

This article appeared in The Ohio Woodland Journal, Vol. 19, No. 3 (Summer 2012), the official publication of the Ohio Tree Farm System. Call 888. 388. 7337 for subscriptions.

Perspective

Robert Boyles, Chief, ODNR Division of Forestry

Promoting Sound, Exceptional Management

An important part of the mission of the ODNR Division of Forestry is to promote management for the sustainable use and protection of Ohio's forests. In order to fulfill this aspect of our mission, the division continually strives to reach out to the public to demonstrate and share information on sustainable forest management techniques. Following is an update on just a few of our recent activities.

In June the division hosted a **Teacher Field Days** workshop program entitled *Forest Research for Society* at Vinton Furnace State Experimental Forest. The program is designed to provide forest management information and techniques to environmental educators who would then be able to share these new, or reinforced, skills with their students and colleagues. Staff members from the division's southern district forest office and from the Project Learning Tree program, which is sponsored in Ohio by the division, presented the workshop in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service Northern Research Station, Ohio State University (OSU) Extension, Mohican School in the Out-of-Doors, and the ODNR Division of Wildlife. Twenty-eight participants on the first day and 31 participants on the second day were immersed in hands-on activities that demonstrated many different components of a sustainably managed and protected forest. Topics included tree identification, economic use, forest regeneration cuts, timber stand improvement practices, soils, wildlife benefits, and interactive lessons on the place of trees in the forest ecosystem. Ohio University was also a partner in the event by offering participants graduate credit for taking part in the program.

The second full week of June featured the **Ohio Forestry and Wildlife Conservation Camp** in Carroll County, sponsored by the Ohio Forestry Association, and supported by the ODNR divisions of Forestry and Wildlife, OSU Extension, county Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and other private and government organizations with natural resource professionals who taught a variety of subjects. This week-long resident camp combined fun and learning, with the goal of reaching the next generation of caretakers of Ohio's valuable natural resources. Topics included tree identification, ecology, wildlife management, forest management, wildlife tracking, maple syrup production, forest industries, and arborist work.

The Division of Forestry joined with ODNR's divisions of Soil & Water Resources and Wildlife, the Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, the Ohio EPA's Environmental Education Fund, Pheasants Forever, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Ag Credit, and the OSU School of Environment and Natural Resources to sponsor the **2012 Ohio Envirothon**. This event is a hands-on learning

experience for high school students, educating them on the importance of protecting the future of our natural resources.

Also in June, the division worked with the Northwest Ohio Woodland Association to conduct a public tour of three private properties to increase awareness of forest management and conservation practices. The ***Forestry and Conservation Opportunities for Private Landowners*** tour featured potential cost sharing incentives for landowners who implement forestry conservation practices, riparian buffer tree plantings, walnut and butternut plantations, timber stand improvement, windbreaks, a wetland buffer, wetland restoration practices, and ash tree salvage.

As we move forward through difficult economic times, it is even more important than ever to develop and nurture partnerships such as those listed above. By working together, we can continue to be successful in public outreach efforts.