

SOME BACKGROUND ON THE CPN SCANNING PROJECT

BOB ZIEMER, ICPS Board Member

You may be wondering, “Why did I get this CD with my June issue of Carnivorous Plant Newsletter?” It is the quiet but excellent culmination of several years of work involving contributions of many ICPS volunteers. It is part of a natural evolution for Carnivorous Plant Newsletter, an evolution that has been ongoing since its inception in 1972. For the first two decades, the ICPS’s products were strictly non-electronic.

That started to change in November 15, 1994, the birth date for the CP Homepage managed by Rick Walker. Rick has an online history documenting his web site’s development, which includes the CP Database, CP listserv, and the CP Trading Post.

In 1998, the ICPS web site became established, and in February 2000, a few sample articles from Carnivorous Plant Newsletter were posted.

Meanwhile, the stacks of old (and sometimes rotting!) issues of Carnivorous Plant Newsletter were becoming more expensive to maintain in storage. Throughout 2002, the ICPS advertised the clearance sale of all these back issues. The back issue sale concluded in December 2002, after which issues were no longer available. However, at that time the ICPS had started to explore the possibility that complete back issue sets might be made available on CD ROM.

Since Carnivorous Plant Newsletter is a publication venue for new Latin plant name descriptions, it was important that these new species descriptions were available to a wider audience than only the ICPS membership. Furthermore, because of the work of Jan Schlauer, the ICPS was selected as the CP International Registration Authority for cultivar names; this made it even more important that select articles appearing in Carnivorous Plant Newsletter be made more widely available. Consequently, these key articles were added to the ICPS web site under Species Descriptions and Cultivar Registrations.

These steps increased the desire to convert back issues of Carnivorous Plant Newsletter into electronic format. In June 2004, ICPS President Carl Mazur requested volunteers to help scan back issues of the journal. Between July and October 2004, David Conner scanned most of the 4,000 pages and sent the images on CD to Carl. From October 2004 to September 2006, Carl worked on the tedious task of cropping images and converting them to PDF. There were many delays as some of the pages had to be rescanned and the hard-copy of some issues had to be found.

In September 2006, Carl passed the job of completing the project to Bob Ziemer. Some of the pages needed to be reprocessed and several volumes still needed to be scanned. Bob and David Conner reviewed each of the pages and replaced those that were found to be defective. The quality of the scanned images may vary, but we strived for the best that we could achieve given the amount of work and time, and the quality of the available hard copies of the back issues.

By the end of December 2006, the project was completed and Carnivorous Plant Newsletter volumes 1 (April 1972) through 35 (December 2006) were written in PDF format to CD for duplication and distribution. And now you have in your hands a remarkable product: thirty-five years of Carnivorous Plant Newsletter! Enjoy!

LOOKING BACK: CPN 25 YEARS AGO

Editor Don Schnell published one of his very important photographic primers, this one on variants of *Sarracenia rubra*: “This has been the most difficult of the primers to present in our space limitation because here in *Sarracenia rubra* the differences felt to be present are based more on degree of a character manifestation than on a simple presence/absence factor as has been the case with most of the variants in the preceding two primers.” Indeed! This is a tricky group of plants, and reviews like Don’s back in 1982 were extremely useful. Now, of course, you have the entire review on the disk included with this issue!