



The 1145<sup>th</sup> meeting of the New England Botanical Club, Inc. will be held **Saturday, 7 March 2020, at 4:00 PM** in Haller Lecture Hall (room 102), Geological Museum, 24 Oxford St., Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.



**“Plant Responses and Ecosystem Resilience Following  
Restoration of Former Cranberry Bogs”**

**By  
Dr. Christopher Neill  
Senior Scientist, Woods Hole Research Center, Woods Hole, MA**

**PLEASE READ:**

- 1) **CHRIS’ ABSTRACT:** The Massachusetts cranberry industry currently faces challenges caused by overproduction and competition with growers in Wisconsin and other locations. Massachusetts cranberry bogs are closely associated with surface waters and almost all were created from former wetlands. Our new analysis indicates that 20% of all Massachusetts cranberry bogs are highly likely to be retired in several years to a decade and another 35% are moderately likely to be retired. This creates a large and current opportunity to restore wetlands on former cranberry bogs. Restoration of former bogs has potential to expand stream and adjoining habitats, improve water quality and provide climate resilience by removing water control structures and restoring hydrological connections. Techniques to restore wetlands are a work in progress but three projects have been completed to date. These projects have successfully restored stream channels and fish passage, and promoted establishment of wetland vegetation through a combination of channel and landform re-engineering and reliance on germination of buried seeds from former wetland vegetation. I will present results from a detailed before-and-after study of a restoration project on the Lower Coonamessett River Bog in Falmouth, MA that found that removal of sand, lowering of elevation and creation of microtopography dramatically increased diversity and cover of native wetland-dependent plants within two years without increasing colonization by non-native and invasive plants was very low. Removal of water control structures also increased the ability of the new wetland system to absorb flooding from storm and high tide surges. I will discuss potential for expanding restored wetlands onto retired bogs across southeastern Massachusetts.
- 2) **2020-2021 NEBC SLATE:** The [Slate for 2020-2021](#) Council proposed by the Nominating Committee was sent in a separate email and is posted 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) **SAVE THE DATES FOR SPRING AWAY MEETING TO YALE-MYERS FOREST, CT:** From May 29 - May 31, 2020, NEBC will have the Spring “Away” Meeting in Eastford, CT, at Yale-Myers Forest Camp. Details and registration information will be sent when finalized. Please save the dates.
- 4) **SAVE THE DATES FOR SUMMER EXCURSION TO NEW JERSEY PINE BARRENS:** From August 7- August 10, explore the floristic diversity of the New Jersey Pine Barrens on a four-day field trip lead by Uli Lorimer and Matt Charpentier. Details of the trip are in the works, and we anticipate opening registration in March. Registration will be limited to 15 attendees. Please save the dates.

- 5) **NEBC GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH AWARD(S) – APPLICATIONS DUE SUNDAY 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.
- 6) **CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2020 RECIPIENTS OF LES MEHRHOFF BOTANICAL RESEARCH AWARDS:** More info on [Mehrhoff Award](#) webpage.
- **Sarah Bois** for her project entitled "Naturalized Scotch Broom (*Cytisus scoparius*) on Nantucket, Massachusetts: Assessing the extent of the problem."
  - **James Graves** for his project entitled "Conserving the Green Mountain College Herbarium, Vermont."
  - **Christopher Mangels** for his project entitled "A search for populations of Provancher's fleabane (*Erigeron philadelphicus* var. *provancheri*) along the Housatonic River in Connecticut and Massachusetts."
  - **Jennifer Pye and Melissa Cullina** for their project entitled "Investigation and assessment of the herbarium specimens of the Monhegan Museum, Maine."
- 7) **NEXT NEBC MEETING:** On Saturday, April 4, 2020, our *NEBC Distinguished Speaker*, Dr. Jacquelyn L. Gill, Associate Professor of Paleocology & Plant Ecology, School of Biology and Ecology, and Climate Change Institute, University of Maine, Orono, ME, will speak on "*The Once and Future Forests: What 21,000 Years of Prehistory Tells Us to Expect in a Warming World.*"
- 8) **VIDEOS of PAST PRESENTATIONS:** Please see [Past Meetings](#) for videos of past lectures, including Neil Pederson's February presentation.
- 9) **MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE PAST DUE:** [Renew Your NEBC Membership for 2020 Here!](#)
- 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) **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](#)
- 13) **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 2:30-3:30 PM in the meeting room near Haller Lecture Hall*