

New England Carnivorous Plant Society

April 2006 Newsletter

The Calendar has turned to April, the sun is higher in the sky, the days are getting longer and buds are beginning to break dormancy. A perfect time for a meeting of the NECPS to talk about the coming growing season for the plants we love to grow.

One important bit of news, the April Meeting of the NECPS will NOT be held at Logee's Greenhouses in CT. We hope to have a future meeting at that location.

At the last meeting of the affiliate groups for the new Botanical Gardens in Roger Williams Park, a new plan for the Carnivorous Plant display was brought forth by the people designing the displays. The Indoor gardens have been changed and enlarged a great deal. We now need input from the NECPS membership as to what plants we feel should be displayed in the new area. We will have an arbor to hang plants, along with several round raised beds to put plants into the ground. The climate will be warm temperate/ sub tropical (no frosts, no temperatures below 50F I would assume). WE NEED INPUT as to what the membership will want to see in this display. Please think about this and bring ideas to the next meeting. If anyone would like to attend the meeting with the designers, please let me know and I will try to arrange a meeting when we can all attend. But we need ideas and input, concerning plants and what we'd like to try to achieve.

There will also shortly be a meeting with the garden designers for the 2007 Providence spring flower show. The Flower show people would LOVE to have us there with a display garden. If anyone is interested in attending that meeting also, please let Me (John Phillip) know and we will keep you informed about the meeting time and place.

Anyone who attended the last meeting of the NECPS in February was treated to Wild Bill's great talk about how he grows those amazing BIG flytraps he's known for. Bill went over some of his techniques and tricks for growing these plants, and is always available to answer questions about how he does things. We also

were treated to a great selection of plants donated to the silent auction by Black Jungle Supply, (<http://www.blackjungle.com>) We thank the people at Black Jungle for their continued great support of the society.

The permanent Bog display presently at the greenhouse is starting to show signs of life and spring growth. When I recently checked the bog, several of the pitcher plants (Sarracenia) were starting to send up new growth and flower shoots. Also, some of the Butterworts were already blooming, and the Flytraps were sending up new growth. If you are in the area or at the meetings, it is worth checking out the display at this time of year to see the bog waking up from dormancy.

Dues for the NECPS for 2006 are due now, and anyone who has not paid is asked to either send their dues in to the PO box or pay them at the next meeting. The address for paying dues by mail remains:

NECPS
PO Box 606
Saunderstown RI 02874

The presentation at the April meeting of the NECPS will be on **“Propagating plants with root cuttings”** We will be using Forked leaf sundews and taking root cuttings for growing up new plants. If anyone has a forked leaf sundew (D. binata or any variety of D. binata) they are welcome to bring it to the meeting. We hope that if a few people bring extra plants then we'll have enough root cuttings for everyone to bring one home. We will also talk about how to propagate Pitcher plants (Sarracenia) from root or stolon cuttings.

The next meeting of the NECPS is Saturday, 8 April 2006 at 12:30 PM in the greenhouses of Roger Williams Park, Providence RI.

There will be the usual display and silent auction table, and refreshments will be available as always. NECPS hats and clothing will also be available at the meeting.

Please note that since the construction company has moved into the classroom, we will be meeting in the Mediterranean room, at the end of the greenhouse. This is the Greenhouse where we have had our show in the past. As always, I will be at the greenhouse about noon if anyone would like to help set up.

Plant Growing tips for April

April is a great time for sowing seeds of the more temperate tropical plants. The really true tropical plants need more heat than April will supply, but the semi tropical plants will start to germinate by the end of April if indoor conditions are right. And any seeds that were stratified over the winter outside can be brought in and started indoors now also. How do you know if a plant is temperate, tropical or in between? If the grower you get the seeds from doesn't tell you, then all you need to do is look for where the plant is native to. A good source is **Carnivorous Plant Database** at :

http://www.omnisterra.com/bot/cp_home.cgi

If you type in the plant name, you'll get information on where the plant occurs naturally, and can decide from that the growing conditions for germination and growing on.

April is a month when any plants growing outside that were covered with mulch for winter protection should definitely be uncovered. They should be hardy enough if they have withstood the winter this far, and the warm weather will start waking them up from their winter's sleep.

Remember with ALL plants this time of year that the sun is getting higher, and they plants may need more water than you might suspect. This especially applies to plants INSIDE near windows. The warm sun can dry plants out quickly, especially when the heat is still on inside the house at night. More frequent watering is often needed this time of year.

Some semi tropical plants can even be brought outside this time of year on warmer days. ALWAYS be careful when bringing plants out for the first few weeks. Plants that have wintered inside and are suddenly subjected to the real sun outside can burn easily. It is best to try to bring plants out on cloudy warmer days, or to put them in shaded locations. I have had a lot of success by putting plants on the north side of the house for the first week or so at least. Just always remember to bring them in at night. Some of the hardier ones can remain outside, including things like *Nepenthes khasiana*. *N. Khasiana* can withstand temps down to just above freezing. with few ill effects. Amazing for a "tropical" nepenthes.

