

ORGEL CLYDE BRAMBLETT (12 AUGUST 1930 – 16 FEBRUARY 2013)

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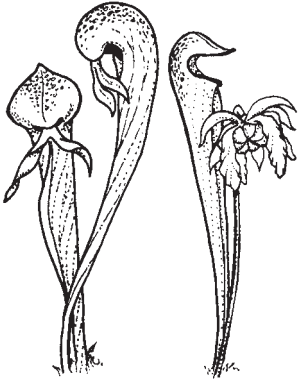


On 16 February 2013, Orgel Clyde Bramblett left us to tend to his great big carnivorous plant garden in the sky ... a place where the plants never need watering and the white fly doesn't exist. For many of us, Clyde was a mentor, the first individual who really knew how to grow these fringe plants. We take for granted how far this hobby has come. Not too long ago, it wasn't easy finding good commercial sources for live carnivorous plants and there was only one type of Venus Flytrap. Equally difficult was finding adequate information for the proper cultivation of these overlooked plants. As a child, I recall reading a book on houseplants that dedicated three sentences to carnivorous plants. It instructed me to grow them in "pickle jars" or terrariums, as they could not thrive in less than 100% percent humidity. I will never forget the first time I visited and met Clyde at his nursery, Orgel's Orchids. Up to that point, I had only seen most carnivorous plants in books. I strolled in awe up and down the aisles of Clyde's Lord and Burnham greenhouse filled with *Nepenthes*. They were creeping and crawling all over the place and hanging from the rafters. I left, that day, with my first *Sarracenia*, *Drosera*, *Pinguicula*, and *Nepenthes* plants. Some of which, are still in my collection over twenty years later.

Clyde was a pioneer in the importation and breeding of *Nepenthes*. Many of the species and hybrids we grow today, originated with Clyde. He was an ardent explorer of the woods and bogs of the southeast and Gulf Coast, discovering some of the best *Sarracenia* sites known today.

Clyde was an endless source of knowledge and plants. Equal to – if not greater than – his insight were his generosity and kindness. It took only a few visits to Clyde's place before he stopped letting me buy plants and just gave them to me. He was the target of all my interrogations and zeal regarding carnivorous plants. Never did he display annoyance. Though, an annoying 12-year-old I was. He took my many phone calls and acquiesced to my frequent requests for visits, for Clyde would happily talk at length to any who would listen. As with any visitor, he was always eager to walk with me through his greenhouse and grow area, entertaining all inquisitions and silly remarks. He loved to pour over his extensive collection of photographs of carnivorous plants "in the wild", as we would say. Those who knew Clyde will always remember his slideshows, which he'd project onto the wall of his living room. To this day, those are some of the finest shots of *Sarracenia* in locations (many of which are no more) I've ever seen. Clyde's passion for plants, as a whole, and his enjoyment of life were accentuated by his permanent positive attitude. He was the consummate storyteller and jokester.

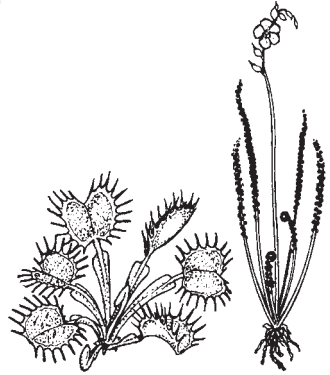
Aside from his interest in plants, Clyde was a dedicated husband, father, and grandfather. As a pilot and aviator, he was an Air Force veteran of the Korean War, and was awarded the Bronze Star for actions he took during his service. A man of faith, Clyde was actively involved in his local church and was ready to share a message of inspiration and compassion, when it was needed. He left an ineffaceable mark on our hobby and lives. We will never forget him.



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Front Cover: *Heliamphora* sp. "Angasima Tepui", an undescribed taxon that seems to be related to *H. heterodoxa*. Photo by Butch Tincher. Article on page 137.

Back Cover: Orgel Clyde Bramblett with his *Heliamphora*. Photo by Michelle Meeks. Article on page 116.

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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