



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

October 2010 Newsletter

NECPS's October 2010 Meeting will be held on

SATURDAY October 9 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."

~ Important Announcement: Vote to restore a Virginia Pitcher Plant bog to its full beauty! ~

Meadowview Biological Research Station is in the running for \$50,000 of funding from Pepsi's Refresh Everything project. They hope to use the funding to purchase and restore a bog in Virginia, preserving the *Sarracenia purpurea* population living there. You can help save these amazing plants by voting daily for the month of October. We need all the votes we can get!

Please vote at:

<http://www.refresheverything.com/meadowviewcarnivorousplantrestoration>

President's Message:

WE DID IT AGAIN!!

WE DID IT AGAIN!!

Yes everyone, we did it again. Once again we set a new record for attendance and for the quality of the show! Once again we amazed more people with more plants than ever before! Once again we had the largest attendance at the Roger Williams Park Botanical Gardens for any weekend ever! And once again, we put on a spectacular show and we ALL had a wonderful time!

Each show I try to spend time talking with the visitors who attend to see what they liked, if they enjoyed the show, and what they learned about our society. I did not speak to any person or group that was disappointed in coming to our event. I think I heard more "WOW"s than ever before. I watched as people read – and STUDIED! -- The educational information that we had out. How many of you saw the visitors pick up the laminated species sheets to read them completely? At one point I actually saw people waiting to read them when, waiting for the person ahead of them to put the sheet down so they could read. And the kids! The parents and the kids examined the plants, talking about them and learning about them. Both the old and the young were amazed together over something they had never before seen or imagined.

On a personal note, it was wonderful to watch the members of the society interact with visitors and each other -- Members taking pictures of plants they enjoyed, explaining the workings of a pitcher plant or sundew, or just sitting and watching and enjoying. We saw the pleasure we all took in a job well done, and enjoyed the visitors as much as the plants. We have our work cut out for us for next year -- can we do it yet again?

I heard ideas from many members of how we could do even better, tweak this, add that, or change something. When the show goes well, as it did this year, it compels us to make it even better. We will continue to make this show the

highlight of our year, and the best show around for those who love carnivorous plants.

Thank you ALL for the hard work you put in, the time, the energy. Thank you all for making this the best NECPS Fall Carnivorous Plant Show ever!

Namaste,

John Phillip, Jr.
NECPS
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!

Announcement: Introducing Our New Membership Secretary

Marge Matteson has agreed to take over the important position of Membership Secretary. We ALL thank Shaun Montminy for the hard work he put in as the previous Membership Secretary and wish Marge the best.

Marge is currently working on updating the lists in a way that works best for her and her computer system.

We are asking all NECPS members to please email Marge with the current email address and name of the society members. If you have a family membership please include all family members and email addresses. This will help GREATLY with the transition process.

**Thank you
John Phillip, Jr.**

NECPS Program: October 9th, 2010, at 12:30 PM Dormancy Discussion and Bog Planting

The October meeting will feature a double program

First we will have a short discussion on

Dormancy: "Putting plants to bed for the winter"

This is always an interesting and VERY important topic as more plants are lost in dormancy than at any other time. We will ask members for their own successful methods of getting plants through the winter.

On a personal note I have to say that I have learned GREATLY over the years from this meeting in particular and have saved MANY plants thanks to the ideas and discussions brought out in this meeting.

Please attend with your ideas and questions.

Part two of the meeting will be a Bog Planting.

We are still waiting to make sure the newly renovated Bog at the Botanical Gardens has settled enough to plant. We have every reason to expect the bog will be plantable and will be planted at this meeting.

Please Dress Accordingly. The society will provide implements of destruction (shovels and trowels) and we need the members to provide the peoplepower.

The bog is an important part of the NECPS and we ask any and all interested members to attend.

Grow Tips for October: Taking Venus flytrap Leaf Pullings

By: Emily Troiano

This is a great time of year to find Venus Flytraps for sale at supermarkets and hardware stores. Some stores will get large shipments in for Halloween. After one of our annual shows, I bought one of these VFTs for a few dollars, and decided to experiment with propagating it.

When I got home, I uprooted the plant. I think the VFT rhizome looks sort of like a head of garlic. Each leaf is connected to a "clove". By pulling downwards on each leaf, I was able to separate it from the plant, along with its piece of white rhizome. I did this for every single leaf on the plant.

Then, I simply put all the leaves in a dish of distilled water, covered it with plastic wrap, and left it in a warm terrarium. If the water evaporated, I gently added more. Eventually the leaves started turning brown and ugly. But after a month or two...just when I was about to give up...green growth started to appear!

Once these new plants started to grow, I added long-fibered sphagnum to the bottom of the tray and removed the plastic wrap. I allowed the leaves to settle into the sphagnum as the water evaporated over the course of weeks. I kept this sphagnum constantly wet.

By spring, the plantlets had grown and started to produce traps:



When I transplanted them, I was surprised to find that there were LOTS of plants in this 5" x 5" container:



In all, there were 49 baby VFTs...from one original plant!



Forty-nine Venus flytraps! There were plenty to keep, as well as plenty to give away. Friends and neighbors who were fascinated by my carnivorous plants got to take home their own. There were also plenty of plants to donate at the next annual show. One of the great joys of our hobby is being able to share these plants with one another. This was a simple, inexpensive way to not only increase my own collection, but to allow dozens of other people to grow a carnivorous plant. I encourage you to give it a try!

Secretary's Minutes:

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

Additional Items:

Silent Auction and Display Tables

The strength of the NECPS is the membership, but what bring us together are the plants. When the Society started we always had plants on display and plants that people offered for silent auction. In the past few months we have seems to overlook these important parts of the meetings. There have been few plants on display at some meetings, and fewer for the silent auction.

Three of the main purposes of starting the NECPS were for members to see plants they had never seen, learn to grow plants they had never grown, and diversify and expand their own private collections. The display tables and silent auction are important parts of this. When we see new plants, even small plants, we learn more about them and their culture, how to grow them. Also, the silent auction helps defray the cost of the meetings by supplying the society with some money.

I'm asking all members to help us 'return to our roots' and bring plants as often as possible for both display and auction. This is what brings us all together with the plants we love.

How the silent auction works:

- Donating Members bring in any plants or plant material (seeds, cuttings, or plants) and fill out the brief form with the plant name and any information they feel is important.

- Members can donate the full auction price to the Society or take any amount (up to full amount) back when the plant is sold. This is stated on the form.
- During the meeting the membership will have a chance to bid on the plants. All members will have equal opportunity to bid on plants.
- When the bidding period is over the presiding officer will announce that bidding is closed and the members will check to see if they have the high bid.
- Members who successfully high bid on a plant should then take the plant and the form to the Treasurer for payment.
- It is never a bad idea to see who donated the plant, thank them for their donation to the silent auction, and ask about any special cultural practices the plant needs.
- Once you have the plant home and growing well, propagate that plant or bring in seeds for a future Silent Auction. THIS IS THE CIRCLE OF GIVING AND LIFE!

November Meeting Program: **How To Stratify Seeds**

Do you think the winter is quiet when it comes to growing plants? Think about the Dormancy issues and what can happen to plants not put to bed well. Cold and water together can damage or kill plants not put into dormancy correctly.

However, Cold and moisture together also work wonders on the seeds of plants that grow in our area. The process of giving seeds a period of cold, wet conditions is called...

STRATIFICATION.

Most seeds of temperate growing plants benefit from a period of stratification. Sundews, Sarracenia, and Venus Flytraps all do much better when given a period of cold, wet weather in winter.

In this meeting, we will discuss different ways to stratify and will all stratify some seeds of our own and go home with pots ready to grow in the spring. Members may bring some of their own seeds, and some seeds will be provided by the NECPS.

If you bring your own seeds please bring enough to share with other people if possible.

Come to the meeting and go home with plants to grow in spring!

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 |
|--------------|---|
| October 9 | RWP Botanical Center/Post-show discussion |
| 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 |
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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? _____

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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