



The 1144<sup>th</sup> meeting of the New England Botanical Club, Inc. will be held **Saturday, 1 February 2020, at 4:00 PM** in Haller Lecture Hall (room 102), Geological Museum, 24 Oxford St., Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.



**“Trees Don't Read Textbooks and Other Woody Stories  
of Persistence, Individuality, and Resilience”**

**By  
Dr. Neil Pederson  
Senior Ecologist, Harvard Forest, Petersham, MA**

**PLEASE READ:**

- 1) **NEIL'S ABSTRACT:** Trees don't read textbooks. They live through a strategy that might be considered persistence, brilliance, and resilience. By brilliance, I do not mean to personify trees. I mean something more like virtuosity, where a tree's proficiency and dexterity to find solutions in a stationary life doesn't result simply in survival. This brilliance is more about finding solutions that allow individual trees to flourish. "Look at how that tree grows – brilliant!", which is a phrase we can say in the forest and in the lab. As we peer into long lives of trees and precisely document the annual chapters of their lives, our understandings of individual trees and populations of trees grow. Our studies reveal that the lives of trees are not nearly as monolithic or stoic as we might imagine them to be. Trees defy our expectations of growth, persistence, and longevity. And, as we have refined our abilities to understand the chapters in the lives of trees, we have also learned that the climate and old-growth ecosystems in which they inhabit have been more dynamic than what we have witnessed in regions like the Northeastern US. For this lecture, I will reveal how we learn about the lives of trees, share the lives of some exceptional trees, describe the noisy chorus in a population of red oak at the Harvard Forest, and then show how some of the oldest trees indicate that future climate and ecology in the eastern US just might be as dynamic as some forecasts suggest.
- 2) **2020-2021 NEBC SLATE:** The [Slate for 2020-2021](#) Council proposed by the Nominating Committee will be sent in a separate email later and is posted now on the NEBC website. The vote will be taken at the Annual Meeting on 7 March 2020. Committee Chairs will also give their annual reports then.
- 3) **NEXT NEBC MEETING:** On Saturday, March 7, 2020, Dr. Chris Neill, Senior Scientist, at Woods Hole Research Center, Falmouth, MA, will speak on “*Plant Responses and Ecosystem Resilience Following Restoration of Former Cranberry Bogs.*” The meeting will be on the Harvard University campus.

- 4) **ASSOCIATION MANAGER POSITION OPEN:** The New England Botanical Club seeks an Association Manager for our ~300 member organization. The position will have leadership roles in managing membership and renewals, in coordinating subscription services with the publisher of *Rhodora*, and in working with NEBC Council to improve digital infrastructure and organization communications, and outreach. The full job description, qualifications, expectations, and application procedure are described in the [Association Manager position advertisement](#). **Applications will be accepted until the position is filled with an anticipated start date of February-March 2020.** Please forward this email or link to the position announcement to others who may be interested.
- 5) **REQUEST FOR RHODORA ASSOCIATE EDITORS AND REVIEWING EDITORS:** NEBC's newly appointed Editor-in-Chief, Dr. Melanie Schori, seeks additional Associate Editors for *Rhodora* to serve for three-year terms and several Reviewing Editors to serve two-year terms. Associate Editors will be expected to handle 4–6 manuscripts per year on their topic area by contacting potential reviewers, reviewing the manuscript themselves, and sending collated responses to the Editor-in-Chief. Reviewing Editors will be asked to review 1–2 manuscripts per year on their topic area and should either be graduate students or recent graduates who will be mentored through the reviewing process to gain experience. NEBC membership is not required for either type of editorship. Those interested should send an email describing their relevant expertise and experience (or lack thereof) to [editor@rhodora.org](mailto:editor@rhodora.org).
- 6) **FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FROM NEBC NOW OPEN (DEADLINES FEB 1 AND MARCH 1):** **[ONLY A FEW DAYS LEFT TO APPLY FOR FIRST TWO]**
- **NEBC JUNIOR FACULTY AWARD ON THE FLORA OF NEW ENGLAND – APPLICATIONS DUE 1 FEBRUARY 2020:** Applications for funding will be accepted from 1 December 2019 to 1 February 2020 from early-career, tenure-track faculty at any college or university in New England. Full requirements and application instructions can be found on the [Junior Faculty Award on the Flora of New England](#) web page.
  - **NEBC LES MEHRHOFF BOTANICAL RESEARCH AWARD(S) – APPLICATIONS DUE 1 FEBRUARY 2020:** Applications for funding will be accepted from 1 December 2019 to 1 February 2020. Full details for project requirements and application instructions can be found on the [Les Mehrhoff Botanical Research Award](#) web page. Summaries of past funded projects and a button for donations can be found on the same web page.
  - **NEBC GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH AWARD(S) – APPLICATIONS DUE 1 MARCH 2020:** Each year NEBC awards several thousands of dollars in support of botanical research conducted by graduate students. Sunday, 1 March 2020 is the deadline for receipt of proposals and supporting letters. Full details can be found on the [Graduate Student Research Award](#) web page.

- 7) **VIDEOS of PAST PRESENTATIONS:** Please see [Past Meetings](#) for videos of past lectures.
- 8) **MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE PAST DUE:** [Renew Your NEBC Membership for 2020 Here!](#)
- 9) **SAVE THE DATES FOR SPRING AWAY MEETING TO YALE-MYER FOREST, CT:** From May 29-May 31, 2020, NEBC will have the Spring “Away” Meeting in Eastford, CT. Details and registration information will be sent when finalized. Please save the dates.
- 10) **NONVASCULAR HERBARIUM WORK DATES:** If you would like to help Elizabeth Kneiper and the Nonvascular Herbarium Committee with many tasks related to the NEBC collection, please contact her at [Ekneiper@aol.com](mailto:Ekneiper@aol.com). Meet in the basement of the Farlow Herbarium, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. Upcoming work dates are on Wednesday’s and Saturday’s. Please see the [What's New](#) page for details.
- 11) **EAGLE HILL INSTITUTE DISCOUNTS & NEBC STIPENDS:** Eagle Hill Institute, Steuben, ME, is again offering NEBC members a 20% discount for the 2020 Workshops and Seminars. Also, NEBC will give a stipend of \$150 towards costs for the first 10 NEBC members who register for a summer botany course. Contact Association Manager at [nebc@rhodora.org](mailto:nebc@rhodora.org) for details. [Eagle Hill 2020 calendar](#)
- 12) **NATIVE PLANT TRUST ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR PCV:** Full details for volunteer qualifications, responsibilities, training, and online application can be found at the NPT’s [Plant Conservation Volunteer](#) web page.
- 13) **PARKING LOCATION:** Our designated FREE parking lot is **the 52 Oxford St. Garage, near the intersection of Everett St. and Oxford St.** Parking in any other lot will likely lead to towing. Please find a map showing the Oxford Garage (52OXST) at the following link: [Interactive Harvard University Campus Map](#)
- 14) **NEW SATURDAY PARKING ARRANGEMENTS:** Free parking for attendees will be from 12 noon to 7 PM on the Saturday of the meeting. NEBC Council members and people working in the vascular and nonvascular herbaria may park free from 9AM to 7PM.

*The Council will meet 2:00-3:30 PM in the meeting room near Haller Lecture Hall*