



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

Schedule of BFCC Events

Saturday, May 18, 7pm **Monthly Social/Master Gardener Speaker**
Thursday, May 23, 6:30pm **General Meeting Board and Officers**
Friday, June 21, 5pm - 7pm **Family Game Night**
Sunday, August 4 **Keepers Dinner**
Saturday, August 10 **Black Forest Festival**
Everyone is invited to attend the meetings and the events.
For Line Dancing classes, etc., check bfcommunityclub.org.

Flat Broke After Taxes Spaghetti Potluck

Dawn did a great job of meatballs and sauce and spaghetti. Attendees brought breads and super desserts and drinks. A good time and no snow.

Our speaker for the night, Terry Stokka, gave us a view of what it was like living in the Black Forest in the 1930's. Trips to town were limited but certainly possible once a week or so by some. Some of the difficulties included Rattlesnake Hill which some of us still remember as that steep two lane road that slowed down a lot of vehicles driving north. Many early cars had to turn around and back up Rattlesnake Hill. It is now Austin Bluffs Parkway with three lanes each way.

Another difficulty was the occasional blizzards. Some old-timers would turn their cattle loose to trod down the snow on the roadways. Or maybe they were smart and stayed put.

Of course, the railroads played a part too. Eastonville with its hotels and stores grew due to its heavy potato production. The railroad served to

deliver the potatoes to markets. Of course, when the blight hit the area, the town slowly disappeared as the railroad closed that line.

But General Palmer and other enterprising men saw the Black Forest as a great resource for the many railroad ties needed to lay track from Denver to places south. He would buy large sections of land and have all trees large enough to make ties cut and hauled to areas where the railroad line was being built. That is why many sections of Black Forest have few trees that are much older than 100-125 years old. Count the rings on the trees you cut.

Saturday, May 18 at 7pm Master Gardener

Spring is getting here and people are itching to start gardens and plant flowers.

Pam Cooley, Master Gardener, will be speaking at the monthly meeting of the BFCC and has asked what subjects you would like to hear about at this meeting. Gather your questions and let's continue on our journey to the perfect garden this year.



2024 Black Forest Festival Outhouse Races Are On!

Saturday, August 10th

The Outhouse Races begin immediately following the parade

The Black Forest Festival Outhouse Races are a local favorite!

More details about entering the 2024 Black Forest Outhouse Races will be available soon.

How the Black Forest Outhouse Races Began

One of our oldest BFCC members, Alan Campbell, has lots of newspaper articles that detail the beginnings of the Black Forest Outhouse Races.

One is a paper furnished by **Roxanne Roberts of Nationwide Papers**.

According to this paper:

The Black Forest Outhouse Race began and continues as an “all-giving” activity. Money earned from the previous race, entries, the sale of souvenirs and food, and the generous donations of individuals and companies, is directed toward the chosen charitable cause. Benefiting charities have included cancer research, Special Olympics, Muscular Dystrophy

Association, and other groups helping the disabled and elderly as well as victims of family violence.

How did it start? Well, the idea of racing outhouses was fed by several motivations. The races can be owed, in part, to a bull session, and, in part, to a “port-a-can” that invited imaginative suggestion. And, it is true, in part it can be owed to the founding race year having been America’s bicentennial. What more pioneer America than the outhouse? How appropriately tongue-in-cheek for the outhouse to be racing, for a change. Such a zany rivalry ... well, why not? The Black Forest Bummers were (and are) a group of men, women and children, mostly neighbors and friends, and instigators of sporting fun. When Black Forest’s winter brought the gift of freezing weather, they had promoted hockey games with the local VFW post 8103 ---just for fun. However, hats passed around gathered donations for cancer research.

Hockey games were played and the crowd dispersed, but the “port-a-can” remained. Why not sustain the rivalry of winter in spring? Why not push an outhouse --- along a mile of rigorous down-and-up-hill course – and at least keep the “port-a-can” in service? That first competition was billed, of all things, as the First Bicentennial Black Forest Outhouse Race.

There were two teams mustered, the Black Forest Bummers and the VFW Post 8103. Neighbors, they were not rivals, although a rivalry was infused by good natured goading. In the race for fun, why not benefit a fund, something charitable? Something nice to do for someone, maybe many, less fortunate?

The basic standards and style for following races were established. The racing outhouses would be “one holers” and each relay team would be comprised of twenty-one members – five male pushers and pullers to a shift, in four shifts, plus a female “rider” who would sit in the outhouse for the one-mile ride. That first year “chemical cans” were used, painted red, white and blue, and a brief parade complete with a Grand Marshall preceded the race.

Such a good time had been shared by so many that the second year, sixteen teams participated. The basic standards and style were altered some, with women’s teams entering their twenty-one member relay team with a “male rider.” The mode of transportation was changed to the pioneer tradition of wooden outhouses, built of pine especially for the race and remounted on steel wheels. There was a larger parade and the turnout was more substantial.

The Black Forest Outhouse Race was no longer solely a Black Forest activity, for innumerable “outsiders” wanted to become “insiders,” devoting time, talents, and money toward the charitable event’s success. The fun, the involvement, the persuasion of keeping something good – in so many ways – going, was no longer just “a Spring thing.” This was quite in evidence in 1978, the year of the Third Annual Black Forest Outhouse Race, when the avid enthusiasm induced thirty teams to enter – and more wanting to enter. Entries were cut off at thirty teams. The parade was really coming into its own and the first-year inclusion of a Grand Marshall had become a tradition.

It was – and is – like Black Forest to conspicuously wear its heart on its sleeve. The first year’s race raised \$525.00 for charity. That 1976 effort was all it took for an off-beat idea to capture the hearts of the fun-loving. By 1981 the goal had become \$21,000.00, with a hard-working central committee donating their time and special talents year-round to ensure success.

Donations and requests for more information may be mailed to Black Forest Outhouse Race – 12490 Black Forest Road – Colorado Springs, CO 80908

So now you know the beginning of the Black Forest Outhouse Races.

This is a newspaper picture of the **Fourth Annual Black Forest Outhouse Race**. The Air Academy lacrosse players sponsored by **Spike’s Mission Bell** won first by pushing their wooden, half-moon outhouse a quarter mile along Black Forest Road. “A single rider is strapped to the “throne”, given a football or motorcycle helmet for protection, and told to hold on for dear life.” This is according to a newspaper article provided by long-time member, Alan Campbell. The races began in 1976.



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.

Pictured is **Iris “Ike” Mosgrove** who was a retired Army nurse married to Dick, a retired Army dentist. They moved to the Black Forest in 1967 and bought in Park Forest. She was an original member of the Black Forest Rescue Squad, a substitute bus driver for



District 20, active in several riding clubs, but her main achievement was getting the Black Forest Trails Association created. Getting tired of having riding trails fenced off by newcomers to the Forest, she fought for preserving the trails and keeping the roads unpaved so that there were safe riding trails throughout the Forest. **Ike was Keeper in 2004.**

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.**

Got a Grouchy Machine? This may be your Solution.

Our new board member, Jim Collins, heard that our BFCC lawnmower was on its last legs. That lawnmower had been donated over 10 years ago by Bill Buckman. Jim's neighbor, James Clary, has a small engine repair and service business here in the Forest. He pronounced our old mower DOA but came up with a self-propelled Husqvarna that he donated to the BFCC. It has new drive wheels, sharpened blade and new drive cable, all at no charge to the Club.

Thank you to Jim Collins for being resourceful AND thank you to James Clary for being so generous.

James Clary is a Black Forest native and starting his own business and obviously community oriented. So next time your machine doesn't even growl at you, think:

Black Forest Small Engine Repair and Service 719 645-5630
<https://www.blackforestsmallengine.com> James Clary, owner



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

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>

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

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 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
Vice President: Kelly Marchbank
Secretary: Mindy Geiser
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Director: Tiffany Coles
Director: Sherrie Lidderdale
Director: Jim Collins

Visit our website at <http://www.bfcommunityclub.org>
Newsletter Editor: Carolyn Brown 495-3127 browncarolyn828@gmail.com



