

## USDA Forest Service Botany in the News

### Wayne National Forest - Native Plant Rescue: Saving Our Natural Heritage

**Who (*partners*):** Wayne NF, Hocking College, Rural Action Appalachian Resource Center, Ohio University, United Plant Savers, Frontier Natural Products Cooperative, and the National Forest Stewardship Program.

**What:** Volunteers from Native Plant Rescue and Ohio University assisted Forest Service personnel in salvaging many native plants from the future site of the U.S. Highway 33 bypass that will cut through the Wayne National Forest. Many important medicinal plants including Goldenseal (*Hydrastis canadensis*), black and blue cohosh (*Actaea racemosa* and *Caulophyllum thalictroides*), bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*) and other medicinal and native plants.

**When:** September 2006

**Where:** Eastern Region, Wayne National Forest

**How:** Volunteers from Native Plant Rescue and Ohio University salvaged plants from the future highway corridor. Some plants have been placed in native plant beds for seed production for future restoration projects, public enjoyment and education. The beds are located behind the Athens Ranger District Forest Service Office. Some species will be maintained to harvest seed that will be used in future restoration projects on the Forest. A number of the salvaged plants were transplanted into young, disturbed forests on the Wayne NF. These species will increase the diversity of these forests.

**Why:** The Wayne NF provides important habitat for many native species of medicinal plants. Many of these species' populations are declining due to loss of habitat from rural development and harvesting pressures. The locally adapted genes of these salvaged species will be protected and preserved. Many generations in Appalachian Ohio have come to depend on the harvest of medicinal plants to provide supplemental income and alternative medicines.

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White trillium, one of the many Species transplanted during the Salvage project. Photo courtesy Of Rural Action.



Volunteers plant black cohosh and other species in beds on the Wayne National Forest. Photo Courtesy of Rural Action.



Tanner Filyaw salvages plants from the highway corridor. Photo courtesy Of Rural Action.