

# New England Carnivorous Plant Society

Founded 2003

## April 2003 Newsletter

It's been a transition month for many people and plants here in New England. The weather finally appears to have broken in the northeast, and plants are finally starting to grow and flower. I hope everyone's plants are taking off and going well.

At the April meeting of the NECPS we introduced the Outstanding Plant Award for the most notable plant displayed at the meeting. The first award was won by Bill Matthews and his *Cephalotus*. The members recognized that this was not an easy plant for many to grow, and voted Bill's plant the award. It is hoped that this award will encourage others to bring a plant that they are proud of to display at the meetings. From the conversations that I had with others at the meeting, this was the first time that some people had seen a *Cephalotus* up close and in person. One of the main purposes of the NECPS is to see the plants that others grow, that some may have not grown or even seen yet. So, bring a plant that you are proud of to the next meeting, and YOU may win the "Outstanding Plant Award"!

The April meeting also had a speaker of some note. Ken Uhnak is a founding member of the society and will shortly receive his Doctorate for the work he has been doing with Carnivorous Plants and Tissue Culture. The attending members were treated to a Power Point presentation of "Tissue Culture of CPs", which was an overview of some of the work the Ken has been doing. The presentation showed many of the different plants and how they are grown in TC, along with the different methods and types of TC. It was a great, informative presentation that everyone enjoyed!

Our meeting host, The Roger Williams Park Botanical Gardens, is currently featuring an exhibit in the greenhouses, Flowers in Flight, featuring an extensive live butterfly exhibit! As of this weekend, over 750 live butterflies have been released in the greenhouses at the gardens, with additional chrysalis brought in for more to metamorphose from caterpillars to butterflies! This is the second go round for the butterfly exhibit, and if it is anything like the first, it should be a great time for everyone to attend. Of note for the NECPS, I had spoken to Bob Chabot, Horticulturist for the Roger Williams Park Botanical Gardens, and he was hoping to put in a small Pine Barrens in the exhibit to replicate a habitat of one of the butterflies. Bob was planning on incorporating several CPs that are native to the east coast pine barren sites into the exhibit. I have not spoken to Bob recently, and have not gotten to the exhibit as of yet, but it may include some CP's. Either way, it should be a great exhibit, and anyone attending the May meeting might want to arrive a little early and walk thru to check it out. There is an admission charge, and more info can be found at:

<http://rwpbotanicalgardens.com/butterfly.html>

On a special note, our Secretary Judy Gould has gone into the hospital for some surgery, and may miss this meeting. {She emailed me asking for a ride to the meeting before she went in, but I have encouraged her to stay home and recover when she gets out}. I know we all join together and hope for her swift recovery, and hope she is able to join us for the June meeting.

At the May meeting, I hope to have information on an upcoming field trip to a Botanical Garden that has a collection of CPs, particularly *Nepenthes*. We will need the input of the Society as to when and if this field trip will be scheduled.

The Next Meeting of the New England Carnivorous Plant Society will be held Saturday, May 17 2003 at the greenhouse of the Roger Williams Park, Providence RI at 1 PM. As usual, there will be the **swap table**, the **silent auction table**, and the **display table**, where we will award the "Outstanding Plant Award" once again. Members are encouraged to bring plants for all three tables if they would like. The presentation program will be *Nepenthes~ potting soil recipes and repotting*. It will be an overview of potting media used for *Nepenthes* {a very controversial subject} and a demonstration of repotting a couple of size plants of *Nepenthes*. I usually arrive to set up the meetings about noon, but I may be a little late this time. However, members may arrive early and check out the Butterfly exhibit and the Carnivorous Plant Bog in the greenhouses. Flowering in the bog should be almost over, but that means the *Sarracenia* will be sending up spring pitchers!

**I hope everyone's plants are growing well, and I hope to see everyone at the next meeting of the New England Carnivorous Plant Society at 1 pm on Saturday, May 17 2003 at the Greenhouses of Roger Williams Park, Providence RI.**

And don't forget to bring those plants for the Swap, Display and auction tables!