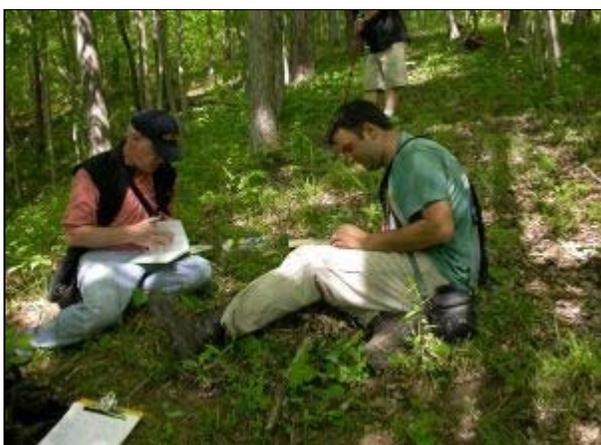




## West Virginia Native Plant Society Visits Wayne NF

*A group of volunteer amateur botanists assist the Wayne with inventories and monitoring.*



Romie Hughart, left, a member of the West Virginia Native Plant Society, Tri-State Chapter works with Chad Kirschbaum to "key-out" an unknown plant on a recent field trip in Kentucky.

On June 3, 2006, members of the West Virginia Native Plant Society and guests visited the Ironton District of the Wayne National Forest. Ironton District Botanist, Chad Kirschbaum led the group of ten amateur botanists on plant identification hikes in two areas of the forest; the Binion wildfire area and Young's Branch Special Area. Along the way, Kirschbaum discussed the effects of a massive ice storm that hit the region in 2003, as well as the 303-acre wildfire that burned the Binion Hollow area of the Forest in April of 2005. The damage to the forest resulting from these two events was still quite noticeable.

Kirschbaum discussed how the forest has recovered naturally from these disasters and the management techniques the Forest Service uses to salvage timber and prevent the spread of invasive species in these

areas. The importance of fire as a forest management tool and future management plans for the areas were also discussed. A total of 56 species were identified and recorded for the Binion site while 54 species were recorded for the Young's Branch special area. Highlights of the trip included viewing and learning to identify Running Buffalo Clover (*Trifolium stoloniferum*) a federally listed endangered species. Afterward the group enjoyed a covered dish cookout at the Lake Vesuvius Recreation Area.

The West Virginia Native Plant Society has partnered with Wayne National Forest on several recent grant applications, including a project to map invasive species in the Lake Vesuvius Recreation area and to help start a native plant seed garden at the Ironton District Office. For more information on the West Virginia Native Plant Society see [www.wvnps.org](http://www.wvnps.org).

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