

Collecting forest products from the Wayne National Forest has long been a popular pastime. It's an activity that provides families enjoyable outings to the forest while bringing home useful products. Any forest product collected for commercial purposes will require a special use permit.

Keep in mind, collecting products on private land without permission is trespassing and constitutes theft. Maps are available from Forest Service offices which show national forest ownership.

Fruits and nuts may be collected such as blackberries, raspberries, walnuts, hickory nuts, pecan, or rose hips for personal use. If you have any questions whether a particular activity requires a permit, please contact one of our offices.

One "fruit" which is often collected on the Forest are pinecones. People are welcome to collect pinecones which are often gathered by families for crafts and Christmas decorations.

Mushrooms make spring a favorite time of year for many Buckeyes. April is usually the peak season for collecting mushrooms. Morels and snakeheads are some of the more popular but there are several edible varieties.

Novices should consult books or an expert before eating any mushrooms they collect since many look similar and some can be toxic.

Mushrooms are the fruiting body of a fungi which grows as a mat layer in the top soil. The mushrooms we collect will naturally mature and release spores. Morels increase in size as they age and their growth depends on the moisture, temperature, and fertility of the soil.

There are no sure ways to find mushrooms. Generally if you've found them in an area in the past, they are likely to be there again. Enjoy the search as much as the picking.

Firewood may be collected only in specific areas and only with a Forest Product Removal Permit (FS 2400-1). A copy of maps of the areas where you are allowed to collect will be issued with the permit. We do require that the permit be purchased in person at one of our offices because we need original signatures.

Permits are NOT required if the person is currently camped on national forest land, and the firewood being collected is for campfire use only. Campfire wood is limited to the amount which can be carried by hand to the camp site. The wood collected can be ONLY DEAD AND DOWN. No standing trees may be cut - dead or alive, of any size. No wood can be taken home or taken to private land. All others must have a permit to collect firewood.

Firewood Permits

Each permit is \$20.00, and will allow the permittee to collect up to 4 CCF (hundred cubic feet of wood) which is approximately 5 standard cords. Each person is limited to ONE firewood permit per year. Whoever the permit is issued to needs to be of legal age (at least 18 years old.) ONLY DEAD AND DOWN wood may be collected. No standing trees may be cut - dead or alive, of any size.

Firewood may not be moved outside the gypsy moth quarantine area or outside the emerald ash borer quarantine area. There are also maps for each district depicting areas closed to firewood harvest.

(continued on inside)



Contact Us

The Wayne has three offices to serve visitors. Office hours are 8 - 4:30 Monday through Friday.

Athens Ranger District
13700 U.S. Hwy 33
Nelsonville, OH 45764
Phone: 740-753-0101

Marietta Unit Office
27515 State Route 7
Marietta, OH 45750
Phone: 740-373-9055

Ironton Ranger District
6518 State Route 93
Pedro, OH 45659
Phone: 740-534-6500

Federal relay: 1-800-877-8339
website: fs.usda.gov/wayne

Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/waynenationalforest>



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Wayne National Forest *Gathering Forest Products*



**Forest
Service**

FS-R9-037
09/2016

Rocks

Small quantities of unique **rocks** for personal use may be collected on the Forest. These rocks may not be resold and there should be no earth disturbed in the process of collecting.

Gold

Recreational gold prospecting is also of some interest on the Wayne. There is little known gold in Ohio and none has been found on the Wayne to our knowledge. However, the use of a gold pan and digging of a few shovels full of material here and there in a stream is allowed without a permit. Any digging in the banks of streams, digging holes, using a sluice box or suction dredge, would require a permit. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources – Division of Mineral Resources Management, 34 Portsmouth Street, Jackson, Ohio 45640, 740-286-6411 can provide you additional information on state requirements for gold prospecting on state and private lands in Ohio.

Bottles, old farm equipment, and antiquated household utensils often remain at old farm sites throughout the Wayne. These items are protected and may not be removed. As historians and archaeologists examine the sites, many of these items allow them to date occupancy of the site and from these traces of the past, they can learn more about our heritage. Use of a metal detector to search for coins or other antiques and historic artifacts is prohibited. These objects are protected under federal antiquities acts. However, an exception to this rule is that coins may be collected and metal detectors used on beach areas in developed recreation sites.

Just as much of the Forest was once settled by pioneers, in prehistoric times, the area was used

by Native Americans who left remnants of their life here. Any artifacts such as **arrow-heads**, spear points, pottery, and grinding stones are protected by law and collection of these items is absolutely prohibited. Any earth disturbing activities in rock shelters or other sites of prehistoric occupation or possession of these artifacts on national forest lands is punishable by fines and imprisonment.

Plant Collecting -

This is so popular on the Wayne that a permit system is required to protect these resources from over-collection. The permit system allows Forest managers to be aware of how many collectors are using the land and what species are being collected. The only exception to the requirement for permits are small amounts of forest products for personal use such as blackberries, pinecones, mushrooms, or rose hips. If you have any questions whether a particular activity requires a permit, please contact one of our offices.

Plant collectors may collect in only one unit of the Forest and are required to list which species



Black cohosh or Snakeroot



Blue cohosh

they will gather. There are six species which may be collected: blue cohosh, black cohosh, snakeroot, yellowroot or goldenseal, wild ginger, or bloodroot. Ginseng is listed as a separate species and requires a separate



Yellowroot or Goldenseal

permit. For the other species, there is a \$20 permit fee

regardless of the number of species collected. The permit includes a map showing areas open to plant collecting on the unit selected. It is the permittees' responsibility to ensure they are in the correct location. Remember, collecting plants on someone else's land without permission is trespassing and constitutes theft.



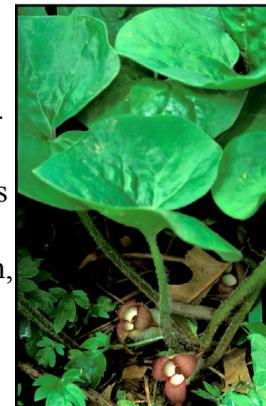
Bloodroot

Plant collecting permits are valid only during the calendar year purchased, not to exceed one year. A prospective permittee is required to show identification, such as a drivers license, when applying for a permit. Each permittee must also provide their phone number, vehicle make, and model.

Ginseng

The Wayne National Forest issues ginseng root collection permits beginning on August 1. Ginseng permits are \$20 and are sold through the harvest season, from September 1 thru December 31.

Ginseng root permits are

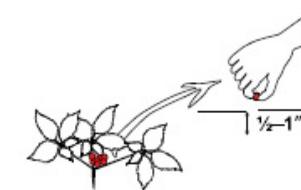


Wild ginger

stand-alone permits, not combined with the general root collection permit and are sold for each unit of the Wayne (Athens, Ironton, and Marietta). Changes were made to ensure ginseng is being managed sustainably on the Forest. Collecting without a permit is punishable by law. Ohio



Ginseng plant with berries and root.



law requires that with ginseng only mature roots-those with three leaf stems-be harvested. It also stipulates

that harvesters replant the berries dug up with the root.

Any plant species beyond the seven mentioned here require special permission to collect. Collection without a permit is punishable by law.

Come enjoy the Wayne National Forest and the products it yields.

Brochures were partly funded with a Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant.

