

## New England Botanical Club - Minutes of the 994<sup>th</sup> Meeting 9 January 2004

by Jennifer Forman Orth, Recording Secretary

The 767<sup>th</sup> meeting of the New England Botanical Club, being the 994<sup>th</sup> since its original organization, was held on Friday, January 9, 2004, in the Lecture Room of the Fairchild Biochemistry Building, Divinity Avenue, Cambridge MA. There were 31 members and guests in attendance.

The night's meeting, being the "Fourth Foray into Food and Flowers," began with a potluck dinner featuring many botanically-themed dishes. Standouts this year included pickled *Salicornia* (glasswort), vegetarian chili and other spicy dishes to warm us up on a bitterly cold night. There were also several desserts featuring the ever-popular *Theobroma cacao* (chocolate). Members that could tear themselves away from the delectable botanical delights perused books and other items for sale, or bought tickets for the raffle of botanical books.

Following the feast, members settled into their chairs for a night of "show and tell." Each person was allowed ten slides, or ten minutes, to show the club interesting botanical exploits from the past year. Don Lubin started the night with a digital slide show of Pteridophytes (ferns and fern allies), including species from Bermuda and Mt. Washington. Members who wanted a closer look were invited to visit Don's website: <http://www.theworld.com/~donlubin>

The true "slide" show then began, with President Paul Somers' photos of the Southern Appalachians, a thinly veiled plot to encourage members to sign up for the club trip to that region this May. Bryan Hamlin was next with brilliant macro shots of orchid species and *Gaultheria hispidula* (creeping snowberry). George Newman followed with his photos from Burnt Cape. This ecological reserve in Newfoundland, visited by Fernald, featured the dwarflike willow species *Salix uva-ursi* (bearberry willow) and *Salix vestita* (rock willow). Alice Schori then presented her slides of NEBC members in the act of botanizing at several New England locations. She was followed by Marsha Salett, whose slides of Cape Cod, from her recent photography exhibition "From Bogs to Beaches," brought many "oohs" and "aahs" from the crowd.

Following Marsha, it was back to the computers. After Bryan snuck in a few more photos of Ericads from his digital collection, Corresponding Secretary Nancy Eyster-Smith tapped into her own huge digital image collection, wowing the audience with a photo of a rest-stop *Pimpinella anisum* plant (anise), from her family trip to Florida. The "show and tell" ended with Jennifer Forman Orth's images of "botanical oddities," including a variegated *Celastrus orbiculatus* (Asiatic bittersweet) and the invasive orchid *Epipactis helleborine* (broad-leaved helleborine). When the lights came back up, members retired to the refreshments room to hear the winning numbers for the book raffle, and perhaps for a second helping of dessert.