

**The Nature Conservancy's
Francis C. Carter Preserve
Bow Hunter Volunteer Incentive Program**

Revised August 7, 2006

What is it?

An optional program that encourages volunteering by reward of a guaranteed bow hunting permit or additional bow hunting permits for the Francis Carter Preserve during the designated hunting period.

Why have a volunteer incentive program?

- The Nature Conservancy values and often depends on the help of volunteers to steward its nature preserves. Some projects require work groups to accomplish specific tasks.
- It will expand our volunteer base for stewardship activities by involving members of the local hunting community.
- Volunteers *do* make a difference – they help educate the public and encourage compatible preserve use and stewardship of our natural lands.
- Volunteering is rewarding - it gives the opportunity to give back, help the environment, and work with others who may share the same interests.
- Volunteering shows your support of The Nature Conservancy and will help keep the Carter Preserve enjoyable for future generations.

How does it work?

This volunteer program is optional. The 2006 Carter Preserve Cooperative Bow Hunting season dates are November 1 – December 31, 2006 and are promulgated by the RI DEM Division of Fish and Wildlife. ALL applicants for the 2006 Francis Carter Preserve Cooperative Bow Hunting program must:

1. Return 2005 Francis Carter Hunter Harvest Record Cards, regardless of hunting success or activity, if you received a permit in 2005.
2. Have a current Archery Proficiency Card.
3. Complete the Application for the 2006 Francis Carter Cooperative Bow Hunting Area. Applications will be available August 1 – September 15 by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to RI Division of Fish and Wildlife, 277 Great Neck Road, West Kingston, RI 02892 or downloaded from the web at www.dem.ri.gov
Please contact RI DEM at 401-789-0281 with questions or concerns about the application process.



As proposed, applicants who are selected for the Carter Preserve bow hunting season will be issued one permit. Two hours of volunteer service (or previous volunteer service in 2005) at the Carter Preserve will guarantee issuance of one permit (to avoid competition w/ other applicants). **A maximum of four permits may be achieved by volunteering additional hours. Bow hunters must volunteer a specific number of hours as outlined below in order to receive additional permits:**

6 hours per year = two permits
9 hours per year = three permits
12 hours or more = four permits

All volunteer hours must be recorded on an activity log and submitted to the Conservancy's Preserves Manager before October 15, 2006. The Preserves Manager will submit names to RI DEM Division of Fish and Wildlife for issuance of permits prior to the lottery.

How do I get started in this program?

Please contact Cheryl Wiitala, Preserves Manager at 401-331-7110 ext. 25 or email cwiitala@tnc.org. You will be asked to complete a volunteer application so that we can add you to the volunteer list and notify you of any upcoming opportunities, or discuss what projects may interest you. You will be sent a volunteer activity log which will be used to record volunteer hours and type of project or activity. This log will serve as proof of volunteer hours.