

The New England Carnivorous Plant Society

April 2003 Newsletter

Some interesting things have been going on at the NECPS this past month. The March 2003 meeting was a huge success, with a wonderful presentation and slide show about Papua New Guinea put on by Bob Chabot, horticulturist for the Roger Williams Park Botanical Gardens. Bob's slide show and talk gave all people attending a close look at what this remote area of the world is like, with the plants, the people, and the eye sucking leeches (you had to be there for this part!) The Society thanks Bob for the wonderful presentation. This was held in conjunction with the RI Orchid Society, and some of the members of that society got a chance to see CPs for the first time. Also, the potluck dinner was a great success. All in all, it was a great time for all who attended.

The Bog Garden at the Roger Williams Park greenhouse has been going through some changes, both for the season and for the upcoming building of the new botanical gardens. The greenhouse currently housing the bog garden is being shortened by about 20 feet, so the bog garden will now be the last garden in that greenhouse. The resulting demolition has resulted in the temporary movement of about 2 feet of plants from the end of the garden. But the season's changes have also brought new life to the bog, as many of the pitcher plants are sending up blooming spikes. Along with the coming flowers, the sundews are awakening from their winter's dormancy, and are looking great. If you've never seen *D. filiformis* or *D. binata* planted in a garden like this, it is a great sight! The Venus Fly Traps are also breaking dormancy, sending out new traps and soon flowers. We also have some additional *D. binata* that will soon be added to the bog garden, along with additional *Nepenthes*, to further enhance it.

I've been in touch with several members about upcoming presentations. Right now, we have a few that are in the works, on propagating *D. binata*, building and maintaining an outdoor bog, making a sundew hanging planter {where we plan to auction one off}. If anyone would like to do a presentation, please contact me with your ideas. The Society needs people to do presentations at meetings, and members have many things to share with others. We are also looking into having some notable collectors come in to speak about their collections, and some field trips to gardens with collections. Hopefully, we will have some trips to discuss at the next few meetings. If any members have additional ideas for field trips, please bring them up at a meeting so we can discuss them.

For the next meeting of the NECPS, on Saturday, 19 April 2003, Dr Ken Uhnak will be giving a presentation on Tissue Culture of CPs. What is tissue culture? Ken is the member of the society who brings those flasks filled with plants to the meetings to show. He received his Doctorate for his work in tissue culturing Carnivorous Plants, and will give an overview of what tissue culture is, and how it's done. Ken promises that we'll all understand it! Tissue culture is important, because it enables growers to propagate very large numbers of plants for a fraction of the cost and time it used to take, which lowers the prices and increases the availability of these plants for everyone. One reason for the increased popularity and availability of CPs is the recent advances in tissue culture. It should be a very informative presentation.

As usual, we will have the swap table, auction table, and display table at the meeting. Now that the weather is nice, bring those plants that you may have out to display and show to the members of the society! To help persuade members to show plants, we are starting something new at the April meeting. All members at the meeting will vote on what plant is the "Best Of Meeting

Display”, and that member will receive a certificate noting that their plant was the best for that meeting! This will be a member’s vote, and all displayed plants will be judged against the other in a non-professional setting. Bring a plant you are proud of, and you may go home with a “Best of Meeting” certificate!

The next meeting of the NECPS is as stated above, Saturday, April 19 2003 at 1 pm at the greenhouses at the Roger Williams Park, Providence RI. You are welcome to arrive any time after noon, as that is when I try to arrive to set things up. For directions to the meeting, check out the website at <http://rwpbotanicalgardens.com/>. And don’t forget to check out the update at our website, <http://www.NECPS.org>.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the next meeting. Don’t forget to bring plants for display, swap and auction if you’d like, but most of all, be there !

Thanks

John Phillip, Jr
401~782~4506
johnatthebeach@cox.net
Narragansett RI