

# Spring Greetings!

February, March, and April were filled with forestry activities and I am pleased to share two items of note with you.

## Project Learning Tree

Project Learning Tree (PLT) is the national environmental educational program of the American Forest Foundation. The PLT program uses the forest as a window into our natural world so students can explore environmental issues important to them and take positive action in the local community. In Ohio, PLT is sponsored by the ODNR Division of Forestry. I am pleased to let you know that **Cheri Goggin**, an Ohio teacher who participates in the PLT-Ohio program, has received national recognition for her efforts to incorporate the PLT curriculum in environmental education.



Cheri Goggin,  
Berkshire High School,  
Burton, Ohio

Ms. Goggin is one of five teachers selected from throughout the country and named as PLT's 2013 National Outstanding Educators. These nationally-recognized educators are selected for commitment to environmental education, exemplary use of PLT, and exceptional teacher skills.

Ms. Goggin teaches physical and environmental science to students in grades 9 to 12 at Berkshire Junior/Senior High School in Burton, Ohio. She also works with other teachers to integrate environmental education into their subject areas. Ms. Goggin was one of the first educators in Ohio to be trained in the use of PLT and she is now a PLT facilitator, conducting workshops for current teachers and for students studying to become teachers. Congratulations Ms. Goggin, and thank you for instilling in your students the confidence and commitment to take responsible action on behalf of the environment.

## Ohio's Forestry Advisory Council

In February, Governor Kasich appointed **Paul Mechling**, of Pierpont, Ohio as a member of Ohio's Forestry Advisory Council (FAC) for a three-year term ending February 2016. Dr. Mechling was introduced and welcomed at the March 2013 FAC meeting. His position on the council represents large private forest landowners.

Dr. Mechling, a retired veterinarian, owns Mechling's Maple Farm where he produces Ohio maple syrup from a modern 2,800-tap operation. He and his wife own Snowy Oak Tree Farm, a 280-acre tree farm in Pierpont. On their tree farm, more than 100,000 trees have been planted, wetlands have been created, timber stand improvements have been completed on 150 acres, and wildlife food plots have been planted. He and his brother own Wal Mec Farms LLC, a 340-acre family farm in Thornville, Ohio, which they operate for grain and timber production.

Dr. Mechling earned a Bachelor of Science degree in agriculture and Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from The Ohio State University. He is a board member of the Ohio Forestry Association, representing the Ohio Tree Farm Committee, and is also vice chair of the Ohio Tree Farm Committee. Dr. Mechling serves on the Ashtabula County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors, the Ashtabula Scenic River Advisory Council, and the Ohio Wildlife Council.

As established by Ohio Revised Code, the Forestry Advisory Council may advise and make recommendations to the Chief of the ODNR Division of Forestry concerning forestry practices and programs in the state, including programs of the division, and may assist the division in promoting cooperation on forestry practices and programs with other agencies, political subdivisions, and private interests. Members of the FAC are appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the State Senate. Members represent forest-based research activities, small private forestland owners, larger private forestland owners, the pulp and paper industry, other forest industries, soil science, forest recreation, and the public. ♦

