



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

**March 2010 Newsletter**

**NECPS's March 2010 Meeting will be held on**

**SATURDAY March 13<sup>TH</sup> 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

Is spring finally here?

Hopefully yes, but we all know that spring in New England is often a season of starts and stops, with just about any and all weather imaginable in the months of March and April. But unlike February (which is the LONGEST month of the year in New England for a gardener, no matter what the calendar might say) March always has hints, days that tease us and let us know that warmer weather is not that far away.

The renewing of life, growth and it seems the world in our gardens and plants. In my case, even plants that grow under lights in the basement seem to know spring is upon us, and start growing better and faster. Some under the lights have gone dormant, and these too know that spring is here, and show new life. And the plants that I've worked on to get them to simply survive in any nook or window in my house sense that the warm weather will soon be with us, and start to show more life. I'll see a new pitcher on a Nepenthes, or faster growth on a sundew. Butterworts go from small winter rosettes to sending out flowers and bigger, fuller carnivorous leaves.

We all love to spend more time outside once the weather warms, and so do the plants we enjoy. Already as I write this, plants are in my little greenhouse, with a small heater to help them thru the cold nights we still will have. Other plants go outside on the deck when we have those warmer, 50 or hopefully 60 degree days. And they are responding already with new life and growth.

So it is with the NECPS, a new year of growth. We have new members, new things ahead, new ideas, new events and new people to meet. By the show in September we will have had new experiences with the plants, people and world. And we will have learned more, seen more, and yes, grown more in the knowledge of these plants that bring us together. And hopefully grown in many other ways also.

So let's start the spring off right, let's dive in and start the process of learning and growth, meeting new friends and new plants, seeing and experiencing new things at meetings and events. For like the plants, like the gardens in our lives, the times we spend with the NECPS in spring comes back with wonderful times and memories all year long.

See you all at the March meeting!

John Phillip, Jr.

# **NECPS Program: March 13<sup>th</sup> 2010**

## **“How to Bring Plants out of Dormancy & Round-table Q&A”**

John Phillip will give a hands-on demonstration of how to bring plants out of dormancy , followed by a round-table Q&A where members will have the opportunity to ask more experienced growers any questions on their mind regarding CPs. This is a great opportunity to learn the secrets to others' success!

### **Other business:**

- There will be plants on display and a silent auction.
- Shaun Montminy will discuss the NECPS participation in the upcoming Boston (Blooms!) 2010 Flower Show.

## **New Members**

### **CP Tidbit for March**

#### **“Plants Outside in the snow!?!?”**

March can be a strange weather month in Southern New England. Heavy deep snows can be followed by days in the 50's and even higher. Winds can be strong and violent one night and the sky sunny and calm the next morning. But there are opportunities to get our plants going and growing, letting them enjoy the days and weather as much as we enjoy the rebirth of the plants and the world around us.

No matter how much you try in the winter, watering is not the same as when plants are outside in summer. The plants never really get that all over soaking in winter's dark days, and January or February dew points can get to single digits inside a home. Definitely NOT what out plants want and enjoy! But often March ( and sometimes late February) offer us some good soaking rainy days with temps in the mid 40's and above, and those days can be perfect for bringing come of the CP's out for a good long soak and wash.

Here in Narragansett in Southern RI, I've already had my hanging Nepenthes outside for a good long soak. NOT in the recent snow storm, but before that we had a day and night of a good long soaking rain with temperatures in the upper 30's and mid 40's. My nepenthes enjoyed the night outside in the rain and looked so much better once they got a good soaking surrounded by that high humidity.

Some tips on how to handle plants outside in EARLY spring:

- Place plants outside in less than full sun! March sun is at same angle as September sun, and some of the more tender plants can burn. But the sun is more forgiving now than it will be in April and May when plants can burn faster.

- Watch the weather and get the details. I use the weather underground site (<http://www.weatherunderground.com> ) and I check the expected temps on the hourly basis, so I have a good idea just how cold it will be. It has not failed me as of yet !
- Use common sense, the plants that can go outside are those that do handle some cooler temperatures. I'd not go sticking a *Nepenthes ampullaria* or *N. gracilis* outside yet, but I would not think twice about putting some of the intermediate growers outside. Learn about your plants, where they came from and where they grow naturally, and you'll see which can go outside.
- Don't forget to bring them in!!! It sounds simple, but yes I have lost a plant or more over the years when I forgot I'd put one somewhere outside. Now I put all my plants in one area, not spread out, so I know where they are, and I know when they are all, ALL brought in.
- Take advantage of the time and check your plants! I occasionally find a bug or more when I am moving the plants, as I am seeing the plants from an angle I have not seen all winter while they grew inside. And this is a good time to start 'spring cleaning', removing the dead and discolored leaves that might have shown up.
- Don't pass up a simple sunny day and warm evening even without rain. It is much easier and better for plants to get a soaking outside, with the water running all over, than to water plants inside. I'll take advantage of a warm string of days to get plants outside and give them a few soakings with the hose. They always seem to perk up from getting that really good watering.
- ENJOY! I often feel like I am cheating winter when I put my plants outside on the deck, and pour a soda or make a snack and sit under them on the bench on my deck, soaking in the first of the sun's warm rays for spring. For just as much as the plants, we want and need that warmth and sun. Never forget the words of Kahlil Gibran "Forget not that the earth delights to feel your bare feet and the winds long to play with your hair."

With a little care and forethought, you can take advantage of the first warm days of spring, for both yourself and your plants.

~John Phillip, Jr.

## **Secretary's Minutes**

**February 13, 2010 — Attendance (Meeting): unknown**

### **Meeting Notes:**

- I did not keep minutes at the February meeting as was not present.

~Ken Sicard

## **Events of Note**

**Devan Parker** has the following information to share:

**Update on the NECPS collaboration with Tower Hill botanic Garden**

Well, the second in our series of three classes at Tower Hill Botanic Garden took place on February 21. Fortunately as with Dwight and Don's "carnivorous plants for kids" program in January, this one was also a great success. We saw some repeat visitors from the first class as well as many new faces. Even with the \$15 per child fee, twenty children were signed up. Adding in their parents we had almost forty pre-registered people in attendance. Many families had to be turned away from pre-registering because the class was already full! A few of these folks showed up on the day of the class any way just to see if they could sit in and watch, which they did.

Ken Siccard and I put on this "learn to feed carnivorous plants" program. We started with a short slide show teaching the kids about why plants eat bugs as well as how VFTs, sundews, Sarrs, and Nepenthes catch their prey. Next, using a few plants kindly on loan from the University of Connecticut EEB greenhouses, we let the kids see Cps catch bugs. They watch venus fly traps close on crickets, flightless fruit flies get stuck on sundews and got to toss crickets into Nepenthes pitchers and watch them drown. The Nepenthes were the stars of the show. The children had tremendous fun feeding them and were fascinated watching the crickets try to escape! At the end of the class everyone learned how to care for the VFT that each child was taking home.

Due to it's popularity Anne Marie Pilch, children's education coordinator at tower Hill, liked the idea of trying to repeat this program some time this summer. Though we would like to make one major change to the program if it is repeated, we will need more people to help so we can have more than one CP feeding station. The children all want to get a front seat on the action but with 20 kids and one table full of plants this is rather difficult. It would work better to have four or five NECPS member each running separate CP feeding stations simultaneously with only a few kids at each.

To do this we will need volunteers from the society to run the CP feeding stations. You need not be an expert for this, if you like working with kids and showing them how cool it is to feed CPs you are just right. Also you should not be afraid of crickets crawling every where! To our younger members specifically, even if you still consider your self a kid we would love to have you help out by running one of the feeding stations. Your parent(s) are welcome to sit in on the class, help you run the CP feeding station or just spend time walking around the Botanic Garden. We will review with everyone what to do and say, you won't just be thrown into it.

FYI: there will not be an NECPS meeting at Tower Hill on the day of this program.

If you are interested in helping out or have questions please e-mail me. The program will most likely take place on a weekend in May, June or July and last for an hour. I do not need firm commitments now, just to know you are interested and willing to help. Once I know there is enough interest from the membership we can try to work out the best date for us and Tower Hill.

Thank you,  
Devan Parker  
[willowpro@aol.com](mailto:willowpro@aol.com)

## **Nursery / Mail Orders**

- Charlie MacDonald is organizing an NECPS group order for plants from Mike King, Shropshire Sarracenias. <http://www.mikeking64.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk/ssar/homepage.htm>.
- Here is a message from Charlie regarding details of the order:

This past spring I placed an order with Mike King, of Shropshire Sarracenia in the UK. He has a great listing of plants, and I wanted to check him out.

I sent him all my permit info, etc, and the plants arrived in BEAUTIFUL condition, with no issues, right to my door. His prices aren't bad and he has a huge variety.

I'm preparing to put in an order for this Spring. Right now he's dividing up his plants, and will set aside plants for larger orders with priority over smaller orders, so if we give him a wish list, based on the plants he had for sale last year, he will do what he can to fill it.

Unfortunately, the inspection price went up from L7 to L59 (I don't have the 'pounds' symbol on my keyboard, sorry). The bigger order I can place, the better we can spread that price out among the plants.

I figure we can spread the inspection fee around based on the percentage of NUMBER of plants (ie: if you order half the plants, you pay half the fee). The shipping can be spread across the dollar amount (figuring that larger plants cost more, and also cost more to ship, so if someone order 3 small plants, they won't pay as much for shipping as someone who ordered 3 large plants). I'm open to other suggestions.

I'm attaching a spreadsheet of his price list from last year. I THINK it's pretty accurate, but please compare it to the price list at <http://www.mikeking64.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk/ssar/homepage.htm> to verify the prices on the items you are interested in.

I'd like to get this to him as soon as possible, like maybe mid-January, so please let me know if you are interested in ordering anything, and what. I do NOT have a permit to import endangered stuff, I don't think (the permit process sounds very specific, but they end up being pretty vague), so no oreophilas or endangered rubras.

Remember the prices on the spreadsheet are in Pounds, not dollars. the last I checked, 1 L = 1.62 \$, or something like that. You can google exchange rates to get the most up-to-date one. That is subject to change up until I place the order, of course.

I am happy to handle the money part of things. I'll need payment for plants up front, and then we'll figure out shipping once we get a final number from Mike.

I can't tell you how impressed I was with his plants he shipped me, and I can't wait to place another order. Please contact me if you have any questions.

- **If you have questions, please contact Charlie at: [farkie62@hotmail.com](mailto:farkie62@hotmail.com)**

~ 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 2010 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 2010

Meeting Date	Location/Program
January 9	Tower Hill Botanical Center
February 13	“Nepenthes Cuttings” RWP Botanical Center
March 13	“Powerpoint presentation” RWP Botanical Center
April 10	Dormancy & Q&A RWP Botanical Center
May 8	TBA RWP Botanical Center
June 12	TBA RWP Botanical Center
July “x” (date TBD)	Bog Walk (no official meeting)
August “x” (date TBD)	Blackjungle (cookout)
September 11	RWP Botanical Center Annual Show Discussion
September 25-26	8 <sup>th</sup> Annual NECPS Show (RWP Botanical Center)
October 9	RWP Botanical Center Post-Show Discussion
November 13	RWP Botanical Center TBA
December 11	RWP Botanical Center Annual Holiday Party

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  
Vice President  
Secretary & Newsletter Editor

John Phillip, Jr.  
Emily Troiano  
Ken Sicard

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Membership Secretary  
Treasurer  
Librarian  
Nursery / Mail Orders  
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- NECPS website: [www.necps.org](http://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](mailto: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

## NECPS Library Inventory

Last updated 10/05/2009

Title	Media	Author	Donated by
Lost Worlds 2 DVD set (copy)	DVD	Redfern Natural History Productions Limited	John Phillip, Jr.
Carnivorous Plants of the World	Book	James and Patricia Pietropaolo	Shaun Montminy
Gardening with Carnivores	Book	Nick Romanowski	Shaun Montminy
Growing Carnivorous Plants	Book	Barry A. Rice	Shaun Montminy
cryptozoo crew	Magazine	allan gross & jerry carr	Dave Sackett
Pitcher Plants of the Americas (softcover)	Book	Stewart McPherson	Shaun Montminy
Pitcher Plants of the Americas (hardcover)	Book	Stewart McPherson	John Phillip, Jr.
The Nature and Properties of Soils	Book	Nyle C. Brady	Bob Rafka
ICPS Newsletters, multiple	Magazine	Random authors	Shaun Montminy
Venus Flytraps, Bladderworts, and Other Wild and Amazing Plants	Book	Monica Halpen, National Geographic Science Chapters	Black Jungle???
ICPS Newsletters, Apr 1972 - Dec 2006 (copy)	CD	Random authors	Don Gallant
Little Shop of Horrors (DVD) copy	DVD	Warner Home Video	Shaun Montminy
The Curious World of Carnivorous Plants	Book	Wilhelm Barthlott, Stefan Porembski	Black Jungle???
Death Trap (copy)	DVD	Nature	Shaun Montminy
Hungry Plants (grades 2-3)	Kids book	Mary Batten, Step into Reading	Black Jungle
Hungry Plants (grades 2-3)	Kids book	Mary Batten, Step into Reading	Black Jungle
Glistening Carnivores	Book	Stewart McPherson	Stewart McPherson???
The Savage Garden	Book	Peter D ' Amato	Shaun Montminy
Lost Worlds of the Guiana Highlands	Book	Stewart McPherson	Stewart McPherson???
Pitcher Plants of the Old World Volume One	Book	Stewart McPherson	Stewart McPherson
Pitcher Plants of the Old World Volume Two	Book	Stewart McPherson	Stewart McPherson
Allen Lowrie - Scientific papers/photos, Oct 2008, CP Presentations at ICPS Conference - Sydney Sep 2008	CD (copy)	Allen Lowrie	Kenneth Sicard
Lost Worlds 2 DVD set (original) not to be taken out	DVD	Redfern Natural History Productions Limited	John Phillip, Jr.
ICPS Newsletters, Apr 1972 - Dec 2006 (original)	CD	Random authors	Don Gallant
Little Shop of Horrors (original) not to be taken out	DVD	Warner Home Video	Shaun Montminy
Death Trap (original) not to be taken out	DVD	Nature	Shaun Montminy
Allen Lowrie - Scientific papers/photos, Oct 2008, CP Presentations at ICPS Conference - Sydney Sep 2008	CD (original)	Allen Lowrie	Kenneth Sicard