



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

**November 2010 Newsletter**

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

**SATURDAY November 13 at 12:30pm at:**

**Roger Williams Park Botanical Center  
1000 Elmwood Avenue  
Providence, RI**

<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:**

November is a funny time of year for the plant grower. We put our gardens and temperate plants to bed, and move our tropicals inside to weather a winter of low light and temperatures. And we have time to think of the Holidays ahead, and the long month of February to get past (I HONESTLY believe that February is the longest month of the year for a New England Gardener!), and maybe we can even think briefly of spring. But the NECPS provides plenty of things to keep us busy!

This month we have a program on how to stratify and grow temperate seeds. The coming meeting will be informative and needed if you want to start temperates from seed. Next month, at December's meeting, we will have the long anticipated "Yankee Swap" and holiday party – always a good time. So while the plants may not be growing as well as we would like, we have a chance to get together and at least think and talk about the plants we enjoy growing, with people we enjoy being with.

Take some time before the Holiday Madness. Take some time to learn more about these plants we enjoy, and take time to relax and be with friends. Bring a few plants to show off, and take the time to help others grow plants that you can successfully grow. And let's just have fun.

See you ALL at the November meeting, before the holiday madness!

Namaste

John Phillip, Jr  
President and Founder

## **New Members**

Welcome to these new members since September:

**David and Kristin Card, David Craig, Jonathan Kui, Ryan Maciel, Francis McGeever, Louise Oczkowski, and Ethan Shankar!**

## **NECPS Program: November 13th, 2010, at 12:30 PM**

### **Stratification: Starting Temperate Plants from Seed**

Winter is a time for growing some cold growing species of plants, but it is also a time to start thinking about enlarging collections and starting plants from seed. Many of the temperate growing Carnivorous Plants produce seeds that benefit from a period of STRATIFICATION in order to germinate in the warm spring.

**What is stratification, how do we do it, what seeds need it? The November program will look at all these things and members will be able to take some planted seeds home to grow.**

NOTE: if anyone has seeds for temperate growing carnivorous plants that they would like to share please bring them to the meeting. The NECPS will supply pots, potting media and some seeds (but we can always use more seeds!)

Look forward to a lively discussion on stratification of seeds, including ways to do this with large quantities of seeds

## **Grow Tidbit for November: Collecting and Germinating Pygmy Sundew Gemmae**

Gemma production makes pygmy sundews a cinch to propagate. Each year, as the photoperiod and temperature decrease, the tightly-packed hairs at the center of each pygmy sundew rosette open up to reveal tens to hundreds of small, scale-like brood bodies. These germinate readily into new plants. Here are some tips for collecting and sowing gemmae.

### **Collecting Methods**

Each little brood body is spring-loaded with a tightly coiled hair, and can propel itself up to three feet from the mother plant! To stop gemmae from getting all over your house and germinating in unwanted places, here are a few collecting techniques.

- **The Toothpick Method:** Take a pointed object and gently separate the gemmae, trying not to press directly on top of them (pressing on top activates the spring). Start by prizing free the gemmae on the outside, then gradually moving inward on each crown.
- **The Upside-Down Method:** This method, if possible, is much faster. Turn the pot upside-down over a piece of damp paper towel. Using a finger, toothpick, or other object, push down on the gemmae crown and activate the spring mechanism. The gemmae will fall out and stick to the paper towel.

- **The Moist Fingertip Method:** This method works well with some species, but not so well with others. With a moist fingertip, put a gentle downwards pressure on the gemma crown. If you are lucky, all the gemmae will release and stick to your finger. If you are not so lucky, some will explode outwards. Putting the pygmy pot in a box will stop the gemmae on the sides from getting all over the room. With this method, you must be careful not to accidentally squish any of the gemmae, or worse, the mother plant!

### Germinating Your Gemmae

In the wild, Pygmy sundews grow in very sandy soils. A 2:3 peat : sand ratio works well for germination. I like to top-dress my germination pots with pure sand to prevent molds from forming on the surface. If you decide to do this, do not pack the sand on top too tightly – make sure their roots can still dig in.

After preparing the pot, sprinkle the gemmae on top of the soil. If you want, you can make patterns or even words with them, since plants will grow wherever you place the gemmae. Place the pot in about ½ inch of standing water, and mist the gemmae very lightly every day until they get their first leaves (the first ones that have tentacles.)

I have had gemmae germinate even in dark, windowsill conditions, but they will be more colorful with more light. Within about six months, your gemmae will be fully mature plants.





Above: *Drosera roseana* rosettes opening gemma crowns at their centers, grown on a windowsill.

Below: 5-week-old *Drosera roseana* plantlets, grown under fluorescent lights.



### **Secretary's Minutes:**

Unfortunately there are no secretary's minutes for this month. The secretary position is still unoccupied.

## 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

## Program Outline for 2010

Meeting Date	Location/Program
November 13	RWP Botanical Center/Seed Stratification
December 11	RWP Botanical Center/Annual Holiday Party

## NECPS Officers and Contact Information:

President	John Phillip, Jr.	johnatthebeach@cox.net
Vice President	Emily Troiano	Emily.troiano@gmail.com
Secretary	Position currently empty	
Membership Secretary	Margie Matteson	Janu10@cox.net
Treasurer	Dave Sackett	Bid2win1@yahoo.com
Librarian	Don Gallant	d.gallant89@gmail.com
Webmaster	Dan Downey	webmaster@necps.org
Newsletter Editor	Ben DeMeo	30howland@gmail.com

**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!

Any member wishing to check out any NECPS library materials must present a valid membership number. 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 have 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.

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