

NEWS AND VIEWS

JOHN BRITTNACHER (john@carnivorousplants.org) writes: Peter D'Amato in his very excellent article about Francis Ernst Lloyd in the March 2010 issue of CPN doesn't mention that Lloyd's classic book, *The Carnivorous Plants*, is back in print. There are several versions: Lloyd Press, hard-cover (372 pages, 2008, ISBN 1443728918) and paperback (368 pages, 2007, ISBN 1406757020); and Dover Publications, paperback (352 pages, 2007, ISBN 0486233219).

BOB HARRELL (bobhnc@gmail.com) writes: I would to thank Peter D'Amato for his very entertaining article about Francis Ernest Lloyd, "Lloydie" (CPN 39(2): 47-49). As one who spent a lot of time in his youth in libraries looking at this book, I really enjoyed the biography reading about Dr. Lloyd. I also liked the picture of the four gentlemen in suits holding up a *Nepenthes*; gatherings seem more informal these days. Dr. Lloyd's book is scientific and certainly beyond my abilities at the time to understand a lot of it, but those tiny black and white pictures sure fired the imagination. Peter points out how little information was available a generation ago, especially compared to the numerous wonderful books and countless websites devoted to the plants. The easy availability of carnivorous plants is another huge change. Twenty years ago it was almost impossible to find more than a few common species. My own modest collection now is far beyond anything I ever imagined growing up. I hope it will be possible to have more articles about some of the carnivorous plant pioneers. It would be nice to know more about those who made our current wealth of plants and knowledge possible.

BARRY RICE (barry@sarracenia.com) writes: In late March 2010 I was forwarded very interesting email, but unfortunately in this context, "interesting" is a euphemism for frustrating and disheartening. The author of the open letter was Anne E. Morkill, a US Fish and Wildlife Service refuge manager for the Florida Keys National Wildlife Refuges Complex. It was addressed to both the chairman and the president of the American Orchid Society (AOS).

The cause for this letter was a booklet printed by the Key West Orchid Society. This booklet contained specific instructions on where to travel in the National Key Deer Refuge to find and collect orchids. In their letter, the US Fish & Wildlife Service reminded the AOS that the collection of any plant is prohibited on national wildlife refuges. Furthermore, the refuge locations carefully described in the booklet were closed to public entry precisely because they contained plant species which were rare and vulnerable to poaching threats.

I think it is particularly chilling that in one line of the booklet, the author encourages the illegal collector to have a conservation ethic: "Be a responsible collector, being careful not to destroy what you leave behind..." Is conservation so backwards in the orchid collecting world that it is considered important to remind people not to destroy all the plants that are not collected? (This practice was done by plant collectors during the Victorian era in order to give heightened value to the few plants that were collected.) I hope not, but the contributor to the Key West Orchid Society seems to think so.

This letter was given wide circulation throughout Florida, and is no doubt a huge embarrassment to the AOS. Unfortunately, because of the close overlap in orchid cultivation and carnivorous plant cultivation, this kind of regressive behavior reflects badly upon us all—don't expect a warm reception if you ask refuge managers in the Florida Keys for suggestions on where to find carnivorous plants!

BARRY RICE (barry@sarracenia.com) writes about a mini-experiment he conducted on *Drosophyllum lusitanicum* (see Figure 1). "I grow *Drosophyllum* outside, and sometimes the wind knocks the seeds out of the flower capsules before I gather them. I lose most of my seeds this way. The last time I harvested seeds, I collected both open and closed fruit. The seeds from the open fruit

were black and hard, but most of the seed from the greenish fruit ranged in color from pea green to light grey, and were still soft. As an experiment I tried to germinate them. My conditions for the experiment were not ideal (the pots were kept in conditions that were too wet), so I had low germination rates even with the black seeds. But after about four months I had observed germination with both the black and green seeds. Apparently, *Drosophyllum* seeds collected while still immature are at least partially viable. This fact is useful to me—in the future I know I can collect seeds from both mature and immature fruit. It also means that scientists and land managers tasked with sampling wild populations of *Drosophyllum* could collect seeds that are not optimally mature.”



Figure 1: Immature *Drosophyllum lusitanicum* seed capsule (left) and mature seeds (right). Photos by Barry Rice.



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