

New England Plant Conservation Volunteer Corps

Dear Plant Conservationist,

Thank you for expressing interest in our Plant Conservation Volunteer (PCV) Corps. The information below should give you an idea of how our program works. If you are interested in applying, we have enclosed an application for you to fill out and send back to us. We hold annual volunteer training sessions in March and April, which new volunteers must attend to participate. The training sessions provide an overview of the volunteer program, directions for conducting rare plant monitoring, a presentation on the plant species to be surveyed, and other special topics chosen for the year.

The PCV Corps is a component of the New England Plant Conservation Program (NEPCoP). The New England Wild Flower Society (the Society) administers NEPCoP, which is a voluntary alliance of organizations and individuals committed to the protection of the native flora of our region. The PCVs have been active in every New England state since 2001.

PCVs further plant conservation by participating in the following activities:

- **Rare plant monitoring** – The basic intent of the PCV Corps is to gain a more current assessment of the status of rare species in New England. The Society staff and state botanists decide which rare plant populations volunteers will monitor. PCVs sign up for surveys at the training session, conduct site visits during the field season, and fill out rare plant survey forms. Filling out survey forms involves recording such information as the number of plants (if found) and their condition. While the information is not unduly scientific or complex, accuracy and thoroughness are necessary. Where volunteers note threats or population declines, the information is used to help determine the best strategies for protection.
- **Courses and field trips**– Trips and courses are led by professional botanists and land managers, providing an opportunity for PCVs to learn more about identification, ecology, and conservation in the field.
- **Habitat management** – A variety of habitat management projects are offered for volunteers to help protect rare plant populations from threats, including natural succession and invasive species.
- **Botanical inventory** –PCVs help the Society staff conduct floristic and plant community inventories for municipal and private property owners to guide appropriate land management decisions.

What kind of qualifications do we seek in volunteers? We are looking for people who have some botanical knowledge, a commitment to conservation, good observation skills, a sense of adventure, and a few spare days over the course of the field season (roughly from May through October). Volunteers will also need to arrange their own transportation.

If you are interested in participating, please submit the attached application form. If you are accepted into the program, we will send you an invitation to the spring training session. I thank you very much for your interest in the PCV Corps and look forward to receiving your application. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to give me a call.

Sincerely,

John Burns
Plant Conservation Volunteer Coordinator
508-877-7630 Ext. 3204
E-mail: jburns@newenglandWILD.org

Plant Conservation Volunteers Application Form

Name:

Date:

Street Address:

Town, State, Zip:

Home County:

Phone #: (h) ----- (w) -----

E-mail:

Are you a member of the Society? Yes No

Are you a participant in the Society certificate program? Yes No

How did you hear about our volunteer program?

Why are you interested in volunteering for this program?

What applicable experience do you have (i.e. courses, field trips, field work, etc.)?

In what other volunteer activities have you been involved?

(OVER please)

In what activities are you interested? Invasive species? Rare plant monitoring? Habitat management? Botanical inventory?

What distance are you willing to travel and/or what part of the state are you interested in?

What is your time availability? (Please be as specific and realistic as you can. This can be a set number of days per month or season, or just a maximum you think you can contribute. Also, it's helpful to know if you are available weekdays, weekends, or both).

Please give us the name, address and **phone number** of at least one personal reference.

THANK YOU. We will use this application to review your qualifications. You will be notified of the date of our next training session upon acceptance into the Plant Conservation Volunteer Corps.

Send to:

Plant Conservation Volunteer Coordinator
New England Wild Flower Society
180 Hemenway Road
Framingham, MA 01701-2699