

New England Carnivorous Plant Society

Founded 2003

Some interesting things are going on at the NECPS and the New England Botanical Gardens, and some good events are coming up in the next month. In spite of what we are taught, February is the LONGEST month of the year. Once we get through this month, there is the promise of warm weather and good growing conditions for our plants.

The news from the NEBG is that Bob Chabot is leaving, taking a position elsewhere in Massachusetts. We all enjoyed Bob's presence and talks about plants and his trip to New Guinea. Bob will be missed, and I am sure everyone joins us in wishing him well with his new position.

The NECPS will be represented at the Kennedy's Country Garden's Winter fest, on Sunday and Monday, 15/16 February. I will be representing the NECPS, handing out membership info, and displaying plants both days {the event starts Saturday 14 February, the day of our meeting}. On Sunday, I will be giving a talk about Orchids, and on Monday I'll be speaking on Carnivorous Plants. I visited the Garden center recently, and Matt had gotten a good supply of CP's including some nice *N. truncata*, *N. rafflesiana*, *N. ventricosa*, and a few others. Some Sundews, VFTs and Sarracenia rounded out the list. For more information and directions, check out the link at: <http://kennedycountrygardens.com/>.

If anyone would like to help out at the event and represent the society, and maybe get a few plants, let me know at the meeting, via email or give me a call. If you stop in there when there is no CP display, ask for Matt and introduce yourself as a NECPS member!

Bill Matthews recently gave a talk at a school close to him, to about 60 4th and 5th graders. Bill was well received, and said that he thought their questions would never stop, and they were amazed at the 15 or so plants Bill brought to show and tell. One girl even wanted to join the society! Bill had a CD that he made up, and we'll show it at a meeting in the future. If you ask nicely, he may even get a copy out to others who want to put on a presentation at a school.

On a slightly different grade level, Nathan Lovell, our webmaster, put on 3 presentations at MIT during their Independent Activities Period. The classes were well attended, with about 60 or so students total for the three classes. Kirk Martin and myself helped out a little also, and Nathan wowed the group with a power point presentation and live plants for display. I think the questions MAY have been at a little higher level than some of the 4th and 5th graders asked, but there were some of the same basic ones we always hear {what's the biggest

thing they can eat??} Hopefully, some of the MIT students will enjoy it enough they decide to join the NECPS!

The Society has the opportunity to have a half booth at the Providence, RI Spring Flower and Garden show, February 19 thru 22. The RI Orchid Society has said that we can work in their booth also, to help with staffing and coverage. I will be at the show on Thursday and Friday, covering the booth, and if anyone would like to help out, please contact Judy Gould or myself. The Society will also be putting on a demonstration in the NE Botanical Gardens Booth, on Friday from 4 to 6 pm, and Sunday from 12 to 2 pm. This is a little show to highlight some of the classes offered by the NEBG. Again, if you'd like to help out contact myself, or Judy Gould, or just stop by if you are visiting the flower show. It is always a great time, and a good way to spend a day during this long cold month!

The Savage Garden Bog at the greenhouse in the New England Botanical Gardens took a beating during the recent very cold weather we had in January. Temps must have gotten very low, and while most of the greenhouse was spared, the bog suffered some damage. Most of the nepenthes in the ground were frosted. The Greenhouse staff got them out to a bench as quickly as they could, but it appears that a few were lost, and others were damaged. Hopefully, the problems in the greenhouse will be fixed, and we can find a few more plants to get into the bog.

The next meeting of the New England Carnivorous Plant Society will be Saturday, 14 February 2004, at the Greenhouses of the New England Botanical Gardens, Roger Williams Park, Providence, RI, at 12:30 pm. {check <http://NECPS.org> for directions} As always, there will be the display table, and the silent auction/swap table, along with refreshments {Nathan has put in a request for his favorite, RI Cheeseless Pizza! (*Ed: Not true! Nor did I say anything about choc-chip cookies! Lies, all lies!*)}. The presentation will be about growing plants under lights, and will be given by Webmaster Nathan Lovell. I recently had a chance to check out Nathan's growing conditions, and was immediately impressed by the growth of his plants under the newer T8 lights! Even high light requirement plants, like *D.binata*, looked great! Nathan has been posting some information about these lights on the CP list server and in a few forums, and should be able to answer most of our questions regarding these newer lights, and how they affect CP's.

So, everyone have a Happy Valentine's day, and come to **the next meeting of the New England Carnivorous Plant Society, Saturday, 14 February 2004 at 12:30!**