

ICPS 2011 CONSERVATION REPORT

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As we rapidly are coming to the end of another great growing season, I wish to let our members know about some of the fantastic efforts and accomplishments supported by the ICPS. In May 2011, I had the great pleasure of touring and filming parts of the southeastern U.S. with renowned CP film makers Siggie and Irmgard Hartmeyer as part of a collaborative effort with the ICPS to raise awareness of conservation on more of a global scale (see Fig. 1). Our mission was a success! We also filmed a good friend's local tissue culture lab which also specializes in carnivorous plants that are offered for sale to the public (see Fig. 2). We believe that this effort discourages poaching by making plants available cheaply and in mass quantity.

I am also pleased to report a successful burn year at the Splinter Hill Bog and the Roberta Case Preserve, which is home to the rare *Sarracenia alabamensis* (see Fig. 3). These efforts were made possible by the generous donations of our ICPS membership, for which we are very grateful. There were even enough funds remaining for a new Splinter Hill Bog sign, which now adorns the main public entrance to the bog (see Fig. 4). The plants are responding nicely to the prescribed fire, although the extreme drought in the southeastern U.S. has hampered flowering. I counted fewer flower spikes this year compared to last year and we can only hope that summertime showers will improve conditions. Many of our CP friends worldwide have also reported unusually dry conditions elsewhere this year and this definitely has an effect on *in situ* populations. We observed many dry, parched bogs that should have been quite wet at the time we were there.



Figure 1: Siggie Hartmeyer filming a rare *Sarracenia* hybrid in Alabama, with Irmgard supervising.

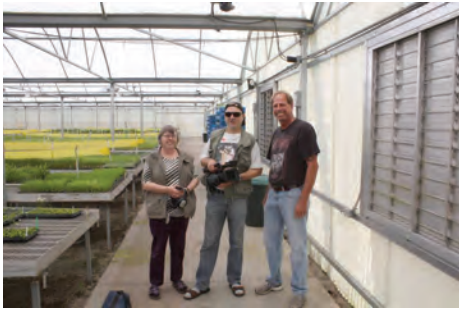


Figure 2: From left, Irmgard, Sigg, and Mike Rinck of AG 3 tissue culture lab.



Figure 4: A new Splinter Hill Bog sign made possible by our wonderful ICPS members!

Sigg, Irmgard, and I were quite alarmed at the rate that *S. leucophylla* continues to be poached in Tate's Hell Swamp in the Florida panhandle. I have interviewed a few locals that told me that the floral shops in northern Florida pay the poachers 25 cents for each cut pitcher, which are then used in flower arrangements. However, plants are now being dug and sold in local flea markets from \$5 to \$10 each. Poaching seems to be escalating due to the poor economy and lack of jobs. The swamp itself is surrounded by tall dense growth which provides perfect cover to hide the poacher's presence from the main roads. We saw many signs of vehicles having been driven throughout the area; along with numerous holes which once contained plants (see Fig. 5). Some of these now missing plant clumps were easily two to three feet in diameter. I am now preparing a letter of concern which will



Figure 3: A recently burned CP site in Alabama.

be sent to the State of Florida Park Services regarding this issue. If we could get the high roadside overgrowth cleared and increase ranger patrolling, I'm sure this would serve as a poaching deterrent.

On a more positive note, the ICPS will be working to reintroduce *Sarracenia alabamensis* genetic material to the Roberta Case Preserve, to insure that the native populations remain strong. Atlanta Botanical Gardens has been maintaining and propagating site material. I will be meeting with Ron Determann and arranging some volunteers to make this happen and will keep the membership updated on our endeavors. Until then, we wish you all "Happy Growing" and thank you all for your wonderful donations. If you wish to donate to an ICPS Project, please visit the ICPS webpage (<http://icps.clubexpress.com>) and click on the Donate Now button. Thank you!



Figure 5: A site of *Sarracenia leucophylla* ravaged by poachers in Tate's Hell Swamp, Florida panhandle.



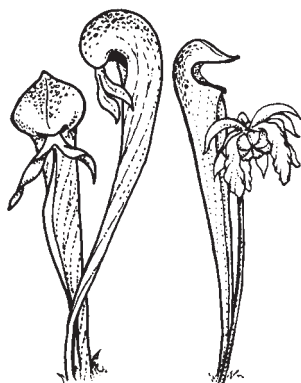
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Front Cover: The cultivar *Sarracenia* 'Godzuki'. Photo by Damon Collingsworth. Article on page 96.

Back Cover: *Sarracenia leucophylla*, Tate's Hell Swamp, north Florida. Photo by Brian Barnes. Article on page 92.

Carnivorous Plant Newsletter is dedicated to spreading knowledge and news related to carnivorous plants. Reader contributions are essential for this mission to be successful. Do not hesitate to contact the editors with information about your plants, conservation projects, field trips, or noteworthy events. Advertisers should contact the editors. Views expressed in this publication are those of the authors, not the editorial staff.

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