

New England Carnivorous Plant Society

February 2006 Newsletter

Despite what the calendar says, February is the longest month of the year, or so it seems. The coldest temps and the snowiest part of the winter in New England make the month seem to go on forever. But day lengths get longer and longer, the sun gets higher and higher, and there is the promise of spring ahead. And, there is always a NECPS meeting to make the month seem faster, along with the Providence RI Flower and Garden show.

Once again the NECPS will have a booth at the Rhode Island Spring Flower and Garden show in Providence RI, February 23 to 26, 2006. The booth will be in the same place as last year, the 5th floor of the convention center with the other non-profit groups. This will be an informational booth to show off plants and promote the society as last year. Show hours are 10 AM to 9 PM Thursday, Friday and Saturday and 10 AM to 6 PM Sunday. **WE WILL NEED VOLUNTEERS TO MAN THE BOOTH!** I take off from work for the show and will be there all day Thursday and Friday, and most of the time on Saturday /Sunday, but help is still needed. If you can work 3 or 4 hours anytime, please email me with the times and we will put you down on the list. People who work the booth get into the show for free, and can walk the show when time allows, or after they finish in the booth. Also, if you have any plants you would like to display at the show, please bring them to the show, either when the show starts or at set up time. We will be setting up the booth **AFTER 4 PM** On Wednesday (the floor will be unavailable until that time). If you'd like to help set up the booth, please contact me at this email address. For more information on the show, please check out <http://flowershow.com/>

WE finally have a full E Board of officers to run the society and make the basic decisions about the group, but are still looking for

someone to handle clothing sales. This would include keeping track of clothing that we have on hand and bringing it to the meetings. If anyone is interested in this, please let an e board member know. We introduced Shirts and sweatshirts with the NECPS logo on them at the last meeting, and these will be available at the February meeting also.

The regular February meeting of the NECPS will be a road trip meeting! Once again we will meet at the University of Connecticut greenhouses in Storrs Ct. The meeting will be at the regular time, 12:30 PM on this Saturday, 11 February. The meeting will be in the Torrey Life Sciences Building, Room 115. The address is 75 North Eagleville Rd, Storrs, Ct 06269. Directions to the meeting are at the end of the newsletter. After the short business meeting, we will tour the greenhouse, guided by Society member Dr. Matt Opel, who works at the U Conn Greenhouses. This is NOT a meeting to be missed, as there are lots of wonderful plants, carnivorous and non-CP, to be seen. For those of you who are members of the International Carnivorous Plant Society (ICPS), a plant that Matt grows at the Greenhouses was featured on the back cover of the last ICPS Newsletter! Please plan on being there. As usual, refreshments will be available, and members can bring something for the refreshment table. Feel free also to bring any plants for display at the meeting, or for the swap/auction table.

I hope to see everyone at the next meeting of the NECPS on Saturday, 11 February 2006 on the U Conn Campus in Storrs, CT.

Good growing

John Phillip, Jr
NECPS
Narragansett RI USA

Directions to the February Meeting

- Take I-84 to Exit 68 (look for UConn signs)
- Turn south on Rt. 195 (left if you're coming from the east, right from the west)
- Drive about 7 miles to the University of Connecticut campus
- Turn right on N. Eagleville Rd (traffic light just after a church)
- Life Sciences is across the street from the cemetery. Park on the street, and enter through the doors in the center of the building.

RI people may find it faster and more scenic to make their way to Connecticut Rt. 44 west. Take a left a Rt. 195, then a right on N. Eagleville, as above

Growing tips for February

After a long winter of being inside and in windows or under lights, many plants will start showing some signs of being worse for wear at this time of year. One thing that often happens about this time are insect infestations. The insects come in with the plants that are brought in when the weather gets cold, and we don't inspect them well enough in December with everything going on for the holidays. By the time early February comes around, the insects have multiplied and become a problem. Even plants that are well inspected when brought in can be covered with insects this time of year.

The most common insects to become a problem this time of year are aphids. Since many people do not want to use chemical sprays in the house, especially in winter, control often can be a problem. The key can be simply to control the number of insects and damage they may do, not to eradicate them, until spring.

To help control the number of insects, I use two main methods. I will often use a cotton swab (Q Tip) dipped in simple rubbing

alcohol to kill insects. Wiping the insects will dislodge them and kill them, and then to be sure I put the q tip back in the alcohol with ant insects attached. This works especially well with scale and mealy bugs. Both of these seem to be more of a problem on nepenthes than anything else.

The other simple method to control the numbers of insects is simply to wash them off. I have used a spray bottle filled with water and a few (2 or 3 only!) drops of dish soap to first spray the affected parts of the plant, then use the sprayer in the kitchen sink to wash the insects off. Occasionally, I will simply use the sink sprayer alone, if the infestation isn't too bad. The insects then are washed down the drain, and the plant put back to its space to grow.

So, inspect your plants now and see if they need the extra care to eliminate those insect troubles now.