

A TRIBUTE TO DAVID CRUMP (1953-2016)

LARRY MELLICHAMP • retired botanist

Some of you knew David Crump of Charlotte, North Carolina who ran a company called Carolina Carnivores. He specialized in *Sarracenia* and *Dionaea*. He passed away suddenly on May 13 after a long illness.

Dave got interested in CP about 1990 when he visited the University of North Carolina at Charlotte Botanical Gardens while I was in the midst of hybridizing *Sarracenia*s. I gave him hundreds of my “cast-off” seedlings from my breeding program and he constructed in-ground bog beds and grew them on to perfection to sell and trade. Several of those random seedlings turned out to be good plants which he recently had tissue-cultured, such as *Sarracenia* ‘Carolina Yellow Jacket’ and *Sarracenia* ‘Bug Bats’. *Sarracenia rosea* ‘Fat Chance’ was from a wild-collection from Perdido, Alabama in 1985. Many other interesting hybrids were in the “experimental observation stages.” Dave was very talkative, and always had questions about CP. He devised ideas on how they evolved and how they functioned. We talked for many hours. He was interested in educating people on CP. Enjoying his plants and watching him construct bog gardens provided inspiration for the unique chapter on bog plants in my 2014 book *Native Plants of the Southeast*. One day we sat for hours watching his array of healthy Venus flytraps snapping up flies attracted by smelly left-over fish-bait minnows laid out in the bed (See CPN, 1999 Vol. 28. No. 3, p. 96). He sold plants by mail and at the local farmers’ market, and did presentation for groups in the area. He had hundreds of plants in his back yard in pots and beds. He always had an idea for a new hybrid or a new way to market. He loved his plants and the joy they brought. Dave will be missed.

