



The 1150th meeting of the New England Botanical Club, Inc. will be held **Saturday, 6 March 2021, at 7:00 PM EST via Zoom.**



**“Tales from the Crypt: The Extinct Plants of North America
with a Focus on New England Extinction Events”**

**By
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Asheville, NC**

PLEASE READ:

- 1) **PRESENTATIONS & MEETINGS WILL BE VIRTUAL:** Although since March 2020 all our presentations, field trips, and special events had to be cancelled because of COVID-19, New England Botanical Club is now offering meetings and presentations via Zoom. The link to join our Zoom Monthly Meetings will be reoccurring and is below. After this presentation, we invite attendees to stay on Zoom and participate in some “virtual visiting.” Feel free to provide your own refreshments!
- 2) **WESLEY KNAPP’S ABSTRACT:** Extinction rates are expected to increase during the Anthropocene. Current extinction rates of plants and many animals remain unknown. We quantified extinctions among the vascular flora of the continental United States and Canada since European settlement. We compiled data on apparently extinct species by querying plant conservation databases, searching the literature, and vetting the resulting list with botanical experts. Because taxonomic opinion varies widely, we developed an index of taxonomic uncertainty (ITU). The ITU ranges from A to F, with A indicating unanimous taxonomic recognition and F indicating taxonomic recognition by only a single author. The ITU allowed us to rigorously evaluate extinction rates. Our data suggest that 51 species and 14 infraspecific taxa, representing 33 families and 49 genera of vascular plants, have become extinct in our study area since European settlement. Seven of these taxa exist in cultivation but are extinct in the wild. Most extinctions occurred in the west, but this outcome may reflect the timing of botanical exploration relative to settlement. Sixty-four percent of extinct plants were single-site endemics, and many occurred outside recognized biodiversity hotspots. Given the paucity of plant surveys in many areas, particularly prior to European settlement, the actual extinction rate of vascular plants is undoubtedly much higher than indicated here. New England had 5 extinction events, all of which will be discussed in detail. After the talk about extinct plants, I’ll give a brief overview of botanical diversity of North Carolina highlighting some globally rare, endemic, and extinct plants. [Link to Conservation Biology open-access paper](#)

- 3) **2021-2022 NEBC SLATE**: The Slate for the 2021-2022 Council proposed by the Nominating Committee is posted on NEBC [What's New](#) webpage and will be sent separately next week. The vote will be taken at the Annual Meeting on 6 March 2021 at 7 PM EST.
- 4) **SPECIAL MEETING ON 27 FEBRUARY 2021 CALLED FOR VOTES ON BYLAWS & NAME CHANGE**: After sharing with membership the rationale for considering a name change, an open discussion was held via Zoom on 13 February 2021 and a non-binding poll was conducted from Feb13-Feb 25. NEBC Council called a Special Meeting for 27 February 2021 to vote on changes to the NEBC Bylaws, including a vote on a change in the name of our organization. Full details and links to documents were emailed to members on Feb 20 and Feb 25.
Vote by NEBC members is Saturday, 27 February 2021 at 7 PM EST.
- 5) **CELEBRATING 125 YEARS**: On 5 February 2021, NEBC celebrated 125 years since our founding by sharing with members a slideshow of the 17 founding members, a report from a 1896 meeting, a list of officers & others who have served NEBC, and a short history. Members are requested to use a Google Drive folder to share photographs from previous NEBC events, to tell us about some of their most memorable moments of membership, and contribute poems, artwork, or creations that celebrate all things botanical for a future in-person celebration. See the [What's New](#) webpage for full details and links.
- 6) **UPDATE ON DIGITAL ACCESS TO RHODORA**: NEBC members have several ways to access *Rhodora* content digitally through links on our [Current and Archived Issues](#) webpage.
- Allen Press (2010-current, including pre-publication), our journal publisher, recently sent an email from Allen Press Meridian Support. From that email or through our website, you can get free access to the newly designed webpage for our journal, including latest content and most cited content.
 - BioOne (2005-present) and JSTOR (1899-2015) access recently experienced issues with certain browsers but should be fixed. For access on both sites, members now use our 2021 login/password information to get to the link that gives you free access to *Rhodora*.
- 7) **FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FROM NEBC (DEADLINE EXTENDED TO 1 APRIL 2021)**:
- **NEBC JUNIOR FACULTY AWARD ON THE FLORA OF NEW ENGLAND** – Applications are accepted 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)** – 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 (2015-2020) and a button for donations to the fund can be found on the same web page.
 - **NEBC GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH AWARD(S)** – Each year NEBC awards several thousands of dollars in support of botanical research conducted by graduate students. Full details for proposals and supporting letters can be found on the [Graduate Student Research Award](#) web page. Abstracts for previous recipients can also be found on this web page.

8) **NEXT NEBC MEETINGS VIA ZOOM AT 7 PM EST:**

- On Saturday, 3 April 2021, *NEBC Distinguished Speaker*, **Dr. Robert Bertin**, Distinguished Professor of Science Emeritus, Biology, College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA, will speak on "*Regional Floras and the Assessment of Floristic Change*."
- On Saturday, 1 May 2021, **Dr. Eric Doucette**, Dept of Biology, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, North Adams, MA, will speak on "*A New Approach in Amelanchier*"

9) **VIDEOS of PAST PRESENTATIONS:** Please see [Past Meetings](#) for videos of past lectures, including the Dr. Heberling's February presentation on rethinking the herbarium specimen.

The Council will meet 4 – 5 PM on 6 March 2021 via Zoom.

ZOOM INVITATION FOR NEBC MONTHLY MEETINGS

Topic: NEBC Monthly Meeting

Date and Time: First Saturday of the month at 7:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/98845538584>

Meeting ID: 988 4553 8584

One tap mobile

+19292056099,,98845538584# US (New York)

+13017158592,,98845538584# US (Germantown)

Dial by your location

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 988 4553 8584

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/adKxNNXCOj>

The New England Botanical Club

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NEBC WEB SITE: <http://www.rhodora.org/>

[New England Botanical Club brochure](#)

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[Program Calendar 2020-2021](#)

(past and upcoming programs)

[Mission and Vision Statements](#)

[Strategic Goals for 2020-2025](#)