



The 1124th meeting of the New England Botanical Club, Inc. will be held Friday, **2 February 2018, at 6:45 p.m.** in Haller Lecture Hall (room 102), Geological Museum, 24 Oxford St., Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.



“Rare Vascular Plants in Massachusetts: Natural Heritage Maps the Mystery”

By

Dr. Bob Wernerehl, State Botanist

**Massachusetts Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program, Division of
Fisheries & Wildlife, Westboro, MA**

PLEASE NOTE:

- 1) **BOB WERNEREHL’S ABSTRACT:** My talk will cover three topics. The first topic addresses the question: how do we know how many rare plants occur in Massachusetts? I will explain our current Natural Heritage and Endangered Species program methodology for rare plant records, as well as provide numbers of records submitted and mapped over time. The second topic covers spatial and temporal trends in rare plant populations, with selected examples of likely responses to varied biotic or abiotic threats or changes. The third topic addresses my research question: how many vascular plant species in Massachusetts should be rare? This reviews a thorny issue in plant ecology involving neutral theory, hyperdominance, and relative species abundance, or as it is also known, rank abundance distribution.
- 2) **2018-2019 NEBC SLATE:** The [Slate for 2018-2019 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 2 March 2018. Committee Chairs will also give their annual reports then.
- 3) **ONLY A FEW DAYS LEFT TO APPLY - 1 FEBRUARY 2018 DEADLINE FOR LES MEHRHOFF BOTANICAL RESEARCH FUND APPLICATION:** Full details for project requirements and application instructions can be found on the [Les Mehrhoff Botanical Research Fund](#) web page. Summaries of past funded projects and a button for donations can be found on the same web page.
- 4) **NEBC GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH AWARD(S) APPLICATIONS DUE 1 MARCH 2018:** Each year NEBC offers up to \$3000 in support of botanical research conducted by graduate students. Thursday, 1 March 2018 is the deadline for receipt of proposals and supporting letters. Additional details may be found on the [Graduate Student Research Award webpage](#).
- 5) **NEXT NEBC MEETING:** On 3 March 2018, Dr. Andrew Leslie, Assistant Professor, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Brown University, Providence, RI will speak on *“The Evolution of Conifer Cones Across Time and Space.”*
- 6) **VIDEOS of PAST PRESENTATIONS:** Please see [Past Meetings](#) for videos of past lectures. No password required for access to videos.

- 7) **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. 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.
- 8) **NEW ENGLAND WILD FLOWER SOCIETY APPLICATION FOR PCVs DEADLINE IS 1 FEBRUARY 2018:** Full details for volunteer qualifications, responsibilities, training, and online application can be found at the [NEWF Plant Conservation Volunteer](#) web page.
- 9) **EAGLE HILL INSTITUTE DISCOUNTS & NEBC STIPENDS:** Eagle Hill Institute, Steuben, ME, is again offering NEBC members a 20% discount for the 2018 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 John Burns at nebc@rhodora.org for details. [Eagle Hill 2018 calendar](#).
- 10) **REQUESTING NEBC PRESENCE AND ASSISTANCE AT NORTHEAST NATURAL HISTORY CONFERENCE:** At the 2018 conference organized by Eagle Hill Institute at Hotel Burlington Conference Center, Burlington, VT, on April 13-15, NEBC members have organized a presentation session and will staff a table in the exhibit area. **NEBC members who will be attending the conference and would like to help staff our table for half a day, may reply to NEBC Association Manager: John Burns nebc@rhodora.org and request that 50% of their registration be covered by NEBC (first come, first serve upon approval).** In addition to submitting presentation abstracts, NEBC members may also propose workshops, field trips, and other events until 26 February 2018. For full details about the conference and registration: [2018 Northeast Natural History Conference](#) Discounted registration ends 12 March 2018.
- 11) **MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE PAST DUE:** [Renew Your NEBC Membership for 2018 Here!](#)
- 12) **PARKING LOCATION:** From 5 PM-10 PM, 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 (52OX) at the following link: [Interactive Harvard University Map](#).
- 13) **EARLIER ARRIVALS:** For those arriving before 5 PM, visitor permits (\$17.00/day) are available from Harvard Parking Service at Harvard Campus Service Center, 8th floor, Holyoke Building, 1350 Massachusetts Ave. (8AM-5PM) and on-line at [Visitor Parking Permit](#). Select OEB/MCZ/HUH for building and 2017 for the department code. License plate number needed for transaction. Print pass and display on dash. For more information, Parking Services may be contacted at 617-495-3772 or parking@harvard.edu. [AN ALTERNATIVE: Some members park at Alewife T station and ride the red line train to the Harvard Square T stop.]

The Council will meet 4–5 PM in the meeting room near Haller Lecture Hall.