

PCV CORPS MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

◆ Spring training programs are designed to teach volunteers new skills and species each year. We strongly urge volunteers to attend annual training programs, as the information and exercises provided are invaluable.



◆ A variety of field trips led by professional botanists are offered throughout New England each field season, providing the opportunity for PCVs to learn more about identification, ecology and conservation in the field.



◆ Free botanical courses are offered especially for PCVs each year.

◆ Every three or four years we hold a multi-day symposium on plant related conservation issues



◆ The program provides the opportunity to visit some of the most diverse and unique natural communities in New England. Many of these sites are not available for visitation by the general public.

◆ The success of the PCV Corps has made it a model for similar programs in other states and regions, including Georgia, Washington, Colorado, North Carolina, and the Midwest. You can be proud of your involvement in this important and progressive program.

APPLICANT QUALIFICATIONS

What kind of qualifications do we seek in volunteers? We are looking for people who have:

1. some botanical knowledge;
2. a commitment to native plant conservation;
3. good observation skills;
4. a sense of adventure and a few spare days over the course of the field season (roughly from May through October); and
5. their own transportation.

HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

If you are interested in learning more or are thinking of participating, please contact us.

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Or visit our website at: www.newenglandwild.org

From the website you can download a PCV application or read more about our other leading conservation initiatives including:

- ⇒ the Invasive Plant Atlas of New England (IPANE)
- ⇒ Conservation and Research Plans for New England's 100 rarest plants.

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NEW ENGLAND
**WILD
 FLOWER
 SOCIETY**



Become a
Plant Conservation Volunteer



Help monitor and protect
 New England's rarest native plants



EVOLUTION OF THE PLANT CONSERVATION VOLUNTEER CORPS

In 1991 the New England Wild Flower Society organized the New England Plant Conservation Program (NEPCoP) to prevent the extirpation and promote the recovery of the region's endangered flora. The NEPCoP Program is a voluntary alliance comprised of individual botanists, private institutions, and government agencies.



Early on, NEPCoP participants recognized that rare plant conservation needed a large constituency. To build that constituency, NEWFS launched the Plant Conservation Volunteer Corps in 1998.

The Plant Conservation Volunteer Corps, or PCV Corps for short, is an award winning volunteer citizen-based rare plant conservation initiative. The PCV Corps has grown from a small pilot program in Massachusetts to a regional program engaging hundreds of volunteers all across New England.

PCV CORPS MISSION STATEMENT

The PCV Corps' mission is *to involve interested participants in activities that promote the conservation of New England's native flora and habitats with a special emphasis on rare species protection.* This is accomplished through the activities listed on the following page.

PCV CORPS ACTIVITIES

Plant Conservation Volunteers are involved in a variety of activities vital to the preservation of the native flora of New England. Listed below is a general outline of the activities in which PCVs are primarily involved.

Rare Plant Monitoring — Volunteers monitor the health of the rarest plants in New England. Our goal is to have a network of volunteers throughout New England surveying populations of rare plants in their communities on a regular basis, identifying threats to these populations, and, concurrently, building a constituency for plant conservation and natural history.



Survey and Control of Invasive Species — As one of the earliest settled areas in the country, many plants brought from overseas were first documented in New England. As a result, many of our natural areas are extremely threatened by invasive exotic plants. Under NEWFS guidance, volunteers survey and remove invasive species in natural areas, particularly in habitats where these species are just beginning to impact native flora.



Habitat Management — Loss of natural communities through development and succession is an increasing problem as urban areas expand and land use patterns modify ever larger areas of New England. Today, more of the New England landscape is forested than 200 years ago, as many of the open agricultural lands have reverted to woodlands. Because of this, early successional habitats and their associated plants, are seriously threatened.



General Botanical Surveys — New England is home to nearly half of the nation's land trusts and the acreage protected through these private trusts rivals that in the public domain. The vast majority of land trusts do not have the staff or botanical expertise to survey their properties. It should come as no surprise that most lands owned by private individuals have also not been surveyed. PCVs are trained to produce botanical surveys and management recommendations at minimal cost.

THE NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM CONNECTION

The Natural Heritage Programs work to preserve their states' native biological diversity through inventory, research, environmental review, habitat protection, and data management. They are housed under larger state agencies, such as the Department of Environmental Protection or Agency of Natural Resources. Information is maintained in databases that are used to track, assess, and provide information on biological diversity. The data is useful in planning management and protection efforts, and in determining which areas are most important to preserve due to their biological significance. The Heritage Programs provide information to assist public agencies, local planning boards, and conservation commissions.

NEWFS has formed partnerships with all six Natural Heritage Programs in New England. These partnerships address the sensitive nature of rare plant data and provide for its secure dissemination to third parties. Under this agreement, Natural Heritage programs share their database information with NEWFS so that PCVs can perform rare plant monitoring. Of course, the partnership is mutually beneficial. The PCVs are helping the programs update the conservation status of countless species by collecting data at rare plant sites during regularly scheduled visits. In the process, PCV's frequently discover previously undocumented populations.

"The Plant Conservation Volunteer Corps is of incredible value to the State of New Hampshire and a great example of how private organizations and public agencies can partner to achieve great results."

David VanLuven, former Coordinator,
NH Natural Heritage Inventory