

New England Carnivorous Plant Society

Founded 2003

July/August 2003 Newsletter

I hope everyone has been enjoying the summer and the great growing conditions we have had the past few weeks and months. If there was ever a time when you could grow tropicals outside, we've just been through it the past few months and weeks especially here in Southern New England. The weekly forecast looked more like one from the tropics than from a temperate region, with every day's forecast of "scattered thunderstorms, torrential tropical downpours". Even though we may have wilted a bit in the heat and humidity, our plants should all be growing well.

Lots have been going on behind the scenes at the NECPS since the June meeting. More work has been done with members and the Botanical Gardens on the upcoming show. The First Annual New England Carnivorous Plant Society Show will be held Saturday, 11 October at the greenhouse in Roger Williams Park. We have finalized some things with the park, and now have to get some serious work done with the membership on a few things to make this show a reality. There are still many things to be done, but remember one of the main reasons for this show is **to have fun with the society and with our plants!** At the August meeting, we will get going with further planning and start getting things done for the show.

There are several things that we can all get started on at home in preparation for the October 11th show. NECPS members will be able to vote on the best plants in each Genus, so start getting those plants in top show shape. The public will also be voting on a "People's Choice Award" plant. And since this show is also a fundraiser for the society, we will be selling plants donated by the members, so now is the time to start looking at your collections for any "extra" plants you may have or want to propagate for the society to sell. And just to further whet your appetites, we have 2 vendors who sell CPs that have said they will be attending the show!

The Botanical Gardens at Roger Williams Park have gone through a name change, and will now be called the ***New England Botanical Gardens, Providence***. This was done to further point out that the gardens and greenhouses when finished will be one of the best, if not the best, botanical garden in the northeast. Our society is very lucky to be associated with this growing botanical garden and the people working with it. The people that I meet with from the Botanical Gardens are always very helpful to the society and open to the things we want to do to help our Society grow. They are as excited as we are to be working together on projects at the greenhouse.

At the June Meeting, we were treated to a great presentation by 'Wild Bill' Matthews on propagating Venus Flytraps. Bill does a fantastic job growing these plants, and gave a wonderful, fact filled presentation on how he does so well. The growth rates of his plants are amazing at times, and he discussed this also. The Outstanding Plant Award was a tie, with Lauren Rafka winning for her outstanding *Nepenthes*, and Nathan Lovell winning for a beautiful *Utricularia sandersoni*. Awards will be given out at the August meeting.

The August meeting of the NECPS will be held Saturday, 16 August 2003 at the greenhouses in Roger Williams Park of the New England Botanical Gardens, at 1 pm. As usual, I should be there at noon, if anyone would like to arrive early. There will not be a formal presentation at this meeting, as we need to cover a lot of ground with the upcoming show. However, I hope to have one or two examples of local *Utricularia* for display, that some of you may not have seen up close and personal. As always, we will have our most popular swap and auction tables, and the vote for the Outstanding Plant Award. So don't forget those plants for these tables either!

I look forward to seeing everyone at the next meeting, Saturday 16 August at 1 pm at the usual place, the greenhouses at Roger Williams Park, Providence, RI. If you have forgotten the directions, they can be found at: <http://rwpbotanicalgardens.com/>.