

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR: THE BONN CONFERENCE

Dear fellow carnivorous plant enthusiasts,

The Bonn conference of the ICPS lies behind us now but it is still in very good memory to those who participated in and organized this event, without a doubt the most important one related to carnivorous plants in 1998. I was deeply impressed by not only hearing twenty brilliant lectures by carnivorous plant specialists from thirteen countries (eight speakers having been from outside Europe) but also by witnessing the uniquely friendly and open atmosphere both during and between the sessions. More than 100 attendants from nineteen countries (more than half of them from outside Germany) behaved like a large family rather than like anonymous visitors to a show.

Since it was one of the principal goals of this meeting to bridge the gaps between scientists and amateurs worldwide, it was particularly satisfying for me to hear comments like, "I enjoyed it very much although it was so scientific," or "I would never have thought that it was possible to talk at this familiar level with these great experts whom I have known only from the literature before." I am very grateful to all the people who helped this conference become such a success, in the first line Frank Gallep, president of the German carnivorous plant society (GFP), Prof. Wilhelm Barthlott and Dr. Wolfram Lobin from the Botanical Institute and Botanical Garden of the University of Bonn, the officers of the ICPS, the sponsors who made this event possible financially, the speakers, chairmen, and attendants who made the lectures and discussions such a delightful experience, and Barry Meyers-Rice who co-edited the proceedings of the conference. These proceedings will be made available to ICPS members in due course.

In the international carnivorous plant spirit,

Yours Sincerely
Jan Schlauer

NEWS & VIEWS

Don Schnell (Rt. 1, Box 145C, Pulaski, VA, 24301) sent in a page photocopied from the May 8, 1998 issue of the Statesville Record and Landmark. This article from Associated Press noted that two men were caught at the Baltimore-Washington International Airport with 12000 Venus Flytraps. The two men, one from Hillegom, The Netherlands, and the other from Thurmond, North Carolina, were indicted in the U.S. District Court. Each is charged with conspiracy to sell protected plants, and falsifying plant identification certificates. Another resident of the Netherlands pleaded guilty to attempting to export protected plants when two of his suitcases were found to be filled with Venus Flytraps. He has been treated to a few months in jail.