

Black Forest Community Club Newsletter



July 2017

“Everyone is Family in the Forest”

Schedule of BFCC Events:

Jul 26	Wednesday	6:30 PM	Board and Officers' Meeting
Aug 12	Saturday	6:30 AM	Black Forest Festival
Aug 23	Wednesday	6:30 PM	Board and Officers' Meeting
<i>First Annual Black Forest Jazz Series (by Jeff Ader)</i>			
Jul 20	Thursday	6-8 PM	Triple Play – Music in the Park
Jul 27	Thursday	6-8 PM	The Kicks Big Band
Aug 3	Thursday	6-8 PM	All in Jazz
Aug 10	Thursday	6-8 PM	Academy Jazz Ensemble
Aug 17	Thursday	6-8 PM	Jazz Express
Aug 24	Thursday	6-8 PM	New Century Big Band

Reminder: BFCC Officers and General Meetings will continue to be held on the 4th Thursday of each month at 6:30pm. Everyone is welcome to attend these meetings. However, there are some exceptions (like April) on dates due to the holidays in November and December.

FIRE REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY

About seventy Black Forest residents gathered on Sunday afternoon June 11 at the Log School Park Pavilion to remember the Black Forest fire on June 11, 2013. Prayers were offered followed by an inspirational talk by close neighbor Laura Benjamin who lost her house in the fire. Below are some thoughtful comments that Laura has offered to the community.

How to Hold Two Opposed Ideas in Mind at One Time

by Laura Benjamin

F. Scott Fitzgerald, the American short story writer and novelist said, “The test of a first-rate intelligence is the ability to hold two opposed ideas in mind at the same time and still retain the ability to function.” Since the Black Forest Wildfire in June of 2013, members of our community have indeed struck a balance between two opposed ideas. First, we experienced loss: our two precious friends, Mark and Robin; pets; treasured family heirlooms; vehicles and houses we’d worked hard to make into homes. We lost neighbors who chose not to return. We lost our sense of security.



But we also gained a great deal these past four years:

- We learned how to work with one another towards a common goal.
- To offer comfort to those who struggled to cope and start anew.
- How to overcome “decision fatigue” when faced with choices too numerous to count.
- To advocate for ourselves, ask for what we deserved and what was fair.
- That we served as examples of how to face non-negotiable change and rise from those ashes.
- Some learned the importance of hard work, to never give up and never stop fighting.
- I learned patience - that some things couldn’t be rushed or forced.
- We learned to ask for help and rely on the knowledge and expertise of others.

We learned we are not wildfire *victims* - we are *survivors*! Survivors persevere and focus on moving forward. Survivors adapt to change and gradually embrace transition - two very different things. According to author William Bridges Ph.D., change is situational and comes fast, while transition is psychological and happens gradually. The “transition” we are experiencing may continue for years to come. Survivors learn how to let go, acknowledge losses and move on.

Being a wildfire survivor, though, is not **who we are** - **it’s what happened to us**. What defines us is what we **do** from now on to make things better, for ourselves and for others!

Laura Benjamin is a Black Forest Wildfire survivor and resident, a writer, motivational speaker and facilitator. She founded WildfireSurvivors.com to publish tips for other wildfire survivors. Contact her at Laura@CommunicateColorado.com to submit a tip or just to say hello.

Following Laura's talk the crowd moved inside to hear the **Forest Chorus** sing a few songs some of which were written and arranged by **Ruth Ann Steele** about the beauty of the Forest. Ruth Ann was scheduled play the piano but had fallen and broken her hip and was recuperating at a local rehabilitation facility.

Eddie Bracken gave an update on the efforts of Black Forest Together to help Black Forest residents handle the aftermath of the fire.

- Established Community Resource Center to provide triage support for families who lost homes and all others impacted by the fire.
- Partnered with Lutheran Family Services Disaster Response that provided over \$84,000 to qualified families.
- Managed cleanup of burned properties that has used approximately 40,000 hours of volunteer time.
- Established the "Seedling Program," an annual event providing seedlings free of charge to promote reforestation.
- Implemented the "Tree Donor Program" where healthy trees are transplanted to burned properties.
- Assisted the Colorado State Forest Service and BFFRPD with the Volunteer Forest Steward training program.



There are many other projects that are too many to list here. But the BFT with its many volunteers and two paid staff have done a lot of work to help clean up the fire's devastation.

After Eddie's presentation, there was time for attendees to enjoy all the good cookies and other desserts that people brought. There was a birthday cake for Bill Otto of the Forest Chorus who turned 89 years old that day.



Ruth Ann Steele is currently in rehab for her broken hip. After working at the slash site one Saturday, she fell a week later leaving a party. She is in good spirits and hoping to go home soon.

She might enjoy a card to Center at Cordera, 9208 Grand Cordera Pkwy, Colorado Springs, CO, room 331. She is in our prayers as we hope for a speedy recovery.

MUSIC IN THE PARK

Summer is the perfect time to enjoy some music in the great outdoors. As we continue to seek ways to help pay off the mortgage for the new property, Jeff Ader suggested a series of musical groups playing in our Log School Park Pavilion. He has coordinated with his fellow musicians around town to bring this impressive series of events to the Forest. Bring your chairs, blankets, kids and enjoy this community effort to make the most of summer in the Forest. We plan to have concessions with drinks, ice cream, and other tempting food items.

First Annual Black Forest Jazz Series by Jeff Ader

*Join us every **Thursday evening from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Log Schoolhouse Park at the corner of Shoup and Black Forest Roads for live Jazz.***

Our first season has brought together some of the top musicians and groups in the Pikes Peak region

*We begin on **July 20 with Triple Play.** This amazing group features **Tom Fowler, Trip Ziegler, Pat Abbot and Dave Harding.***

The rest of the season consists of:

- July 27 The Kicks Big Band**
- Aug 3 All in Jazz**
- Aug 10 Academy Jazz Ensemble**
- Aug 17 Jazz Express**
- Aug 24 New Century Big Band**

Bring lawn chairs or blankets and enjoy a picnic dinner or purchase some goodies from our snack bar.

Report on N477

by Rich Crawford

(Rich and his family have moved to a horse property in or near Littleton. His office phone is (303) 697-6000 and cell (303) 731-9013. Midwestwind1@gmail.com. He is continuing his chairmanship of the Development Committee through the end of the year.)



On June 17 eight enthusiastic volunteers reported for work at North477. They cut down and removed four more dead trees and cut up other branches on the ground for firewood and slash. Shown here is Ray Rozak with his big tractor manicuring the enlarged parking after moving tree trunks to stacks and piles of slash and cut stumps.

To the right is Len Lankford as he waters the newly planted ponderosa pines. Len has transplanted these donated trees to various places on the new property. Eddie Bracken gave 60 pine seedlings from CSU which were planted by Troop 70. The tree planting is a major job accomplished but a lot of work remains in watering and caring for these new plants. New volunteers Joyce Michael and Kari Crawford helped with this job. More help is needed.



Jace and Marie Turner prepared and served a hot and delicious lunch to all volunteers at noon.

Work days are scheduled in order to continue clean-up, care for newly planted trees, and to prepare portions of the N477 for the Black Forest Festival on August 12. Those scheduled dates include July 8, July 22, and August 5. We're in need of plastic snow fence to encircle stacks of logs, and for volunteers to accomplish the many tasks remaining during these next few weeks.

Those wishing to help with this endeavor can check in with Rich at the above ways or show up at 9am at the listed Saturday dates.

Announcement from Black Forest Log School

Just a reminder that the Black Forest Log School is open for drop-in visitors on Thursday afternoons from noon to 3:00. The dates are June 15 through August 15, and it's free. If you have summer visitors of any age, they are sure to enjoy a look back in time at a one-room school. A lot of Black Forest history originated in that building.

Black Forest Festival Saturday, August 12th

“Black Forest or Bust” is this year’s theme – All Booths Are Taken

Check out bfcommunityclub.org. Most information is under “BF FESTIVAL.” There are still many openings for the parade. Shari Conley is the Festival Chairman again this year. Here email is sharonc@q.com if you have further questions.

VOLUNTEERS: If you wish to be involved in the BFCC in any way and no one has contacted you, feel free to contact me and I will get you in touch with the right committee chairman. Carolyn Brown at 495-3127 or carolynb@q.com.

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.

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