



**BLACK FOREST COMMUNITY CLUB
APRIL 2024 NEWSLETTER
“Everyone is Family in the Forest”**

Schedule of BFCC Events

Saturday, April 13, 6pm	Flat Broke After Taxes Spaghetti Potluck
Thursday, April 25, 6:30pm	General Meeting Board and Officers
Saturday, May 18	Monthly Social/Master Gardener speaker
Friday, June 21, 5pm - 7pm	Family Game Night
Saturday, August 9 & 10	Black Forest Festival Weekend

Everyone is invited to attend the meetings and the events.

For Line Dancing classes, etc., check bfcommunityclub.org.

Saturday, April 13, 6pm



Flat Broke After Taxes Spaghetti Potluck

Bring a dessert or bread and Dawn will have the spaghetti and meat sauce and meatless sauce and salad and drinks. If you feel deflated after paying taxes, you can get a great dinner for only \$5 per person and you only bring a dessert or bread. BYOB if desired. Coffee, lemonade, and water will be provided.

After the March 13 snow storm, the Game Night was cancelled but a few hardy souls did show up for the St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef and Cabbage. We decided those who could get out of their driveway came and those who couldn't didn't come. Or they were too tired to come. However, there were some newbies and some oldies who joined together for a wonderful night of corned beef and cabbage and an abundance of delicious desserts.

UNSUNG HERO OF THE MONTH – JEFF ADER, the ghost many of us seldom see around the BFCC

Nestled within the tranquil embrace of Black Forest lies the vibrant tale of **Sue and Jeff Ader**, whose journey began 2000 when they set foot in this idyllic community. Since **Jeff took the reins as the rental and scheduling manager at the Black Forest Community Center (BFCC) in 2010**, the couple has been woven into the fabric of local life, lending their hands and hearts to nurture its growth.



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Jeff's dedication to the BFCC has been a labor of love, spanning nearly 15 years of tireless efforts to ensure the center remains a thriving hub of activity. From coordinating rentals to crafting efficient schedules, his commitment has been the cornerstone of the center's success.

Beyond his managerial duties, Jeff's passion for music has found expression in the Summer Jazz Concert series—a beloved tradition eagerly anticipated by residents. As the event gears up for its 6th season, anticipation swirls in the air, promising evenings filled with the soulful melodies of talented performers from across the Pikes Peak area.



In addition to his contributions to the arts, **Jeff shares his profound expertise in Okinawan martial arts with the community**. At the Black Forest Community Center, he offers classes tailored to both newcomers and seasoned practitioners alike, inviting all to embark on a journey of self-discovery and discipline. Jeff's mastery in this ancient art form has earned him a rare accolade—the distinction of being **the first non-Okinawan to attain the prestigious rank of 9th-degree black belt under the Okinawa Matsumura Seito**

Shorin Ryu Karate and Kobudo Federation. As an international director of the organization, his influence transcends borders, enriching the martial arts community with his wealth of knowledge.

Beside Jeff stands Sue, whose career in public health and school nursing reflects a profound commitment to the well-being of others. Together, they embrace retirement as a new chapter filled with shared adventures and cherished moments. **Jeff's tenure as an educator, specializing in working with children with severe/profound needs, exemplifies their shared dedication to making a positive impact on the lives of others.**

Their familial bond is a source of joy and fulfillment, with **two adult children, Mike and Elyse, and a lively brood of five grandchildren** who bring



endless laughter and warmth into their lives. Amidst the tranquil beauty of Black Forest, Sue and Jeff find solace in each other's company, savoring the simple pleasures of family, community, and the timeless rhythm of life.

LET THE BLIZZARDS ROLL IN BUT....

Summer will come as Jeff Ader announces:

The Black Forest Summer Jazz Festival returns for the summer of 2024! Join us at the pavilion for **fantastic music, dancing, and treats crafted by Dawn Scariotta**. Don't forget to bring a blanket or lawn chair to enjoy the incredible sounds of the following groups. **Music begins at 6 p.m. and will transition indoors if the weather turns bad.** Invite your friends and bring the kids to showcase the fantastic audiences Black Forest attracts.

6/20/24 - The Bill Emery Band

6/27/24 - Front Range Big Band

7/11/24 - Kicks Big Band

7/18/24 - Swing Factory

7/25/24 - Peak Big Band

8/1/24 - Academy Jazz Ensemble

8/8/24 - Kicks Quintet

8/15/24 - Triple Play

TREE TALK

For newcomers to the Black Forest area, this is a heads-up as you look over your land. Don't start out by cutting those deformed-looking trees. Sometimes those distorted trees are dwarf mistletoe trees that grow in a gnarled fashion as a result of being infected with a small parasite (*A. vaginatum*) that affects ponderosa and lodgepole pines. It is called dwarf because it has no leaves. Those trees are not particularly keepers. You may want to keep them for needed shade knowing that the mistletoe will spread about one foot per year since only 1% of the hydro-ejected seeds will grow.

Or your less than perfect tree may have been damaged by another larger tree falling on it and it managed to struggle out from under and head for the



sun. Sometimes a buck chooses a small pine to scrape his antlers and damaged the branches. Sometimes it is a porcupine who may have snacked on the bark girdling the tree and leading to the death of the top of the tree.

Or you might be fortunate enough to have a **Native American Prayer Tree** also known as a **Culturally Modified Tree**. You will see one occasionally around the Forest. The picture above is a **Medicine Tree located in the Pineries Open Space**. There are many CMT's preserved at Fox Run County Park. **John W. Anderson** (former El Paso Sheriff) has studied our local trees and written *Native American Prayer Trees of Colorado*. He has interviewed Ute elders for their information on these culturally modified trees.

A stroll through Pineries Open Space on Volmer Road could lead you to several of the different kinds of modified trees. Some Ute elders call these Prayer trees or Spirit trees. They believe that the Spirit trees connect them to the spirits of their ancestors and the prayers of their ancestors are still inside the trees. Other tribes came through the Black Forest and have been known to modify trees in similar ways.



One of the **largest Burial Trees** of the area has since collapsed from its own weight but was most impressive. (Note the person standing near the tree.) **Trailmarker Trees** are often seen pointing toward Pikes Peak or some other desired destination point.

Another tree that is commonly seen in the parks and there is one near the chapel at

LaForet known as a **Medicine Tree** (first picture in this article). It is recognized by the ligature mark from being tied down to create the bend and the scar where the bark was peeled to get the medicinal material and the dead point which was once the top of the tree before it was bent and another branch became the main top.

A more complete story can be found in the last issue of the **Slash-Mulch Forest Information Guide (commonly known as the FIG book)** available on request at the Black Forest Slash Site which opens April 27 on Herring Road south of Shoup Road.

Mark Your Calendar:

The 2024 El Paso County Slash-Mulch Program Annual Community Meeting will be held at the **BFCC Saturday, April 20 from 9-11.**

There will be speakers on various topics concerning managing the trees in the Forest. And there will be the usual drawing for various items you might

find useful in this management. **And yes, there will be a chainsaw in the drawing.** Last year's winner of the battery-operated chain saw was more than happy with how well the saw worked. You could be the winner this year of the chain saw, pitchforks, bungee cords, tarps, or whatever Jeff DeWitt finds that might be useful for your property management.

The El Paso County Slash-Mulch Site will open starting Saturday, April 27, 2024 at 7am.

The major changes to be aware of are:

- 1: We are not accepting bulk pine needles. Rake needles 10 feet or so away from structures for fire control. Leave up to 4 inches of needles on most areas for weather protection for the soil and for nutrients for your ponderosa trees. There is no need to remove all the needles from your property. Insurance companies may ask for this but the site cannot handle all the pine needles in the Black Forest.
2. The fee will be \$10 for any size load.
3. Loyalty cards will be available. \$50 for 6 loads into the site.

Hope to see you there.

Nominations for Keeper of the Keys to The Forest

Start thinking about someone who deserves to be nominated for Keeper of the Keys to the Black Forest. They must be a resident for at least ten years and have worked to make the Forest a better place to live. Past Keepers have been **Ruth Ann Steele** (1994) who was the force behind SAMCOM, the slash and mulch committee that runs the local slash/mulch site. Another Keeper is **Terry Stokka** (2017) whose main focus has been the Land Use Committee that keeps an eye on land use issues in and around the Black Forest. Another hard worker in the Forest is **Judy von Ahlefeldt** (1998) who was active in developing the **Black Forest Preservation Plan**.

Look around and see who might meet these requirements. Nominations for Keepers will be June 10-29. Look for posters around the area starting June 10. Voting starts July 18 and is over August 1. The winner will be announced

August 4. More information will come in future newsletters.

The Black Forest Community turned out to support Troop 70 at the annual Scout Fundraising Chili Dinner on March 9.

The chili selection was great and the desserts were really good. It was a good time to gather with friends and neighbors to have conversations over a great meal. Thanks to all who participated in the silent auction.

Black Forest Community Easter Egg Hunt

The Easter Egg Hunt was highly successful with over 4000 eggs stuffed with candy hidden for the local kids to find. Ryan Wanner was on hand to provide hot drinks for those attending. Great work.

Just in case you ever wondered about the Wooden Plaque hanging over the back door....



This beautiful wooden plaque was presented to the BFCC by James Wegner, Black Forest Signs and Plaques, 719-761-9090. Check it out next time you are in the building.

March General Meeting

After a busy meeting, several topics were tabled until the April 25 meeting. The expected items to be discussed are the Backyard drainage and an official survey, membership benefits, Keepers of the Keys, and the updating of the Bylaws. All members are invited to attend meetings.

The Club is looking for suggestions for improvements or additions to the Club web page <https://bfcommunityclub.org>. Suggestions can be made at this link:

<https://www.bfcommunityclub.org/webimprov.html>

On a Sad Note...

Many of us knew Art Lapham who settled in the Black Forest with his wife, Alice, and son in 1957. Art was a founding member and president of the Black Forest Saddle Club and worked with the Black Forest Log School House restoration. He was an avid horse and mule rider and trainer.

He passed away March 14 and the family will have a private burial service. He would have been 96 this July.

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 \$15.00 per family per year.

Monthly newsletter — (circle one) Electronic Hardcopy

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

\$15.00 Active Membership (Must reside within Black Forest Preservation Plan boundaries) (Voting)

\$15.00 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 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 2024 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 \$15 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: Leif Garrison
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