



BLACK FOREST COMMUNITY CLUB
March 2026 NEWSLETTER
“Everyone is Family in the Forest”

Schedule of BFCC Events

Saturday, March 14, 6pm	St. Pat’s Corned Beef & Cabbage Potluck
Thursday, March 26, 6:30pm	Board and officers meeting/Pine beetle talk
Saturday, March 28, 11am	Easter Egg Hunt
Tuesday, April 15, 6pm	Flat Broke After Taxes Spaghetti
Saturday, May 9, 2-4pm	Mother’s Day Tea
Friday, May 15, 5-10pm	Open Game Night
Saturday, June 20	Father’s Day BBQ
Saturday, August 8	Black Forest Festival

(ALL members are welcome to attend the Board and Officers Meetings.)
For Line Dancing classes, etc., check bfcommunityclub.org calendar.

February’s Dessert Social was a Great Success

If you missed the dessert social, you missed a good time. Not only were the desserts awesome but efforts put forth by members Candy and Chris Gardner made the evening special. Since managing events is their business, they showed up with lighting and music that really set the mood. Thanks to the Gardners!

First place winner was Christopher Korch with some delicious chocolate dipped and decorated strawberries. Some spectacularly decorated cupcakes by Dawn Sciarrotta won second place and Judy von Ahlefeldt’s chocolate cake won third place. Not only did they win ribbons but they got to choose among the very nice culinary tools provided by Chuck Lidderdale who also provided the ribbons.

While some of us had to leave the party at 10pm, the party was still going at that time. Maybe the dancing was over but not the desserts or drinks.

Next Club Event is March 14, 6pm for St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef and Cabbage Potluck.

March 14, 6pm

Bring your best corned beef and cabbage dinner or bring your best Potluck Dish to share! Rolls/bread and beverages including beer will be provided. Or, if you prefer, bring a dessert to share.



Thursday, March 26, 6:30pm Board and officers meeting/Pine Beetle Talk
After the meeting, Nick Genoshe of A Cut Above Tree Solutions, will give a short talk about the pine bark beetle problem that has been building in the Black Forest for several years. He will then answer your questions about how he is dealing with the problem with his customers. As the drought conditions continue in Colorado, the problem does not seem to be abating. This is a good chance to get a head start on the beetle problem. Plan to attend and listen to his observations and ask questions.

Another March Event: Community Easter Egg Hunt is Saturday, March 28, 11am.
The planning committee will be placing baskets at these businesses March 1 for donations of candy:

The Chicken Coop Mountain View Café Firehouse on the Run

Want to help with this community Easter Egg Hunt planning? Check below:



- **Easter Bunny needed. Costume provided.**
- **Volunteers to fill 4000 plastic eggs with candy and hide them in the Backyard the day of the event.**
- **Egg stuffing days:** Monday March 23 12-3 pm
Tuesday March 24 12-3 pm
- **If not finished Stuffing Eggs... Thursday 5-6 pm also**
- **Event starts at 11 am and done by 12:30.** Set up event starts at 9:30 am.

Contact: Dawn Sciarrotta 719 661-3292 to volunteer to join the fun.

April Event: Tuesday, April 15 at 6pm
FLAT BROKE AFTER TAXES SPAGHETTI & MEATBALL DINNER

Free dinner provided by the BFCC with the club providing all the food. Spaghetti, meatballs, salad, and bread and **there will be a non-meat sauce.** Water, coffee, iced tea or lemonade or BYOB.

Volunteers needed for set-up (text 719 661-3292)



May Event: Mother's Day Tea Saturday, May 9 2pm -4pm

Celebrate the wonderful Moms in our Community with a relaxing afternoon with tea and scones and other delights! It's a perfect chance to slow down and sip something warm and enjoy good company.

Another May Event: Open Game Night May 15, 5pm – 10pm

Bring your favorite game and a snack & join others for an evening of laughs and friendly competition. Whether you are into board games, cards or other classics...There's a table for you!

**June Event: Father's Day BBQ June 20 Time TBD...all afternoon
LET'S FIRE UP THE GRILLS!!!**

For Father's Day we will be hosting a bring your own Beef BBQ. The grills will be open and ready, so all you need to do is show up with your favorite cut/hamburger, etc, and enjoy a laid-back day of hanging out together. We will have a few outdoor games readily available for playing. Side dishes will be provided by the BFCC.

Troop 70 Chili Dinner and Silent Auction was also a great success!

Troop 70 and family and friends put on quite a chili dinner. The Club was packed with friends and neighbors who come early so they can stake out a table for their group. The chili was super especially that red chili with beans. The cornbread was like dessert and the Freddy's chocolate ice cream was to die for. After eating and catching up with friends there were rows of very nice items for the Silent Auction.



Festival Information from Leilani Ritchie

Looking for a way to get involved in the Black Forest community?

The 2026 Black Forest Festival is seeking volunteers! This year's festival will be held on **August 8th**, and – just like every year – it comes to life through the dedication, generosity, and spirit of our local community members. Join us and be part of the team that makes this beloved tradition possible.

Open Volunteer Roles:

- Festival Chairman
- Festival Parade Lead
- Festival Signage Lead
- Festival Children's Games and Craft
- Festival Setup and Teardown Crew

- Festival Day-of Volunteers and more...

Planning Meetings:

Wednesdays 6:30-8:30pm

- April 8th
- May 6th, 20th
- June 10th, 24th
- July 8th, 22nd

Please reach out to WeAreBlackForestCO@gmail.com or join one of our planning meetings at the Black Forest Community Center at 12530 Black Forest Road.

And Now for a Little History of the Black Forest Festival—Second segment continuing the choosing of the Keepers and other activities in the past.

(Taken from the booklet compiled and published by the Black Forest History Committee of the Black Forest Community Club/Terry Stokka)

There were seven nominations again in **1961**:

Ralph Ayer, Howard Carver, Harry Heath, Dick Humphrey, Clair Long, Paul King, and George Morris. Dick Humphrey was installed on Saturday, June 24. Entertainment included a square dance on roller skates and dancing to the music of Kit Karson Kowboys.

Activities at the park the next day included baseball, horseshoes, and the play Hansel and Gretel. The 4-H square dancers performed in the afternoon. When the day ended, the participants had a cleanup and sang around the campfire.

Qualifications for Keeper of the Forest were listed as a resident for at least 15 years, community service, an interest in the future of the community and “good-neighbor” qualities. Mrs. John (Ada) Burrows was quite surprised to be the first woman selected as Keeper of the Keys in **1962**. She was installed on Saturday, June 16, and Mrs. Ernest Belveal and Darwin Woolley served as aide and counselor. The Country Drifters provided music for square dancing, round dancing and polka that evening. It was estimated that 600 people participated in the Festival on Sunday. There was a picnic and a pageant, *3 Billy Goats Gruff*, directed by Anna Mae Hawkins of the Community Club. In the afternoon there were baseball and other games plus pony rides. At sundown, activities closed with singing around a campfire.

The activities for the Summer Festival of **1963** were expanded to include a parade, a Queen of the Forest and new competitive events. Various organizations nominated candidates for Keeper and Queen. Bud Danford, Roy McPherson and Mrs. Edith Thiebaud were nominated for Keeper. Those nominated for Queen were Idalynn Fultz, Helen Heath, Vivian Kibler, Beverly Kirkpatrick, Jill Munson, Nancy Rogers, and Wanda Roper.

The festival celebration began on Saturday, June 8, as a supper at 5:30pm around picnic tables outside the Community Church. At 8 p.m. Roy “Mr. Mac” McPherson was installed as Keeper and Idalynn Fultz was crowned as Queen at the Community Club. The queen’s aides were Wanda Roper and Jill Munson. The Crooked Trail Riders provided music for the Festival Dance.

On Sunday there was a parade at 1 p.m. with trophies for various divisions. Booths were set up around the Community Club to sell food, handicrafts and other items. An art display was held inside. The afternoon games included a greased pig catch, donkey races, horsemanship contests, bicycle races, horseshoe pitching and a pie-eating contest. The highlight of the day was a *Gay 90’s Olio* performed at 4 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. as a benefit for the Black Forest Community Club. The festival attracted 2,000 people that year.

The fifth annual Black Forest Summer Festival was held June 20 and 21, **1964**. The first activity was a gymkhana held at the Black Forest Saddle Club on Saturday. At 4 p.m. the Black Forest Athletic Association held a chuck wagon dinner at the community center. A musical, *The Galloping Shost*, was presented by young people of the Forest at 7:30 p.m., followed by the coronation of Joy Havens as Queen and installation of Jack Grier as keeper of the Keys to the Forest. The selection of the Keeper was made by a committee. The Queen’s pageant was held on June 14 to select three finalists. Each candidate had to be sponsored by a club or business.

The parade was on Sunday at 12:30 p.m. on Black Forest Road. There were all kinds of booths to sell food or crafts or display information as well as carnival-type games. The greased pigs were turned loose at the corner of Shoup and Black Forest roads. Other events were a burro race, pie-eating contest and horsemanship contest (sponsored by the Black Forest Saddle Club).

(More next month)

WORDS OF WISDOM

Diligence is the mother of good luck.

– Benjamin Franklin –



2026 Black Forest Slash/Mulch Program ANNUAL COMMUNITY MEETING

CoSponsored by: El Paso County Community Resources Department
Environmental Division
Black Forest Fire Department
SAMCOM

In Cooperation with: Colorado State Forest Service
State Board of Land Commissioners

SATURDAY, April 18, 2026 9–11am

(may change or be cancelled due to weather.)

Blackforestslash.com

**Black Forest Community Hall
Northwest corner of Shoup and Black Forest Roads**

**Come and bring your neighbor!!
Newcomers Welcome!!**

**GREAT DOOR PRIZES DISTRIBUTED
THROUGHOUT THE MEETING!!**



For more information:

Call Carolyn Brown (719) 495-3127 or Jeff DeWitt (719) 502-0220



Black Forest Community Club Membership Application
P.O. Box 88034
Black Forest, Colorado 80908-8034
WEBSITE:
www.bfcommunityclub.org

Please send this application to the address above. Membership is \$20.00 per family per year.

Monthly newsletter — (circle one) Electronic Hardcopy

Name:

Address:

Phone:

E-mail:

\$20.00 Active Membership (Must reside within Black Forest Preservation Plan boundaries) (Voting)

\$20.00 Associate Membership (Outside Black Forest Preservation Plan boundaries (Non-voting)

Circle any interest from those listed below:

Black Forest Festival

Hall Maintenance

Land Use

Club Programs

Publicity

Hall Rental Management

Membership

BFCC Property Development

Pay Your Membership Dues Online! You can now pay your membership dues online via PayPal. Just go to www.bfcommunityclub.org and click on “Become a Member” on the left side of the home page or “Click Here to pay online.” You do not have to have a PayPal account to use it. You can choose debit or credit with VISA, MASTERCARD, DISCOVER, or AMERICAN EXPRESS. Choose this easy way to pay your membership dues or use the membership form above. **Don’t Know If Your Membership Is Current?** Just look at the address label and note the year date in the upper right corner. If it says 2025 or later, you are up to date. For those getting your newsletter by email, there is a similar designation. If you have questions, contact Chuck at 719 495-8675)

Hall Rental Manager: Jeff Ader (cell: 232-1882)

The Black Forest Community Club Newsletter is a publication of the Black Forest Community Club, a non-profit, social club organized around a theme of community service. Subscriptions are included exclusively with club membership. Membership is open to all adult residents of Black Forest. Annual dues are \$20 per family. For membership information write to the following address or visit our website. Black Forest Community Club, POB 88034, Black Forest, CO 80908-8034. Or fill out the membership form in this issue.

President: Jim Collins

Director: Leif Garrison

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Secretary: Rebecca Eker

Director: Steve White

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Visit our website at <http://www.bfcommunityclub.org>

Newsletter Editor: Carolyn Brown

495-3127

browncarolyn828@gmail.com



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PO BOX 88034
Black Forest, CO 80908-8034