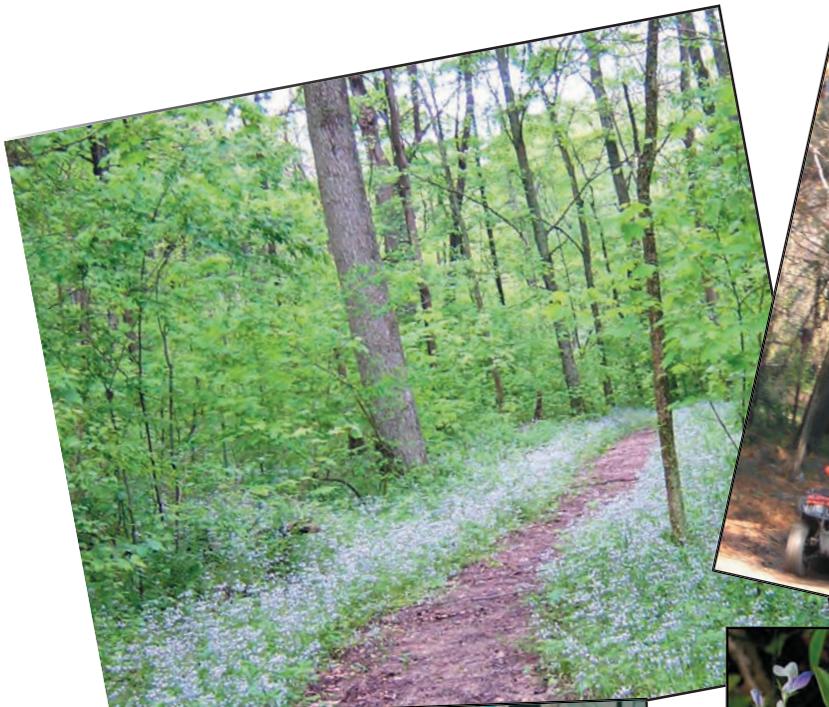




# Wayne National Forest Year in Review 2005

*Athens, Marietta and Ironton, Ohio -- Ohio's Only National Forest*



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0 5 10 20 30 40 Miles



30 15 0 30 Miles

 Wayne National Forest Proclamation Boundary

 Forest Service Offices

# From the Forest Supervisor



This past year was significant for both the Forest Service and the Wayne as we each marked several milestones. As an agency the Forest Service celebrated its Centennial in grand fashion with events and ceremonies throughout the year and across the nation.

The Wayne marked its 70th year in 2005, having grown from a handful of parcels in several purchase units in 1935 to its present 238,000 acres of restoration success. In our efforts to continue to build on those successes, we completed the revision of the 1988 Forest Plan this past December. The Plan is officially called the 2006 Forest Plan because it is being distributed early in 2006, but it was completed and signed in December 2005.

*A portion of the Wayne NF staff in front of the Nelsonville office.*



This 2006 Plan will be the guide by which all of our future projects and activities are gauged or measured. This will make certain that we manage the natural resources of the Forest for today's opportunities and demands, as well as our future resource needs and quality of life concerns. We feel strongly that the direction this Plan will lead us will satisfy the concerns we have heard from the public involvement portions of the Plan revision process and match them with the best available science to continue the restoration success that is the Wayne National Forest.

Our successes in 2005 were Forest-wide, and we enjoyed continued progress in many projects with our many natural resource partners. Every year we continue to make progress in many areas, including watershed work, wild-

life and recreation. We made great strides in many conservation projects and partnerships in 2005 as well, and I take pride in distributing this 2005 Annual Report of our management partnerships and successes.

Please feel free to direct any questions you may have about the Wayne to my attention. We look forward to another prosperous and progressive year in caring for the land and serving people!

*Mary O. Reddan*

Wayne National Forest  
13700 U.S. Highway 33  
Nelsonville, OH 45764  
740-753-0101

## 2006 Forest Plan Released

The 2006 Forest Plan, which will guide management of the Wayne National Forest for the next 10-15 years, and associated Record of Decision and Final Environmental Impact Statement were released at the end of January 2006. The Plan was developed with extensive public involvement and is the result of several public meetings and hundreds of public comments.

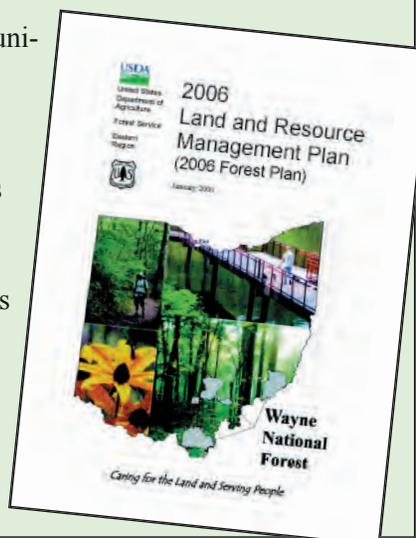
"It was refreshing to find so many people willing to get engaged in the process and interested in charting a better path for managing their National Forest," said Bob Gianniny, Forest Planner on the Wayne. The 2006 Forest Plan accomplishes several things:

- Establishes Forest management direction and long-range goals and objectives
- Establishes management areas
- Specifies management standards and guidelines (similar to zoning uses and restrictions in a city or county plan)
- Identifies lands suitable for various uses, including timber production, and oil and gas development
- Establishes a monitoring strategy to evaluate how well the Plan works

There were six goals emphasized in the Forest Plan. These goals are:

- Improve watershed health
- Contribute to the economies of local communities
- Provide plant and animal habitat to support viability of all native species
- Provide a variety of recreation opportunities matched to the capabilities of the Forest and public demand
- Lease Federally-owned oil and gas resources
- Continue to consolidate National Forest System land through land acquisition

For more information on the Forest Plan, visit our website at [www.fs.fed.us/r9/wayne.html](http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/wayne.html). To receive a copy, contact the Nelsonville office.



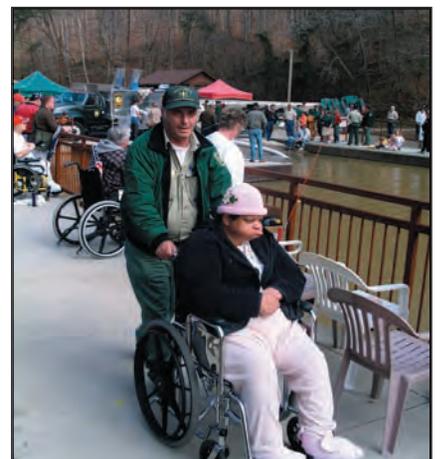
## ATTENDANCE DOUBLES AT SECOND WHEELIN' SPORTSMAN EVENT!

The crowd size doubled from the previous year at the "Wheelin' Sportsmen Fishing day" on April 8, 2005 at Lake Vesuvius. The National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) partners with the Wayne National Forest to host a fishing event designed for physically challenged individuals.

The county commissioners proclaimed this to be the "Wheelin' Sportsmen Fishing Day" in Lawrence County, OH. In their proclamation they point out that there are more than 5,300 physically challenged persons residing in Ohio who would like to participate in the outdoor activities of hunting and fishing.

According to Buddy Fry, president of the Ohio State Chapter of the NWTF, "the first Wheelin' Sportsmen event was such a huge success that Ohio DNR Division of Wildlife agreed to provide 1,000 rainbow trout again in 2005." Originally planned as a one time event, the Wheelin' Sportsman Day has had its second annual success as many local people, unable to fish for many years because of disabilities, came out and took advantage of a great fishing day.

The one-third mile long boardwalk suspended over the water between the boat dock and the dam offers an excellent location for the event. Ironton District Ranger Gloria Chrismer said, "The boardwalk was built with a gentle grade, has safety railings and benches for resting. The boardwalk makes it possible for persons young and old and of every ability to fish at Lake Vesuvius or just get out and enjoy the lake." Chrismer also added, "This partnership is evidence of what folks working together for a common cause can accomplish. None of us alone could have produced an event of such quality. But together we have successfully served and will be able to continue to serve a large group of folks with special abilities."



*Ed McFann helps a participant at the 2nd annual Wheelin' Sportsman Day at Lake Vesuvius, while others prepare to fish.*



# Partnerships reap success in Southeastern Ohio

## Cadmus Wetland Provides Valuable Wildlife Habitat

The Cadmus Wetlands were completed in 2003, a year before floods damaged the levees and spillways. Yet even when damaged, the wetland continued to absorb floodwaters and attract wildlife.

The wetland was repaired a year later with the help of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Wildlife, who helped with funding. A new spillway was added and two others were lined with riprap to better protect them and allow water to regulate during flooding without damaging the levees.

Two other small vernal wetlands, one-quarter acre each, were also added in the same vicinity for additional capacity and wildlife habitat.

Although drained and farmed for the last century, the area was historically in wetlands as evidenced by soils and remnant plant communities.

The 30+ acre Cadmus Wetland complex near the community of Cadmus was a cooperative effort by the Wayne National Forest, Ohio Division of Wildlife, and Trustees of Walnut Township in Gallia County. The complex includes a main pool with several islands and six adjacent ephemeral wetlands. These smaller wetlands, or sedge meadows, are designed to hold water seasonally benefiting amphibians, wood cocks, and insect eating birds.



## Wharton Mine Project - Treating Acid Mine Drainage

Past mining activities left miles of streams polluted by acid mine drainage and nearly devoid of aquatic life. The headwaters of the Monday Creek Watershed is one of the most impacted areas. These waters recorded a pH of 2.9 (7.0 is considered neutral). Treating the acidic source of pollution allows for many miles of benefits downstream.

In the Wharton Mine Project, completed in 2005, we reconstructed a channel to divert acid mine water away from private land. The new channel was lined with limestone to reduce the acidity. In critical sections, a rubber liner was also used to prevent it from being diverted into groundwater.

Several projects in the headwaters of Monday Creek are in their early phases. In 2005, sites in Monkey Hollow and Pine Run had preliminary assessments and site investigations completed. Other sites in Upper Pine Creek, New Straitsville North, Carbon Hill, and East Branch were mapped or various phases of work completed in 2005.

In 2005, the Army Corps of Engineers completed a feasibility study for Monday Creek which will also facilitate more projects in the future.



*Work on the Wharton acid mine drainage project counter clockwise from beginning to completion.*



*Volunteers and Forest employees clean up a dump on the Forest with Dover Township's help.*



## Cleaning up the Landscape

Ideally the Wayne National Forest landscape would be natural-appearing and litter-free. "Unfortunately roadside litter and rural dumpsites continue to be a problem on the Forest - in some areas it is much worse than others," says Marsha Wikle from the Wayne. "We do what we can to help local governments who have crews available and can clean up dumps and both the State of Ohio and the US Forest Service make additional funding available."

"Perry County has always been very aggressive about going after this money to clean up rural dumps," said Wikle. Each year 5-10 dump sites in southern Perry County get cleaned up as well as roadside litter picked up. Wikle said Dover Township in Athens County has also made good use of the available money by cleaning up several dump sites in the Chauncey area, including an abandoned road where approximately 900 tires had been dumped. The Forest was able to contribute \$2,300 to Dover Township to assist with this cleanup effort. "This year the Buckeye Trail route coordinator on the Forest initiated a clean-up with trail and Monday Creek Restoration Project volunteers who cleaned up a section of a county road crossed by the Buckeye Trail," said Wikle.

Working together to clean up the landscape benefits our quality of life and makes visits to the Wayne more pleasant.

## WAYNE N.F. TRAILS RECOVER FROM FLOOD DAMAGE

Damage caused by floods in January 2005 forced the Wayne to delay opening the 182 miles of motorized and non-motorized trails on the Athens Ranger District. Most of the trails, which normally open by April 15, were opened to the public by July 1, but only after a concerted effort by many partners, volunteers, and committed Forest staff.

Twenty-four trail bridges required moderate to heavy repair work to their support structures. In many cases the supports were totally eroded out and suspended in the air with the creekbed deeply channeled out below (*see photos to right*). Four road and trail slips and five culverts were also identified for repair. A slip on the Kinderhook Horse Trail was so significant that a section had to be permanently closed. The Kinderhook Trail was the only trail not to reopen in 2005, but Wayne personnel hope to have the trail open for the 2006 trail season.

All-terrain vehicle (ATV) and off-highway motorcycle riding are especially popular on the Wayne with more than 20,000 riders from 31 different states riding Forest trails in 2004. The Wayne's staff knew that with so many riders affected by the closure and with the trail season opening date of April 15 rapidly approaching, there was no time to lose.

*Photos here show contractors repairing bridge supports and trail treads and an ATV bridge refurbished after the floods.*



The Forest developed a comprehensive communication campaign to quickly inform the public of the trail opening delay. In addition to mailings, press releases, signage, and phone calls, the Ohio Department of Transportation graciously provided two electronic highway bulletin boards stationed along U.S. Highway 33 informing visitors of the trail closures.

Four volunteer workdays were held. Projects included constructing fences to block illegal trails, constructing a new ATV loading ramp, culvert cleaning, and garbage pick up. On the Marietta Unit, sixteen mountain bikers and horsemen contributed over 730 man-hours to maintain more than 100 miles of hiking/biking and horse trails to return the trails to operating condition.

Due to the amount and difficulty of the reconstruction work on the trails and bridges, most of the work was done by contractors. More than 1 million dollars of Forest Service and Federal Highway Administration money was spent in clean-up and restoration of the Forest's recreation sites and trails.

The closing of these trails and their subsequent impact on the local economy was a revelation to many of the people in the community and the Forest Service.

Sally Dunker, Director of the Athens County Convention and Visitor's Bureau (CVB), as well as other community leaders mentioned the fact that they saw a noticeable reduction in the amount of traffic through the town of Nelsonville, Ohio, which is located adjacent to an ATV trail system during the time the trails were closed. Dunker notes this translates into a

significant loss in revenue to the local economy. For the two and a half months that the trails remained closed, the Athens CVB estimated revenue loss to be approximately one million dollars.

Thanks to cooperation by the public in respecting the closure, volunteer assistance, supplemental funding, and good weather, the Forest was able to reopen most of the trails on July 1, and all but one trail was opened by August 1. Local businesses and Visitor's Bureaus were relieved when the trails reopened and business as usual resumed around the trail systems but with a new twist; a new appreciation for the amount of traffic the trails brought to the communities.



## US Highway 33 Bypass to have many Improvements for People and Environment

The Wayne has worked closely with Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) on minimizing and mitigating impacts due to the proposed Nelsonville bypass, a four-lane controlled access highway between Haydenville and New Floodwood. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Forest Service have executed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to transfer national forest system lands for construction of the bypass. The Wayne's, Terry Kreinhop, P.E. shown below, has coordinated the project for the Forest.

Kreinhop said the project design is almost complete and has been a win-win for everyone concerned. Coordination between agencies has resulted in minimizing the impacts of construction and has included four wildlife crossings and provisions to preclude invasive species and revegetate with native species. He also noted funding has been set aside for new all-terrain vehicle trails and a large culvert to reconnect impacted trails. Kreinhop said his role was to ensure standards required by the Forest were implementable, understandable, and enforceable. He said his job has been challenging and rewarding and notes, "FHWA and ODOT are trying to be good environmental stewards and are willing to do the extra to help us protect our resources."

When the project was re-initiated in 2004 it was a Presidential Priority Project and the #1 non Interstate Priority Project in Ohio. It includes 8.5 miles of four lane highway. About sixty percent of the acreage is across the Wayne National Forest. The impact is on some 260 acres of land, with approximately 320 acres within the easement area. Due to the design minimization much of the area inside the easement area is being left forested, which is unusual and a bonus for wildlife. The use of higher than usual fencing in areas of the project will help channel wildlife for safety purposes.



Four wildlife crossings have been designed into the project. A 140' wide wildlife crossing will be a real boon for a local population of grizzled skippers, a Regional Foresters' Sensitive Species, which migrates along that area. Two pipe culverts will serve small animals and amphibians. A large box culvert will provide for large mammals and habitat connectivity.

A box culvert 10' high and 12' wide has been provided for an ATV trail crossing to pass under the highway. In consideration of the 2.5 miles of ATV trail that will need to be temporarily closed for up to 3 years during the highway construction, ODOT is providing \$100,000 in funds to construct a new trail the Wayne has wanted to build in the Camp Ohio area.

Although the Wayne will be giving up about 260 acres of land to the highway construction, ODOT may be donating several parcels of land back to the Forest in the future. Portions of the orphaned highway easement as well as other areas in excess of the easement acreage may eventually be under national forest management. "In the short-term, we'll see some disruption of some lands we've traditionally managed," admits Kreinhop, "but long-term, we'll see real benefits from the partnership we've developed with FHWA and ODOT."

# RESTORING Natural Resources in Southeastern Ohio



## THE WAYNE COMPLETES COMPLEX PRESCRIBED BURN

In May, the Wayne completed a complex 688-acre prescribed burn along West Bailey Road, north of State Route 33. The successful burn reduced fuel loads and increased wildlife habitat in the area.

“There were heavy fuel loads in the area,” said Kevan Moore, Fire Management Officer for the Wayne, “and we wanted to reduce the hazard from these fuels.” The area had a large amount of adjacent private land and numerous oil wells, both of which add complexity to the burn.

Moore and his fire management team carefully planned the burn and location of fire lines to ensure safety, fire behavior, and private property. Due to the complexity of the prescribed burn several multi-agency crews and resources were asked to assist.

Moore explained when there was a break in the weather allowing for a safe burn, they quickly assembled the team. The burn took place over five days in April 2005.

“The burn was a complete success,” says Moore. “We sustained no injuries and the volume of available burnable fuels was reduced by approximately 40 percent.”

An additional 74 acre prescribed burn was completed at Handley Branch on the Ironton District.



The photographs above (top left to bottom right) show the fire safety brief before the start of a burn, a test fire to determine burning conditions, lighting a fire line, and a fully involved understory burn. The photo in the upper right shows a person checking a burned area.

## DRAGONFLIES ABOUND ON THE WAYNE

Dragonflies and damselflies are two of the most visible indicators of wetland diversity and health. Their population change allows monitoring of environmental change.

Until recently little information was available on these insects or their distribution on the Forest. The Wayne changed that with a survey of Forest ponds and wetlands in 2005.

The Forest, working with a Hocking College Fish Management student, wanted to determine what species were on the Forest to know how projects might affect them.

The survey found each pond or wetland on the Forest had 5-8 species. Frogwood Pond near Nelsonville had the greatest diversity of species with 12 dragonfly and 6 damselfly species surveyed.



## BAT CENSUS SOARS WITH MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENTS

The mine gate below was installed in 2001 to protect an endangered Indiana bat hibernation site. Over the past four years, bat population numbers have skyrocketed.

At the site counts have risen from 150 of the endangered Indiana bats in 1999, to 333 in 2005.

In addition to the Indiana bats the abandoned limestone mine is used by hibernating brown bats, eastern pipistrelles, big brown bats, and northern bats.

The bat gates protect the hibernating bats from disturbance but do not inhibit bats entering the mines or caves.

Bat boxes have also been constructed and installed under bridges in the Monday Creek Off-Road Vehicle Area.

Bat boxes placed under bridges help replace trees lost during bridge construction and provide ideal bat roosts close to streams.

Mist net surveys shown in the photo below, are also conducted to determine what areas bats use and what species are present.



The dense clusters of hibernating bats such as the group shown above may number 400 or more individuals.



Since the early 1990's nine bat-friendly gates have been installed in partnership with the Ohio Division of Wildlife, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Ohio Division of Mineral Resources Management, and bat expert Roy Powers.

## Breeding Bird Survey Successfully Completed!

Three committed volunteers observed almost 4,800 birds of 103 species during the Wayne's breeding bird survey in the Spring of 2005.

Dale Dalrymple and Brian Barchus worked 23 survey routes across the Wayne which crossed a variety of habitats including wetlands, grasslands, and forest.

Meanwhile Charlie Patterson took the survey information and entered it into a computerized data model for use by Forest biologists.

The survey is conducted each spring to increase the Forest's knowledge of bird population trends.

The three men responsible for the breeding bird survey are shown below.



## WILDLAND FIRE PROVIDES CLOSE CALL

In mid April, the Wayne experienced one of its most intense wildfires in recent years.

The Binion Fire, near Binion Hollow off Highway 93, burned 303 acres on the Ironton District.

The fire quickly spread through storm damaged trees, burning 194 acres of National Forest System land and 109 acres of private land. It took six days to contain the fire at a cost of \$100,000.

Though the Forest had worked hard since the 2003 ice storms to reduce fuels along roads and trails, the area was still a tinderbox.

Wayne National Forest firefighters responded quickly to get the fire under control. "We were lucky," said David Bostic, Fire Specialist on the Ironton District, "to have extremely capable people who busted a gut to get the fire under control."

Bostic echoed the sentiments of everyone on the Wayne when he noted, "We knew the potential was there for this fire to get people killed or badly hurt so we were committed to getting it controlled quickly."

In November four other wild fires, one totalling almost 100 acres were brought under control in the same area.

The background photo shows an aerial view of the ash-covered Binion fire area. The inset photo is of a firefighter with a driptorch backfiring along a control line.



## Threat from Invasives Increased

Due to the heavy fuel loads the Ironton fires burned with abnormally high fire intensity, resulting in exposed soil and increased light levels to the forest floor.

These post-fire conditions are ideal for the establishment and spread of non-native invasive plant species such as garlic mustard shown in the photo to the right.

To ensure these aggressive invasive species don't displace native species as the burned areas recover, the Wayne is working to monitor and control invasive populations in the area.



## Fighting Wild Fire is a Joint Endeavor!

In 2005 the Wayne had a total of 72 wildfires on the Forest that burned 801 acres of land.

These fires were successfully brought under control by the joint efforts of the Wayne National Forest, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, National Park Service, and local Volunteer Fire Departments.

"Because of our scattered land ownership and the amount of fuel we have from recent storms, these partnerships and the quick response of the local volunteer fire departments prevented several times this number of acres going up in smoke," reflects Kevan Moore, Fire Management Officer on the Wayne National Forest.



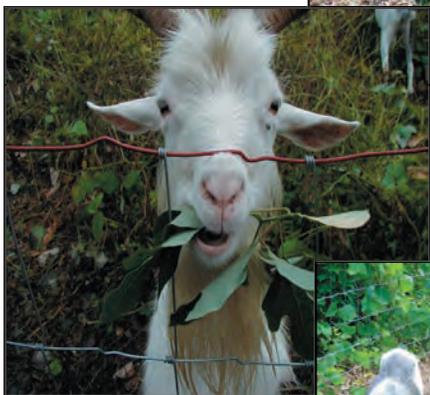
## CONTROLLING NONNATIVES

Game on. The Wayne is serious about the fight against non-native invasive plants. To control these threats to our native species, we've enlisted the help of the community.

Student volunteers from Hocking College and Rural Action (shown in photo to left and right) have helped pull garlic mustard in the Paynes Crossing Special Area.

Since 1998, inmate crews from the Federal Correctional Institute in Ashland, Kentucky have pulled garlic mustard every spring.

The Miami Valley Hiking Club installed boot brush stations (shown at right) to control the spread of seeds along the Wildcat Hollow Hiking Trail.



Goats are contracted to eat kudzu in areas where this invasive vine threatens native ecosystems.



Autumn olive is ripped up by the roots to eradicate this invasive and prolific tree species.



## Aquatic Inventory of Symmes and Pine Creeks Completed

A two-year cooperative fish and mussel inventory of Symmes and Pine Creek, both on the Ironton Ranger District, wrapped up in September. The study was done in partnership with Otterbein College in Westerville, just outside Columbus, Ohio.

Over 150 different sample sites along these creeks were sampled during the past two years by students and faculty from Otterbein's Department of Earth and Life Sciences.

Despite concerns of contamination by acid mine drainage, a byproduct of past coal mining which is lethal for aquatic life, the two creeks inventoried were generally healthy.

Aquatic inventory data collected through this partnership project demonstrated both creeks are impacted only to a small degree by acid mine drainage, and most importantly harbor populations of rare fish and mussels.

"We had a number of firsts for these two watersheds," reported Dr. Hoggarth, from Otterbein College. "In the mussel department we located three rare mussels, never before catalogued, from these creeks. The black sandshell and threehorn wartyback are endangered in Ohio, and the salamander mussel is on the Regional Forester sensitive species list."

The Otterbein crew also captured eastern sand darters – another Regional Forester sensitive species. The sand darter is a small fish that buries itself in sand and darts out after tiny insects. It is very intolerant of siltation of stream bottoms. The Otterbein crew found sand darters in historically populated sections of Symmes Creek, and for the first time ever in Pine Creek.

Though the field work is complete, the biologists are now processing and mapping fish and mussel information gathered over the past two years.

This information will be shared with biologists from the Ohio EPA who will use the fish sampling results to determine the health of the two streams and their tributaries.

The Forest Service will also monitor the sites and note changes to the aquatic community and to watershed health over time as various forest management projects are implemented.



*Student volunteers and Forest employees search through a net to identify and count fish.*

## "A FOREST RETURNS" DOCUMENTARY

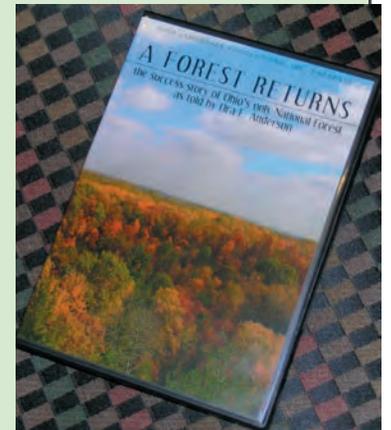
The history of the reforestation of the Wayne and southeastern Ohio is dramatically reflected in a documentary film, "A Forest Returns," produced by a local videographer.

Jean Andrews, an Ohio University Masters program student, completed the work as part of her master's degree thesis, but always had an eye toward something more. Her efforts have since been recognized with Best Film awards from several regional and national film festivals, from West Virginia to North Carolina and Montana, to name a few.

The film is an oral history as told by local historian, artisan and retired journalist and editor Ora Anderson.

Anderson, now 94, worked with the first two Forest Service agents from Jackson, Ohio in 1935 to make the first land purchases that have grown into the Wayne National Forest. His recounting of the socio-economic condition and heritage of the area is beautifully reflected in the historic photos, maps and graphics that Andrews was able to find in Wayne archives and from other sources.

The DVD is available for purchase at numerous regional vendors, including the Wayne National Forest.



*Leith Run shelter house inundated with mud after the January flood.*

## Leith Run Also Damaged by Flooding

Two rounds of flooding, one in September 2004 and another in January 2005, took their toll on the Leith Run Campground near Marietta, Ohio. The campground, on the banks of the Ohio River, delayed opening for approximately 8 weeks while the Community Action Program of Washington and Morgan Counties and the Forest Service cleaned up the mud and damage from the floodwaters.

Twelve to 18 inches of mud deposited throughout the campground had to be cleaned up and new wiring and plumbing installed before the campground could be opened.

Once opened for business on July 1 the site stayed mostly booked the rest of the season according to Jennie Freidhof, Assistant District Ranger.

## MAPPING INVASIVE SPECIES

The National Forest Foundation (NFF) awarded Dr. Robert Culp and Dr. Gary Belcher of Ohio University Southern (OUS) \$4,000 to map invasive plant species in the Lake Vesuvius Recreation Area. The University matched this contribution with \$4,000 for the project. With this money OUS hired two local interns. The interns will use Global Positioning Systems (GPS) to map invasive plant species, organize and lead volunteer workdays to remove invasives, and give talks on invasive plants.

Kirschbaum, Ironton District Botanist, hopes this is only the beginning of a partnership that will combat invasive species on a larger scale than just the Wayne National Forest.

Kirschbaum has big plans. "I'd like to set up a Weed Management Area with private and public landowners to monitor and control invasive species in Scioto, Lawrence, Gallia, and Jackson Counties," he said. He hopes to expand the partnership to other universities, organizations, local and state government and local business groups. Kirschbaum notes that the Wayne can only treat approximately 160 acres



*Interns from OUS inventorying populations of stiltgrass, one of the Wayne's worst forest invaders because it is shade tolerant and readily spreads.*

per year which doesn't begin to address the problem. "In order to really impact the spread of invasives, we need to form partnerships to fight them on a landscape scale. Invasive species don't recognize political boundaries and controlling them only on the Wayne National Forest isn't good enough," Kirschbaum explained.

Fortunately, organizations like NFF and the Fish and Wildlife Foundation offer grants that provide funding for programs that build local coalitions. Kirschbaum hopes to further exploit these opportunities.

The Vesuvius mapping project is a partnership between the Wayne, OUS, the Shawnee Nature Club; the West Virginia Native Plant Society, Tri-State Chapter; and the Ohio Invasives Council.

Invasive species are a major threat to the health and productivity of our nation's forests. The 5,775 acre Lake Vesuvius Recreation Area hosts a myriad of invasive species including multiflora rose, autumn olive, honeysuckle, English ivy, garlic mustard, and princess tree.

# Community Outreach bringing people together on the Wayne

## FREEDOM SONGS AND STORIES OF THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

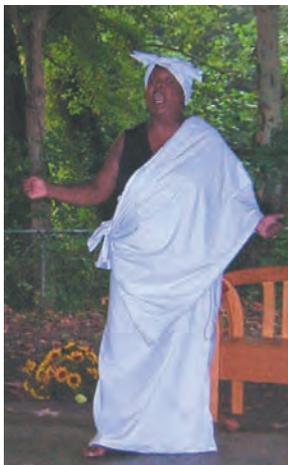
Songs of freedom resounded from Lake Vesuvius last summer when the Wayne and Ohio University Southern (OUS) Nature Center sponsored a variety of free musical events for campers and local residents.

The partnership between the Wayne National Forest and the Nature Center has opened the door for a wide range of educational and entertaining activities at the Lake Vesuvius Recreation Area.

One of the most memorable was a play written by Lawrence County Historical Museum volunteer Virginia Bryant and performed by local amateur historian and singer Susan Taylor (*shown above*).

The program was produced in partnership with the OUS Nature Center and docents of the Lawrence County Historical Museum and began with a dialogue of members of an ironmaster's family who were instrumental in establishing and supporting the Underground Railroad in Lawrence County during the Civil War. It was done in period costume by Kay Rader and her granddaughter. The program continued as Susan Taylor told the story of freedom from a slave's perspective.

Spiritual songs of freedom enhanced by Susan's deeply resonant voice echoed throughout the valley and deeply touched all who listened.



## 2005 Payments to Counties

In 2005, Ohio counties received from \$1.45-\$1.60/acre for NF lands within their counties. Of that, \$0.95 - 1.31/acre was paid as Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) money. In addition to the monies shown here counties received payments for mineral revenues (approximately 15 cents/acre), road projects, cooperative law enforcement, and volunteer fire department support.

The laws governing how part of these payments were made changed in 2001. Under the new laws counties could determine different strategies for receiving money. All Ohio counties did not make the same choice. Counties received different amounts of PILT dollars based on the amount of revenue sharing dollars they received under the Title I, II, and III Payments.

County	NF acreage	Title III payment	PILT payment	Total Payment
Athens	18,632	11,887	17,653	29,540
Gallia	17,049	11,137	15,904	27,041
Hocking	25,999	3,723	34,189	37,912
Jackson	1,701	244	2,229	2,473
Lawrence	69,762	9,991	91,417	101,408
Monroe	24,413	16,384	20,481	36,865
Morgan	3,328	477	4,350	4,827
Noble	694	214	809	1,023
Perry	22,233	3,184	29,060	32,244
Scioto	11,626	1,665	15,300	16,965
Vinton	1,869	268	2,447	2,715
Washington	39,513	28,485	34,770	63,255
TOTAL	236,819	\$87,659	\$268,609	\$356,268

Heather Stachler (left) and Ann Cramer (center) discuss the exhibit

## Forest Participates in Underground Railroad Exhibit

For most of 2005, an extraordinary exhibit entitled, "Freedom Seekers: Ohio and the Underground Railroad" appeared at the Bob Evans Farms Homestead Museum in Rio Grande, Ohio. The exhibit was a collaboration between the Wayne National Forest, Bob Evans Farms, the Friends of Freedom Society, and The Underground Railroad Museum.

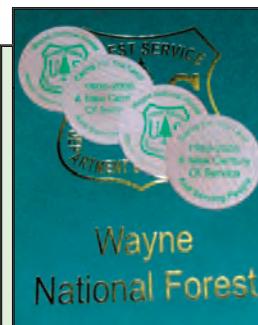
Heather Stachler, Public Affairs Assistant, designed the canvas exhibit panels and Ann Cramer, Forest Archaeologist, helped gather information for the content and photo credits. The text for the panels was written by the Friends of Freedom society and artifacts supplementing the exhibit were provided by the Underground Railroad Museum.

The exhibit tells the compelling story of the African American struggle from the oppression of slavery to the quest for freedom on the Underground Railroad. The Forest has been studying the Underground Railroad for more than 10 years and the exhibit was a great chance to develop new partnerships and continue this research. Designed as a learning tool, the exhibit has been included in the curriculum of local schools, spawned new ideas for other projects, and fostered further partnerships.



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To file a complaint of discrimination write: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Ave, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA Forest Service is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Centennial Highlights - The Forest Service celebrated the successes and failures of the last 100 years during 2005. To mark the occasion locally the Forest produced several thousand wooden dollars which were distributed at events during 2005. The wooden dollar was chosen over a wooden nickel because the dollar represents 100 cents, symbolic of the 100 year celebration.

## Artifact Identification Day on the Wayne

To commemorate Ohio Archaeology Month, the Wayne hosted an "Artifact Identification Day" on October 29, 2005.

The Forest co-sponsored the event with Hocking College and Ohio University's Department of Anthropology. Archaeologists Ann Cramer (Wayne NF), Joe Wakeman (Hocking College), and Dr. Elliot Abrams (OU) identified a variety of items brought in by more than 25 people in the Athens area.

Interesting items included a mastodon tooth and a beautifully-made quartzite birdstone (dating to the Hopewell period), arrowheads, prehistoric pottery sherds, axes, a nutting stone, flint drills, and some interesting fossils.

The event was such a success that the group decided to hold it annually and expand it to include geologists and paleontologists.



A variety of artifacts and fossils were brought in including those shown above: mastodon teeth, axes, arrowheads, nutting stones, and a birdstone (shown to left).