *Drosera rotundifolia*, then *D. anglica*. This was the reason we had come to the site. Fish Lake is one of the few *D. anglica* sites in the state that I know of. We were soon finding large patches of them, thickly enough in places that it was hard to walk without stepping on them. We started to look for the hybrid *D. rotundifolia* × *anglica* and soon were finding them as well. We noticed that the two



Figure 1: *Pinguicula macroceras* in Washington state.

*Drosera* species were actually occurring in slightly different microhabitats, and that there were differences in growth habits among the individuals of a species. The *D. anglica* seemed to prefer the wetter, lower bits of moss, while the *D. rotundifolia* were more prevalent on the upper surfaces of the hummocks. Also, the larger *Drosera* were always found with at least their roots in water. It seemed

that the closer to the water, or the more submerged the plants were, the larger they became. We also began to notice a species of *Utricularia* that grew in the holes in the floating raft upon which we walked. It turned out to be the diminutive and rather pretty *U. minor*. It grew amongst the stems of the reeds and grasses that populated the margins of these mini-ponds, getting tangled into the moss as well. I wonder how it survives the dryness of summer when the water level drops well below the surface of the moss, when these little ponds dry out.

There were also supposed to be two other *Utricularia* species there but we did not find them. We did find several species of terrestrial bog orchids in bloom. They were quite pretty. There were also several garter snakes that slithered off as fast as they could at our approach. This very large site is best visited in the spring. By summer the water level drops too far below the surface of the moss and then the location becomes a withered, dried, blasted flat of plantless yellowish packing moss.

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Jay Lechtman, Vice President of the International Carnivorous Plant Society and former newspaper reporter, is an avid netizen (internet citizen and web surfer). His new column sifts through the chatter on the internet and brings you the best of what is fit to print. Without further ado, we bring you...

**CAUGHT ON THE NET:**  
**A REGULAR COLLECTION OF INTERESTING**  
**ITEMS CULLED FROM THE**  
**ICPS INTERNET DISCUSSION GROUP.**

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Keywords: cultivation: *Nepenthes*, planting media.

*Nepenthes* Recipes

Perry Malouf (5717 Namakegan Rd., Bethesda, MD 20816 USA, pmalouf@access.digex.net), who will now be put in charge of the ICPS Cookbook fundraising project (smile), issued a general call to *Nepenthes* growers: "Please post the recipe for your potting mix if it is different from *Sphagnum* and perlite."

Andreas Wistuba (Mudauer Ring 227, 68259 Mannheim, Germany, andreas@wistuba.com): "I use a mix consisting of one-to-one peat moss, clay beads (brand name Lecaton in Germany), and styrofoam (brand name Styromull) for all my *Nepenthes* and *Heliamphora*."

Joe Mazrimas (329 Helen Way, Livermore, CA 94550 USA, sundew@pacbell.net): "I grow most of my large *Nepenthes* in living *Sphagnum* moss with a layer of perlite on the bottom third of a one-gallon pot. Since the moss is living and growing, the medium never needs changing unless you do something to kill it. I give *Nepenthes* only reverse osmosis (RO) water and very dilute fertilizer (Miracid) four times a year. I grow seedlings and 2-5 year-old plants in a German material made by Sera called Pond Water Peat which has good properties for resisting the growth of algae.