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NEWS

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Evergreen Residents Receive Colorado Forestry Awards

GOLDEN, Colo. – The Colorado State Forest Service has recognized separate Evergreen residents as Colorado Tree Farmer of the Year and Outstanding Logger of the Year.

On Saturday, Jim and Vicki Norton received the 2012 Colorado Tree Farmer of the Year Award for exceptional multiple-objective management of their 48 forested acres in north Evergreen. The awards ceremony included a tour of the Norton's Silver Spruce Springs Ranch property for other tree farmers and landowners involved with the state's Forest Ag program. Ray Herrmann, Larimer County Tree Farmer and chair of the Colorado Tree Farm Committee, presented the award.

Also at the event, Evergreen resident John Davis, owner of Davis Logging, was recognized as the 2012 Colorado Outstanding Logger of the Year for small-acreage logging based on sound forest management and environmental health.

Under a long-term management plan developed with the CSFS, the Nortons manage their property to produce forest products, reduce the risk of severe wildfire and enhance forest health. Their goal is to make their living solely off the production and sale of forest products, many of which are processed using their own sawmill. Products include Adirondack chairs and other custom furniture, firewood, sawlogs, fence posts and custom-milled fireplace mantles. Many of these products are now marketed through their company, Whiskey Hill Rustic Furniture, LLC.

"Besides helping control the mountain pine beetle, we thin overgrown and over-mature stands to make better wildlife habitat," Vicki said. She says they now have more than 75 resident wild turkeys and have even seen two bull moose on the property.

Lawton Grinter, a forester with the CSFS Golden District, said the Tree Farmer of the Year Award is an excellent tribute to the Norton's work and passion for private forestry.

"Jim and Vicki Norton are true stewards of their land," Grinter said. "The forestry work they have conducted on their property has been done with careful planning and scientifically sound applications."

A tree farm is any tract of privately owned land that is voluntarily dedicated by its owner to growing renewable resources, while protecting environmental benefits and increasing public understanding of sustainable forestry. For information about becoming a Tree Farmer, contact the CSFS Golden District office at 303-279-9757.