

New England Carnivorous Plant Society

September 2003 Newsletter

The warm tropical weather that we (or our plants) enjoyed has given way to the cooler fall here in Southern New England. The other day, the max/minimum thermometer in my garden was down to 45 F for a morning low. Remember that I live less than ½ mile from the ocean! Other spots were even cooler that day, can fall be far away now? What a great time of year, and what a great way to end a growing season, with the September meeting of the New England Carnivorous Plant Society and the first Annual New England Carnivorous Plant Show in October!

Plans for the show moved ahead at the last meeting of the Society. We have members working on various things and projects already. Bill Matthews is making some signs up generally describing CPs for the public to read. A poster has been finalized and will be emailed to all members, if they would like to print any up and post them. Some posters have already been put up at various places around New England. We have 3 seminar speakers for the show, Bill Matthews, Matt Opel, and myself. We have commitments from 3 vendors who will be attending the show. I hope to have a meeting with the people at the New England Botanical Gardens, Providence this week to finalize their part in the show. Everything seems to be moving along nicely towards the show date of 11 October 2003!

Some members have been growing plants for the society to sell at the show, and we are asking them to contact Kirk Martin at: kirk_martin@harvard.edu with a list of any plants they plan to donate to the society for the show for sale. This will help us plan in advance, to make sure we do not have too much of any one thing on the Society table.

Remember that this is a judging show! If you are a paid member of the society, you are encouraged to bring any plants that you would like to display to the public, and the members and public will vote on the best plants for the show. I hope everyone who can brings some plants to display, as **the more plants that are on display, the better the show can and will be!** We really want to show off these plants, and get people interested and excited about CPs. Plan on getting LOTS of questions about the plants from the public. Remember that all members get free admittance to the show. Bring those plants!

And with the vendors that we will have there, you might want to bring along some extra money, just in case you see that one plant you must have...

We need a member who would like to volunteer to be a field trip coordinator for the society. This would be an e board position, and the person would help me look for possible trips and help plan them. I am getting a few suggestions in my travels for trips to bogs and similar places, and I am in need of some help to get further information, and help with the planning of possible field trips for the upcoming year. If anyone has any ideas for places to visit, please let me know, or better yet volunteer for the position of Field trip Coordinator!

The New England Botanical Gardens, Providence is hosting the Third Annual East Side Floral and Antique Festival, September 19 through 21. There will be a marketplace with antiques and plants, speakers on different subjects, and display gardens. All this is held on historic Blackstone Blvd, on Providence's East Side. The NEBG has offered all affiliate organizations a chance to man a booth to help show off their group. We will have a booth at the show all day on Sunday, 21 September 2003, along with the RI Orchid Society. This is the day after our regular meeting and I realize that it is difficult to ask for members who come from long distances to help at the booth, but if anyone would like to consider helping out, please contact me or speak with me at the meeting on 20 September. Remember that the show is running the day of our meeting also, from 10 AM threw 6 PM, if anyone would like to attend before or after the NECPS regular meeting. Show hours, directions and information can all be found at: <http://www.eastsidefestival.com/>

At the August meeting, the society was informed of some possible changes to our meeting time and day, which would have made it more difficult for some members to attend. The staff at the New England Botanical Gardens, Providence was working on a plan to have all affiliate groups meet on one weekend a month, to allow for other uses for the classroom and greenhouses. Several members at the August meeting expressed dismay that the new times we would possibly be meeting would not allow people who have to drive long distances to the meetings to attend. I spoke with the staff at NEBG and they were very understanding about this, particularly with regards to our group since we draw from all over the New England region, and the staff is working on a plan that will continue to allow us to meet at the greenhouse classroom on Saturday afternoons. It is possible that the day will change, from the 3rd Saturday of the month to another Saturday. But this is in no way finalized, and for now we will continue to meet the 3rd Saturday of the month at 1 pm. The NEBG staff was very understanding about our situation, and honestly enjoy having us as an affiliate member society.

Society member Kirk Martin has been working overtime for the society to acquire a donation of 30 to 40 well grown mostly mature Sarracenia plants for the society! The plants were from a NJ grower who needed to get rid of them. Kirk now says, "*I have the plants in two Rubbermaid tubs (18x24"?) one completely full and the other half full of grown Sarrs. I'd have to estimate 30-40 good sized plants (many of which can easily be divided to 2-3 plants)*" The plants are being donated to the NECPS, and will be used in several ways. Bob Chabot, Horticultural Director at the NEBG has said that he will make a small section of flooded bench in one of the greenhouses for the society to keep plants for educational and other purposes, for our use and the use of the NEBG. Some of the plants will be going into the Savage Garden Bog that the society helps maintain at the greenhouse. That is the program for the upcoming September meeting, "Repotting and Replanting CPs".

There are some plants in the Savage Garden Bog that need to be replanted and repositioned, and with the addition of these new Sarracenia, there is a lot of potting up to be done. **The hands on participation program for the September meeting will be repotting these plants and replanting the Bog. Plan on getting your hands dirty at this meeting, and getting a chance to see some good plants.** And as Kirk mentioned to me, "*There are several plants that would fit nicely into 1-2 gallon pots, and would make great specimen plants. Perhaps a plant or two could also make it to the Silent auction?*" The society will supply all pots and mix, just plan on helping along if you would like. The more participation we have, the more fun it is, and the quicker it goes. Who knows what might just make it into the silent auction from the group!

Some of the Society members have been in contact with Jesse Bull, an English major at Brown University. He is doing some work for a journalism class concerning CPs, and we sat down for an interview earlier today. He has asked to be able to speak with some of the other members of the NECPS also, and I have invited him to our meeting. I have warned him in advance that the trouble will not be getting us to talk, but trying to stop us! Lets please all give him some time and help him with what he is doing for the class when he attends the meeting.

As always, we will have the swap/auction table set up, so don't forget to bring plants or money for that! And we will again vote for the Outstanding Plant Award for the meeting. **The regular meeting for September will be Saturday, 20 September 2003 at the Greenhouse of the New England Botanical Gardens, Roger Williams Park, Providence RI at 1 PM.** As usual, I hope to be there by noon setting things up, so anyone is invited to arrive early. Printable directions to the meeting can be found at:

<http://rwpbotanicalgardens.com/index.html>
Directions are at the bottom left of the page.

I hope to see everyone at the regular meeting. We'll have lots to do with the planting, repotting and planning for the October 11th show.