



**NEW ENGLAND CARNIVOROUS PLANT SOCIETY
(www.NECPS.org)**

August 2009 Newsletter

NECPS's August 2009 Meeting will be held on

SATURDAY August 8TH at 12:30pm at the:

**Roger Williams Park Botanical Center (Greenhouse)
1000 Elmwood Avenue, Providence, RI 02907
<http://www.providenceri.com/botanical-center/>**

&

Annual NECPS COOKOUT will be held on

SUNDAY August 30th starting at 8:45am at:

**BlackJungle
370 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376**

NECPS Mission Statement

"The mission of the New England Carnivorous Plant Society shall be to share, to gain knowledge of, and to achieve expertise in all phases of growing, education, appreciation, and conservation of carnivorous plants in both culture and in native habitats."

President's Message

Summer is FINALLY here in New England, we are feeling the hot weather we expect, and things are heating up for the NECPS!

First a short recap. For the first time ever the NECPS had a July meeting, and we installed a bog garden at the University of Rhode Island in their indoor conservatory. This is a wonderful educational tool for the University and the NECPS, and hopefully will be the start of many more ventures between the two. The bog installation was done with the help of Michael and Pam Szesze of the Carnivorous Plant Nursery in Maryland. Michael and Pam donated plants for the event and display, and Michael treated us to a wonderful slideshow about building different bogs. Afterwards we all were treated to a small get together at my house for a BBQ and fun. For a first ever July Meeting, it was truly a wonderful day. The whole NECPS joins me in thanking Michael and Pam for the talk, work and donations.

More new things are ahead for the NECPS! In August we will be having two events of note, the first being a meeting on the regular date and time at the Roger Williams Park Botanical Center. This will be an important meeting, as we will be discussing the fall show that is only less than 2 months away! LOTS to talk about and get done, we need ideas, volunteers and more. So please come with ideas and let's work to make this show even better than last year's highly successful show!

The second event for the NECPS will be the annual BBQ at Black Jungle in Turner's Falls, Ma. This is always a wonderful and anticipated event, where the NECPS is graciously hosted by Richard and Michael, and we are treated to seeing all sorts of plants, along with wonderful discounts for the NECPS members. This year, however, there will be something even more exciting, a visit and talk from renowned author Stewart McPherson. Stewart has written several amazing books on various CP's, and has a new ones on the way. He will be giving a talk on Nepenthes, and will be signing books for members. This is a wonderful chance for the NECPS members to speak with and meet a true giant in the CP world. The Black Jungle event will be at the end of August, so we truly will have a busy start and end to the Month!

Since the NECPS was founded, we have continued to grow and add and events to the calendar. August is another example of what the NECPS has grown into, and maybe a hint of even better things to come for the society. The more you get involved, the more you get out and the more fun we all have.

Fun...isn't that what this is all about?

Thank you, Namaste

John Phillip, Jr

NECPS Program: August 8th 2009

“Show Preparation”

Successful preparation = Successful show

That’s what it boils down to. This meeting will be about brainstorming to make the show upcoming show the best yet. There are a few simple but helpful things each member can do to help:

- #1. Attend the meeting!
- #2. Distribute the show flyer to everyone you know.
- #3. Volunteer for some activity at the show.
- #4. ATTEND THE SHOW!!! Support the NECPS and the vendors! Educate the public!

If every member does the above, the show will truly be spectacular.

Other business:

- There will be plants on display and a silent auction.

New Members

Warm welcome to these new members that signed-up since December!:

Gerard, Graham, and Sheila Hoogeboom
Kelly, Maxwell, Mike, and Nathan Riley
Dan Downey

CP Tidbit for August

“Get Those Nepenthes Outside!”

Get those Nepenthes outside!

It’s been a miserable summer for most of us, a record setting few months for both rain and cold in New England. Yet is has become a good growing season for some of the plants we love to grow. Let’s talk Nepenthes and Outside growing!

The three things Nepenthes really need to grow well are water, humidity and light. We can play games with media, and temperatures when we grow plants inside or out, but over the years I have

found that here in New England, the 3 most limiting factors for seasonal growing are water, humidity and light. In winter for example, Nepenthes often slow in growth, fail to pitcher well, or even have all their existing pitchers dry up. This is simply caused by these the three factors, low light, less water, and low humidity.

No matter how well you water plants in the winter, you cannot water as well as a drenching long rain will. Indoor watering often results in an uneven watering of the media in the pot, with some areas not getting enough, and some being soaked as they should be. A soaking rainstorm will usually do a much better job, and if the media is right the excess water will drain away, and the plant will be happier than it would be with an indoor watering. Plus, for those who feel that tap water is not good for a Nepenthes, you get the benefit of free easy pure rainwater, if plants are left outside. This year has been a boon for watering Nepenthes outside! Usually in my garden I have to water the hanging Nepenthes at least once a day every day each week. This season I've been able to miss many waterings, as the rain has done it for me. One thing to note, my greenhouse still needs to be watered, even when it is raining!

Humidity in summer outside here in New England is better for growing Nepenthes than most people would suspect. When we read about special places and techniques to grow nepenthes to help increase humidity, remember that these articles are talking to people growing plants all over the world. Arizona would not be a good place to grow Neps outside, not with a desert climate. But here in New England, we are much better off. As I write this, the Hygrometer in my office is telling me that the Humidity inside is about 56% That is inside with the air conditioning running! Outside it is even higher! A quick check of my Favorite weather website, weatherunderground.com says that at the weather station less than a mile away, the dew point is 70F...while the temp is 78 F. HIGH humidity! More than enough humidity to grow and pitcher nepenthes!

When we bring Nepenthes inside in the fall to grow them, we start to deal with dew points in the 20's, teens and lower! Last winter we had dew points outside of 3 or 4 degrees F. Nothing short of a terrarium or greenhouse would raise humidity to better growing levels under those conditions. That is a major reason Nepenthes stop pitching in winter, the low humidity. But now, in August, we can take advantage of that natural humidity and let the plants bask in it is all their glory, and the result is more and better pitching!

Nepenthes are tropical plants. As such they are used to much higher light intensities than we typically see here for many months in New England. But from mid spring to mid fall, the light is perfect for outside growing of nepenthes. Both the duration and the quality of the light are wonderful for the plants, and especially the quality cannot be duplicated by indoor lighting. Even now a full month after the longest day of the year we are still experiencing a day length of 15 ½ hours. That is high sun and long photoperiods that the nepenthes love to grow in, and the result is wonderfully growing plants.

Here are some observations about plant growth for this year regarding the above conditions, for both nepenthes and general growing.

Last year we did a bog walk the second weekend in July in the Great Swamp, Kingston RI. It was an unbearably hot day, with high humidity and about as rough a hike as could be. The bog we explored had what I call 'squishy ground', not enough to soak thru most hiking shoes, but defiantly wet to the touch. On the way in and out of the bog, the group FEASTED on wild blueberries in the swamp. They were everywhere, and we all enjoyed them. A year later almost to the day we were back in the same area, with Michael Szesze and a few other NECPS members. The bog we visited last year was completely flooded with knee deep water or better this time. That was to be expected from the rains we'd had. What might not have been expected was the situation with the blueberries. THERE WERE NONE! All the blueberry bushes had berries, but they were all very immature and green, at

least 3 or 4 weeks away from harvest time. The rain had made for good growing conditions, but the low temps and lack of sun had slowed the plants and set them back about a month in growth.

The same could be said about the Nepenthes I grow outside each spring, summer and fall. Usually by early July the nepenthes outside my south facing door will have multiple pitchers and will be trailing a foot or 2 below the hanging pot. This year, at that time the plants had no mature pitchers, but were starting to put out pitchers on every leaf. There had been enough rain that watering had been no trouble this year, but the cold temps and lack of sun had delayed pitching, as it had delayed berry production in the swamp. In the month or so since that bog walk, when we have had more 'normal' temperatures (close to normal but still a bit low) the plants have taken off pitching, and are doing well again. While they may not catch up with a 'normal' year, the plants are finally growing well and looking good.

Nepenthes have a reputation among many people for being difficult to grow outside. For some species, this may be true. But for many many others, it is possible and even beneficial to grow plants outside in the warmer days of summer. High temps, high humidity, and better water can all contribute to better growth of Nepenthes, when placed outside in summer. So, get those plants outside!

~ John Phillip, Jr.

Note: If anyone has cultivation tips that they'd like to share, please contact Ken Sicard.

Secretary's Minutes

July 11, 2009 — Attendance (Meeting): 24

Meeting Notes:

- We briefly discussed progress on the website and preparation for the annual show.
- Michael Szesze gave a wonderful Powerpoint presentation on how to create and maintain an outdoor carnivorous plant bog, followed by a hands-on demonstration and bog-building in the greenhouses of the University of Rhode Island. In the end, a magnificent bog was built for URI.

~Ken Sicard

Events of Note

The annual NECPS cookout will be held at BlackJungle's store on August 30. Please see the accompanying flier for more details.

Nursery / Mail Orders

- There are no pending nursery orders.

~ Ken Sicard, Nursery Mail Order Coordinator

Library News

- Please contact me to suggest books that should be purchased or if you have books to donate.
- The NECPS Library inventory and library policy has been attached to the end of the newsletter.

~ Alan Winn, Librarian

Treasurer's Report

- The Treasurer's Report will be available at the meeting.
- Membership dues are due in January for the 2009 year—if you haven't paid your dues yet, please do so. Dues are \$10 for students, \$20 for adults, and \$25 for families. Dues may be paid in cash or check made out to "NECPS." A copy of the membership renewal form is attached at the end of the newsletter for your convenience. Remember to complete a membership renewal form and submit it along with dues to the Membership Secretary, Shaun Montminy. Dues may also be paid by mailing a check to:

NECPS
PO Box 606
Saunderstown, RI 02874

~ Dave Sackett, Treasurer

Program Outline for 2009

Meeting Date	Location/Program
January 10	RWP Botanical Center Nepenthes Cuttings
February 14	RWP Botanical Center "A Potpourri of Activities"
March 14	TBA
April 11	RWP Botanical Center Educational CD Presentation
May 9	RWP Botanical Center Sarracenia repotting & Bog reconstruction
June 13	UCONN Tour of the UCONN Greenhouses
July 11 (date TBD)	*Special Meeting* Michael Szesze Carnivorousplantnursery

August 8	RWP (Show Preparation)
August 30	Blackjungle (Cookout)
September 12	RWP Botanical Center Annual Show Discussion
September 27-28	7 th Annual NECPS Show (RWP Botanical Center)
October 10	RWP Botanical Center Post-Show Discussion
November 14	RWP Botanical Center TBA
December 12	RWP Botanical Center Annual Holiday Party

* Cookout date tentative. TBA = to be announced

- Meetings are held on the second Saturday of each month, except for July when there is no official meeting. We are in the process of finalizing a program outline for 2008. Please contact one of the Officers with questions or if you have a suggestion for a meeting place.

Officers & Contact Information

President	John Phillip, Jr.	johnatthebeach@cox.net
Vice President	Priscilla Purinton	ppurinton@aol.com
Secretary & Newsletter Editor	Ken Sicard	kenneth.sicard@umassmed.edu
Membership Secretary	Shaun Montminy	necps_membership@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Dave Sackett	bid2win1@yahoo.com
Librarian	Alan Winn	ajw152000@yahoo.com
Nursery / Mail Orders	Ken Sicard	kenneth.sicard@umassmed.edu
Webmaster	Nathan Lovell	emily.troiano@gmail.com
	Emily Troiano	

- NECPS website: www.necps.org
- NECPS Yahoo Group: <http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/NECPS/>

New England Carnivorous Plant Society

An organization for the appreciation and enjoyment of carnivorous plants

Meeting dates and locations

Generally the society meets the second Saturday of each month at the greenhouses at the Roger Williams Park, Providence, RI at 12:30pm. Meetings are occasionally held at other locations. Visit the website for information on the next meeting and for travel directions:

<http://www.NECPS.org>



Membership

Regular, \$20/year
Family, \$25/year
Student (any age), \$10/year

For more information contact:
New England Carnivorous Plant Society
P.O. Box 606
Saunderstown, RI 02874
Email: necps_membership@yahoo.com



Please fill out form below and submit with payment to Shaun Montminy, Membership Secretary.

New England Carnivorous Plant Society - Membership Application and Renewal Form

Check one of the following: Application for: New Membership Renewing Membership

Type of membership: Student Membership (\$10) Regular Membership (\$20) Family Membership (\$25)

Type of payment: Cash Check (Please make check payable to "New England Carnivorous Plant Society") Check number _____

Please print the following clearly:

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Family names to be included and separated by semicolon ";" (if applying for family membership only):

Mail Address 1: _____

Mail Address 2: _____

City _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number _____ Email: _____

How did you hear about the NECPS? _____

Would you be able to attend the RI meetings? No Yes Yes, but I need to carpool

All new members please be sure to inquire about our welcome packs as well as getting your temporary membership card

NECPS Library Policy

The loan period for all items including: books, magazines, and videos are 1 month with one renewal period. No renewals are allowed for books, magazines and videos on reserve.

All material will be stored at a secure location deemed by the library committee and confirmed by the Executive board.

Failure to bring back books within 2 months will result in loss of borrowing privileges!

A valid membership number must be presented by any member wishing to check out any NECPS library materials. Cards are not transferable. You are responsible for any materials checked out in your name.

NECPS library patrons may take out one (1) item as they are willing to be responsible for. NECPS library patrons may sign up for one (1) additional book such that at the end of the meeting if no one has already signed up for the item you will be allotted to take that item for the duration until the next meeting. When there is a high demand for a particular item, there will be a limit of one (1) item per person. The only exception to the above rules are for approved functions by the Executive board that are sponsored by the NECPS may reserve any and all material providing a months notice is given to guarantee that material will be available.

The NECPS Library reserves the right to determine charges for lost or damaged materials and the right to deny borrowing privileges to anyone who has library materials overdue for more than two (2) months to the NECPS library or owes fines amounting to more than ten dollars (\$10.00) from the NECPS. The NECPS library also reserves the right to deny borrowing privileges to any parent or guardian whose child and/or children has the above delinquencies.

All material taken from the NECPS library is the responsibility of the NECPS library patrons. For one of a kind items NECPS library has the right to refrain from loaning the material and may keep it as a reference item to be viewed solely at meetings and functions.

Please be kind. Rewind the videos before returning them to the NECPS library. Patrons are responsible for damage to videos, so please be careful. Never leave the tape partially rewound as this can cause damage to the tape. Also, videocassettes and equipment are to be used at room temperature as extremes of heat and cold may damage the video or equipment. Also exposure to magnetic fields can cause erasure or distortion.

The NECPS library is not responsible for damage to patron's VCR that may result from damaged or defective videos.

The copyright proprietor has licensed the picture contained in these videocassettes for private home use only and prohibits other use, copying, reproduction, or performance in public, in whole or in part. (U.S. Code, Title 17, Sec. 501 & 506).

NECPS Library Inventory

Title	Author	Donor
Lost World 2 DVD Set	Redfern Natural History Productions Limited	John Phillip
Lost World 2 DVD Set	Redfern Natural History Productions Limited	Jeff Matteson
Carnivorous Plants of the Word	James & Patricia Pietropaolo	Shaun Montminy
Gardening with Carnivores	Nick Romanowski	Shaun Montminy
Growing Carnivorous Plants	Barry A. Rice	Shaun Montminy
Cryptozoo Crew	Allan Gross & Jerry Carr	Dave Sackett
Pitcher Plants of the Americas (softcover)	Stewart Mcpherson	Shaun Montminy
Pitcher Plants of the Americas (hardcover)	Stewart Mcpherson	John Phillip
Death Trap	Nature	Shaun Montminy
Death Trap	Nature	Shaun Montminy
Venus Flytraps Bladderworts, and other Wild and Amazing Plants	National Geographic Science Chapters	Blackjungle.com
Hungry Plants	Mary Batten, illustrated by Paul Mirocha	Blackjungle.com