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National Tree Farm Convention Report

By John Jolliff, Service Forester, ODNR Division of Forestry

In August, I had the honor and privilege to attend the 18th annual American Tree Farm National Convention in Santa Ana Pueblo, New Mexico – located between Albuquerque and Santa Fe at the base of the Sandia Mountains. The actual resort, Hyatt Tamaya Resort & Spa, was built on reservation lands of the Native American tribe called the Pueblo of Santa Ana. It was a very stunning and serene location for the convention.

The educational workshops and presentations that I attended provided new ideas and information on many woodland-related issues including the Farm Bill, woodland management, owner liability, estate planning, and limited liability corporations, as well as a field day at a New Mexico tree farm.

Ohio was well represented with Donna & Walt Lange being in the running for the National Tree Farm of the year and myself being in the running for the National Inspector of the year. Other Tree Farmers from Ohio were in attendance also.

The convention was well attended by Tree Farmers from around the nation with 38 states being represented. This year the Regional Tree Farmers were from Idaho, Mississippi, Ohio, and Vermont. During their presentations to the conventioners, it seemed like all of the regional winners were very qualified candidates. However, only one can win and it was Steve and Janet Funk from Idaho.

I was being recognized as the North Central Tree Farm Inspector of the Year and in the running for the National Inspector of the Year. I did not receive the National Inspector of the Year award; Brian Cobble of Florida Forestry Service was selected. However, it was an honor to attend and be recognized for the regional award.

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