

# Wayne National Forest *Gathering Forest Products*



## 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 system for the deaf and hearing impaired: 1-800-877-8339  
**website: [fs.usda.gov/wayne](http://fs.usda.gov/wayne)**

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



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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 a map 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.

## Forest Product Removal (Firewood) Permits

Each permit is \$20.00, and will allow the permittee to collect up to 2 CCF (hundred cubic feet of wood) which is approximately 2.5 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.)

A permit can only be issued for areas on the Unit where the permit is being issued (Ironton issues only Ironton Areas, Marietta issues only Marietta Areas, and Athens issues only Athens Areas.) Permits will only be issued to residents of the county in which the firewood is to  
*(continued on inside)*

**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.

be gathered. (Verification of residence address will be required). This is a preventive measure to help slow the spread of invasive pests such as emerald ash borer.

A map of the permit area will accompany the permit. The map area will show the area within which a person MAY collect wood. These may be general areas where the permittee can pick up down and dead wood, or a specific collection area, such as a closed timber harvest area.

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.

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



*Blue cohosh*



*Black cohosh or Snakeroot*

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



*Yellowroot or Goldenseal*

collect in only one unit of the Forest and are required

to list which species they will gather. There are six species which may be collected: blue cohosh, black cohosh or snakeroot, yellowroot or goldenseal, wild ginger, bloodroot, and ginseng. 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.



*Bloodroot*

Remember, collecting plants on someone else's land without permission is trespassing and constitutes theft.

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. At the end of the season, the permit needs



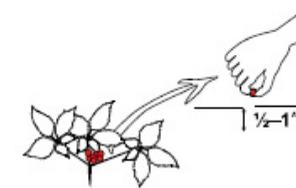
*Wild ginger*

to be **returned** to the Forest office. This allows Forest managers to monitor plant populations.

You may take up to five pounds total of roots (green weight) including up to 95 ginseng plants. Ginseng may be harvested from September 1 to December 31. Plants must be at least 5 years old and have at least 3 prongs before harvest.



*Ginseng plant with berries and root.*



State law requires collectors to immediately plant the seeds from each plant about 1 inch

deep in the collection location.

Any plant species beyond the six 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.**