



NEW ENGLAND CARNIVOROUS PLANT SOCIETY

February 2007 Newsletter

NECPS's February 2007 meeting will be held on

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 10TH at 12:30 PM at

**Roger Williams Park Botanical Center (Greenhouse)
1000 Elmwood Avenue, Providence, RI 02907**

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."

Message from the Vice-President

Hello All,

Greetings to all! Our February 10th meeting is a very exciting one as we will be planting the bog in the beautiful new greenhouses at Roger Williams Park! This is our chance to see the conservatory before it opens for the Gala on Valentine's Day...the general public will see it in March. There will be no silent auction or display of plants; just a quick meeting and then let's get planting! Bring the plants that you are donating; the space that we are filling is BIG! The staff should have filled it with sand

and peat but if anyone has extra sphagnum moss, please bring it. We are being given a wonderful opportunity to be in on the ground floor with this...You know John is most likely gnashing his teeth in Florida because he has to miss this meeting. When he gets back and sees the bog let's amaze him with what we have accomplished!

~ Priscilla Purinton

NECPS Program: February 10, 2007

“Creating a Sarracenia Bog”

As you may have already heard, the Roger Williams Park Botanical Center is scheduled to open on February 14th. The NECPS has volunteered to create a Sarracenia bog display at the Center and this will be the program topic of the February meeting.

The NECPS will donate the plants for the bog and the Botanic Center has provided the other materials. Members are also encouraged to donate plants. Everyone is welcome to participate!

Sarracenia are among the most beautiful of the carnivorous plants. Their foliage and flowers are vibrant and hundreds of hybrids exist! The bog garden is one of the simplest and most popular methods of growing Sarracenia. You'll learn what materials are needed to construct a bog, the soil mix used to fill it, and tips on how to design the layout for your bog. After attending this meeting, you'll have greater confidence in how to create a Sarracenia bog and at the same time, you'll be helping the NECPS in its mission to educate the public on wonders of carnivorous plants.

Other business:

We will also discuss the following at the February meeting:

- Rhode Island Spring Flower Show which will take place on February 22-25, 2007. The NECPS will have an informational booth and we need volunteers.
- There will be no silent auction or display plants at this meeting.

Cultivation Tips for January

After a long winter of being inside the house, many carnivorous plants will start showing some signs of being worse for wear—especially if you're unaccustomed to growing them indoors. One frequent problem is insect infestations. The insects come in and we don't inspect the plants well enough to notice the little critters until they've multiplied and become a problem.

The most common indoor pests are aphids, mealybugs, scale and spider mites. Aphids are green and can often be seen moving if you look closely enough. Mealybugs don't move and produce a white, cottony/fluffy material—if you see mealybugs on the leaves, check the roots as they can infest these as well. Suspect root mealybug on a plant that is in poor health with wilting leaves with no other obvious cultivation problems. Scale does not move and appears exactly as the name implies: like a scale on the leaves and stems. Spider mites are very small and produce webs on the plant, often on the underside of leaves.

The first thing to do when you find an insect infestation is to isolate the plant(s) affected. You should closely inspect all plants in your home as many pests travel quickly and easily from plant-to-plant. What you do afterwards depends on how bad the infestation is and how far you're willing to go.

Since many people do not want to use chemical sprays in the house, control often can be a problem. Many methods can be used to eliminate pests. If the infestation is light, you can use a cotton swab (Q-tip) dipped in a 50% rubbing alcohol solution to kill insects by wiping them off the plant. This works especially well with easy to see pests like scale, aphids, and mealybugs. For spider mites, you can spray some of the alcohol solution on the plant. However, be warned that alcohol desiccates plant tissue and tender (new) leaves, pitchers, and the glands of sundews can be burnt. Nepenthes and Sarracenia tend to be the most resistant to alcohol damage. Alcohol shouldn't be applied to butterworts.

The other simple method to control the numbers of insects is simply to wash them off (with water) or drown them by submerging the plant underwater for 3-5 days. This works especially well for aphids.

Of course, if the infestation is severe, insecticides are often the only real solution, aside from throwing the plant away. I like to use Ortho® Systemic Insect Killer (formerly Isotox®). As the name implies, this is a systemic insecticide which means it not only kills pests on contact, but the insecticide remains in the plant and kills any pests (or their eggs) that may have survived the spray. Systemics also come in pellet form if you're afraid of contaminating your living space. I've used a strong (3 Tbs/gallon) solution of Ortho® on my Nepenthes, VFTs, and Drosera with no noticeable damage, not even to the tender foliage. I've seen minor damage to Sarracenia with strong solution but not with weak (1 Tbs/gallon). I haven't tried it on my Heliamphora, Pings, Drosophyllum, Darlingtonia, Cephalotus, Utrics (aquatic or terrestrial), Genlisea, and Roridula.

Other insecticides that are considered fairly safe to use on CPs are malathion and Sevin®. These are not systemic insecticides and you'll likely need to spray on a few occasions to kill all of the insects. Of course, you should follow the manufacturers' instructions when using insecticides. Also, many insecticides are not meant to be used indoors so read the instructions carefully.

Of course, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, so it's best to prevent infestations by carefully inspecting your plants weekly, avoiding overcrowding, providing good air circulation around the plants, avoiding dry and drafty conditions, and most importantly, keeping your plants healthy (healthy plants are more resistant to disease).

There is much more to be said about this topic. This is just a very brief summary/tips for dealing with pests. Refer to books on CPs, such as The Savage Garden, for more detailed information.

If you have any questions about anything related to the cultivation of CPs, don't hesitate to ask your fellow members. That's one of the benefits of belonging to the NECPS!

Good growing,

~ Ken Sicard

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

Secretary's Minutes

January 13, 2006 — Attendance: 20

Meeting Notes:

- John Phillip led the meeting.
- RWP Botanical Center Opening: We discussed the upcoming RWP Botanical Center Gala on February 14th and the Sarracenia bog planting project.
- Wistuba order: The order was finalized at the January 2007 meeting. Please see "Nursery Orders" for more information.
- 5th Annual NECPS Carnivorous Plant Show: Will be held at the RWP Botanical Center in September!
- Pitcher Plants of the Americas: A new book on North and South American Pitcher Plants and carnivorous bromeliads authored by Stewart McPherson. Stewart has generously donated a book to the NECPS Library so check it out when it arrives! The NECPS may be placing a group order for Stewart's book—stay tuned for more information!
- RI Spring Flower and Garden Show: The NECPS will have an informational booth at this show and we need volunteers! The Show takes place on February 22-25 at the RI Convention Center in Providence (10am-9pm Thursday-Saturday, and 10am-6pm Sunday). Volunteers will get free passes to the show! Email John Phillip Jr if you wish to volunteer.
- NECPS Calendar: Shaun Montminy suggested the NECPS create a calendar which would be free to members. The calendar will be 16 months long (starting in September 2007, coinciding with our Show) and consist of pictures of members' plants. Membership would vote for their favorite picture of the month at each meeting. A vote was not taken for this issue.
- A local professional photographer was a guest at the meeting and was interested in taking pictures of members' plants, specifically *N.hamata* and *D.capensis*. (Note: I sent an email to the membership regarding this; please refer to it for more details.)

Other Meeting Events:

- A plant auction took place afterwards.
- Meeting Conclusion: John Phillip concluded the meeting.

Events of Note

- The NECPS gets some press (read below)!

Park's Botanical Center Breaks New Ground for Plant Life

By Sheila Lennon (Projo.com Staff Writer)

With plants still arriving, the press got a peek yesterday at the new Roger Williams Park Botanical Center. Like all gardens, its beginnings are modest, but by the time the greenhouses open to the public March 2, the 40-foot-tall conservatory should be teeming.

Displays in the main conservatory will change constantly, maintained with the help of local garden organizations. The first, with a red and purple Valentine's Day theme, will pair red anthuriums with purple glory trees.

You'll be able to get married in the adjoining Mediterranean room, framed by a stucco and terra cotta moongate against the backdrop of a modest waterfall. A 68-foot linear pool runs the length of this greenhouse, which will house collections, including camellias and carnivorous plants, and a fish pond. Teak benches are arriving soon from Smith & Hawken nurseries, according to Mary Ellen Flanagan, landscape architect for the center.

Just a single carnivore, a nepenthes, hangs in a white pot there now, its bladders hanging down about eight inches. Priscilla Purinton of West Kingston, vice president of the New England Carnivorous Plant Society, said that in the wild these bladders grow to 3-liter size and can catch rats and lizards. Feeding time at the greenhouses could be a must-see show for children who have seen the movie Little Shop of Horrors.

Two other greenhouses, milling with workers yesterday, will serve as educational spaces and can host small flower shows. There's no wi-fi in the plans, but Parks Superintendent Alix Ogden said it has been discussed for the future.

If the original, crowded greenhouses, with narrow aisles and the ambience of well-stocked potting sheds, had a nostalgic charm, these airy buildings of light and glass are more obviously public spaces, with wide areas of cement walkways to accommodate lots of visitors. These aren't anywhere as artificial as those at the annual flower show, and once the plants get growing, they'll introduce their own wildness.

The new facility is scaled down from an earlier plan that would have included a seven-story, glass-encased replica of a landscape in Papua New Guinea, a conservatory with artwork by the late actor Anthony Quinn, and a replica of the 12th hole of the Augusta National Golf Course. None of that came to pass. Mayor David N. Cicilline, who came along on the tour, scaled back the project to make maintaining it more manageable with the money actually available, rather than dependent on private fundraising. The \$7.7-million facility was constructed by Gilbane Building Co. with federal, state and city money and major support from the Champlin Foundations.

Among the partners who'll collaborate on the rotating displays are:

University of Rhode Island Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners, Rhode Island Orchid Society, Rhode Island Rose Society, Rhode Island Wild Plant Society, Rhode Island Nursery & Landscape Association, New England Carnivorous Plant Society, The American Hosta Society, Gardening for Good and the Rhode Island Bonsai Society.

Nursery / Mail Orders

- The Wistuba order has been placed. The plants will be shipped to the NECPS PO Box sometime after late April. John Phillip will collect the plants and a special pickup meeting will

be held where members will have the opportunity to pick up their plants on the weekend after they've arrived. These meetings will likely be held at the Roger Williams Park and possibly also in Worcester, MA. If you cannot attend the pickup meeting, you may contact John and arrange a place and time to pickup the plants, at his discretion. As a last resort, you may pickup your plants at the following NECPS meeting. Once they arrive, I suggest you pickup your plants as soon as possible due to their fragile nature. You must pay for your plants when you pick them up so please have cash or a check with you. As discussed at prior meetings, any extra plants will be auctioned or raffled. Please contact me with any questions.

~ Ken Sicard, Nursery Mail Order Coordinator

Library News

- Please contact me to suggest books that should be purchased.
~ Shaun Montminy, Librarian

Treasurer's Report

January 2007

<u>Income:</u>		
Dues		140.00
Clothing		240.00
Auction		40.00
	TOTAL	420.00
<u>Expenses:</u>		0.00
<u>Total Balance for January Meeting</u>		420.00

- Membership dues were due in January for the 2007 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, Mike Stiffler. Dues may also be paid by mailing a check to:

NECPS
PO Box 606
Saunderstown, RI 02874

~ Dave Sackett, Treasurer

Program Outline for 2007

Meeting/Event	Location
January 13	Louttit Library
February 10	Roger Williams Park
March 10	Roger Williams Park (?)
April 14	Roger Williams Park (?)
May 12	Roger Williams Park (?)
June 9	NETC, Vermont
July	Great Swamp Bog Walk (no official meeting)
August 11	Blackjungle
September 8	Roger Williams Park (?)
September 29-30	5 th Annual NECPS Show (Roger Williams Park)
October 13	Roger Williams Park (?)
November	Roger Williams Park (?)
December 8	Roger Williams Park (?)

- 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 2007. 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	Ken Sicard	kenneth.sicard@umassmed.edu
Membership Secretary	Mike Stiffler	stiffler@fas.harvard.edu
Treasurer	Dave Sackett	bid2win1@yahoo.com
Librarian	Shaun Montminy	shaun_montminy@yahoo.com
Nursery / Mail Orders	Ken Sicard	kenneth.sicard@umassmed.edu
Webmasters	Nathan Lovell	lovell@mit.edu
	Emily Troiano	emily.troiano@gmail.com

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

Directions to RWP Botanical Center

- **South on I-95:** Take exit 17 (Elmwood Avenue), left at light, Park entrance is 1/2 block on left.
- **North on I-95:** Take Exit 16 (Elmwood Avenue), bear right, left at light, Park entrance is half a block on right.
- **West on I-195:** I-195 West to I-95 South, Take Exit 17 (Elmwood Avenue), left at light, Park entrance is half a block on left.
- Once you enter the park follow the signs to the "Greenhouses."

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 greenhouse in the Roger Williams Park, Providence, RI, at 12:30 pm. 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@hotmail.com

New England Carnivorous Plant Society Membership Application and Renewal Form

Circle One: New Member Renewing Member

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ Date _____

Email _____ Year Joined _____

How did you hear about the NECPS? _____

Would you be able to travel to RI for meetings? Y / N

Would you be interested in being on the NECPS board? Y / N

New Members Please Pick Up a Welcome Pack (with Membership Card)!
Renewing Members Please Pick Up Your New Membership Card!

Please return this form to NECPS membership secretary Mike Stiffler