



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

**December 2010 Newsletter**

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

**SATURDAY December 11 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."*

**Notice:** All membership dues not paid since the September show or earlier must be paid by January.

## **President's Message:**

The NECPS and all of its members have a great opportunity right now! The International Carnivorous Plant Society is looking for a site and group to host the 2012 ICPS Conference. It should be held somewhere in the USA that year, according to their alternating hosting schedule. The NECPS has a wonderful opportunity to host this major event in the Carnivorous Plant World.

We already host the most successful Carnivorous Plant show on the East coast each year, but this conference would be a bigger deal even than that. There will be speakers, sponsors, and maybe displays. It involves much more in terms of scope and prior arrangements than anything we have ever done. It needs the help of all the members if it is to be done smoothly and well. We cannot offer to do this unless we are committed to put every bit of effort possible into it to make it a huge success.

I honestly believe that the NECPS can pull this off. But **EVERYBODY** must help and work on this to make it a reality. Without everyone's help, all of the work involved could overwhelm us with too much work and effort. We must start work now on a proposal to the ICPS to show them that we can do this better than anybody else. And we'll need to work on it all together to get it right.

We have the dedicated members to do this, and do it well. In the newsletter this month you'll find an excerpt from an email that came from one of the sponsors of the last ICPS show. This will give us all an idea of what is to come. **WE NEED VOLUNTEERS NOW** to start working on the proposal. We will discuss this and start the process at the December meeting. I hope as many of you can come as possible to take part in the discussion, and the wonderfully popular Annual Yankee Swap!

**A Happy Holiday Season to All!**

Namaste

John Phillip, Jr.  
President and Founder  
NECPS

## **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: December 11, 2010, at 12:30 PM Annual Holiday Party and Yankee Swap!**

The programs for the December meeting will be two parts

First we will be discussing and starting the process of putting together a proposal to the ICPS for hosting the 2012 ICPS Conference. We will be asking for volunteers for a committee to work on the proposal first and planning secondly. THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT and we ask members to consider this carefully

The second part of the program will be the highly anticipated...

### **Annual Christmas Yankee Gift Swap!**

Members are asked to bring a plant related gift, wrapped, valued at about \$10 ( or more if you'd like) Some of the hot items over the years were:

- the first NECPS knit winter caps which changed hands several times
- Cephalotus
- Nepenthes singalana
- Nepenthes hamata
- propagation heat mat (snagged from Wild Bill at the last minute by Priscilla...)
- Emily's handmade winter nepenthes cap

Anyone and everyone who brings a gift can take part in the wonderful fun of the Yankee swap. This is one of the best events of the year and everyone is encouraged to take part.

For those who have never attended a Yankee swap, all you need to do to participate is bring a gift wrapped carnivorous-plant-related gift.

In addition, there will be a clearance sale this month on all unsold NECPS clothing!

### ***Rules for the Yankee swap:***

Gifts will be arranged on a gift table.

All society members who bring a gift will draw numbers out of a hat.

The first person (#1) will pick the gift of their choice and open it. All members will OOOOHH and AAAAHHHHH!

The second person will choose and open a gift from the table. That person has the choice of keeping the gift or swapping with any gift that has been already taken. The same procedure will apply to subsequent numbers.

When the last person has finalized their choice of a gift, the first person has the option of swapping their gift with anyone!

You never know what will happen, or what you may end up with till the very end! So, everyone, please bring a plant related wrapped gift and join in the Yankee swap!

**In addition, members are encouraged to bring some food for the meeting if they desire. The Society will supply sandwiches, better munchies and food for the meeting, along with soda and water. But please feel free to bring something for the members, especially desserts!**

### **Grow Tidbit for December: Coffee For *Nepenthes***

By Emily Troiano ([Emily.troiano@gmail.com](mailto:Emily.troiano@gmail.com))

Coffee is simply amazing stuff. It is the third most popular drink in the world, after water and tea. It contains caffeine, a mild stimulant, which has been credited with making the modern world possible. As workers moved from the field to factories, schedules that once were based on the sun were now based on a clock. Coffee helped make this new work schedule possible. In our fast-paced, 24-hour, global modern society, coffee and caffeinated beverages are more popular than ever. As some of you know, I am in the process of writing my Master's thesis; this of course means I drink coffee by the gallon. But did you know that coffee can also help our plants grow?

Something we all learned when we started growing carnivorous plants – CP 101, if you will – is that they do not like to be fertilized. They grow in nutrient-poor soil, such as sphagnum peat bogs, and evolved carnivory as a means to obtain the nutrients that were lacking. This allows them to grow in places where other plants cannot. If we fertilize our carnivorous plants in the same way we fertilize our other plants, the carnivores will die – they cannot handle the relatively high nutrient levels that other houseplants need to thrive.

But as we continued growing and learning about these plants, we learned that there are certain exceptions to the rule. Of course, it's much more fun to feed our plants rather than fertilize them, but there are a couple of genera that

will tolerate very mild fertilizing. Some growers will give their *Nepenthes* diluted orchid fertilizer or slow-release fertilizer pellets. This is an advanced topic – we are now in CP 301 territory. The general rule of thumb seems to be weak, dilute, don't overdo it. Some growers will give their *Nepenthes* diluted orchid fertilizer or slow-release fertilizer pellets. There aren't any fertilizers on the market that are specially formulated for *Nepenthes*, and so carnivorous plant growers have done what we do best...get resourceful!

This brings us back to coffee. Using coffee grounds for mulch is, of course, nothing new. Lots of people add spent grounds to their compost piles, worm culture bins, or garden soil. Coffee grounds hold moisture well and are a source of nitrogen and other nutrients.

Some CP growers have taken this knowledge a step further and recently started experimenting with using brewed, cooled coffee to fertilize their *Nepenthes*. About twice a year, they'll take a pot of cold, leftover, stale coffee and just use it to water their *Nepenthes*, letting the liquid drain through. (Don't add hot coffee to your plants...this will scald and kill them! In fact, boiling water is a handy, non-toxic trick for killing weeds on your driveway or patio.)

Though coffee treatment is a recent trend in the carnivorous plant world, and there hasn't been a lot of controlled experimentation yet, folks are swearing by the results. Live long-fibered sphagnum, which is often used as media for *Nepenthes*, seems to grow very vigorously after a coffee treatment. The healthy sphagnum in turn supports healthy *Nepenthes*. The nitrogen and other nutrients in coffee grounds are present in the brewed coffee, in a weaker, diluted form. These may give a boost to the growing *Nepenthes*.

Coffee is also acidic, and perhaps it conditions the medium in a way that helps support acid-loving *Nepenthes*. Also, caffeine is a natural insecticide. Plants that produce caffeine do so in order to protect themselves from pests. Though most insects are harmless to our plants, maybe, if some unseen pest is munching on the roots, a coffee treatment will help to clear it. Is coffee really helpful to *Nepenthes*, or is it just wishful thinking? Time and experimentation will tell for sure, but there are lots of reasons that it might be worth a try. As for me, the next time I brew a pot for an all-night study session, I think I'll brew an extra cup or two for my *N. x 'Judith Finn'*!

## **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

## 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? \_\_\_\_\_

## 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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