



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

**Schedule of BFCC Events**

<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>Thursday, May 28, 6:30pm</b>	<b>Board and officers meeting</b>
<b>Saturday, May 30, 8am-noon</b>	<b>BF Regional Park Weed Work Day</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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**Mother’s Day Tea**

Saturday, May 9th from 2-4 pm

Celebrate the wonderful moms in your life at our Mother’s Day Tea at the Black Forest Community Club. Enjoy a lovely afternoon of tea, sandwiches and sweet treat delights with quality time together in a warm, relaxed setting.

A perfect way to celebrate Mom. If you feel inspired, come dressed in festive style and let your inner princess shine – hats welcome and encouraged but not required.

Join us for a charming and heartfelt Mother’s Day Celebration!

Black Forest Community Club  
12530 Black Forest Road  
Colorado Springs, CO 80908

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

Bring your favorite game and a snack and 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!



**Flat Broke After Taxes Spaghetti Dinner was a great success.**

Dawn and crew did a fantastic job of preparing a super meal of meat balls and sausages with a great sauce with spaghetti with all the trimmings.

There was a short discussion about BFCC Bylaws Proposed Amendments. One need was “direction/government” and another was number for a quorum. Members should have received a fuller explanation in an email on 3/20/2026. (These amendments were passed at the April 23 board and officers meeting. A greater explanation is included in this newsletter.)

**BFCC and Black Forest Trails Association Team Up for May 30<sup>th</sup> Weed Workday at BF Regional Park**

The BFCC and the BF Trails Association are teaming up, in collaboration with El Paso County Parks, to hold an Invasive Weed Work Day at Black Forest Regional Park.

The workday is scheduled for 8 am to noon on Saturday May 30 (the Saturday after the Memorial Day weekend).

Please plan to meet and park at the park’s north parking lot, just north of the playing field.

The workday is necessitated by the out-of-control invasive/noxious weeds, including Mullein and Knapweed, that have overrun and degraded the many parts of the park that were damaged by the 2013 wildfire.

Participant training regarding weed identification and information about high-priority weed problem areas will be provided beginning at 8 am, and copies of the El Paso County noxious weeds identification booklet will also be provided to volunteers.

The affected parts of the park can be rugged. Please wear long pants and sturdy hiking-style shoes or boots, and bring work gloves, a hat, sunscreen and water.

Participants are also encouraged to bring their favorite weeding tools if they would like. The plan is for coffee and light refreshments to be provided.

**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.

## President's Corner



Hello to all,

Here's an update of the progress at the Club. Candy Gardner has been working hard on creating a new website design and has been tremendously successful. She has improved the design and ease of use. Along with Johanna, they are going to merge [bfcommunityclub.org](http://bfcommunityclub.org) with [Weareblackforest.com](http://Weareblackforest.com). They have also greatly improved the calendar. It is still a work in progress but I expect them to complete an awesomely easy

to use website.

Chris Gardner has completed the installation of our new audio system. It sounds terrific and is easier to operate and connect through bluetooth.

New security cameras have been purchased and will be installed soon. We are going from five cameras with very poor picture quality to ten cameras with 4k picture quality.

Progress to the Backyard is continuing. Steve White has obtained a bid for a new fence and a 20' gate across the front of that property and that was approved by the membership.

Work will start soon. Picker Munson will also perform additional grading to gain more level ground for use.

A huge thank you to all of our great volunteers for all their time and commitment to improving our great Community Club.

Jim Collins

## **Bylaws Amendment Approved by Unanimous Vote of Membership at April 23 General Meeting (by Leif Garrison)**

Two amendments to the BFCC's bylaws, proposed by the BFCC's Board and sent out to the membership in advance, were approved by a unanimous vote of the members in attendance at the April 23 General Meeting.

The approved amendments created a new "Guest Membership" category of members, and also provided clarification as to when a quorum of 20 BFCC members is required to be present to vote at either a general or special meeting.

The new guest membership category, created in consultation with BFCC Treasurer Cherie Erler, will enable the Club to fine tune its membership and rental-related income to better track the IRS rules and regulations related to the BFCC's newly-confirmed status as a section 501(c)(7) social club.

The other amendments (to bylaws Articles V and VI), clarify the circumstances under which a quorum of 20 members is required to be present to vote at BFCC meetings. The amendments make clear that a quorum of members is needed to attend and vote in person only when the topic or proposal to be voted on relates to the overall aims and objectives of the BFCC. These are subjects that are reserved by the bylaws for only the membership to decide.

For all other matters, including those related to the BFCC's general oversight and regular operations and activities, the amended bylaws confirm that only a quorum of the BFCC's officers and board members is required to be present at Club meetings. (Members are of course always welcome and encouraged to attend any and all BFCC meetings).

The newly-amended bylaws are now in the process of being officially signed and dated by the board of directors, and then will be posted by the Club's secretary on the BFCC website and distributed to all members for their records, with the official/original copy to be retained in the Club's archives.

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

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.

### **Black Forest Festival Returns August 8th, 2026**

The Black Forest community will come together once again on Saturday, August 8th, 2026, for a full day of tradition, fun, and local festivities. This year's festival runs from 6:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., and it carries special significance: we'll be celebrating both the 250th birthday of the United States of America and the 150th anniversary of the State of Colorado.

In honor of these milestone anniversaries, the festival theme is Stars, Stripes and Tall Pines.

Attendees can look forward to all the beloved festival traditions, including the pancake breakfast, booth fair, and the always-popular parade. The afternoon will bring the crowd-favorite outhouse races, along with live music, local artisans, and a great selection of food trucks offering something for every appetite.

Whether you're a longtime resident or new to the forest, this year's festival promises to be a joyful celebration of community, history, and the place we call home. Mark your calendars and join us for a day filled with tradition, laughter, and Colorado pride.

### **Newcomers to the Forest Get Local Information from the BFCC**



Advertisement for Cheryl Pixley, Realtor® and Certified Residential Specialist. The ad includes a photo of Cheryl Pixley, the text "SERVING BLACK FOREST AND THE PIKES PEAK REGION FOR 29 YEARS", a Colorado state flag icon, her name "Cheryl Pixley", her title "Realtor®, Certified Residential Specialist", her phone numbers "(719) 495-9295" and "(719) 338-0117", the RE/MAX PROPERTIES logo, and the website "www.BlackForestHomes.com".

Members **Deb Heitman and Shelly Still** with the help of **Christy Collins** are filling bags with a list of local businesses, Noxious Weed booklets from the County, Forestry Information Guides from the Slash and Mulch Program and other information about their new home.

Cheryl Pixley, a longtime resident and realtor here in the Forest give them the list of new homeowners that they deliver in person. This is an attempt to make new Black Foresters more aware of the Black Forest Community Club and helps in our effort to get new members.

**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 is the second article and has already been published in the Herald.

## Mitigation Part II

Last month I talked about one of the more simple forms of mitigation, that is trimming lower dead branches off trees to prevent ground fires from becoming ladder fires as the fire climbs up the lower, dead branches of trees. Cleaning off dead limbs up to 6-8 feet can go a long way to keep a fire on the ground and prevent the fire from climbing up to the crown.

I talked about using a lopper to lop off those dead branches and now I would like to add a tool called a pole saw that would enable you to reach higher and clear those dead branches higher up. A pole saw is a curved saw blade about 18 inches long with wicked teeth that is connected to a 10-foot pole. Once you get the hang of it, you can saw off branches higher than you could reach with a lopper. Consider getting one. If you are really serious you can even buy a motorized pole saw.

Now I want to shift gears and talk about thinning. Having a thick forest between our homes and the road is a great privacy advantage but it is also dangerous in case of a fire. In a fire a fire truck will go around neighborhoods ahead of the fire and evaluate which homes can and cannot be protected. A narrow, tree-lined driveway is dangerous for fire fighting because a fire truck could get trapped at the house and not be able to get out if the fire is near. Also, a small driveway around the garage could easily prevent a fire truck from being able to turn around and that is also a no-no. Consider thinning those trees along the driveway. Ask yourself: Could a fire truck turn around in my driveway? I will bet that you could still have privacy and make your home defensible.

Another rabbit trail. A dog-hair thicket is a bunch of small trees that have grown very close together. Often they grow tall and skinny to try to reach the sun before the others and that makes them very weak, so a snowstorm that dumps snow on the upper branches bends the trees over and they never recover. That thick and tangled mess of small trees becomes a great fire hazard in hot, dry weather. Just because the needles are green doesn't mean that cluster won't burst into flames as the fire approaches and heats the air to high temperatures.

Your best action is to go into that cluster and thin out about 2/3 of the trees. When we moved into our house we had two dog-hair thickets that I thinned. I cut 85 trees out of cluster no larger than 50 x 100 feet and the cluster was still probably too thick. The remaining trees had more sun and didn't have to share water with all the others so it was a win-win. Those little trees are easier to handle and you can take them to the slash/mulch site to get rid of them.

Next rabbit trail. Start walking around your property on a regular basis and become a student of your lot. You can watch for trees with pitch tube bunches on the trunk that signal beetle presence. You can see trees that are fading from deep green to light green, suggesting a beetle presence. If you see trees like that, you should cut them down, take the slash to the slash/mulch site ([www.bfslash.org](http://www.bfslash.org)), cut up the trunk wood and take it to Urban Firewood ([www.urbanfirewood.com](http://www.urbanfirewood.com)) out on highway 24 and Judge Orr Road. They take logs that are 6 inches or more in diameter and of any length. Logs under 6 inches can go to the slash/mulch site. This spring is very dry and hot and the summer looks the same so we must be serious about taking care of our lots to do all we can to prevent fires from happening or spreading. Join with me to see our wooded lots as a treasure that we need to protect and nurture as much as possible. Nobody wants their lot to end up as a bunch of black sticks. I ache when I think of the 488 homes that burned in the Black Forest fire of 2013. Those people lost both home and trees. I never want to see a fire like see a fire like this again.

**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)

*There is no power on earth that can neutralize the influence of a high, pure, simple and useful life."*

—Booker T. Washington

Black Forest Community Club Membership Application

P.O. Box 88034

Black Forest, Colorado 80908-8034

WEBSITE:

[www.bfcommunityclub.org](http://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:

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\$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

Land Use

Publicity

Membership

Hall Maintenance

Club Programs

Hall Rental Management

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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