

New England Carnivorous Plant Society

November 2003 Newsletter

The First Annual New England Carnivorous Plant Society show is now history, and judging by the feedback received, it was a completely huge success! About 200 people attended the all day show on Saturday, October 11th, and were treated to the largest collection of Carnivorous Plants that have been shown in New England at one time. Every genus was represented (except *Drosophyllum*), with some truly outstanding plants displayed for people to marvel at. In case you missed the show, or if you want to relive some of the highlights:

- A VERY impressive *Nepenthes bicalcarata* with woody pitchers almost twice the size my fist.
- Some of the largest *Cephalotus* that have been seen in New England.
- A chance for many to see *Aldrovandra* for the first time.
- A flowering *Heliophora heterodoxa*.
- “Kids” of all ages watching Venus Fly Traps being fed by NECPS members, with a TV screen to show all the action.
- Educational posters on the different genera of CP’s and on the conservation and threat from poaching that concerns us all.
- A kid’s game area where they were able to “feed” large-scale mock up’s of different CP’s.
- One Cper who came from the Burlington VT area to see the plants and members she’s spoken with in the CP forum.
- A truly dedicated mother who drove 5 ½ hours from New Jersey with 4 kids in the car, so the kids could attend the show. The oldest was able to identify just about every *Sarracenia* in the Savage Garden Bog by Latin name!
- Enough plants for sale for anyone to start an impressive collection, at great prices from the 3 attending vendors.
- Some great brownies that somehow made the trip from NY without being eaten the night before in a hotel room.
- Swapping and trading of plants on a scale seldom seen before.
- Tissue Culture flasks of VFT’s offered for sale under the name “Frankenstein’s children”!
- And with all that, we still had time for a GREAT SILENT auction with plants donated this meeting by Tony at exoticplantsplus.com.

The people at the greenhouse did a great job before the show setting up lighting for the event, and in spite of some scary moments during set up {remember the “we need more tables NOW” scene} everything went very smoothly for set up and the whole day. For pictures and to see more of how things went, check out what Webmaster Nathan has put together on the website at <http://www.NECPS.org> .

I am asking anyone that did attend the show to write down any ideas for next year now, so that we can work on them in the coming year to make the 2nd show even better. Anything

that comes to mind, from something that we should add, to something we can do better, to an idea to get more people interested, anything that you think might make the show better, just write it down and give to me at the next meeting, or email to me sometime in the near future.

I spoke recently to Shareen Zaki, Educational Director of the New England Botanical Gardens, and she had some good news about future meetings. You may remember from previous meetings that the NEBG is trying to consolidate the days that affiliate groups meet at the greenhouse, to make scheduling easier for other events. I had spoken with Shareen after we discussed this at a regular meeting, and expressed the Society's concern that it would be difficult for members coming from long distances to attend morning meetings {9:00 AM!} or Sunday meetings. Shareen listened and considered our plight, and starting at the January 2004 meeting, we will be meeting on the Second Saturday of each month, not the third. The meeting time will remain 1 PM. Shareen and the park personnel recognize the unique needs of our group, since we have members from all over the New England area, and they worked the schedule to accommodate our needs.

The NECPS is looking for someone to be a Program Coordinator to work with myself and other members to find speakers, and arrange programs for the regular meetings by members and non-members. As the society grows, there are more and more ways to get help out, and this is an important way to get involved more and do more for our group. Any one who is interested, please contact me either thru email or at the next meeting.

We are currently working on events for 2004, and some of the upcoming things to look forward to are the NECPS Great Growing Contest", and a Logo Contest for a new logo for our society. If anyone has any other ideas for events, programs, or field trips, please contact me by email or at a meeting. Ideas for field trips may be forwarded to our Field trip Coordinator, Leslie Uhnak at Otterplay@aol.com.

The program for the next NECPS regular meeting will be "A Simple Way to Stratify and Germinate Temperate Seeds" put on by myself. I will demonstrate a method I have used for several years, that I took from the Meadowview Biological Research Station, and changed a bit for easier home use. I have used this method for a few years now and have had great results with little worry.

The next meeting of the New England Carnivorous Plant Society will be Saturday, 15 November at 1 PM, at the greenhouses of the New England Botanical Gardens, Roger Williams Park, Providence RI. As usual, I plan to be at the meeting setting up by noon, and all are welcome to come early. Don't forget to bring plants for display and for the ever-popular silent auction! Directions to the meeting may be found at our website, <http://www.necps.org>

I hope to see everyone at the next meeting, Saturday, 15 November at 1 pm at Roger Williams Park, Providence RI.