

Black Forest Days – Thank You!

September 1, 2020

Beginning in December 2019, Shari Conley and her dedicated Black Forest Festival Executive Committee (BFF) started planning the 2020 Festival. They chose the theme “We Are Black Forest” and began volunteering long hours. Then COVID-19 happened. Events all over the state were cancelled.

In order to continue the 40-year tradition of a Black Forest Festival, the BFF had to get creative. The Black Forest Community Club (BFCC) made the difficult decision to replace the traditional Black Forest Festival with Black Forest Days to meet COVID-19 regulations. In the spirit of “We Are Black Forest”, the BFCC held five small outdoor events spread across four days. A good time was had by all - certainly due to the hard work of many folks. These small, outdoor events were safe and successful by all accounts:

Keeper of the Keys Ceremony

The tradition of “Keeper of the Keys of the Forest” was started in 1960 to honor members of the community for their service to Black Forest.

We continue to honor the tradition of the Keeper of the Keys with the annual selection of a Black Forest resident that is active in promoting and preserving the seven keys that make the Black Forest special. The ‘Keys’ represent the things we hold most dear to our life in the Black Forest. Shari and Rob Conley were honored as the 2020 Black Forest Keeper of the Keys. Marie and Jace Turner were honored as the 2020 Keeper Counselors.

Biergarten Stroll

The traditional Black Forest Biergarten was been modified into more of a pub crawl and took place over two sessions. Attendees were divided into groups of no more than 16 people; and the groups then “strolled” to several different Black Forest businesses for a taste of local food and drinks. The award-winning Wirewood Station band performed, and a great time was had by all.

Backyard Market

Located on the northwest side of the Black Forest Community Center is an area commonly referred to as the “Backyard”. When the idea came about to start a farmer’s market, members of the community knew it would be the perfect spot. The developers of the market thought the name “*Backyard Market*” symbolized the smaller community feel of the Black Forest. The Backyard Market has grown to be one of the top farmers markets in the state of Colorado.

Reverse Parade

This year, we hosted Black Forest’s very first Reverse Parade. In a Reverse Parade, the Parade Exhibits are stationary and socially distanced, and the “spectators” remain in their personal vehicles and slowly drive past the exhibits.

The parade showcased many local businesses, community groups, and services that are central to the Black Forest community. More than 100 cars lined up to drive through the Reverse Parade, and the first 100 spectators received a parade swag bag filled with lots of goodies!

Pancake Picnic Breakfast

We were so excited to partner with the Boy Scouts Troop 70 and the R&R Coffee Café to offer the annual Pancake Breakfast and Fundraiser. The breakfast was converted into a Pancake Picnic and was held outdoors due to social distancing. The Pancake Picnic Breakfast also offered a drive-thru option for the first time. Breakfast was delivered in individually packaged containers, which included pancakes, eggs, and sausage, along with syrup and utensils. The event was a success, and everyone enjoyed the delicious breakfast.

Thank you to numerous people for supporting Black Forest Days!

Thank You Black Forest Days Sponsors

A huge thank you to our sponsors. Their financial support and generosity made Black Forest Days possible.



The Black Forest
Liquor Store





Rockin' B Feed & Supply

It Takes Many Volunteers!

It took a huge team of volunteers planning, coordinating, and executing to pull it off. Here is a list testifying to the breadth and depth of their dedication.

- Chairperson and BFF: Shari Conley continued as the tireless chairperson just as she has for the past six years with overall responsibility for Black Forest Festival/Days. She was assisted by the hard-working Black Forest Festival Executive Committee (BFF). They provided overall planning and coordination as well as adherence to all COVID regulations, permit approvals, and ensuring the success of individual events. Our special thanks to:
Shawn Buck, Tiffany Coles, Bonnie Kruse, Don Root, Ashley Willis
- Publicity: Chuck Lidderdale and Tiffany Coles (websites BlackForestCommunityClub.org and WeAreBlackForest.com); Shawn Buck, Tiffany Coles, Shari Conley, Kelly Marchbank (social media); Kelly Marchbank, Sean Marchbank, Jace Turner, Marie Turner, Ellen Alderson, Pam Sekac, Gillian Conley, Bonnie Kruse, Michael Pickering, Sterling Jacobson (road signs and banner); Judy von Ahlefeldt, Sherrie Lidderdale, Erin Conley (flyer design and graphics); Yoli Smith, Shayli Smith, Marie Turner, Kay Rice, Kai Martin, Kim Martin, Melanie Oliver, Cathy Calhoun, Gail Westmoreland, Nancy Billiard, Tiffany Coles, Robert Kenny, Elaine Kenny, Kim Harms, Allie Harms (flyer distribution); Tiffany Coles (press release), Carolyn Brown (newsletter coverage)
- Grounds Maintenance, Measuring, Layout, Trash and Porta Potty, Setup, and Take Down: Don Root and grandson Caleb, Shari Conley, Phil Hosmer, Jace Turner, Dennis Duncan, Brian Strickland, Jim Marchbank, Rod Coles, Leif Garrison
- Parking and General Help: Black Forest Community Church, Black Forest Ward - Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (LDS) Ashley Nielsen, Tammy Farris, Michael Pickering, Sterling Jacobson (LDS volunteers), Black Forest Lutheran Church
- Legal and Liability Insurance: Leif Garrison and Bob Erler

Keepers of the Keys Ceremony:

Shari and Rob Conley (2020 Keepers of the Keys); Jace and Marie Turner (2020 Counselors to Keepers) Tiffany Coles (planning, nominations, voting, ceremony, decorations, ice cream potluck), Barbara Hosmer (awards and planning), Judy von Ahlefeldt (sashes, certificates, history), Laura Lollar (video of ceremony), Don Root (2018 Keeper), Rich Crawford (recognized for overseeing clearing the burnt-out Backyard property)

Biergarten Stroll:

Ashley Willis (planning, execution, contact tracing through Eventbrite; Gillian Conley (logo); Shari Conley, Bonnie Kruse, Shawn Buck, Tiffany Coles, Erin Conley, Rod Coles, Don Root, Cheyenne Willis (setup and teardown); Black Forest Brewery, Black Forest Meadery, Black Forest Bistro, Rocky Mountain Brewery, Black Forest Pies and Grinders, Rizuto's Ice Cream Truck, Rolling Bean Food Truck (food and beverages); Beau's Roadhouse Rugby Players (crowd control, social distancing), Wirewood Station voted "Best in Springs" for three years (music)

Reverse Parade:

Renee Strickland (parade director, logistics, lineup, setup, printed program); Caitlin Conley (recruiting entries); Shawn Buck (requested swag donations); Raegan Strickland, Brian Strickland, Gabi Marx (swag bag assembly and distribution); Marie Turner, Jace Turner, Pam Sekac, Bonnie Kruse (signs); Renee Strickland and Pam Sekac (layout); Shari Conley (coordination with sheriff department and El Paso County); Shari Conley and Erin Conley (neighborhood notification); El Paso County Sheriff's Reserve (road closures)

Thank You Swag Bag Donators

Swag Bag Donations: Black Forest Automotive, Black Forest Brewery, Black Forest Liquor, Black Forest Meadery, Black Forest Veterinary, American Stump Grinders, BJ's Brewery, Cub Scout Troop 70, Cereset, Chicken Coop, Destinations Therapy, Extreme Tan, Firehouse on the Run, Frankie's Too, GFL Environmental, Girl Scouts, GJ Gardner Homes, Health Healing Hope Ministries, Hiner Landscaping, Matt Inama - State Farm Insurance, KS Technologies Logistics, Maybell's Mission, McNulty Jewelers, Mountain View Electric Assn, Nana's Kitchen, Pikes Peak Cert, Pikes Peak Model A Club, Quaint Market, R&R Café, Red Robin on Powers Blvd, Rockin B Feed and Supply, Denny Sevene – Shelter Insurance, Which Wich

Thank You Reverse Parade Participants

Kit Carson Riding Club 2020 Royalty Girls

Presenting Colors was the Kit Carson Riding Club 2020 Royalty Queen, Jadie Duval and Princess, Cami Kranz. Come join us for a fun family evening with great entertainment at our weekly Gymkanas. Saturday nights at 6pm through September.

Renaissance Winter Guard

Renaissance Winter Guard is a Colorado Springs based non-profit competitive performing arts group. Winter guard is known as the sport of the arts. Check out our facebook page for free "spin camps" and more information at <https://www.facebook.com/Renaissancewg/> or Instagram at Renaissancewgi

Class of 2021

Class of 2021 Seniors representing various High Schools in the city of Colorado Springs

"We are in this together!"

Girl Scouts of Colorado

Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.

Pikes Peak Model A Ford Club

The Pikes Peak Model A Ford Club organizes events around the Model A. Participating in interstate driving tours, car shows, swap meets, bug outs, shop days and impromptu get-togethers. Founded in 1966.

Health, Healing, Hope Ministry

“Bringing hope and education to adolescents’ families in today’s society.” Offering adolescents and family therapeutic services through individual and equine therapy. HHH ministry also serves the community through educating and empowering parents to provide Internet safe homes through tips, resources and education. susana@hhhministries.org www.hhhministries.net

Randy’s High-Country Towing

Serving customers in Colorado since 1974. We care and we'll take good care of you and your vehicle. Thank you for your business. 719-596-6067

GO TEAM Therapy, Crisis and Airport Dogs

GO TEAM Therapy Dogs are known worldwide as the Best of the Best and are your local resource in crisis/comfort dogs. Not only are we available during personal times of crisis but we also participate in fundraising events and crisis situations nationwide where a therapy dog is needed.

info@goteamdogs.org

“Bear With Me”

"Bear With Me" Chainsaw art featuring Smokey Bear and his forest friends. All carved from Black Forest trees that were killed in the black forest fire. Sculptured by Black Forest artist, Al Wetzel. Place an order today 719-330-1409

Community Emergency Response Team

CERT is the Community Response Team with the Pikes Peak Office of Emergency Management. Its volunteer members promote emergency preparedness, assist with community events, and support emergency activations. More information found at PPCERT.ORG

4x4orce Community Rescue and Recovery

4x4orce is a notification network made up of Good Samaritans designed to connect those with an ice/snow related need to ordinary citizens nearby that are willing and able to mobilize and respond. Find us on Facebook@4x4orceCommunity.

McNulty Jewelers

McNulty Jewelers of Black Forest 719-265-6400

GJ Gardner

Creating Homes Not Houses. Brian Rief 719-650-1598

American Stump Grinders

Veteran owned and operated in Black Forest. Stumped? Call for free estimates 719-271-6260.

The Grout Doctor

Tile and grout restoration company, representing Black Forest resident and owners of a small business. Greeting you today out of their '34 Plymouth Rat Rod. Contact us at 719-464-5938 for a quote on your next tile and grout restoration project.

State Farm

Matt Inama is your local Black Forest State Farm insurance agent. We have helped many local residents and look forward to being a continued part of the community for years to come. Contact us at 719-495-6400 or sfagentmatt.com

Keeper of the Keys

The 2020 Keepers of the Keys for the Black Forest are Shari and Rob Conley. The Conley's have lived in the Black Forest since 1986 and you can find them involved in anything at the heart of our community - from the Black Forest Festival, to the Fire Remembrance Memorial, to the new Backyard Farmers Market.

We are so thankful to Shari and Rob for their contributions to the Black Forest Community and we are pleased to honor them as the 2020 Black Forest Keepers of the Keys.

Black Forest Neighbors

Pam Sekac and Gillian Conley - Our friendly horse neighbors and their owners in Black Forest, "Thank you for joining us this weekend for 2020's Black Forest Days." Wave to our mini horses, Straight Arrow & Savanna; our Arabian, Sarah; and our Haflingers, Minnie & Emmy.

Patrick & Maria Hause – Black Forest neighbors saying "Thanks for stoppin by!" featuring a 1997 Sanbar truck & two 1946 Farmall tractors models M&A.

Backyard Market:

(Highest attendance ever at a Backyard Market)

Elba Barr, Theda Stone (market managers donated their time); , vendors; Shawn Buck, Ashley Willis, Tiffany Coles, Robert Kenny, Elaine Kenny, Kim Morton, Kai Morton, Shayli Smith (BFCC volunteers), Ed Sekac (ADA transport); Rizuto's, Lucy's Mediterranean Grill, Campfire Coffee, Kona Ice, Black Forest Chew-Chew (food trucks)

Pancake Picnic Breakfast:

Ryan Wanner (orchestrated the entire breakfast: planning, ordering, overseeing); Jim Marchbank, Kelly Marchbank, Sean Marchbank, Zach Sakata, Gillian Conley, Erin Conley, Rob Conley (grills setup); Troop 70 Boy Scouts (flag ceremony, setup, food service and cleanup), Jace and Marie Turner (signs, setup and tear down), Christina VanCamp and Barry (music); Ashley Willis, Renee Strickland (Ticket Sales)

Our thanks to everyone who made Black Forest Days happen. We are listing many of the volunteers whom we would like to thank profusely, and we apologize in advance if we miss anyone's name! If we have inadvertently overlooked anybody, please let us know.

Additional photos will be posted on WeAreBlackForest.com

