

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

February 2008 Newsletter

NECPS's February 2008 Meeting will be held on

SATURDAY February 9TH 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."

NECPS Program: February 9th 2008

“The Cultivation of Heliamphora”

This month’s meeting program is “The Cultivation of Heliamphora” presented by NECPS Treasurer, Dave Sackett.

Heliamphora is the only genus of pitcher plants native to South America and are related to Sarracenia and Darlingtonia. Their pitchers have a beautiful simplicity but it’s a shame that their cultivation is not as simple! Their native habitat—the tepuis or tabletop mountains—are exotic and many have not been fully explored. The unusual geology, ecology, and climate found on the tepuis may be partially responsible for the difficulties people encounter when trying to grow these plants indoors.

If you want to grow these plants but are afraid to try or if you’ve unsuccessfully tried to grow these plants, this month’s program is for you! Come and learn Dave’s secrets to growing healthy Heliamphora.

Other business:

- There will be plants on display and a silent auction.
- We will have a brief discussion about a possible visits to the New York Botanical Gardens and the UConn greenhouses.

New Members

- We welcomed 17 new members in 2007. Let’s hope we grow even more in 2008!

CP Tidbit for February

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 12, 2008 — Attendance (Meeting): 37

Meeting Notes:

- We discussed the NECPS plant display at the upcoming NESFS.
- We discussed details regarding the upcoming Rhode Island and Connecticut Flower shows. The RI Flower Show will take place February 21-24 at the Rhode Island Convention Center—visit www.flowershow.com for more information. The CT Flower Show will take place February 21-24 at the Connecticut Convention Center—visit www.ctflowershow.com for more information.

~Ken Sicard

Events of Note

- Members who are loaning plants for display at the New England Spring Flower Show should bring the plants to the next meeting so that we can do a practice setup.

Nursery / Mail Orders

- There are no current nursery orders in progress. Please contact the Nursery/Mail Order Coordinator with any suggestions.

~ 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 2008 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 2008

Meeting Date	Location/Program
January 13	RWP Botanical Center Nepenthes Cuttings
February 19	RWP Botanical Center How to Grow Heliamphora
March 8	Logee's Greenhouse Tour
April 12	RWP Botanical Center (program undetermined)
May 10	RWP Botanical Center (program undetermined)
June 14	RWP Botanical Center (program undetermined)
June "x" (date TBD)	Bogwalk with the RIWPS Walk
July "x" (date TBD)	Great Swamp Bog Walk (no official meeting)
August 9	Blackjungle (cookout)
September 13	RWP Botanical Center Annual Show Discussion
September 27-28	6 th Annual NECPS Show (RWP Botanical Center)
October 11	RWP Botanical Center Post-Show Discussion
November 8	RWP Botanical Center (program undetermined)
December 13	RWP Botanical Center Annual Holiday Party

- 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
Membership Secretary
Treasurer
Librarian
Nursery / Mail Orders
Webmasters

John Phillip, Jr.
Priscilla Purinton
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Shaun Montminy
Dave Sackett
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- 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:

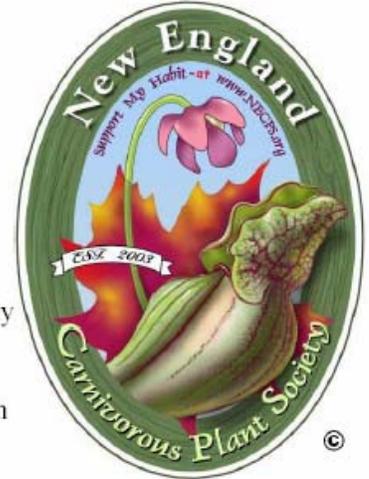
<http://www.NECPS.org>



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 World	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