



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

**Schedule of BFCC Events**

<b>Tuesday, April 15, 6pm</b>	<b>Flat Broke After Taxes Spaghetti Dinner</b>
<b>Saturday, April 18, 9-11am</b>	<b>Community Slash/Mulch Kickoff</b>
<b>Thursday, April 23, 6:30pm</b>	<b>Board and officers meeting</b>
<b>Saturday, May 9, 2-4pm</b>	<b>Mother’s Day Tea</b>
<b>Friday, May 15, 5-10pm</b>	<b>Open Game Night</b>
<b>Saturday, June 20</b>	<b>Father’s Day BBQ</b>
<b>Saturday, August 8</b>	<b>Black Forest Festival</b>

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

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**St. Patrick’s Day Corned Beef and Cabbage Potluck**

There was a great turnout for this potluck. People brought entrees and lots of desserts and enjoyed an evening with friends at the Community Club. Thanks to everyone for a great evening.



**Our Easter Egg Event** was another great event for children in the Forest! There were approximately 250 children, parents and grandparents. Maybe 750 - 800 people all together.

I am thankful and grateful for this Social Committee team and their families. Candy, Chris and Haley Gardner, Kelly Marchbank, Johanna O, Jill G, Laurie W and Steve White.

Leslie and Ed Stuler were the main characters as Mr. and Mrs. Easter Bunny.

Thanks to Patricia and Oliver Hunnybun for the spring flowers. The churches let us use their lots and the youth volunteers. Sign Girls, Boy Scouts, the Black

Forest Fire and Rescue, the El Paso County Sheriff's Posse...this was a heart-warming and VERY FUN event this year!

I am Dawn Sciarrotta and part of the team. I pray you are all blessed with a Happy Easter.

### **Pine Beetle Talk**

After a quick business meeting, Nick Genoshe of A Cut Above Tree Solutions, gave a very interesting talk about the pine bark beetle problem that has been building in the Black Forest for several years. Close to a hundred Black Foresters showed up to hear what he had to say.

Nick has been working at mitigation in the Forest for the last thirteen years and has had ample opportunity to see the growing problem of the beetle. Besides, the usual approach of being on the lookout for beetle hits and cutting the infected tree and wondering what to do with the log and slash, he has a new solution to this problem. He has an arrangement with Rocky Top Resources where they deliver big roll-offs which he fills with the infected logs and Rocky Top takes to their facility and grind up the whole tree which kills the beetle and larvae. Of course, this entails having the equipment to load the containers with the heavy logs and the cost is about \$300 per container. Rock Top Resources can be reached at 719 579-9103 or [rockytopresources.com](http://rockytopresources.com).

The Black Forest Slash and Mulch site is continuing to take the branches and trunks up to 8" in diameter and 6' or shorter. Grinding is done every week to 10 days and kills 96% of the beetles and larvae due to the mechanical action and the heat of grinding. 719 495-3127.

Urban Firewood Company at 12925 Judge Orr Road, 80831 has been taking these logs and using for firewood to sell. They recently amended that to say they were taking *Aged Logs*. If you have questions, call 719 445-9068 or [urbanfirewood@gmail.com](mailto:urbanfirewood@gmail.com).

You can contact NickGenoshe at 719 339-5180 or [acutabovcolorado@gmail.com](mailto:acutabovcolorado@gmail.com) or [acutabovcolorado.com](http://acutabovcolorado.com).

Dr. Judy von Ahlefeldt was available with her posters for discussing the beetle problem also. Judy does forest restoration consulting. 719 495-8750/c 719 337-5918

**April Event: Wednesday, 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 and gluten free spaghetti.** Water, coffee, iced tea or lemonade or BYOB.



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

*Since there should be a good turnout of members, there will be a short discussion about BFCC Bylaws Proposed Amendments. One need is “direction/government” and another is number for a quorum. Members should have received a fuller explanation in an email on 3/20/2026.*

**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 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.

**Newcomers Get Local Information**

Members **Deb Heitman and Shelly Still** with the help of **Christy Collins** have teamed up and started a BFCC version of the old Welcome Wagon that Rosanne Brown had used years ago to get information to new residents of Black Forest. With the help of **Cheryl Pixley**, a longtime resident and realtor here in the Forest to get a list of new homeowners, they have prepared welcome bags with information of businesses, etc. in the area to deliver to each newcomer.

SERVING BLACK FOREST AND THE  
PIKES PEAK REGION FOR 29 YEARS



**Cheryl Pixley**  
Realtor®, Certified Residential Specialist  
(719) 495-9295  
(719) 338-0117  
www.BlackForestHomes.com

REMAX  
PROPERTIES

**History of the Black Forest Festival**—will continue next month.  
(Taken from the booklet compiled and published by the Black Forest History Committee of the Black Forest Community Club/Terry Stokka)

### **Festival Information from Leilani Ritchie**

**CALLING ALL ARTISTS!**

DESIGN THE LOGO FOR THE

**2026 BLACK FOREST FESTIVAL**

— 2026 FESTIVAL THEME: —

*Stars, Stripes  
and Tall Pines*

This year's theme honors the 2026 Black Forest Festival and celebrates two historic milestones:

- 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the State of Colorado
- 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the United States of America

**HOW TO ENTER**

1. Design a logo that captures the spirit of "Stars, Stripes and Tall Pines."
2. Save your file as: **Firstname\_Lastname\_BFLogo2026**
3. Submit a high-quality JPG or PNG to: **WeAreBlackForestCO@gmail.com**
4. Logo Submission Deadline: **April 25, 2026**
5. Limit designs to 4 unique colors (black & white count as colors).
6. Include a single-color version if submitting a full-color design.  
(Optional: Briefly explain your concept.)

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

**Terry Stokka, longtime Black Forest resident and community leader, has written a couple of articles for the New Falcon Herald** in reaction to this dry, windy, fire-prone year. This first article has already been published in the Herald.

*Mitigation The time is now*

*In the first half of 2025 we enjoyed greater than normal snow and rain that made the grass grow tall and colored the trees a deep green. Then in mid-summer the sky slammed shut and the rest of the year was very dry. This winter has been unusually warm and dry with days in the 60s and nights above freezing. So far at my house, we have had only 18 inches of snow, less than half of the average of 37 inches for the end of January. The warm weather compounds things in that it sucks that moisture out of the ground faster than normal.*

*The weather forecasters have predicted a drier spring than normal because of the El Nina weather phenomenon that affects the eastern Pacific Ocean. That is not good news.*

*A dry spring means two main things more beetles and greater fire danger. If the trees don't get enough moisture, they produce less sap and that allows the pine beetles to bore into the trees and lay eggs in greater numbers. Many of those trees that are attacked will die and become a fire hazard. The greater fire danger reminds us of the spring of 2013. That June we had received less than half of the normal precipitation. The temperature on the day of the fire was 97 degrees, the second record day in a row. The humidity was 4% and when the wind picked up to 42 mph in the afternoon, the fire that had somehow started (my speculation is arson) took off and didn't stop for three days. Two people died, 488 homes were destroyed and 14,000 acres of forest were torched. It will take more than a generation to restore those areas to their former beauty.*

*Mitigation is a word we hear a lot but few people take it to heart. Mitigation is forest management where trees are thinned, dead trees are removed and dead branches are removed. Most of the timbered area of Black Forest has too many trees on each lot. Foresters tell us that a properly thinned forest has trees where the branches don't touch the branches of adjoining trees. I will confess that my lot is too dense. That means they must compete for the available water. The larger trees need much more water and when they can't get it they produce less sap and open the door for a beetle invasion.*

*When you see a cluster of trees that are turning light green or orange you can be sure the beetles have attacked that cluster of trees.*

*Not very many people are comfortable with a chain saw and don't have the time, energy or know-how to tackle major mitigation on their lot. Simply cutting a fading tree doesn't solve the problem because the tree remains moist inside long enough for the beetles to mature and fly to the next tree. On my lot I cut the tree into firewood lengths and split the wood so it can dry and kill the beetles before they mature. The slash can be hauled to the slash/mulch site where it will be ground into mulch and kill any remaining beetles.*

*For those not comfortable with a chainsaw, an alternate mitigation method is using a lopper. The lower branches of a pine tree often die as the tree grows taller and those branches are a great danger for a ladder fire. In a ladder fire, the fire moves along the ground consuming the pine needles and sometimes gets high enough to ignite the lower, dead branches on trees. That fire then moves upward like a ladder into the higher branches where the dry needles are found and the entire tree will be quickly engulfed. By lopping the dead and even some green branches up to about 6 feet off the ground, you can prevent a ladder fire. If the trees are widely separated a ladder fire wouldn't spread to other trees so the lower branches could be saved if they are green. Smaller trees can be saved this way.*

*When a fire occurs in high winds, the flames jump from treetop to treetop in what is known as a crown fire. Crown fires are impossible to stop unless the wind dies down or a large open space prevents the embers from flying to the next tree. We had a crown fire in 2013.*

*Mitigation doesn't mean getting rid of all of the pine needles. Decaying pine needles are the main fertilizer for our ponderosa pines. They also insulate the ground from sun heat and help to hold the moisture. Just concentrate on getting pine needles at least 5 feet from your house.*

*Let's get serious about mitigation and clean up our lots to prevent fire from again devastating our beautiful forest. At a minimum, get a lopper and lop off the branches that could lead to a ladder fire. Don't let a ground fire rise up to the top of the trees. If we all work together, we can greatly reduce the possibility of a forest fire this summer.*

#### **WORDS OF WISDOM**

**Diligence is the mother of good luck.**

**– Benjamin Franklin –**

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:

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Address:

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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](http://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.

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President: Jim Collins

Director: Leif Garrison

Vice President: John Trcka

Director: Johanna Ofstedal

Secretary: Rebecca Eker

Director: Steve White

Treasurer: Cherie Erler

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

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495-3127

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