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## CARNIVOROUS PLANT NEWSLETTER 50TH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

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Welcome to 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Issue of Carnivorous Plant Newsletter. Volume 1 number 1 of CPN was published in April 1972. From the start it was intended to be a long-term proposition. It was also international from day one with subscribers from England, Canada, and Australia, as well as the USA. After 47 subscribers from Japan joined for the second issue, about half the subscribers were outside the USA. CPN filled a much-needed role in facilitating the spread of information about carnivorous plants worldwide among English speakers.

CPN was the brainchild of Don Schnell and Joe Mazrimas and it very quickly took on a life of its own. In 1970, Schnell and Mazrimas had a problem. They had separate but overlapping sets of worldwide correspondents with whom they discussed carnivorous plants via letters sent in the mail. Often, they sent out dozens of letters a week. One of their mutual correspondents introduced them to each other, by postal mail of course. They exchanged correspondent lists and a problem became evident quite quickly. There was no way they could individually continue to correspond with that many people. Maybe it would be much easier and better for everyone if they started a newsletter.



Figure 1: Don Schnell (left) and Joe Mazrimas (right) in 1999. This photo was originally published in CPN Volume 40, June 2011, with the names reversed.

The first issue of Carnivorous Plant Newsletter was mailed to a couple dozen subscribers in April 1972. The second issue mailed in July 1972, had almost 100 subscribers. In 1975 the subscribership was capped at 450 for technical reasons. In 1976 it was capped at 650 subscribers. This is the point where the brainchild became too much for the parents to handle. In 1977 for volume 6, Larry Mellichamp and Leo Song joined the team and management of the newsletter was transferred to the California State University, Fullerton, Arboretum, where Leo Song worked.

The content of CPN during this time was somewhat different from what it is today. It was basically a news feed where subscribers submitted postings by letter mail to the editors. A few months later the postings were organized, printed, and mailed to all the subscribers. At this point someone could react to a posting by sending a letter to the editors and that posting would appear in the next issue. It was slow but effective. Postings were organized into announcements, news & views, short notes, feature articles, lists of carnivorous plant vendors and books, want and sales ads, seed bank lists, plant exchange notices, and whatever else was submitted. The issues also included lists of subscribers with names and addresses so subscribers could message each other by postal mail. By the end of 1977, there were 842 subscribers following CPN.

CPN went through a major transformation in 1978. The editors found it was easier and cheaper to switch from an 8½ by 11 inch stapled newsletter to a 6 by 9 inch magazine-style booklet and have the printer handle mailing. As a bonus, the issues would be easier to read and there would be good quality black and white photos as well as some color photos.

When the CPN editors formed the association with the California State University, they were required to create a legal entity to be the publisher. The name "International Carnivorous Plant Society" was chosen. The name was announced in the March 1980 issue of CPN, and the new society was implemented with the March 1981 issue. The subtitle of CPN became "Journal of the International Carnivorous Plant Society". This name fully expresses the intent of CPN from the day it was conceived. The association with the California State University, Fullerton, lasted until 1998. Thanks to David Gray, in 2001 the ICPS became an educational non-profit corporation in the State of California and registered as a 503(c) public charity with US Internal Revenue Service.

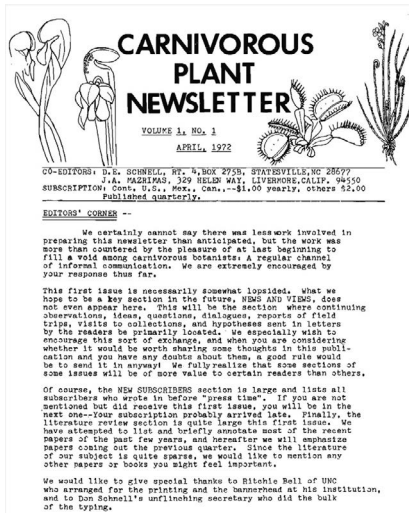


Figure 2: Cover page from volume 1 number 1 issue of Carnivorous Plant Newsletter, April 1972.



Figure 3: First cover page of CPN with a photo, volume 1 number 4, January 1973.

With the advent of e-mail, the internet, and websites in the 1990s, CPN started moving away from chatty newsletter-like content to more curated and edited content. News & Views and other communications from the subscribers migrated to e-mail list servers, then internet forums, and now to Facebook. What there was a continuing need for is a place to publish technical, scientific, and taxonomic articles in addition to the general interest articles and cultivar descriptions. CPN now publishes peer-reviewed scientific and taxonomic articles online from the date of the printed publication. This is in accordance with the latest trend in scientific literature to make all scholarly publications immediately available to everyone.

In the late 1990s, production of CPN became electronic and this allowed for an international team of editors. The original editorial team of over 25 years transitioned to Barry Rice in the USA and Jan Schlauer in Germany. The internationalization of CPN has continued with the optional use of British-English spelling by authors.

Carl Mazur started a project in 2000 to scan all the issues of CPN and make them available as PDFs. David Conner and Bob Ziemer completed the project in 2006 and Bob subsequently created PDFs of individual articles. Parallel to the scanning project, John Brittnacher headed up a project to create an index of all CPN content. Tim Topoleski and Mike Wilder did much of the indexing until Bob Ziemer took it over when he became the managing editor of CPN. These projects culminated in making all issues of CPN available in PDF format to ICPS members on DVD and for download at the ICPS membership website. The public website [cpn.carnivorousplants.org](http://cpn.carnivorousplants.org) was created to provide most of the separate articles published in CPN. Articles can be discovered by searching the index, browsing issue contents, or checking lists of species or cultivar names published in CPN.

This brief history of CPN severely glosses over all the hard work by other editors and volunteers over the years. The ICPS public education website has a detailed history of CPN and the ICPS. The CPN website has the original published articles and notices that can be used to better understand the times and motivations. To find these articles, search keywords for “CPN history” at the CPN website. While you are there, be sure to browse the old issues for some very fascinating articles.

<https://cpn.carnivorousplants.org>

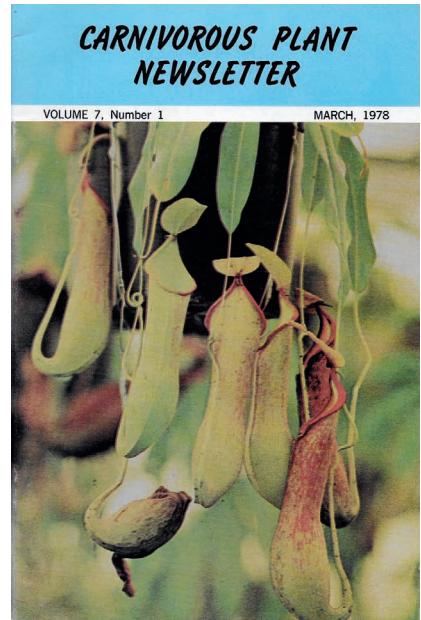


Figure 4: Cover from first CPN in booklet form and with a color photograph, volume 7 number 1, March 1978.

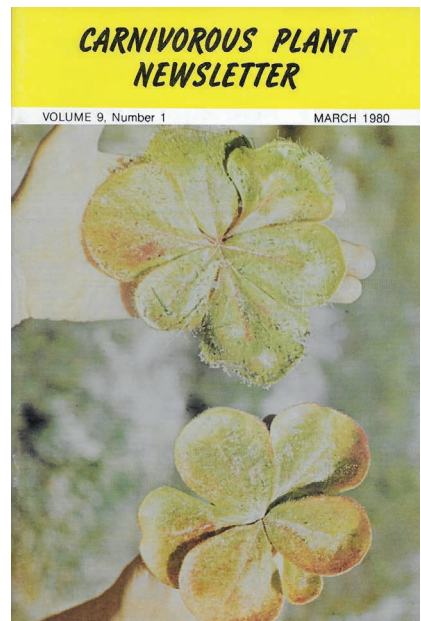


Figure 5: Cover of the issue announcing the International Carnivorous Plant Society, volume 9 number 1, March 1980.



## CARNIVOROUS PLANT NEWSLETTER

Journal of the International Carnivorous Plant Society

Volume 38, No. 4

December 2009



## CARNIVOROUS PLANT NEWSLETTER

Journal of the International Carnivorous Plant Society

Volume 39, No. 3

September 2010



## CARNIVOROUS PLANT NEWSLETTER

Journal of the International Carnivorous Plant Society

Volume 43, No. 3

September 2014



## CARNIVOROUS PLANT NEWSLETTER

Journal of the International Carnivorous Plant Society

Volume 45, No. 3

September 2016



Advances in photography and printing along with more opportunities for travel and research have allowed CPN to bring many interesting, new, and rare species to its pages in brilliant detail.



## CARNIVOROUS PLANT NEWSLETTER

Journal of the International Carnivorous Plant Society

Volume 46, No. 1

March 2017

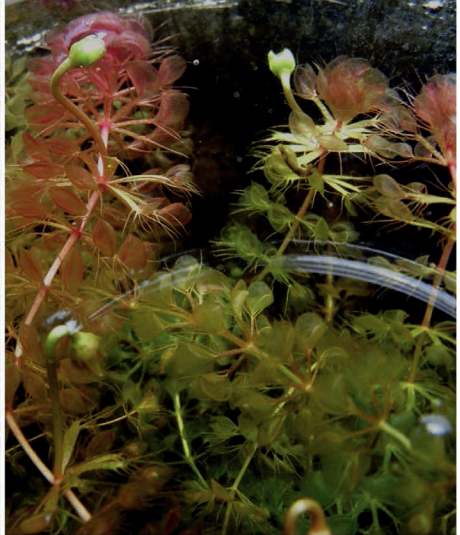


## CARNIVOROUS PLANT NEWSLETTER

Journal of the International Carnivorous Plant Society

Volume 47, No. 2

June 2018



## CARNIVOROUS PLANT NEWSLETTER

Journal of the International Carnivorous Plant Society

Volume 48, No. 2

June 2019



## CARNIVOROUS PLANT NEWSLETTER

Journal of the International Carnivorous Plant Society

Volume 48, No. 3

September 2019

