



# Drummond

Volume 3, Issue 1

Spring 2009

- *Conservation through Stewardship* -

## Letter From the Editor – A New Beginning

**Jonathan Treffkorn**

**Director of PR and Education**

Introducing Greg.....pg. 1
Myrtle Head Savanna.....pg. 2
NASC at the NECPS.....pg. 2
Auction Info.....pg. 3
Bobby Weaver.....pg. 3
Auction Item Spotlight.....pg. 4
Growing Program Update...pg. 5
Puzzle Corner.....pg. 6
General Info.....pg. 6

Hello and welcome to the first 2009 issue of the *Drummondii*. The year is still fresh but has been exciting for the NASC. We have been running the Seed Bank, establishing new Board positions, and have been granted 501(c)(3) status. All of this means that the NASC will be better able to serve its members and be more efficient in achieving its goals. I would like to take a moment to thank our exiting Board members, Noah Elhardt, and Mike Howlett for all of their past hard work for the NASC, we hope to work with you both in the future!

In this issue I am proud to spotlight the NASC's newest Board member, Greg Nevels. Also featured is Sheila Stewart and a piece of her artwork which will be found in this year's benefit auction. Also included is info for the coming auction and a piece by Mark Todd on Myrtle Head Savanna and The Nature Conservancy, this year's auction beneficiary.

And so without further ado, I give you the *Drummondii*.

### Greg Nevels

Member At Large



Hello, my name is Greg Nevels. I am currently holding the position of the Member At Large on the NASC board. My first experience with Carnivorous Plants came at a young age, when I purchased an "Amazing Meat Eating Plant" from the novelty section of a comic book. It turned out to be a Venus Flytrap and promptly died due to misinformation. I soldiered on after that, buying plants with their little fish bowl terrariums from mail-order companies and subsequently killing them.

Then one day I saw an ad on the internet from the "Carnivorous Plant Guy" which turned out to be an online nursery called Sarracenia Northwest. I bought their e-book and haven't killed a North American carnivorous plant since (some South American varieties have bitten the dust, though.) I was so overjoyed with my new found talents that I joined every CP discussion group on the internet, including Terra Forums. That is where I met this wonderful group of people who are doing their best to help save what remains of the natural habitat of *Sarracenia*, the North American Pitcher Plant. Their cause is a noble one and I am thrilled to be a part of it. In the seventies the bumper stickers with the slogan "Save the Whales" were everywhere you looked. In the twenty first century we need to make the slogan "Save the *Sarracenia*" just as popular.

## Myrtle Head Savanna

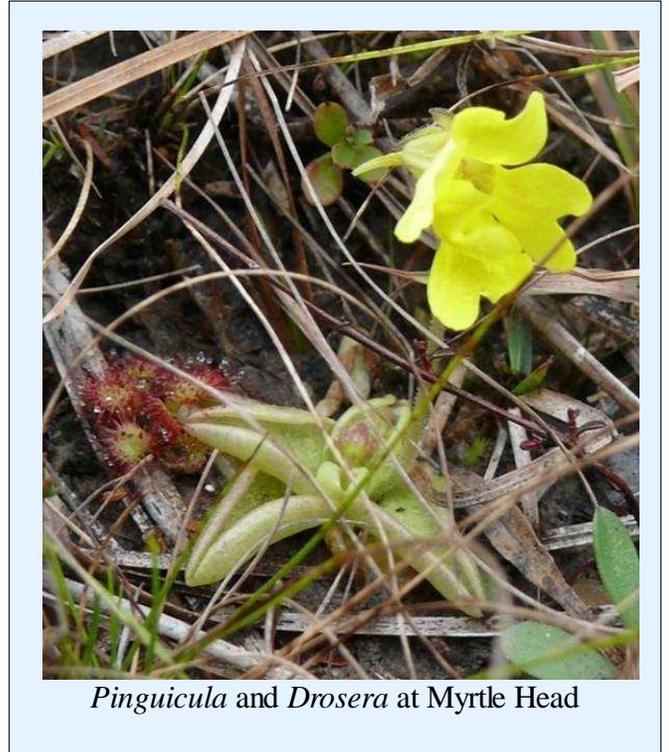
by Mark Todd

Brunswick County, North Carolina is one of the fastest growing counties in the country and one of the best places in the world for carnivorous plants. With a county expanding at such a rapid pace, it is important to protect land before it all gets developed. In the United States, Brunswick County's biodiversity is exceeded only by Florida, making it a vital area for protection. Failure to do so will result in the permanent loss of plants which future generations will never get to enjoy.

Deep in the swamps of Brunswick County is a very special preserve – Myrtle Head Savanna. Myrtle Head Savanna is a seventy two acre wet longleaf pine savanna, which was traditionally part of the Green Swamp. Since 1990 the preserve has been owned and maintained by The Nature Conservancy.

Myrtle Head is home to the largest known population of a federally listed endangered plant, Cooley's meadow-rue (*Thalictrum cooleyi*). There are less than twenty populations of Cooley's meadowrue left in the world. This site has many other rare plants, including wireleaf dropseed (*Sporobolus teretifolius*), a grass known from only about twenty locations in North and South Carolina and Georgia. The preserve is also home to small populations of other globally rare plants, including Carolina grass-of-Parnassus (*Parnassia caroliniana*) and pineland plantain (*Plantago sparsiflora*), each known from about twenty sites, only in the North-East US. The site also has many carnivorous plants including *Pinguicula lutea*, *Drosera intermedia*, *Drosera capillaris*, *Sarracenia purpurea* and *Sarracenia flava*.

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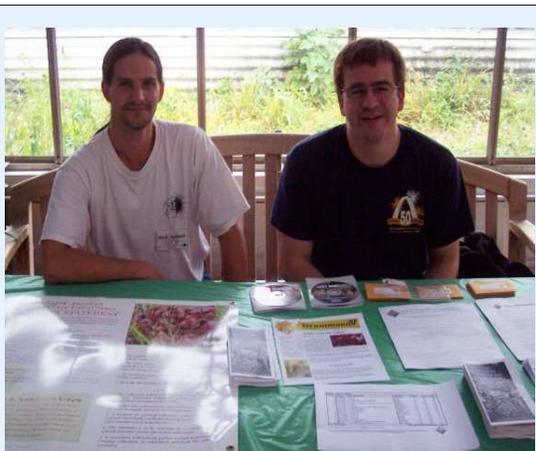


*Pinguicula and Drosera at Myrtle Head*

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## NASC at the NECPS Annual Show

By David Schloat



Board members David Schloat (left) and J.C. Stoner (right) at the '08 NECPS show.

This past September the NASC sent two representatives (David Schloat and J.C. Stoner) to the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual NECPS show in Providence, RI. The show was a huge success, with door-buster attendance. Over Saturday and Sunday over five hundred visitors came through the show doors and were treated to some of the best CP-peeping you can think of.

The NASC took advantage of this concentration of CP enthusiast to promote our cause, educate, and hand out literature. We also welcomed several new members to the organization, some of whom were fortunate enough to avail themselves to our seed bank.

All in all, it was a successful outing for the NASC. We look forward to send representatives again this coming September!

## Myrtle Head Savanna Continued from Page 2

In February 2009 The Nature Conservancy replanted over 500 *Sarracenia purpurea* that were poached the year before. Using prescribed burns, The Nature Conservancy keeps the land open so the rare and carnivorous plants can grow without competition the way they did before man suppressed the natural fires. This is why NASC has decided to use the proceeds from the 2009 auction to help fund the maintenance of this very special savanna.



Bags full of *Sarracenia* during the replanting effort

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## Auction '09



The NASC is pleased to announce that the 6th annual NASC Benefit Auction will be taking place April 11-25 at [www.terraforums.com](http://www.terraforums.com). First we would like to thank Andrew Beauchamp of Terraforums for donating his time and bandwidth to the NASC. Come say “hi” to him on TerraForums (his user name is Adnedarn) or pay his shop a visit at [www.flytrapshop.com](http://www.flytrapshop.com), and thank him.

Past auctions have generated thousands of dollars for the beneficiary, a trend that we hope to continue this year as we support The Nature Conservancy in North Carolina with monies for prescribed burns and site maintenance at Myrtle Head Savanna. 50% of auction proceeds, up to \$1,500, will be granted to The Nature Conservancy *specifically for* burns and maintenance at Myrtle Head Savanna. The rest of the proceeds will go to NASC projects.

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## Bobby Weaver Story: A Different Side of Conservation

*By Brooks Garcia*

Since my fascination with *Sarracenia* began in 2002, it has never ceased to amaze me the interesting people I meet or the fascinating stories I hear. Last August, VERANDA magazine did a story on my obsession with *Sarracenia* and I how came to discover these alluring plants - along with my ensuing friendship with the Wilkerson family. This led to many wonderful phone calls, but one phone call stood out from the rest. A woman who claimed she had them on her property and wanted me to come see them. I hate to sound like a doubting Thomas, but let's just say there have been a few instances where what were supposed to be *Sarracenia* turned out to be Jack-in-the-pulpits or a myriad of other plants. So I called and I have to say Linda Stefan could not have been nicer or more enthusiastic. She insisted I come and see her plants. She certainly lived in the right area, Washington County, Alabama. Well, it took me a year to get around to a trip down. Although I never got to meet Linda I did get to meet her farm manager, Bobby Weaver.

...Continued on page 5

# Featured Auction Item

Wesson, Mississippi resident Sheila Stewart has been engaged in artistic related mediums since her teenage years in Pascagoula, including sewing, ceramics, the fiber arts, pastels, charcoal, pencil, acrylics, and, recently, watercolors.

Sheila only recently began taking formal art courses at Copiah-Lincoln Community College in Wesson, Mississippi. She took drawing classes in 1980 and in 2006 began acrylic classes, then design in 2007, followed by watercolor classes in 2008. Off and on since 1991 she has taken ceramic courses and is currently active in the medium. Her instructors at Copiah-Lincoln include Tom Ross, Janet Smith, Jimmy Jackson and Renee Cotten.

Sheila has also demonstrated the art of tatting in Vicksburg with the Mississippi Crafts Guild and the Manship House Museum in Jackson .

Sheila has exhibited in the juried Starkville Cotton District Arts Festival in 2007 and 2008. She has also exhibited at the Coffee Loft in Fairhope, AL and in several area libraries and businesses.

This year Sheila has painted a 11x15 water color painting for the annual NASC auction entitled "Sarracenia Bog". This piece was painted especially for the NASC auction and is signed and dated by the artist, Mrs. Sheila Stewart. Sheila hopes to be able to donate a painting or other work of art every year for the NASC auction. Her love for *Sarracenia* is apparent in her paintings and she grows several species in mini-bogs at her Wesson, Mississippi residence.



"Sarracenia Bog" by Sheila Stewart  
available at this year's auction

Among her favorite places to visit are Week's Bay Reserve in Alabama, and the Crosby Arboretum in Picayune, Mississippi. Both offer nature walks where several species of carnivorous plants can be found along with other plants and animals that depend on these wetlands to survive.

I have great hopes that one day that my friend Sheila's name will be among the other great Mississippi artists such as Walter Anderson.

Interested in seeing more of Sheila's work? See her website <http://www.colin.edu/shstewart/art/>

The painting can be found in the auction here: <http://terraforums.com/forums/showthread.php?t=117620>

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## 501(c)(3) Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is 501(c)(3) status?

A: 501(c)(3) status means that the NASC is recognized by the Federal Government as a nonprofit organization and has tax exempt status. This means:

- No income tax for the corporation; so more donation funds go to conservation work.
- Certain donations are now tax-deductible

Q: What is the NASC's 501(c)(3) ID number?

A: The NASC's 501(c)(3) EIN is 20-5927625

Q: So what does this mean for the NASC?

A: Many nonprofit groups will not work with a group that does not have 501(c)(3) status; we can look forward to more fruitful partnerships with other like-minded groups.

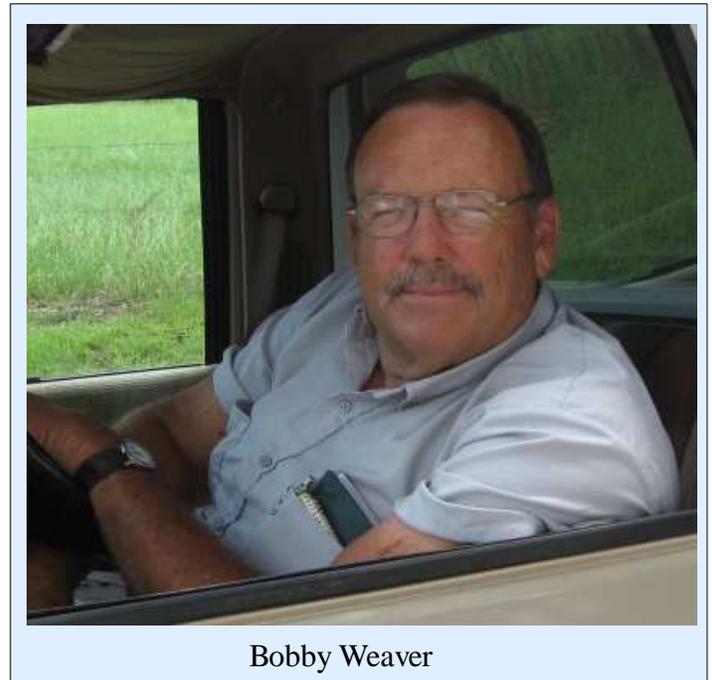
## Bobby Weaver Continued from Page 3

Bobby Weaver is as nice of a man as you would ever want to meet. But what lies behind that soft Southern demeanor is only revealed when you see the sparkle in his eyes as he starts talking about *Sarracenia*. Born in Meridian, MS, Bobby moved to Washington County Alabama and married Carolyn Richardson.

Bobby has done many things in his life to earn a living and one of those was picking *Sarracenia* pitchers. When he was younger, he says, he worked for this man picking pitchers. Bobby saw how it was done and saw room for improvement and expansion so he went out on his own. His wife and two sons helped in the business - and a fine business it was. Quality was of utmost importance. His young sons, 10 and 13 were instructed to pick only one pitcher from each plant and ONLY if it was perfect, no blemishes or spots. Bobby and Carolyn graded the pitchers according to size. They were carefully packed and shipped to California and, in fact, all over the country. Bobby had gotten from the local library a listing of all the florists in the US and called them to see if they would be interested in receiving shipments of pitchers. The answer was a resounding "YES!" Bobby's business thrived. At one point Bobby was shipping to Japan where the demand was high. He had the proper CITES paperwork and had even designed a special box in which to ship TWO pitchers at a time. Bobby's price, \$3 a pitcher.

Now, many of you are cringing at the thought of the wholesale rape of these endangered plants for profit. Remember, this was Bobby's livelihood. This was the goose that laid the golden egg. Bobby began to lease land from local timber companies for the right to harvest. But that was not all - Bobby learned that these plants thrived on fire, not a January or February burn as was typical in this part of the country, but an early August burn that preceded the fall pitcher crop. You see Bobby specialized in *S. leucophylla* pitchers.

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## Updates on the NASC Growing Program

*By J.C. Stoner*

The new board member position, the Administrator of Plant Materials was created for several reasons. It made sense to combine two previous board positions (Head of Distribution and the Head Grower) into an administrative position to not only keep accurate records of all plant material in the NASC collection (including seeds and plants) but to also direct the growing program. Having all of these responsibilities under one administrator makes it easier and more efficient to direct the growing program and ensure that all populations in the NASC collection are properly represented and cared for.

The NASC Seed Bank has been in operation for nearly a year and has delivered dozens of seed packets to NASC members. It is now the charge of NASC to expand the growing program to include more members and have more populations represented in the NASC collection. In the next several years, NASC hopes to deliver seed to members of the growing committee to start more *Sarracenia* from seed and increase the number of plants in the entire collection. The NASC is looking for serious and experienced *Sarracenia* growers to become a part of the Growing Committee team. If you are interested in being a part of the NASC growing program expansion, you can email me at [plantmaterials@nasarracenia.org](mailto:plantmaterials@nasarracenia.org).

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## Growing Program

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Additionally, for the current members of the growing committee: in the coming months NASC will begin distributing *Sarracenia* currently in the growing program to more Growing Committee members. If you are on the Growing Committee and would like to get a jump start by starting *Sarracenia* from seed, please contact me and we can work together to start more populations not currently in the live growing program! Then from there, depending on your willingness to take on more plants and responsibilities (and depending on how much space you are willing to share!) I can distribute more mature and live plants for the upcoming growing season.

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## Bobby Weaver

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At the height of Bobby's business he was cutting 500,000 pitchers a year and managing 5000 acres of pitcher plants. Bobby was in business for 16 years. He never saw a decrease in production. The plants never suffered because he knew just how many to cut so that the plants were never weakened by his harvest. Bobby Weaver and his family were true conservationists, just not in the way we often think.

Bobby will tell you the worst thing to ever happen to the plants is the timber business. The flat plows used to scrape the area for timber production, and in turn destroy the *Sarracenia*, sicken him. The wide use of herbicides and fire suppression also does it's share of damage. Bobby remembers when there were fields of white, just like snow in late August, where the *S. leucophylla* stretched out to the horizon. Most all of that is gone now, just bits and bobs left here and there of a once magnificent sea of white. Bobby does not crop pitchers anymore and the most of the ones that were under his care are long gone now. Standing next to Bobby, he motions to a field dotted with grazing cows. I try to imagine this flat pasture once again covered in *Sarracenia*. Sadly, nothing remains. He smiles wryly and says, "I made more money selling pitchers than these folks are making raising registered Black Angus cattle. I hate to see the plants go. They were precious to me, they were my living."

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## Joining NASC Meetings

To join in on one of our weekly-held meetings, you will need Skype a free service we use to host our meetings. We have decided to migrate from AOL Instant Messenger to Skype earlier this year in an attempt to improve meeting productivity. In addition to the regular text-based chat, Skype supports voice chat for conference calls. If you are interested in attending, email any one of the board members, and you will be added to the meeting roster. If you are online at the time of the meeting you will be invited to participate. Microphones are optional!



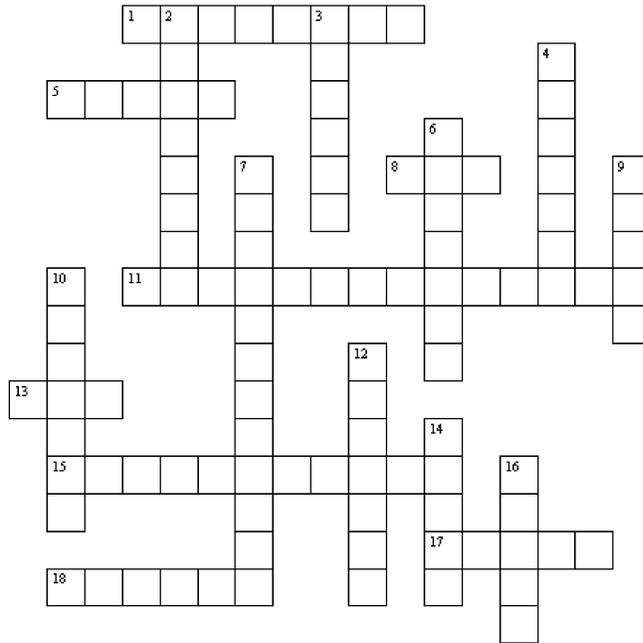
### 2009 Board Meeting Dates

May 14	June 11	July 9	August 13
Sept 10	Oct 8	Nov 12	Dec 10
Jan 14, 2010 Yearly			

Note: To the right is the Board meeting schedule; general meetings are held every Thursday. All meetings are held at 8:00 PM Central and are open to the public. Find the free Skype software at [www.skype.com](http://www.skype.com).

# Puzzle Corner

## Coloring Book



We hope that you enjoy our new feature The Puzzle Corner! If you would like To submit an idea for a *Sarracenia*, carnivorous plant, or conservation piece for next newsletter, contact me at [publicrelations@nasarracenia.org](mailto:publicrelations@nasarracenia.org)

This week's submission is by Arthur Yin. For the solution, see the link below the puzzle.

### ACROSS

- 1 Type of moss
- 5 Scientific Latin for red
- 8 Wetland
- 11 Heliamphora also part of this family
- 13 Wetland
- 15 Scientific Latin for white leaved
- 17 Wetland
- 18 Scientific Latin for notably veined

### DOWN

- 2 Scientific Latin for purple
- 3 Sweet stuff
- 4 Edible part of ginger
- 6 Chemical also found in poison hemlock
- 7 Scientific Latin for red bodied
- 9 Scientific Latin for rose colored
- 10 Scientific Latin for yellowish
- 12 Nature's natural filters
- 14 Wetland
- 16 Scientific Latin for yellow

Find the answers at our website: [http://nasarracenia.org/images/newsletters/cw1\\_answer.jpg](http://nasarracenia.org/images/newsletters/cw1_answer.jpg)

2009 Board of Directors		
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Head of Conservation	Mark Todd	<a href="mailto:conservation@nasarracenia.org">conservation@nasarracenia.org</a>
Admin of Plant Materials	J.C. Stoner	<a href="mailto:plantmaterials@nasarracenia.org">plantmaterials@nasarracenia.org</a>
Member At Large	Greg Nevels	<a href="mailto:atlarge@nasarracenia.org">atlarge@nasarracenia.org</a>
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