

# **Sarracenia 'Labour's Returned'**

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## **Origins**

This *Sarracenia* originated from a cross pollination I did between *Sarracenia purpurea* ssp *venosa* var. *burkii* and *Sarracenia flava*. The *S. flava* used was the one that Adrian Slack erroneously called "Maxima", sometimes referred to informally by growers in the UK as "Slack's Maxima". The *purpurea* used (or *S. rosea* if you so prefer) was grown from seed I obtained from the ICPS seedbank, and is a particularly attractive clone with wide, tubby pitchers and a large lid. The crossing was a specific attempt to recreate a plant similar to *Sarracenia x exornata* 'Peaches', which at the time I had just seen growing in the greenhouses of the original *Sarracenia* Nurseries in North London in the mid-1980s. The 'Peaches' plants were not for sale at the time, but being blown away by the plant I vowed to create something similar and, not knowing the parentage, I assumed it was a *x catesbaei*, and subsequently did the above cross as a "best guess" as to the parentage to achieve the plant shape I wanted...

I also performed the reverse cross at the same time, with *S. flava* as the seed parent. Every plant in the reverse cross turned out to be quite small and compact, although not unattractive. I passed on all seedlings of the original cross to other growers at the time, and it was only many years later that friend and fellow grower John Wilden remarked to me at one of my open days that he had one of the seedlings and it had grown into a monster. He duly returned a piece of the plant to me, which indeed turned out to be a monster and worthy of cultivar status, many thanks.

## **Characteristics**

The pitchers are large and upright with a wide slightly undulating lid held vertically. Size wise the pitchers have so far obtained 56 cm tall, with an upto 20 cm wide lid.

Upon opening the pitcher body is yellow green and well veined, with a red lip and red patch at the back of the throat. With sun the pitcher then colours up to a bright red. The lid starts off yellow green with strong red

veining, then eventually darkens to a coppery/bronzy red with darker veining during the season, with a darker area near the mouth.

The flowers are mainly yellow, lightly suffused with pink.

## **Cultivation**

This cultivar is robust and quick growing, and is obliging in being keen to divide and proliferate (unlike 'Peaches', which can be very slow!).

To preserve the unique characteristics of the plant, *Sarracenia* 'Labour's Returned' should only be propagated vegetatively.

## **Etymology**

The cultivar is proposed as *Sarracenia* 'Labour's Returned'. The name reflects both the welcome return of the plant to me, as well as reflecting some of the shared UK governance and humanitarian ideals of both myself and John. The hybrid is a *Sarracenia* x *catesbaei*, and the full name can also be written as *Sarracenia* x *catesbaei* 'Labour's Returned', although if you subscribe to *S.rosea* classification proposals then it may be called *S. x naczii* 'Labour's Returned'.

Stephen Morley

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## **Photos**

- 1 The author with 'Labour's Returned'
- 2 Freshly opened pitcher
- 3 Fully coloured pitcher
- 4 Comparison with reverse cross (on right)
- 5 Flower

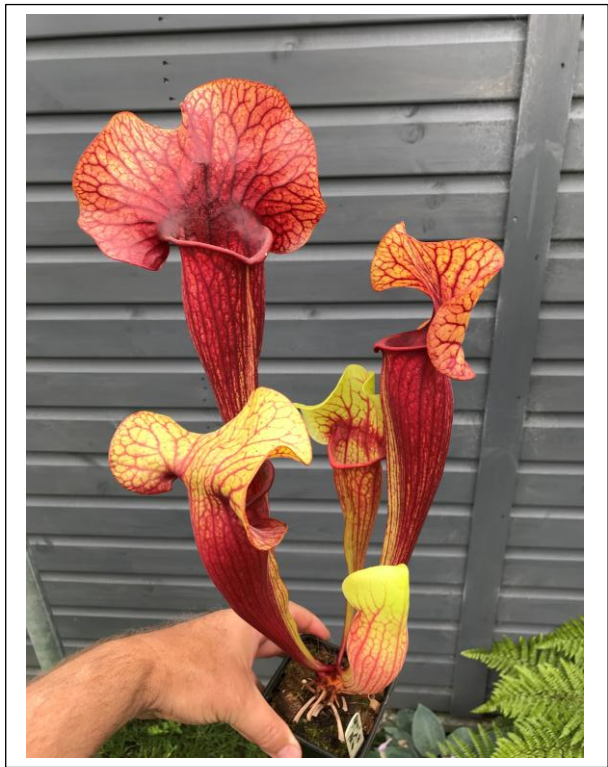
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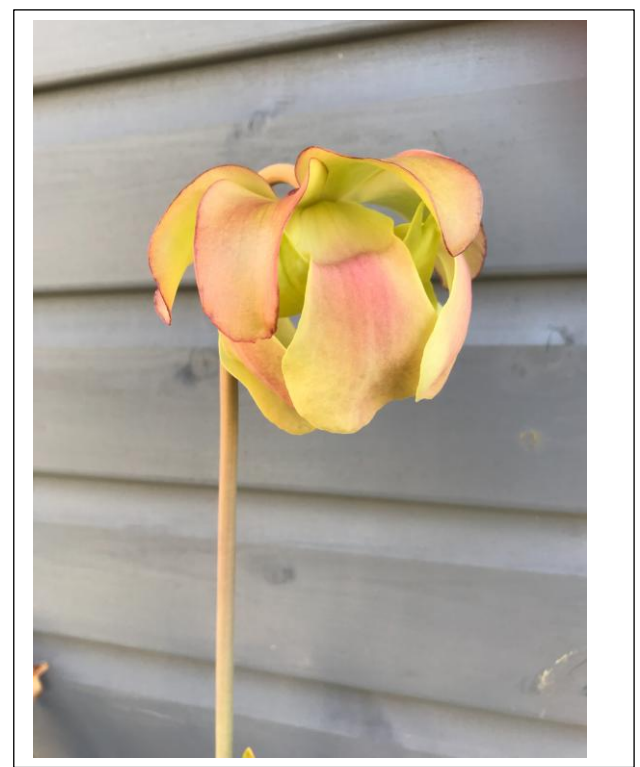
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