

# CARNIVOROUS & EXOTIC PLANT SYMPOSIUM & EXPO KERNERSVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA—MAY 16–17, 2026 UPDATE

ERNIE PAGES • Director at Kernersville Community Recreation Center

We are only a couple months away from our inaugural Carnivorous & Exotic Plant Symposium & Expo and we are looking forward to welcoming you to Kernersville, North Carolina! We will have vendor and exhibitor booths and family friendly activities throughout the day. We are very excited about our national guest speakers, who will be highlighting the science, conservation, and cultivation of carnivorous plants.

## Featured speakers include:

- **Joey Santore**, creator of *Crime Pays But Botany Doesn't*, presenting his in-situ discoveries of carnivorous plants from around the world with his trademark humor and storytelling.
- **Alison Northup**, PhD, Owner, Piedmont Plants Nursery will be doing a presentation titled, "Gardening for Conservation."
- **Johnny Randall**, retired Director of Conservation at the North Carolina Botanical Garden, sharing insights on Venus flytrap natural history, evolutionary genetics, and conservation drawing on the groundbreaking ICPS-funded research since 2015.
- **Richard J Wong**, University Program of Ecology, Duke University, will be highlighting his research in *Sarracenia* inquilines and the effects of climate change.
- **Max Kotelnicki**, Outdoor Horticultural Manager, Atlanta Botanical Gardens, presenting on the display and education value of cultivating southeastern carnivores through the lens of aesthetics, conservation of biological controls, and practical experience maintaining a large-scale display bog.
- **Jared Chauncey**, Senior Conservatories Horticulturist at the Missouri Botanical Garden, delivering *Man-Eaters Past and Future*—a talk tracing the history of carnivorous plants in cultivation and their future in conservatories.
- **Jeremiah Harris**, Guinness World Record holder for the largest Venus flytrap, offering expert guidance on cultivating giant flytraps.
- **Dan Walker**, North Carolina Native Plant Society, Triad Chapter, presenting on carnivorous plants of North Carolina.
- **Mike Helfrich**, ICPS Alternate Board Member, will present on how to grow *Nepenthes* for beginners.



Joey Santore

## Registration & Membership

### THIS IS A TICKETED EVENT

Regular paid ICPS members will attend the event for **free** with registration and also get early bird entrance from 8 am to 9 am both days!

Current non-members may purchase single-day or two-day tickets, which include a complimentary one-year ICPS e-membership. Admitted at 9 am.

For updates, registration, and additional details, visit:  
<https://icps.clubexpress.com/>

## Logistics

### Event Location:

Kernersville Parks & Recreation  
1020 Shields Rd, Kernersville, NC 27284

### Local Airport:

Piedmont Triad International Airport (GSO)

### Hotel:

Hampton Inn Kernersville  
150 Clayton Forest Drive, Kernersville, NC 27284

Register here for our event discount:  
<https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/carnivoroussymposium>

If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, please contact **Kenny Coogan, ICPS Education Director**, [kenny@carnivorousplants.org](mailto:kenny@carnivorousplants.org).

We look forward to welcoming you to Kernersville in May 2026 for this historic celebration of carnivorous and exotic plants.