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SARRACENIA OREOPHILA CONSERVATION PROJECT UPDATE

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In 2023, our spirits rose high when a philanthropic conservationist from Austin Peay State University in Tennessee, Bob Hulse, saw the series of reports on the *Sarracenia oreophila* Conservation Project in CPN and contributed to it with an impactful sum. The Auburn team, the ICPS board, and I extend our gratitude for the contribution which has motivated us all.

Based at Auburn University, Alabama, the *Sarracenia oreophila* Conservation Project made great headway in 2024 on their ambitious goal to recover fragile and endangered habitat for this endangered species. With ICPS's sustained funding, they increased their count of days in the field to two full weeks in March. Now, several sites in the project are showing signs of ecological recovery and resurgence of the target species, inspiring the team to embark on a more long-term part of the plan with big implications: conservation horticulture.

In 2024, the team built a new nursery setting fit to cultivate *Sarracenia*. This augments what already existed at Auburn's Arboretum and will be tended to year-round. A nursery for growing site-specific *S. oreophila* seedlings will be a source of outplanting material and a safeguard for populations should they recede again. Precedent exists most notably at Atlanta Botanical Gardens, from where much of their practice for *Sarracenia* is directly derived. Outplanting of cultivated location native plants, a delicate procedure of reintroduction to depauperate, at-risk populations, has already succeeded at several *S. oreophila* sites, and now the team feels they are regaining enough ground in their maintenance regimen to expand this ambitious aspect of the recovery plan.

Please consider donating to the ICPS conservation fund to support this project. If you are part of or know of another project that protects endangered carnivorous plant habitat and you think the ICPS should consider supporting it, please send us an email.