



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>

The 2013 NASC Benefit Auction

Ryan Kitko, NASC Vice President

The NASC is pleased to announce that the 2013 benefit auction will be held this year from **Saturday, March 30 to Saturday April 13** on TerraForums.com. This year we have moved the auction dates forward a few weeks to make it easier to ship your winnings – dormant *Sarracenia* or sensitive highland species.

The 2013 NASC Benefit Auction
Saturday, March 30 -
Saturday, April 13

Hosted by TerraForums.com & FlyTrapShop.com



Sarracenia purpurea at Old Dock.
Photo by Mark Todd.

The auction is now at the midway point and you can still contribute! The official auction [rules](#) are posted at TerraForums and anyone can participate by donating or bidding on an item. But principally we want everyone to have fun! For those that have not participated in this event before, it is often one of the best places to find great plants grown by excellent horticulturalists, many of whom are expert in their particular genus or genera. Generous donors create new threads on the forum for each item they donate – seed, plants, art, supplies, etc. – and then other users bid on that item. Occasionally bidding wars occur on the more desirable plants. The final total paid by the bidder goes directly to the NASC, a 501(c)(3) non-profit, and the bidder receives the item, sometimes reimbursing the donor for shipping costs.

Every year we thank the generosity of our donors for supporting this event as our main source of fundraising to keep our organization running. The other half of the funds collected

go directly to the identified beneficiary. Past recipients have included Boiling Spring Lakes, North Carolina for land acquisition; Myrtle Head Savanna, North Carolina for a controlled burn; and Splinter Hill bog in Alabama for land acquisition.

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2013 Auction Beneficiary: Old Dock Savanna

This year's beneficiary will be Old Dock Savanna in Columbus County, North Carolina. Old Dock is a longleaf pine marl savanna in the southeast coastal plain of North Carolina that has been owned and managed by The Nature Conservancy since the mid-1990s. The unique geology of the area – a pine savanna underlain with limestone – influences the pH, nutrient availability, and kinds of plants that grow in the area. Geologists are only aware of one other marl savanna like this in North Carolina.

Old Dock Savanna hosts a variety of species that will benefit from our donation: *Sarracenia minor*, *Sarracenia purpurea*, Venus flytraps (*Dionaea muscipula*), the rare Carolina grass-of-Parnassus (*Parnassia caroliniana*), savanna cowbane (*Oxypolis ternata*), and wireleaf dropseed (*Sporobolus teretifolius*), among others. Fifty of the 350-plus acres at the site were last successfully burned in 2012 -- the first such prescribed burn during the growing season in six years. Our donation this year will help The Nature Conservancy fund another prescribed burn in 2013 on the acreage not yet covered. This will, of course, help promote a healthy, open savanna for the *Sarracenia* at Old Dock to ensure that they continue to survive and thrive. ♦



Sarracenia minor at Old Dock in an area that was probably burned last year.
Photo by Mark Todd.

Sampling *Sarracenia* in Florida for *ex-situ* Conservation and Reintroduction

Ryan Kitko, NASC Vice President

Standing in the wetlands of Pensacola in Escambia County, Florida earlier this month boot-deep in muck and probably deeper than usual water – it had been raining heavily the past few weeks though the rain held off just long enough to complete the task at hand – it was sometimes difficult for Mark, Sheila, Victor, and Mason to decide which hundred plants or so among thousands were worth prying loose from the soil. They were there with the North American *Sarracenia* Conservancy, making hopefully objective decisions on which new *Sarracenia* on these 40 acres to collect for our *ex-situ* conservation and propagation program. The volunteers asked themselves, what represented a good sample? Which plants represent unique genetic lineages? No, we don't want to load up on too many of the same clone. Spread out over the property and make sure we sample broadly, but efficiently. There are three species of *Sarracenia*, the genus of North American pitcher plants, on these properties: in order of decreasing absolute population, *Sarracenia leucophylla* (white pitcher plant), *S. psittacina* (parrot pitcher plant), and *S. rosea* (Burk's southern pitcher plant); in what proportion do we sample each species? How do we perform this work in the most environmentally sensitive way?



Sarracenia leucophylla at the site in Pensacola, Florida. Photo by Mark Todd.

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Sarracenia rosea at the site in Pensacola, Florida. Photo by Mark Todd.

It was as early as five years ago that NASC treasurer Sheila Stewart first saw and admired the plants on these properties in Pensacola. The panhandle of Florida, if you're unaware, is a fairly species rich area for carnivorous plants and is home to several threatened or endangered plants, including the state-endangered *S. leucophylla*. Sheila became concerned about the future of the site in October 2011 after a few years of seeing nearby rapid development; the for-sale signs that recently sprouted on the properties that contained the *Sarracenia* worried her that much more. Sheila feared this meant a swift sale and then development, so she approached the NASC Board of Directors in October 2011 and we began pursuing our options soon after.

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Hovering over a clonal clump of pitcher plants in the wetlands in Pensacola looking for the best angle of attack to cleave off a small sample so that the remainder is left healthy and undisturbed, our volunteers must have been thinking about the ultimate destination of these plants. We had negotiated a contract with two different property owners and the plants would be placed with individual growers who had demonstrated experience and had applied to grow plants for us on the [grower committee](#). These plants will be propagated as rapidly as possible by rhizome divisions or by seed and then used for reintroductions to areas identified by [The Nature Conservancy of Florida](#) and the [Weeks Bay Foundation](#) relatively near the site of collection. Our volunteer readies his equipment after all this contemplation, the shovel hits its mark, and a subset of the *Sarracenia* rhizomes are liberated from the mother clump and then unceremoniously placed into a labeled plastic bag for safe keeping until it can be cleaned, sorted, and shipped to one of the volunteer growers across the country.



Sarracenia leucophylla – What winter? January 2013 in Pensacola, Florida. Photo by Victor Holland.

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So how did we get to this point of a simple sample of *Sarracenia* for the purpose of *ex-situ* conservation with plans of reintroduction from that stock material? Just a few months ago in November we had been moving forward with a plan with full consent from the property owners to complete the much larger and grander idea of a [full removal and relocation](#) of the thousands of *Sarracenia* to TNC properties near Pensacola and the Weeks Bay Foundation property in nearby Alabama. Both organizations have been great to work with and raised a medium-sized legion of dedicated volunteers to replant the *Sarracenia* in their new locations. If you don't already support either or both non-profits, we suggest you consider them for your charitable giving in the future. We were all set to go, volunteers were popping up all over, and we had our agreements with the property owners and an established relocation site. But in December after extensive conversations with Escambia County environmental officials and as described in detail [elsewhere](#), we were quite happy to discover how rigorous the permitting and approval process is for potential development within Pensacola. As we wrote in December:

While the properties do remain for sale and could be developed by the potential new owners ... we are thoroughly impressed with Escambia County's commitment to the retention of wetlands and threatened

and endangered species within them as a public good. This means, of course, that the great news is that the NASC is confident that the plants will be able to remain on the properties in their original habitat, which is one of our primary goals.

This means, however, that our commitment to TNC of Florida and the Weeks Bay Foundation remains unmet. So earlier this month, three North American *Sarracenia* Conservancy Board members and one volunteer member traveled to Pensacola, Florida and, with the generous permission and cooperation of the property owners and the relevant government agencies, the members worked over several days to ensure a broad sample of *Sarracenia*, collecting about 100 plants of the estimated 5,000 plants on the two properties. This material was distributed to a half dozen dedicated and experienced growers who will spend the next few years attempting to make thousands from what was but a hundred so that we may honor and fulfill our commitment to TNC and the Weeks Bay Foundation.

Oh, and we're not opposed to having a bit of fun while we work:



Mark Todd, Sheila Stewart, and Victor Holland in Pensacola collecting a sample of *Sarracenia*.

Lesson learned: Never turn your back on Sheila. Photo by and © Mason McNair.

Acknowledgements: This collection could not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of so many. To those of you who had initially stepped forward to volunteer your time for the relocation and reintroduction prior to the change in plans, thank you. Again, we would like to acknowledge the efforts of the Weeks Bay Foundation and The Nature Conservancy for working with us in the region. We also thank the staff of the Water Quality and Land Management Division of Escambia County for providing valuable insight and for taking the time to discuss these important plants. Last and most important, the willingness to listen to a non-local conservation organization blather on about some carnivorous plants came naturally to the two property owners we worked with in Pensacola, as did their cooperation as our collaboration progressed. One wishes to remain anonymous but we thank them both ever so much: Anonymous and E.K. "Skip" Edwards from the TK Edwards Co Inc. ♦

Join the North American *Sarracenia* Conservancy's Growers Propagation Program

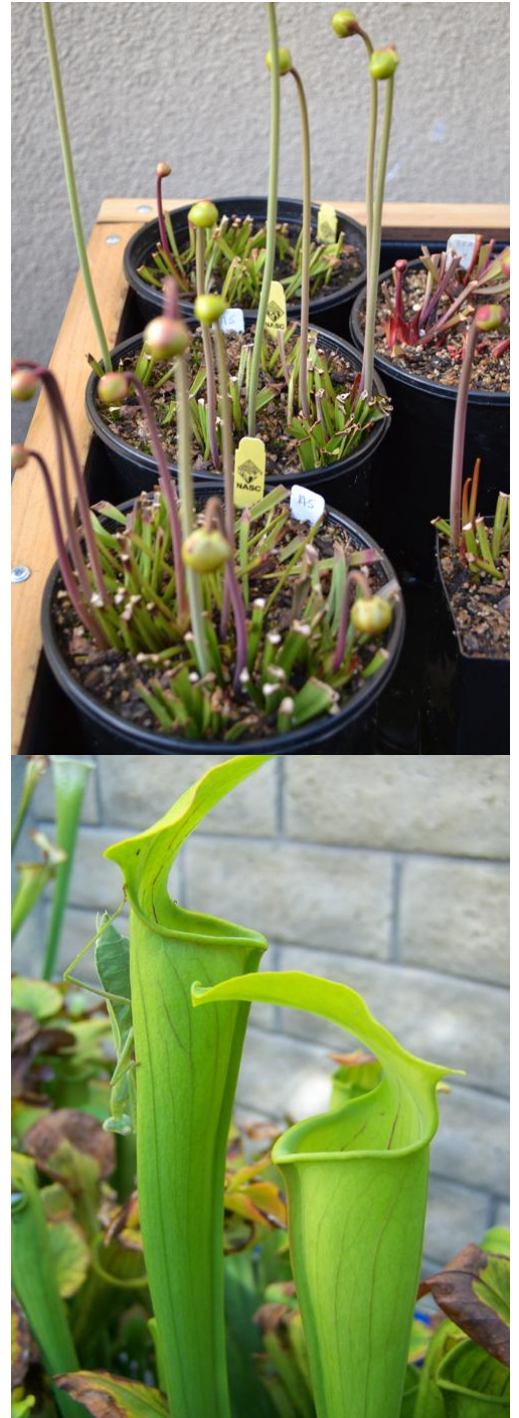
Victor Holland, NASC Administrator of Plant Materials

The **NASC Growers Program** has grown over the past year with the addition of nine growers across the country. More growers are needed as more plants are rescued and propagated by the current growers. Our goals are to preserve a living record of *Sarracenia* species diversity by growing exact location-specific rescued plants or plants sampled with appropriate permits and permissions. Some program changes were proposed and implemented in February 2013; the program and Growers Committee now allows growers to retain up to 30% of additional plant materials produced after the plant materials are received and NASC seed bank or propagation goals are met. In this way the NASC is beginning to get these location-specific plants into the public with the long-term goal of reducing poaching pressures. Once you are a member of the NASC, please [apply](#) to become a grower and enjoy growing these plants with us. Please read the [Grower Information Packet](#) available at our website, complete the form at the end of the document and mail in to Victor Holland, the Administrator of Plant Materials.

Victor Holland
2125 Bordeaux Dr.
Mebane, NC 27302

Please see list of plants currently in the NASC Growers Program:

ALA-AL035 *S. alata*, Mobile County, Alabama
ALA-LA001 *S. alata*, St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana
ALA-MS004 *S. alata*, Greene County, Mississippi
ALA-MS013 *S. alata*, Jackson County, Mississippi
ALA-TX001 *S. alata*, Tyler County, Texas: Big Thicket Natn'l Preserve
ALA-TX004 *S. alata*, Leon County, Texas
ALA-TX015 *S. alata*, Tyler County, Texas: Watson Pineland Preserve
FLA-FL001 *S. flava*, Liberty County, Florida, "Red Tube"
FLA-NC004 *S. flava*, Brunswick County, North Carolina
LEU-AL005 *S. leucophylla*, Washington County, Alabama
LEU-FL003 *S. leucophylla*, Liberty County, Florida
LEU-FL031 *S. leucophylla*, Escambia County, Florida
MIT-FL001 *S. × mitchelliana*, Escambia County, Florida
PSI-FL001 *S. psittacina*, Liberty County, Florida, near Sumatra
PSI-FL015 *S. psittacina*, Liberty County, Florida, near Hosford
PSI-FL028 *S. psittacina*, Bay County, Florida
PSI-FL029 *S. psittacina*, Escambia County, Florida



Sarracenia being cultivated in the growers program. Note the mantis.

Photo by Fred Passkiewicz.

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PUV-NC003 *S. purpurea* subsp. *venosa*, Brunswick County, North Carolina

ROS-FL001 *S. rosea*, Bay County, Florida

ROS-AL005 *S. rosea*, Washington County, Alabama

ROS-FL027 *S. rosea*, Escambia County, Florida

RUR-NC001 *S. rubra* subsp. *rubra*, Brunswick County, North Carolina

As always, you can find more online at our website: <http://www.nasarracenia.org/about/committees/grower/>



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!

2013 NASC Board of Directors

President	Emily Troiano	president@nasarracenia.org
Vice President	Ryan Kitko	vicepresident@nasarracenia.org
Secretary	Heather Williams	secretary@nasarracenia.org
Treasurer	Sheila Stewart	treasurer@nasarracenia.org
Director of Conservation	Mark Todd	conservation@nasarracenia.org
Head of Public Relations & Education	Shane Myers	publicrelations@nasarracenia.org
Administrator of Plant Materials	Victor Holland	plantmaterials@nasarracenia.org
Member-At-Large	Yann Rodenas	yann@nasarracenia.org
Member-At-Large	Matt Kaelin	matt@nasarracenia.org