

New England Carnivorous Plant Society

Founded 2003

October 2003 Newsletter

Well, everyone, as they say in the trade, **It's Showtime folks!** The First Annual New England Carnivorous Plant Show is set for Saturday 11 October 2003, just a short week away! Things are going along mostly smoothly, and everything points to a great time and show for that Saturday. Some things everyone should know for the show:

- **Bring Plants for display!** The show works when we all bring something to display for the other members and the general public. The more plants we have, the more we all get to look at and the greater the impact to the public!
- **Please email Kirk Martin** (kirk_martin@harvard.edu) with a list of plants that you will be bringing to display. This doesn't have to be complete, if you decide the day of the show to bring "just two or three more plants" that is great also, but we are trying to have labels made up in advance for the plants, and Kirk Martin is the keeper of the list. Dave Sackett is making the labels and will have them at the show, along with some blank ones for those "extra plants"
- **Show Hours are 11am thru 8 PM Saturday, 11 October. There will be a "press/private showing" of the plants from 10 am till 11 am.** This is for photographers and press/media people to come and see the plants, and to be able to get some good photographs. I was told today that there is a good chance the Mayor of Providence will be stopping by, and also that there should be some local news stations there to shoot some footage. *PLEASE try to have your plants at the show by 10:00 am if at all possible.* I plan to be at the show at 8:30 AM to start setting up, anyone is welcome at that time to help.
- **We will have 3 vendors at the show, 2 of which will be selling plants.** If you want to go to the vendor's websites before the show, try <http://www.dangerousplants.com/> or <http://www.blackjungle.com/>. Both of these are members in the society, and would be more than happy to bring specific plants to the show if members are interested in them. Please try to contact them early so they can plan what to bring to the show. And please remember to support those people who help support the NECPS!
- **Shareen Zaki of the New England Botanical Gardens at Roger Williams Park is building mockups of a Pitcher plant, Flytrap and Sundew for a kid's game at the show!** NEBG volunteers will be manning the game and kids may take turns "feeding" a big mock up of these plants!
- **We will have an area at the show to display Photographs!** If you have any photographs that you have taken and would like to display them, PLEASE bring them along. The society will supply pushpins so the photos can be mounted on several walls in the display area. If possible, have a name or description of what the photo is attached or close by. Photos may be mounted or unmounted.
- **The Society will be manning a table that will feature Venus Fly Trap Feeding, and Pitcher Plant dissections.** We will be looking for volunteers to man this booth off and on during the day. I think this will be one of the most fun parts of the show, and I hope everyone takes a turn feeding the plants for the public! We plan to have a camera set up with a monitor to help people see what is going on at this booth. I just hope we have

enough flytraps, so PLEASE bring some if you have them. The Society will supply dead crickets.

- **Speaking of fun, this show will work best if we all remember to have fun.** Ask the questions, answer them for the public, smile for the photographers, and let's all just have a great time with the show! That's the whole point of the NECPS, to have fun with and show off the plants we love!
- **The NECPS will supply food and beverages to members during the show.** If anyone has suggestions please contact me. If anyone would like to bring something to share this is also great. There will be a back room where members can go to get a break if needed and have a bite or a drink.
- **We will have a membership table where we will be answering questions about the NECPS and signing up new members.** If anyone would like to help out at this table for even a short time, it would be greatly appreciated!
- **NECPS members and Families get in free to the show!** I'll be supplying the park with a list of members, if you or family members come late just let the people at the door know you are a member or family member.
- **We will have name badges at the show for all members!** These will help identify members to the public, and help new members learn who's who in the society.
- **There will be 3 seminars given at the show in the classroom where we usually meet.** Matt Opel and Bill Matthews will each do a talk, and I will be teaching a class for kids in the early afternoon for the NEBG. I hope to have the schedule posted shortly on the NECPS website.
- **We have had many plants donated by NECPS members for sale at the show!** I've seen a partial list and there will be some plants that would make great additions to a collection!

That's a lot of information about the show, if anyone has any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at johnatthebeach@cox.net or 401~782~4506.

The NECPS displayed plants at several recent events. I manned a table on Sunday at the Fall Flower and Antique show in Providence RI, the day after our last meeting. I was pushing the show and the society, and had a very good response. Many people stopped by and were checking out the plants, and a woman at the RI Rose Society table next to ours kept staring at a couple of *Nepenthes* I was showing. I donated a *Nepenthes tobaica* for a raffle, and have a nice little mailing list from the names.

Bill Matthews displayed 2 plants at the Durham, Ct fair and won 2 Blue Ribbons! In Bill's words, "I thought you would like to know that I won 2 Blue Ribbons and a "Judges Special Award" for 2 CPs I entered in the Durham Fair. They weren't that stunning or anything - I think just different from anything the little old lady judges had seen before" For those of us who have seen Bill's plants, we all know this is just Bill being overly modest. His Giant Venus Fly Trap, with traps almost 2 inches long won the "Outstanding Plant Award" at the September meeting. It was one of the most amazing Flytraps most of us had ever seen!

Member Jeff Matteson grows some nice plants, among them *Cephalotus follicularis* 'Giant Form', commonly called "Hummer's Giant". Jeff grows them so well that a picture of one of his plants was featured in an edition of *Carniflora Australis*, *Journal for the Australian Carnivorous Plant Society Inc.* We've had Ceph's shown at NECPS meetings from time to time, but none can match the picture of Jeff's, where the pitcher appears to be 3 times larger than a quarter! We all hope Jeff decides to bring his amazing plants to the show!

At the September meeting the program was "Repotting donated plants and Refurbishing the Savage Garden Bog." Member Kirk Martin was able to get about 25 or so mature Sarracenia plants {they looked like *S. rubra*, *S. flava* and *S. alata* mixed} donated to the society. Many went into the Bog garden we help maintain, and 10 plants were potted up in pots and went into a flooded bench at the greenhouse. Bob Chabot has given us some room there to maintain a small number of plants in a flooded bench area, and these are the start of a collection that the NECPS and the NEBG can maintain for educational and display purposes. This will help us when we want to display a number of plants somewhere, the plants will be more easily available. The group also planted some of the Sarracenia plants in the Savage Garden Bog, and moved a few of the existing plants to better locations in the bog. We are actually running out of room in the front of the bog, and I spoke to Bob Chabot about removing some of the bigger bushes, the non-carnivorous plants to make room for more and new carnivores. Bob was very open to the idea about doing that to enable us to display more plants. If you haven't checked the bog out recently, the Sarracenia leucophyllas are sending up great fall pitchers with wonderful coloration, and the *Nepenthes maxima* hybrid is flowering, and pitching well. Even the *Drosera binata* are still flowering. According to Bob the bog has been a big attraction for visitors to the greenhouse. There will soon be better signage at the bog to help visitors understand and know what is planted there.

Since we are having the First New England Carnivorous Plant Show this coming Saturday, there will NOT be a meeting on the 3rd Saturday this month. The show will be our "official" meeting for October. We are looking for someone to do a program for the November meeting, if you are interested please contact me.

I hope to see everyone and their plants at the First New England Carnivorous Plant Show on Saturday, 11 October 2003. This should be a great time for everyone!

Thanks,

John Phillip, Jr.