



DrummondV

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October 2007

- Conservation through Stewardship -

Letter from the Editor

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Drummondii is the quarterly newsletter of the North American Sarracenia Conservancy. For more information, visit our website: <http://nasarracenia.org>

Noah Elhardt
 Director of PR and Education

As walls of flame approached and swept over community after community in my home state of California this month, thousands of residents fled to family, friends, or evacuation centers in a bid for survival. Meanwhile, a drought lingers over a large part of the southeastern United States. In both locations, people are working together to cope and adapt to reduce losses of lives and property. Our thoughts are with those that have lost their homes.

Plant communities also have to adapted to cope with natural disasters and periods of less-than-ideal conditions. Human activity, however, can stress plant populations beyond the breaking point. In southern California, the chaparral plant community is well adapted to periodic fires. Many plants, in fact, rely on fire to clear brush and make space for new growth. Human activity, however, has greatly altered the frequency and intensity of these fires. In some areas the seedbank that many species rely on for regrowth has not been allowed to replenish between fires, greatly altering plant communities.

How are *Sarracenia* coping with the drought in the southeast? That isn't clear yet. However, the fact that most of their wetland habitat has been destroyed for development makes the remaining fragmented populations much more susceptible to extended periods of drought. Let's use these natural disasters as a reminder of the importance and urgency of our work.

Pitcher Plants in a Bit of a Scrape

I first visited the NASC site coded as AL005 in November 2005. This is a site in southern Washington County, AL, and I have found it to be one of the most diverse sites I have ever witnessed. My estimation of the site's diversity hasn't changed over the past two years, but the condition of the site has.

At site AL005 in November 2005, I witnessed a good quantity of White-top Pitcher Plants, *S. leucophylla*, and Parrot Pitcher Plants, *S. psittacina*, in the ditch along the road.continued on pg. 4



S. leucophylla
 Photo by Noah Elhardt

Packing and Shipping *Sarracenia*

- Following legal and common sense rules results in high shipping success -

A big thank you to Mike Howlett, Jeremiah Harris and the many other growers who lent us their advice for this article.

Earlier this year, the NASC began shipping its first plants to growers as part of its conservation through cultivation program. As the program grows, NASC growers and members will be sending and receiving shipments of plants material in our effort to spread and maintain genetic diversity in cultivation. Sending live plant material in the mail is always associated with a certain risk of death in transit. Fortunately, *Sarracenia* are relatively hardy, so following a few simple rules will result in almost certain success.

First, some legal restrictions to keep in mind:

✓ **What *not* to ship:**

It is important to remember that some *Sarracenia* are recognized as endangered plants and that state, national, and international regulations exist restricting the shipment of these plants. Respecting these regulations not only avoids costly fines, but helps policymakers in their efforts to protect these endangered plants.

Provided plants are derived from legally collected material, there are no laws governing movement of *Sarracenia* within your state. The following plants are governed by the Endangered Species Act in the United States and by CITES internationally. It is illegal to trade (sell or exchange) these plants across state or international borders without a permit. ESA and CITES permits can be obtained by visiting <http://www.fws.gov/endangered/permits/index.html> and <http://www.cites.org>, respectively.

S. rubra subsp. *jonesii*

S. alabamensis subsp. *alabamensis*

S. oreophila

✓ **When to ship:**

Sarracenia are hardy and can be shipped during any season, but special measures should be taken when shipping in the extreme seasons – winter and summer.

Some species of *Sarracenia* are found in the wild where the air temperatures drop below freezing. In a natural setting, however, the roots of the plant are buried in the ground, where they are protected from freezing; even the rhizomes are usually resting under a cozy blanket of pine needles, leaves or other insulating plant matter. When a plant is shipped, on the other hand, these fragile parts of the plant are liable to freeze solid, killing the plant. Air-activated hand warmers are available very inexpensively at most large-scale discount superstores and sporting goods stores. The minimal expense of adding these to a package is far smaller than that of losing a division of your prized plants!

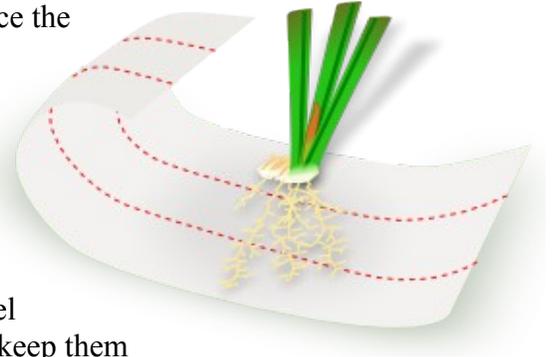
Of course, the summer heat can be just as brutal on a box of plants. But this can usually be remedied by labeling the box as PERISHABLE, so that the delivery person knows that the package shouldn't be left sitting out in the sun. Also, try to label all sides of the package, so that this important bit of information doesn't go unnoticed. Inadequate labeling is one of the most common causes for plants arriving dead, so take the time to label the package!



✓ Preparing the plants:

In most cases, shipping plants in their pot is impractical. Besides adding unnecessary shipping weight, pots are liable to shift during shipment and crush the plant. Additionally, most growers prefer their own unique soil mix; shipping plants bare-root makes it easy for the receiver to do that. Another benefit of shipping plants bare root is that it allows you to inspect the plant more thoroughly for pests or disease prior to shipment.

To bare-root a plant, gently remove the majority of the soil medium off of the roots. With small plants, it is often preferable to leave just enough soil to cover the roots to minimize disturbance of the young, tender roots. Lay a paper towel flat on a counter or similar surface. Now place the plant onto the towel so that the rhizome and roots are laying on the towel, and the leaves of the plant are hanging off the towel. This allows you to roll the paper towel around the roots and soil, but leave the leaves of the plant free for the time being. Make at least one complete circle around the soil, then fold the excess paper towel over to 'double layer' the towel over the soil. Continue rolling up until the remainder of the towel is wrapped around the soil mass. With larger plants (one or more years old), a second paper towel might be necessary – overlapping the towel onto the leaves will help keep them from creasing. If necessary, mist the towel so it is wet, but not dripping.



It is, of course, essential that the paper towel-covered rootball is covered in plastic during shipment to keep it moist. If possible, place the whole plant into a bag (zipper-close for smaller plants, garbage bags for larger plants), securing the rootball with rubber bands to keep the plant from shifting in the bag during shipment. At a bare minimum, place a bag around the rootball and secure it there with rubber bands.

✓ Shipment:

Whatever the season, insulating your plants during shipment is imperative. Anything that traps air will work – plastic peanuts, crumpled newspaper, and plastic bags filled with air are all commonly used. At least two inches of packing material on each side of your plants is recommended, so make sure you find an adequately large box.

Though most people prefer to use priority mail year round, first class can be adequate in the spring and fall. Plants can survive for weeks in a box provided that temperatures aren't extreme – shortening the shipping time helps ensure this. Remember: *Sarracenia* are hardy plants. As long as you keep the above advice in mind, your plants should arrive safe and healthy. Happy shipping!



David Schloat
Treasurer

I am David Schloat, treasurer of the NASC. I'm lucky enough to have been with this project

since the very beginning - since right after the idea was brought to the table on Terraforums. Since *Sarracenia* are in danger of extinction from so many angles - pollution, losing habitat to construction, even fire prevention - I want to do what small part I can to help preserve these beautiful plants for my children, and their children, to enjoy.continued on pg. 6

Scrape, continued from page 1.....

Upon closer observation further from the road, I found that there was a good population of Burke's Pitcher Plants, *S. rosea*, and Sweet Pitcher Plants, *S. rubra* ssp. *wherryi*, at the site as well. But the most memorable thing about the site was the incredible diversity of hybrid pitcher plants at this site! My favorite natural hybrid is *S. x mitchelliana*, a beautiful cross between *S. leucophylla* and *S. rosea*; and there were many of these present. *S. x chelsoni* (*S. rubra* x *S. purpurea/rosea*), *S. x wrigleyana* (*S. leucophylla* x *S. psittacina*), and several striking complex hybrids were present as well. All in all this was a wonderful place to visit and see a multitude of *Sarracenia* shapes, sizes and colors.

I had the opportunity to revisit the site in August 2007. What I witnessed was nothing short of a jaw-dropping shock. Not more than a couple of weeks prior to my visit, a work crew had come through to bury some sort of pipe, cable or line, and all but a few of the entire roadside stand of *S. leucophylla* had been scraped clean. Gone were the .75 meter-tall pitchers of this species. The diminutive *S. psittacina* which used to peek out from under the stands of grasses had been turned under. And even the *S. rosea* which had been further away from the road had not escaped unscathed. Those *S. rosea* that survived were barely hanging on, many of which were growing out of the soil mounded up along the sides of the

bulldozer tracks!

But there was one item that made this devastation even more difficult to bear. In 2005, I had witnessed the single largest growth point of *S. rosea* I had ever seen at this site. It had pitchers the diameter of baseballs, with hairy hoods as large as your outstretched palm. The plant was well-protected by a large dead log which appeared almost petrified, and I had no doubt that this plant would remain protected in the future as well. But in its quest to denude this site of all vegetation, the bulldozer managed to push this log about six feet away from its original location. Fortunately, Big Momma (as I have come to call this *S. rosea* plant) was unharmed in the process. But now this wonderful plant is exposed, and is more likely to become the next plant flattened into the ground by a four-wheel vehicle.

I have no doubt that situations similar to this arise on a regular basis throughout these wonderful plants' range. But it is my hope that by building a network of caring, like-minded NASC members who are willing to visit and watch over these areas, we can start keeping watch for problems like this one, so that we can try to prevent these beautiful plants from being 'scraped' off the face of the earth.

Mike Howlett
NASC Head Grower



Arthur Yin
Member-At-Large

Most of you are probably wondering why there is a *Nepenthes rajah* pitcher in my photograph, when

NASC is about the conservation of the genus *Sarracenia*.

The first reason is that I have never seen any *Sarracenia* in their natural habitat, but I have seen the tropical pitcher plant genus *Nepenthes* in the wild and it is the best substitute that I have.

The second reason is that I have recently come to

realize that *Nepenthes* have many conservation issues similar to *Sarracenia*. Plant populations are stressed from rapid urban development and poaching. Many species would benefit from having a legally established gene pool in the event that the original population might be lost. The best option is of course the preservation of the original ecosystem. I joined NASC in an effort to help address these issues.

Being Member-At-Large, I have been the primary webmaster and have helped out where the need has arisen. As a carnivorous plant enthusiast since 1985, I hope these plants will continue to be around for many, many years to come!

To contact Arthur Yin, email him at atlarge@nasarracenia.org

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As treasurer, my goal is to help the NASC maintain financial records and assist the President and Vice President organize spending and fund raising in such a way that the organization can continue to make a difference.

I live in Goldens Bridge, NY, where I have managed my personal collection of plants for six years. I can often be found on the [Terraforums](#) under the name 'Schloaty', and I would encourage everyone to drop in and check out the discussion there. In addition to my love for cultivating these miracles of nature, I have a beautiful wife and two gorgeous daughters. My 3 year old can already say "Sarracenia!" I also hold two black belts in two different forms of Kenpo Karate (one is second degree, so plant poachers beware!).

If you have any questions for the NASC treasurer, contact David Schloat at treasurer@nasarracenia.org.

Upcoming Meeting Dates

Official NASC meetings are held monthly on the second Thursday of each month, at 8 P.M. CST. Unofficial meetings are held every Thursday night at the same hour. To attend a meeting, download the AIM chat program from www.aim.com and then email your screen name to Suzanne Hedderly. Log on to AIM at the correct time and you will be invited to the NASC chat room.

November 8, 2007
December 13, 2007
January 10, 2008
February 14, 2008
March 13, 2008

Volunteers Needed in the TX area

Our head grower, Mike Howlett, has hundreds of NASC seedlings to send out to Regional Head Growers and needs volunteers in the Houston, TX area to help him pack and ship these. If you can help, please [email him](#)! Thanks!

5 ways YOU can join the NASC in its efforts:

- Become a member! There is a \$10/year fee. You can download a membership form from our website, <http://www.nasarracenia.org>
- Live near Sarracenia habitat? Help us locate remaining populations. You can download a field survey form from our website. Members can also join the Conservation Committee and help with rescue and sampling work.
- Join the PR Committee and help raise public awareness of *Sarracenia* and their plight.
- Do you have the resources and know-how to grow out *Sarracenia* seedlings? Join the Growers Committee and help preserve genetic diversity through cultivation.
- Stop by one of our weekly or monthly meetings (schedule at right). It's a great way to get more familiar with who we are and how we work.

NASC Board Contact Information

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Vice-president	vacant	
Secretary	Jonathan Treffkorn	secretary@nasarracenia.org
Treasurer	David Schloat	treasurer@nasarracenia.org
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Head of Conservation	Mark Todd	voodoo dancer@gmail.com
Head of Distribution	Jeremiah Harris	distribution@nasarracenia.org
Head of PR and Education	Noah Elhardt	publicrelations@nasarracenia.org
At Large Board Position	Arthur Yin	atlarge@nasarracenia.org