

New England Carnivorous Plant Society

March 2004 Newsletter

We've gotten through February, which in spite of what some people may say is the longest month of the year. March promises the return of warmer weather in New England, and better growing conditions for our outside and inside plants. But the Society has been busy this past month.

The NECPS shared a booth with the Rhode Island Orchid Society at the RI Spring Flower and Garden show in February. The exposure for the society was great, and the response from the general public even better. Many people wandered past the booth, and many more came by after seeing one of several mini seminars put on in the New England Botanical Gardens exhibit. We were exhibiting about 15 plants: some beautiful *Nepenthes* {*alata* and *maxima*} along with sundews, VFTs, butterworts and pitcher plants. People were amazed when they found out that there are native Carnivorous Plants in New England! We had a sign up sheet for the public to sign to get several copies of our newsletter, and the response was very good.

Society member Kirk Martin has acquired a 30 Gallon aquarium for the society to use for an exhibit at the Eco-tarium Museum in Worcester Ma. Kirk's wife Janet spoke to the Society at the January meeting about this. We will be discussing plans for this exhibit at the March meeting, what it should include, how to set it up, signage and everything else. Any ideas are welcome for this project. The Eco-tarium would like to have the exhibit up for part of March and April at least.

The March meeting will kick off the "**NECPS Logo Contest**". This will be a 2 month long event where Society members with an artistic talent will be able to design a logo that we will use for the Society. It is hoped that along with using the logo for things like the newsletter, we can have some other items made up using the logo to show off our interest in Carnivorous Plants. The Society will vote at the May meeting on all the logos that are submitted. So, sharpen your pencils, fire up the computer-drawing program, and come up with some ideas for a logo for the NECPS! The winning logo will be announced at the June meeting.

If anyone has visited the Roger Williams Park Greenhouses and stopped in to see the Savage Garden Bog in the past 2 months, you'll notice that there are several *Nepenthes* missing from the bog. During one of the big windstorms in January, 18 glass panels from the greenhouse roof blew off, exposing the bog directly below to sub zero temperatures for several hours. Most of the *Nepenthes* sustained cold/freeze damage, and in spite of the greenhouse staff pulling them out, many were lost. The glass has been repaired, and we will be replanting some donated *Nepenthes* in the bog in the coming month. If anyone has any plants that they would like to donate, they are more than welcome to bring them to this or the next several meetings. We had a few plants donated at the last meeting by Wild Bill, and I'll have a few more for this meeting also. The good news is that the North American Pitcher plants {*Sarracenia*} all did well over the winter, and we are starting to see some growth from them already. The Venus Fly Traps should be sending up flowers soon and traps should be growing fast. The Pitcher Plants in pots in the other greenhouse are sending up flower shoots already, and we may have some at the March meeting for display. These plants are for the Society to use for educational purposes, with the NEBG. At the April meeting we will be doing some bog planting and trimming, something to look forward to!

The New England Botanical Gardens at Roger Williams Park has the website up and running again. It can be found at <http://nebgprovidence.org/> There was an affiliate society meeting at the park recently, and the future plans for the Botanical Gardens were discussed. I will be reporting on these at the next NECPS meeting.

The Program for the March Meeting will be "Growing those amazing BIG Venus Fly Traps" by "Wild" Bill Matthews. We've all been amazed by the VFTs that Bill grows, with tremendous trap sizes and growth in a single year. Bill will share some of his secrets and successes to help us all do a better job of growing VFTs. So think up your questions, and be ready to learn more than you ever thought about growing VFTs at home!

Upcoming events for the NECPS include the Great Growing Contest {May thru October}, the Black Jungle Greenhouse tour and bog walk in June, a Bog walk with the RI Wild Plant Society in July {tentative}, along with some additional speakers we are trying to line up. And don't forget the 2nd Annual New England Carnivorous Plant show in October of this year! All that and more coming up in the coming months!

Nathan our Webmaster has updated our website and added some pictures from the past meeting, so it is worth a visit sometime. The website can be found at <http://necps.org/>. Remember that past newsletters and informational handouts can be accessed on the website at any time.

The March meeting of the New England Carnivorous Plant Society will be held at the greenhouses of the New England Botanical Gardens at Roger Williams Park, Providence RI on Saturday, March 13 at 12:30 PM. Check the website for directions to the park if needed. As usual, there will be a Silent Auction/swap table for those wishing to enlarge their collections. We will have the remaining Tuberos Sundew tubers that were graciously donated by Black Jungle Terrarium Supply on the auction table. Their website is as always:

{ <http://www.blackjungle.com/home.htm> }

Donations for the Silent Auction table are always welcome. There will also be a display table for members to display their Carnivorous Plants {and any other oddities that Wild Bill may grace us with}. And as always, there will be drinks and light refreshments.

Guests and the public are always welcome to attend a meeting, meet the members, check out the plants and see what the Society is all about.

I hope to see everyone at the next meeting of the NECPS on Saturday, 13 March at 12:30 PM at the greenhouses of the NEBG at Roger Williams Park, Providence, RI.

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