



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

Schedule of BFCC Events

Thursday, Sept. 26, 6:30pm **General Meeting Board and Officers**
Saturday, Sept. 28, 7pm **History of BF video plus desserts**
Saturday, Oct. 12 **Oktoberfest**

Everyone is invited to attend the meetings and the events.

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

Saturday, Sept. 28, 7pm Social and Video



Come join us at the BFCC for an evening of dessert and coffee and a viewing of Terry Stokka’s History of the Black Forest. It is a 50-minute video of the history of this wonderful place where we live. Bring your neighbors and friends and enjoy an evening out.

If you have any bits of Black Forest history you would like to share, feel free to bring it to us. Hope to see lots of you here before the winter weather brings the snow storms that hindered us this past year.

Picker Munson Voted 2024 Keeper of the Keys to the Black Forest

Picker Munson grew up in Black Forest. He follows the tradition of his family of heavy equipment operators in assisting when heavy equipment is needed.

Picker owns Munson Landscaping and Excavating which has about 18 employees. He has a long history of assisting the Black Forest Community Club and the Black Forest Community Foundation with maintenance and construction projects including preparing the old Fire Department building site after its



2012 demolition and the 2013 Black Forest Fire for the current uses as the Log School Park and construction of the Black Forest Pavilion. That project included installation of the commemorative pavers at the east end of the Pavilion.

Prior to the 2013 Black Forest Fire Picker built the retaining wall at the east entrance of the Community Hall. This tiered wall provides a seating area near the front door, and increased parking in front of the Community Hall with access to Black Forest Road.

After the 2013 fire Picker Munson hauled mulch to cover the Log School Park area after rains had created mud and also re-graveled the Community Hall Parking lot.

It was Picker, with his water tanker, who saved the historic buildings, including the Black Forest Community Hall, in the center of Black Forest during the height of the devastating 2013 fire. Picker has also mitigated several areas of the north Community Club Property. Picker was able to help a severely burned horse after the fire. The horse was successfully transported to veterinary care and survived.

Oliver and Patricia Hunnybun and Jeff and Kristen Schickler are 2024 Counselors. Over the years, many of those who did not win were nominated again and won to become Keepers.



A Donkey Named Tequila by Michele Palmer

When Tequila woke up on August 10th, a curious thing occurred. Usually, her favorite red bucket of grain was followed by an open gate into the pasture with her horse herd. But this morning Tequila was loaded into the horse trailer alone. Her herd remained in their stables. Tequila was unaware that months earlier a small group of people, enamored by her story, had sparked an idea with her owner, Maya, and with Maya's mom, Michele. Tequila's expressive face had already graced t-shirts, posters and stickers introducing her to the community and festivalgoers. Unaware of her newfound fame, Tequila was

about to become the mascot for the 2024 Black Forest Festival.

13 years earlier, Tequila had been born wild in the California desert. Donkeys are non-native to North America, arriving during the age of European exploration alongside Christopher Columbus. During the gold rush of 1948-1955, burros also entered California reportedly with Mexican explorers and miners. Donkeys have long been utilized as pack animals for their steady feet, strong backs and protective nature. As the gold rush came to an end, scores of donkeys were released into the wild and ultimately formed large feral herds.

For 7 years, Tequila belonged to one of these herds and roamed freely, foraging on the sparse, arid vegetation, always staying near small springs of fresh water. Feral donkeys are fertile reproducers and the herds' size has overrun nature's limits on vegetation and water. To manage the unique desert lands and assure native populations of big horn sheep and desert tortoises can also share the deserts' foliage, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) partners with equestrian communities across the United States to find homes for donkeys. One of these partner organizations is in Calhan. "Saving the Wild American Burro (SWAB)" led by Judy Fithian offers students an opportunity to learn about and work with donkeys. And this is how Tequila met Maya.

In 2018, Maya was one of two high school students that signed up to gentle a wild donkey. Having grown up with horses and with a natural love for all animals, she jumped at the chance to participate. Eager to learn more about donkeys and how to train them, Maya signed up for clinics and talked to anyone and everyone that would share their experiences. The SWAB program gave its burro foster families 5 months to work with a donkey that had never been touched by a human hand. The goal was that at the end of 5 months, the tamed donkey would be purchased by a new forever family and the proceeds would benefit the non-profit donkey rescue.

Tequila arrived in Calhan in May of 2018 on an unseasonably cold day. She and a male feral donkey had been released into a pen after the long drive from California. Tequila shivered in the cold, biting and kicking at her larger male counterpart. The male was doing his best to ignore her and maintain composure making him seem mild in manner. Maya laughed at the antics underway and knew immediately that the feisty female was the donkey she wanted to work with.

By the time Tequila loaded up and made the ride to Black Forest, the sun had set. Tequila warily looked around in the dark, unsure of the long shadows cast downward by the tall pine trees, so different from her desert home. Starting slowly with short bursts of 5-minute interactions, Maya asked Tequila to notice her, maybe just turn an ear in her direction. Tequila feigned disinterest for grain and feed at first, but an orange peel piqued her curiosity and by the end of the first day, Maya was able to touch her.

Over time, Tequila's curiosity and appetite got the best of her and soon she reciprocated the adoration Maya showered on her. Maya thought Tequila behaved more like a dog than a horse, frequently following her around and nosing into whatever Maya was working on. She especially enjoyed the advanced training that included obstacles or challenges for her to solve. Tequila felt special and loved. And Maya knew that her home was Tequila's forever home. At the end of the 5 months, Maya and her family purchased Tequila and have been a family and herd ever since.

On August 10th, the day of the 55th Black Forest Festival, after a short drive, Tequila's trailer reached a dirt parking lot near the intersection of Shoup and Black Forest. She was unloaded by Michele. With pockets full of stickers and bright orange saddle bags containing bottled water, Tequila and Michele stepped into the festival's cool foggy morning.

Adults and children were immediately smitten with Tequila. Some had never been near a donkey and approached wide-eyed and carefully. Others had fond memories of donkeys or horses and delighted in getting to see Tequila and share their stories. Tequila patiently allowed her admirers to pet and take pictures with her. Michele handed out the water and stickers while answering questions and teaching people how to respectfully approach. Being so popular was appetite inducing work and Tequila delighted in a few shared bites of pancake from the festival's community breakfast.

As those that know and love donkeys might expect, Tequila decided after a few hours of mascot service, that she wanted to return to her herd. It had been quite a day; one she never could have imagined. It had been a day that celebrated an amazing journey. The amazing journey of a feisty female donkey from the deserts of California to the forests of Colorado. A day that was only made possible by Tequila's rescue, Maya's love, and a community's admiration for its new mascot, a donkey named Tequila.

Outhouse Race Delights 2024 Black Forest Festivalgoers!!!

This year's festival successfully held the tradition of an Outhouse Race to the delight of festival spectators. The Outhouse race was extremely competitive with three outstanding teams bringing their A-Game: The Yuppies, The Squirrels, and The Chicken Coop. Adding to the light-hearted community tradition, the racers began the race to "Ready, Set, Flush!" and completed the race by breaking through a toilet paper finish line.

The Chicken Coop has been a long-time sponsor of the festival and a solid competitor in the race for the last 7 years. Led by Holly Hunter, the Coop's team was overjoyed to earn the gold. The Yuppies were led by Erin Conley, who was the lead volunteer for our beloved race for several years after it was brought back to the festival in 2017. Edith Wolford's team, The Squirrels, claimed silver along with everyone's hearts. **Dana Ford raced in the Abert's squirrel costume for Edith Wolford and highlighted the origin story of the Outhouse race. Edith Wolford quite literally was racing to bring attention to the need for an outhouse. Our local school estimates \$7500 would help fund an outhouse for the outdoor classroom students and faculty. Those wishing to donate can do so at the following link:**

<https://academy20co.infinitecampus.org/campus/store/academy20/school-store/15/179/products>

Finally, a huge thank you to the Black Forest community for rising to the occasion to ensure the Outhouse Race was part of this year's festival and not canceled due to lack of volunteers and participants. With everyone's willingness to loan out Outhouses and assure participation, the festival team saved and honored this unique and special tradition.



The 2024 Black Forest Festival and the Friday night Biergarten were a great success. The weather cooperated. The parade was great. The parking at Wolford and catching one of the buses to the Festival area was so easy. And the music and food were quite nice.



This year marked the 55th year that the Black Forest community celebrated all that makes our community so wonderful.

The Biergarten **proceeds will go to the "Project in the Backyard" fund** as the backyard needs professional refurbishment.

Thanks again to all the hard-working volunteers and the sponsors who helped make this another successful Festival in the Black Forest.

A 30-Year Partnership: The Black Rose Acoustic Society and the Black Forest Community Club – Bob Lord

One of the longest-running tenants at our community hall is The Black Rose Acoustic Society. April of this year was the 30th anniversary of their roots-music concerts in our hall!

If you ask about acoustic music in the Colorado Springs area, folks will undoubtedly mention The Black Rose and the BFCC. In 1994, several local musicians formed this nonprofit organization to promote folk, bluegrass, Americana, swing, fiddle tunes, Celtic, and other musical styles played on traditional instruments. Today, The Black Rose and our beloved log hall have become *the* home of acoustic music in the whole Pikes Peak Region.

Mack and Yong Sharp will participate in the upcoming La Foret Retreat

Update from last month's article regarding Mack sharp, and his wife Yong teaching a line dance session during an upcoming "Wholeness and Wellness" weekend activity at the La foret Retreat here in the Black Forest.

The date and time of their Line Dance session is now set for 14 September at 11 AM until 12:30 PM. They will be teaching a little history of Line Dance as well as some of the more popular steps of Line Dance. Then, Mack said he is optimistic that he will be able to teach 2 to 3 line dances all within this 90 minute. This three-day wholeness and wellness event at La Foret looks to be not only relaxing and healthy, but fun as well. You are all invited to come to the event and as a friend and neighbor of the Sharp family and a host at the event, you'll receive a discount.

Visit <http://www.laforet.org/refuge> for more details regarding the event and registration. Matt would like everyone to know that there is also a way to attend the entire event at a much lower cost; basically its "pay what you're able to pay ". Hope to see all of you there 13 through 15 September.

"You may have to fight a battle more than once to win it."

MARGARET THATCHER

For Sale: Weber gas grill, like new \$350 and roll top oak desk (2 pedestal) \$550.
John Bradshaw 719 339-2765



**THE BLACK FOREST COMMUNITY
BUILT THE LOG SCHOOL**

Your help is needed to repair its exterior

New damage discoveries have exceeded our
budgeted renovation funds

We want to preserve our historical school for another
103 years

Please donate soon
(So we can complete the renovation)

Please Give cash or send check to:
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6770 SHOUP ROAD
BLACK FOREST, CO 80908
We are a 501c3

- *Appreciatively* -

Friends of the Black Forest Log School
Black Forest Community Foundation
bflogschool.com

SAVE THE DATE!

In light of the need to raise the funds for the crucial repairs needed by the Log School, the BFCC and the Black Forest Community Foundation are tentatively planning to create a dual-purpose Christmas event this year. Details are still being worked out, but an event that combines fundraising elements along with parts of the Club's traditional Christmas celebration is anticipated.

Please watch this space for more information to follow, but in the meantime, please mark your calendars for Saturday, December 7 at the Community Club (time TBD).

Long-time BFCC Member, Chuck Harris, recently passed away.

Charles Wells Harris, aged 90, passed away on July 27, 2024, at his home on Pinery Ponds in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Born on April 11, 1934, Charles' family had long ties to Colorado. His great grandfather owned Colorado's Grassy Creek coal mine in the 1800's. Mt. Harris, near Hayden, is named after him. His maternal great grandfather co-founded the First United Methodist Church in the Springs and his grandfather started Wells Music in Denver, the first music store west of the Mississippi.

Charles graduated from Manhasset High School on Long Island, NY, and later attended



the University of Maryland. His professional journey began in New York, where he worked with Stanley and American Cyanamid Company before deciding to move his family back to Colorado in 1963. In Colorado, he embarked on a successful career spanning various fields including sales at Ideal Cement, followed by insurance, real estate, and financial planning. After retiring, he assisted his wife, Andrene, in operating a candle shop in Colorado City.

Beyond his professional achievements, Charles was passionate about his hobbies. He restored a 1931 Model A Ford car and relished in taking his family on adventures with the Model A club. His craftsmanship

extended to building two Scorpian helicopters. A devoted member of the community, Charles was active in the Sunrise Sertoma service club and the JayCees. He also enjoyed participating in the Saturday Knights hiking club, a local dance club, and a dinner group with friends.

Charles is survived by his loving wife, Andrene; daughter, Terri (Anthony); sons, Greg (Kay) and David (Regina); grandchildren, Jeremiah, Levi, Shea, Elise, Katrina, Maren, and Charlie; and five great-grandchildren. His warmth and spirit will be profoundly missed by all who knew him.

A celebration of life will be held later this fall to honor Charles' legacy and the joy he brought to the lives of others.

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.

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Director: Jim Collins

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

Newsletter Editor: Carolyn Brown 495-3127 browncarolyn828@gmail.com



Black Forest Community Club
PO BOX 88034
Black Forest, CO 80908-8034