

New England Carnivorous Plant Society

Founded 2003

April 2004 Newsletter

Spring is supposed to be here according to the calendar, but Mother Nature seems to have other ideas. Instead of average temperatures in the 50s we're struggling with the 30s and 40s still. But, there is hope that spring will arrive and all of our plants and us can enjoy the sun, warmth and increased daylight.

At the last meeting we kicked off the **NECPS logo contest!** I know some members have been working on Logos to represent the Society for some time now. The deadline for snail mail or in person entries is the April meeting, 10 April 2004. Email entries may be submitted no later than 5 May 2004. All entries will be on the NECPS website before the May meeting so the society members can vote on the logo that we will use to represent our society. The winner will get some fabulous prizes {well, a gift certificate to a CP grower, and additional prizes) along with the pride knowing they came up with the original drawing for the society logo. If anyone needs to see the rules, they can email here or call John Phillip at 401~782~4458. Remember that if you are submitting a drawing for the logo in person, it must be submitted no later than the April 10th meeting. And make sure you check the website before the May meeting to see and be able to vote for the Logo you like the best!

I spoke with Dr Ken Uhnak at the last meeting, and he is moving along with plants for the **NECPS Great Growing Contest** that will start at the May meeting. All paid society members will be able to purchase {for a small cost} tubes of tissue cultured plants. The members will then be able to grow those in their own ways to see who can grow the nicest, best, largest, most spectacular plants. The plants will be displayed at the October NECPS show, along with a short blurb about how the plants were grown, and a winner will be decided at that time. This is a chance not only to try your hand at growing different plants, but at seeing how others grow their plants and what works best for other people. Dr. Ken hopes to have at least 2 different types of plants for the Society members to try growing.

The Great Growing Contest promises to be fun and informative for all!

The New England Botanical Gardens has handed out the Affiliate agreements, and if anyone is interested, they will be available to look over at the April meeting. Whenever I speak with the people at the NEBG, they are very happy that we are an affiliate and so active a group. They are already looking forward to helping us have another successful show in October!

As I type this, Society member Kirk Martin is setting up the NECPS exhibit at the Eco~tarium in Worcester, Ma. The Ecotarium's website is: www.ecotarium.org. This project has been postponed a few weekends because of the activity at the Ecotarium. The NECPS will have a great display and we and our plants will get a lot of exposure at this event. If anyone would like to possibly donate or lend any additional plants for the exhibit, you can contact Kirk Martin at kirk_martin@harvard.edu or myself at johnatthebeach@cox.net and let us know what you may have available. There are space limitations for the exhibit, as everything has to fit inside tanks. But it would be great to be able to rotate some plants through the exhibit to help keep things fresh and good-looking.

I have received an email from Erin Fournier, Program director for the RI Wild Plant Society, and she has set up a Plant Walk with Dr. Ken Uhnak for Saturday, July 10 2004. {Remember that we don't hold a regular meeting in July}. The Plant Walk will be at the Great Swamp in southern RI. The official information is:

Carnivorous Plant Walk

West Kingston, RI

Saturday, July 10, 9:00 - 11:00 am.

Fee: \$3 members; \$5 Non-members

PreRegistration Requested for all RIWPS events, 783-5895

Carnivorous plants grow in Rhode Island's many bogs and ponds. They capture and eat insects to get the minerals they require to survive. Join Dr. Ken Uhnak for a guided tour of the Great Swamp's carnivorous population. We hope to see several populations of sundews, pitcher plants, and hear the popping of the bladderworts as we walk. Bring your insect repellent and please wear protective clothing on your arms and legs. Moderate.

The Moderate refers to the ease of the walk. This is a great time for the Society members to get out, meet new people, and see some of the plants we grow in nature. We will work out some additional details about the event, possibly allowing NECPS members to preregister at a NECPS meeting. The NECPS will pay for all paid members who attend this event! I have personally trekked the Great Swamp many time {Ask Allyson my wife for the story about being lost in the swamp in January} and I always find new things to check out and enjoy. It should be a great time for the society members to get out and have a good time.

The April meeting was going to include some work on the Savage Garden Bog at the Greenhouses of the NEBG, Providence, RI. But due to our wonderful New England weather this year, that is being held off till the May meeting. We are still looking for any donations of plants for the savage Garden Bog, particularly sundews and Nepenthes of different kinds. In addition to the bog, we will be rebuilding and adding to the potted collection at the greenhouses. Some of the potted Pitcher Plants were inadvertently planted in the bog by the greenhouse staff. These will be repotted and hopefully some new plants added to the potted collection. The potted plants are available for any type of educational purpose. So plan on helping out at the May meeting with some repotting and planting, along with getting your plants for the Great Growing Contest.

People who attended the last {March} meeting of the Society were treated to "Wild Bill" Matthews giving his tricks of the trade in his own special way for growing amazing Venus Fly Traps. Bill always seems to be coming up with ways to grow these plants better, bigger and

faster than anyone else. Everyone was entertained and learned new ways to grow better VFTs. Bill is at almost every meeting, and is a great help if anyone has questions about growing Fly traps.

The Presentation at the April meeting will be **Propagating Nepenthes** By John Phillip, Jr. The methods and some tricks for taking cuttings will be shown, media will be discussed, along with the care of cuttings while they root. A handout will be available as always. Cuttings will be taken at the meeting, and some of the cuttings will be raffled off free to members attending the meeting! It's a great way to learn how to take cuttings of these plants, and possibly enlarge your collection for free!

As always the April meeting will feature the popular Silent Auction Table and the display table, along with light refreshments. Anyone is welcome to bring additional refreshments, or a plant to donate or split with the Society at the Auction table. Don't forget a plant if you'd like to show it off on the display table! **The Next meeting of the New England Carnivorous Plant Society is Saturday, April 10 2004 at the Greenhouses of the New England Botanical Gardens, Roger Williams Park, Providence, RI at 12:30 PM.** As usual, I will be there about noon if anyone wants to arrive early to help with set up, or wander through the greenhouses and check out the plants and the Savage Garden Bog. For more information or directions, check out the website at <http://www.necps.org> or call 401~782~4458.

I hope to see everyone at the next meeting, Saturday 10 April at 12:30 PM !

Good growing

John Phillip, Jr

President, NECPS