

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

September 2009 Newsletter

NECPS's September 2009 meeting will be held on

SATURDAY September 12TH at 12:30pm at the:

Roger Williams Park Botanical Center (Greenhouse)

1000 Elmwood Avenue, Providence, RI 02907

<http://www.providenceri.com/botanical-center/>

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

September is *finally* here, the month many of us look forward to for the big event. Not for back to school, not for the end of summer, not for the cooler weather and start of the wonderful fall color show here in New England, not even for Football season to start. Nooo, the month of September brings about the most exciting part of the NECPS membership. The NECPS Annual Fall Carnivorous Plant Show! What else could come close to topping this event in Southern New England?

Once again all the members of the NECPS get to show off their plants to the world, talk about their plants to a large audience, amaze the public with what we love, and spend time immersed in the plants for two days. Time for talking, swapping, buying, learning and more. But always, the most important thing is to HAVE FUN. That is the reason for the society, and the reason for joining. To have fun against the backdrop of the plants we love.

LOTS needs to be done before the show at the end of the month. Before we know it, the 26th and 27th will be here, and we will be at the show. But before then, things need to be planned and set into place. The next few weeks will be busy ones, as we get the plants ready, do things for the show, put up posters, and tell people about the event. But always we have fun doing these things, because the end speaks for itself.

Each year the NECPS Annual Fall Show is the largest single attendance weekend for the Roger Williams Park Botanical Garden.

Each year we have the largest collection of Carnivorous Plants on display to the public on the east coast.

Each year we bring together the most knowledgeable growers around to help us all, public and members alike, learn more about the plants.

So get ready everyone. This is a big month. The biggest of them all. The time is here, once again, to join in and help make this the Best show of all. The Best NECPS Annual Carnivorous Plant show EVER!

See you all before, and at the show!

Namaste

John Phillip, Jr

President and Founder

NECPS Program: September 12th 2009

“Show Preparation”

Successful preparation = Successful show

That's what it boils down to. This meeting will be about ironing-out the details 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: Bring plants to the show, and preferably preregister them!

#5. 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 September

“Feeding Cephalotus with Hikari© Brand Fish Food”

I have had great success nourishing my many Cephalotus plants with Hikari brand fish food - that is, until last week when I tried another Hikari product and had disastrous results.

I grow my Ceph's in tanks in my basement lit with 4 foot fluorescent shoplights. My younger Cephalotus plants grown from cuttings or seed always seemed to lag and linger for months on end growing only very small pitchers. Eventually they would get large but it would take a very long time. This changed several years ago when I began feeding the small young pitchers a type of fish food called BetaBioGold. The food pellets are very tiny and spherical. The shape is perfect so they just drop right in the pitchers of young Cephalotus and Nepenthes plants. I fed the plants about every two weeks. I began to notice a noticeable surge in growth. I now make this part of my Cephalotus growing regimen. These are fantastic and I still use them to jumpstart young plants. Last time I bought them they were about 3 bucks a package.

My Ceph's would form nice healthy clusters of the small 1/4 inch or so pitchers, and then all of a sudden, BOINK, among them 1/2 inch or larger pitchers would develop. For these larger pitchers, I used another Hikari product called "Hikari Cichlid Staple", note that it's the one in the green pouch. Again, absolutely fantastic results. I used them for feeding Cephalotus pitchers that were anywhere from a half to two inches long. The larger traps might get two or three pellets at a feeding. Great for Neps too by the way.

So, in anticipation of the big show coming up (you know the one, right?), I thought I would kick up the growth of my plants with another Hikari product. This one was a little larger than the last and a little

more expensive. "Hikari Cichlid Gold" which came in a red pouch. This was gonna be great. I fed the pellets to several plants including Cephalotus and Cephalotus 'Hummer's Giant' plants dropping single pellets into the larger pitchers which ranged from 3/4 inch to 2 inches in length. That was Tuesday morning the week of the Black Jungle meeting.

On Saturday I went to water the basement terrarium plants and was aghast at what I saw. Every single Cephalotus pitcher I'd fed the Hikari Cichlid Gold to, which had previously been big beautiful healthy green and red, was now completely black and mushy soft. Some of the black pitchers had mold on them. I'd lost about 15 pitchers. I also noticed that some of the 2 inch pitchers on my Nepenthes singalana which got the same meal were also black. AARRGGHHH! I did a lot of plant trimming that day carefully removing the dead material.

I wanted to share my experience to prevent anyone else in the society from having the same mistake. Lucky my plants are still alive and healthy (just without large pitchers). These "Hikari Cichlid Gold" pellets may be OK for larger Nepenthes pitchers but for my Cephalotus plants and smaller Nepenthes I'll remember it from the colors of a stoplight: green is for GO and red means STOP.



~ "WildBill" Matthews

"Get Those Nepenthes Outside!"

The growing tip for this month is somewhat of a continuation of last month's growing tips. At the wonderfully successful meeting and BBQ we had at Black Jungle at the beginning of September, I had a conversation with someone about growing Sarracenia. The conversation was mostly about indoor vs. outdoor growing, and the question was about was it possible to grow Sarr's inside. The person in the discussions stated and asked at one point "I've heard from others that Sarracenia plants grown inside tend to be weak and soft, the pitchers will sometimes topple and fall over if brought outside. Does that mean they cannot be grown inside?"

One thing I have learned over the years about plants and people, if you give them perfect growing conditions without any stress at all, the result is a weak and unsatisfactory end product. The discussion about people can be done another time, but plants definitely do better when subject to some stress!

Plants NEED stress to grow strong and tough. This is simply a fact, and many if us forget this when we grow plants and try top have "perfect" conditions. We strive for constant 100% humidity thinking it is optimal, perfectly watered planting medium, perfect light for the perfect amount of time, not a

single bug to attack the plants. And then we are surprised when we take the plant out of this “perfect” environment and it simply wilts or worse in a short time.

Last spring we took Sarracenia plants that were going down hill out of the bog at Roger Williams Park Botanical Center. The plants were insect infested, mostly with Mealy bug, and their growth was spindly and weak. We potted the plants up at the park and they went into a tub of water on the south side of my house. I intentionally kept them away from all my other plants so they would not infect the other plants. I monitored the plants with the expectation of spraying them when they were a bit stronger and had adapted to the repotting. When I finally thought they were strong enough, I gave them a good look to see where and how to spray, but discovered that the Mealy Bug infestation was gone. GONE! Simply growing the plants outside in full sun, sitting in water and fresh soil had rejuvenated them to the point that they were strong enough to withstand the mealy bugs. Also, the growth the plants put out was much stronger and sturdier than the previous growth.

I touched upon this in last month’s growing tip with Nepenthes. Often the plants grown in “perfect” conditions like a terrarium or greenhouse will be weaker, not as sturdy or strong as plants grown outside in the elements. The stresses that the plants have each day, the little stresses like uneven water, wind, sun and humidity fluctuations all contribute to make the plant tougher.

Of course there is a limit to this, and that has to be considered. Not watering a plant for 4 or 5 days in full sun will kill it no matter how tough it is. Letting a plant stay outside when the temps drop below freezing will also lead to the plant’s demise. But if you stay within some acceptable limits the plants will grow strong and prosper, and even thrive. And with time and continued experience, you will learn to push the limits and have even more success.

So can Sarracenia be grown outside, and will they be strong enough to do well? The answer is not just Sarr’s, but MANY Carnivorous Plants can and will thrive outside in the warm months. Take your plants outside, and let them enjoy!

~ John Phillip, Jr.

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

Secretary’s Minutes

August 8, 2009 (Meeting) — Attendance: unknown (I was not present to take minutes)

August 30, 2009 (Cookout) – Attendance: 50+

Cookout Notes:

- We visited two local bogs with Stewart McPherson & Jeremiah Harris
- Stewart signed copies of his books at the cookout
- Blackjungle offered plants for a large discount, and provided some tasty food!
- Stewart gave a presentation on newly discovered Nepenthes, and another presentation on Heliamphora to a captive audience.
- Everyone left the cookout with their stomachs full of food, shopping bags full of plants, hands full of Stewart’s books, and brains full of exciting new information from Stew’s presentations.

~Ken Sicard

Events of Note

The 7th Annual NECPS Show will be held on Saturday and Sunday, September 26 & 27 at the Roger Williams Park Botanical Center. Please see the flyer for more information.

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.

~ Don Gallant, 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

March 14	“A Potpourri of Activities” 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 Carnivorous plant nursery
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
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Nursery / Mail Orders	Ken Sicard	kenneth.sicard@umassmed.edu
Webmaster	Dan Downey	
	Emily Troiano	emily.troiano@gmail.com

- 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:

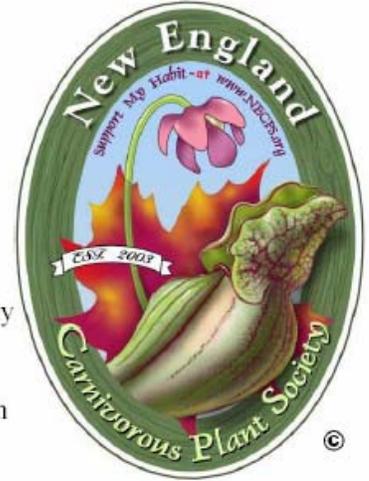
<http://www.NECPS.org>



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