



# Drummondii

The newsletter of the North American *Sarracenia* Conservancy

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

## Message from the Editor

Summer is here! Where I'm writing from in Ohio, it has hit hard. Drought-like conditions and August-like temperatures have made keeping plants watered quite a chore! It is extremely important, as many of you know too well, to keep your plants properly hydrated in these conditions. Recently, I've run across another problem I never considered: lack of rainfall makes voles and other rodents desperate for water. I've had several of my

*Sarracenia* uprooted or simply burrowed beneath for the damp soil, *Sarracenia purpurea* with tiny perforations where the rodents gnawed through the pitcher to obtain a sip of liquid. Even deer have wandered into my yard to drink from the trays I keep Venus' flytraps in, often knocking them about. It's easy to get frustrated, but I try to keep in mind that every organism does what it must to survive inclement conditions; if that weren't the case we wouldn't have the fascinating plants that we are working to protect.

On a lighter note, I have plans to run a gallery of *Sarracenia* photographs in the winter issue of this newsletter to brighten up the chilly days. So if you have pictures, an article you'd like to run or an idea for an article you'd like to see here in *Drummondii*, email me at: [publicrelations@nasarracenia.org](mailto:publicrelations@nasarracenia.org).

Good Growing, Everyone!

Shane R. Myers  
Head of Public Relations  
and Education, NASC

Photo at right: Result of a controlled burn at Myrtle Head Savanna. The work was financed by donations from the 2010 NASC auction and performed by The Nature Conservancy. Photo: Mark Todd.



# The 2012 NASC Benefit Auction Was a Success: Funding *Sarracenia* Conservation

Ryan Kitko, NASC Vice President

The North American *Sarracenia* Conservancy would like to thank all of the members, donors, and bidders that supported the Conservancy during the 2012 Benefit Auction held from April 21 to May 5 online, hosted by [TerraForums.com](http://TerraForums.com) and [FlyTrapShop.com](http://FlyTrapShop.com). Your contributions and generosity make every year a success. And every year we exceed the last in total donations. This year we are proud to announce we have raised a grand total of \$4,874.00 from your efforts in the 2012 NASC auction.

The funds raised will continue to operate our *ex-situ* conservation efforts in the growing program as well as fund the organization's basic needs. The large majority, however, are marked for land acquisition at the Boiling Spring Lakes Preserve in North Carolina where we will partner with conservation organizations focused on knitting together smaller pieces of habitat to produce viable and vast preserves for *Sarracenia* and other endangered or threatened plants. Additional funds will be allocated for materials and labor to canopy removal in the threatened mountain bog known as Dulany Bog in Western North Carolina at the Highlands Biological Station (HBS). The latter project is particularly interesting because the NASC is looking forward to partnering with HBS staff who will bring students in from Western Carolina University to learn about the habitat and land management.

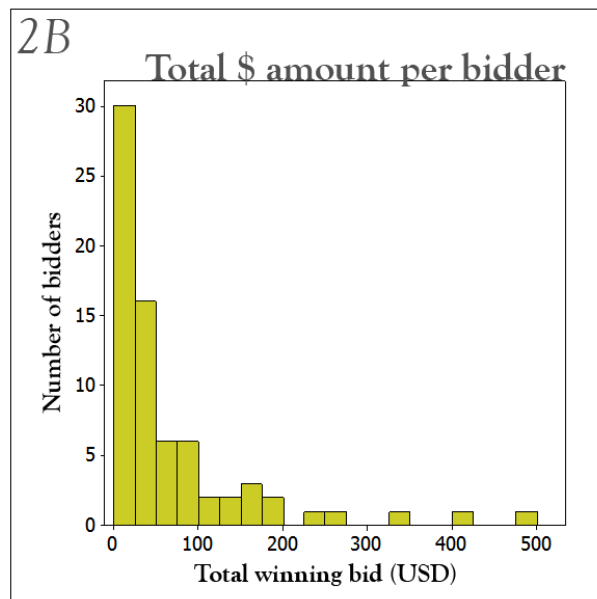
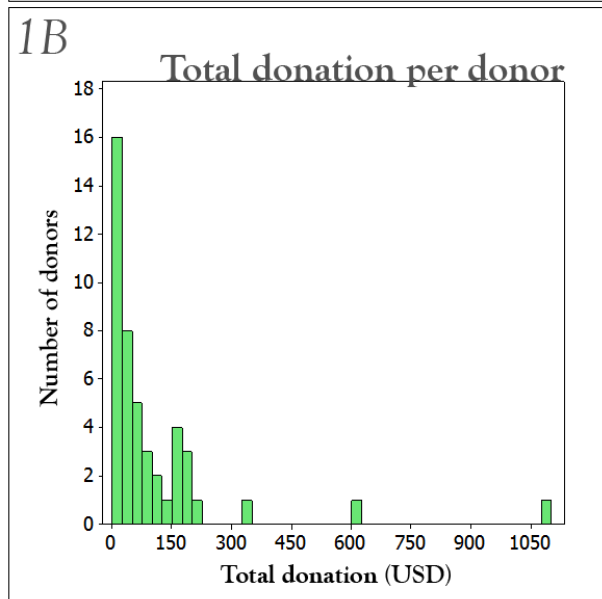
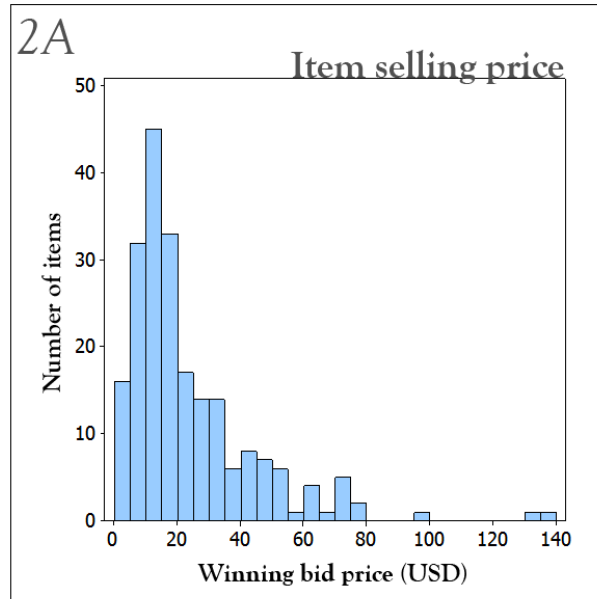
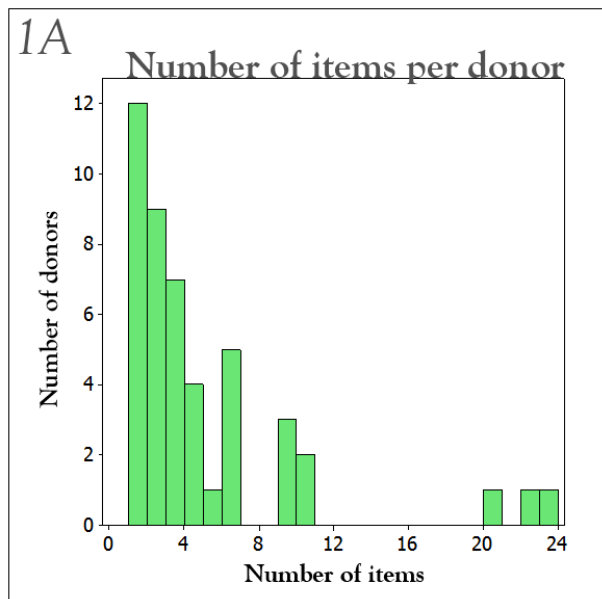


*Drosera intermedia* from Boiling Spring Lakes, NC, donated to the auction by Mark Todd. (Photo: Mark Todd)

Of course, the auction would not be possible without our many donors and those willing to bid on the many excellent items offered up during the auction. So in honor of you, and because many of you are likely very curious (that is, if you're as much of a data geek as I am), we will take some time to go over the NASC auction by the numbers.

Donors: We cherish you! Have we said that lately? No? Well, we do. All *forty-four* of you this year were kind, patient, and exceedingly generous with your time and plants and other items. You clearly have better things to do with your time, but you chose to sit down, prepare a few things for donation after perhaps cultivating them for months or years and offered them up for our benefit. Many of you donated just one or two items – just about half of donors offered only one or two items – and that's great (Fig. 1A)! It means that we have a very high participation rate and that while not everyone can offer ten or more items like those that can afford to, you chose to contribute in some way within your means. For that we are exceedingly grateful.

Most individual donor's total donation amount (the final selling price of all items donated) shake out somewhere between \$0.00 and \$225.00 (Fig. 1B), with the most frequent donation being those smaller amounts under \$100, bringing in a total of \$1,006.00. Of course, we had three outstanding outliers in donors with the TerraForums usernames RL7836, who donated 23 items worth a total value of \$1,081.00; flytraplady5 (Lois M. Ochs), who donated 22 items that brought in \$619.00; and kulamauiaman, who donated 20 items that brought in a total of \$347.00. Please thank these and all of our donors, the full list of which is found on our website, when you see them online at TerraForums.



**Figure 1.** Data on donors presented as histograms of A) the number of items each donor donates and B) the total monetary donation at the end of the auction.

**Figure 2.** Data on bidders presented as histograms of A) each item's selling price and B) the aggregated winning bids from all auctions won by individual bidders.

This year 214 items were donated in all, of which 205 had bids. The diversity of items offered was astonishing. Donors listed various *Drosera*, *Nepenthes*, *Utricularia*, *Cephalotus*, *Sarracenia*, *Darlingtonia*, *Pinguicula*, *Dionaea*, *Heliophora*, *Stylidium*, non-carnivores, and supplies such as pots and ultrasonic mist makers.

Bidders: Your activity was just as impressive! There were *seventy-two* unique winning bidders on the more than 200 items in the auction and likely many more. You generated somewhere around 2,000 posts in the two weeks the auction was open. Here, again, small numbers in great quantities add up: the median item winning bid was just \$15.00 (Fig. 2A), but with so many items selling in that price range, it quickly made the donations add up. Again, though, there are outliers; the two most expensive items were a 2.5 inch pot of



*Cephalotus* seedlings donated by RL7836, yielding a final bid of \$140.00, and an unrooted cutting of *Nepenthes hamata* donated by elgecko that brought in \$130.00. Individual bidders were also likely to end up with a small total bill at the end of the auction, with less than \$50.00 being most common (Fig. 2B). But again, there are high outliers, found this time in our own Head of Conservation Mark Todd (Ozzy) and TerraForums members afrodisa and Smitty.

We hope everyone had fun bidding in the annual NASC benefit auction. The NASC would again like to thank our members, donors, and all of the people who bid on items in this year's auction. We will continue to update you on the progress of the projects you helped fund. ♦



Photo above: *Sarracenia purpurea* in bloom at Dulany Bog, North Carolina. Photo: Victor Holland

# Dulany Bog, North Carolina

Victor Holland, NASC Administrator of Plant Materials

Southern Appalachian bogs are one of the rarest natural communities in North Carolina. They form in valley bottoms with gentle slopes that are poorly drained but not subject to flooding. Factors contributing to the origins and maintenance of these rare montane bogs are lacking. Some speculate that beavers contributed to their origins. Other hypotheses include fire, grazing by cultivated animals, and clearing by Native Americans. Dulany Bog is a small southern Appalachian bog filled with purple pitcher plants, *Sarracenia purpurea*. These systems are rare and are becoming threatened by various factors including the succession of more generalist shrub species such as *Viburnum*, *Alnus*, *Cornus*, and several other wetland shrubs that thrive in mountain bogs. The bog is home to the Federal and State listed rare plant (*Helonias bullata*) that grows sporadically around its margins (Fig. 1).



Figure 1. *Helonias bullata* bloom. Photo: Victor Holland.

Dulany Bog is small; its total extent is approximately 38 acres, only some of which maintain populations of pitcher plants. The North American *Sarracenia* Conservancy (NASC) is in the planning stages with Highlands Biological Station (HBS) and other partners to begin studies related to the conservation of *S. purpurea* within Dulany Bog. HBS owns portions of the property containing many of the purple pitcher plants. Donations to the NASC will help support future studies, adaptive management plans, and conservation practices at Dulany Bog.



Figure 2. Plants within the treatment plot. Photo: Victor Holland.

The goal is to remove generalist shrubs from additional small plot(s) where shrubs have encroached into the bog itself. A holistic approach will be used and special attention to habitat requirements of State or Federal listed rare species such as *Helonias bullata* is required. The U. S. Forest Service conducted a very small pilot study within Dulany Bog on HBS property five years ago which included the removal of thick shrubbery followed by

targeted woody stump herbicide treatments. Based on observations, the pitchers plant clumps within the treatment plot appear denser (Figs. 2 and 3) with plants being patchier outside of this plot under thick shrubbery (Fig. 4).





**Figure 3.** Close-up of a plant within the treatment plot. Photo: Victor Holland.



**Figure 4.** Plants outside the treatment plot under heavy shade. Note the difference in coloration. Photo: Victor Holland.

At this point, planning and research is being conducted and NASC is seeking a student intern and mentorship program with HBS and University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Vegetation removal followed by targeted herbicide treatments or a prescribed burn at the site may be options. Volunteers will be needed to hopefully restore purple pitcher plant habitats within Dulany Bog for the next generation. ♦

## Membership & Contact Information

Membership with the NASC, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization is only \$10.00 a year and it's easy to set up a recurring membership via PayPal on our website at <http://nasarracenia.org/join>. If you have any talents that you would like to donate to the NASC, such as illustrations, web design, experience growing *Sarracenia*, public relations experience, etc., please contact the relevant Board members below or ask to sit in on one of our weekly meetings, which are held on Skype.

### When are the NASC meetings?

*NASC Board meetings are held every Thursday evening at 9:00 PM Eastern on Skype. To join, e-mail the President or Vice President with your Skype screen name and be online a few minutes before the meeting is scheduled to begin. You will be invited to the group chat. Visitors and members are always welcome!*

### 2012 NASC Board of Directors

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