



BLACK FOREST TRAILS ASSOCIATION NEWS

President's Corner

BFTA Member? "So What?"

By Larry Fariss, President



You may recall when you were a youngster, having proudly stated to your friends, you were part of something that was important to you. It could have been a team, church, scouts, or a class play. Some, usually the jealous ones, would respond with "So what?" or "Who do you think you are?" Well fortunately, as adults, we have grown past that, but you may still ask it of yourself when you participate in and support a group like the Black Forest Trails Association (BFTA). So what? Who do you think you are?

I am the current President of the BFTA, so let me tell you who I think you are! As a member of the BFTA, you are greatly valued by your BFTA Board of Directors and the Black Forest community at large! Let

me tell you why:

Members Give BFTA Clout! BFTA is primarily a lobby group with the county and private land owners, who we approach, on behalf of our members, to encourage maintenance and development of a strong network of trails throughout Black Forest. How do members help in this? It's simple! The more members we represent, the more likely the parties we approach will listen and respond to our requests. Your membership directly results in the county expending limited resources in our neck of the woods. At BFTA's request, significant county efforts have come our way. For example:

- The county has spent a great amount of time and resources getting Black Forest Regional Park back on its feet after being devastated in the 2013 fire. The burnt trees were removed from pathways, erosion barriers were installed and a new network of trails have been built!
- The Pineries network of trails is nearly complete with over 12 miles of new trails opening to the public in 2020! This has been your Association's number one goal for the last 5 years and it is extremely gratifying to see the county's consistent application of resources to complete this very important project!
- The county recently announced a commitment to build a Nature Center for this end of the county in Fox Run Regional Park. Our neighbors to the South have long benefitted from the Bear

Creek Nature Center and now we will have one of our own to enjoy and help teach our children to value and protect our trails and natural settings!

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Members Provide BFTA Resources! BFTA relies upon modest membership dues and gifts to further our mission to “create a safe, legitimate, non-motorized, multi-use recreational trail system that connects Black Forest neighborhoods to each other and the El Paso County Regional Trail System.” How? Once again it is simple! BFTA carefully stewards your gifts to:

- Construct new trails that cross privately owned lands. When new housing developments show up in Black Forest we are quickly in contact with the developer to encourage inclusion of open spaces and a supporting trail network. Also, when our current neighbors open up their border land for connecting trails we are there to assist in the creation of the trail. In both cases we apply our funds to construct the trail bed and erect and maintain signage and fencing.
- Enhance county trails with commemorative benches that provide those using our park trails to rest and recuperate in scenic settings. These projects are often completed in conjunction with Eagle Scout projects that get our youth involved in stewarding nature.
- Leverage BFTA funds with the county to insure completion of costly park construction, support facilities, and trail maintenance. Section 16 is a great example where BFTA provided the county an upfront “incentive” gift to jump start construction of the trailhead restroom facility and the county responded by covering all remaining costs for the much needed facility. Also, in the 1990’s, the actual Section 16 Trail was constructed by BFTA at their own expense and handed over to the county to maintain. Dollars well spent!

So I ask you “So what?” So, your involvement as a member of the Black Forest Trails Association has a far reaching consequence for you and our community! For all current members a big THANK YOU! For past members PLEASE REJOIN AGAIN! For our other fellow trail users PLEASE JOIN NOW! **The larger we are, the more we are heard!**

Sincerely, Larry Fariss
President BFTA

THANK YOU!

By Nancy Reinhardt

A special thank-you to the Rocky Mountain Field Institute for all their work constructing trails in our area. They constructed more than 2 miles of the Pinerias trails. Check out their website for interesting articles and information about upcoming classes. RMFI.org





BFTA Time Machine

By Nancy Reinhardt

Page 6 - Black Forest News & Palmer Divide Pioneer - Thursday June 15, 2000



Black Forest Section 16 Partnership Trail was officially adopted by the Black Forest Trails Association on Sat., June 10. El Paso County Parks staff member **Pat Farrell** (to right of the sign) assisted in placing the adoption sign at the Burgess Rd. main entrance. The trail is still under construction. Plans are to open it for local use later this summer.

Black Forest News & Palmer Divide Pioneer
FOREST NEWS Thursday, April 9, 1981

Black Forest Equestrian Trails

-Judy vonAhlefeldt

FIRST EQUESTRIAN TRAIL COMPLETED

Judy von Ahlefeldt

The effort last Saturday to build the first three miles of the Black Forest Equestrian Trails system around three sides of the state school land on Herring, Shoup and Vollmer roads was successful beyond our highest hopes. The weather cooperated by waiting until 2 p.m. for the weekend snowstorm and 39 pairs of willing hands came to make three of the nicest looking, most useful miles of roadside in the Forest.

In a mere 2 1/2 hours the trail area was transformed from a useless corridor covered with tangled trash, wire, bottles, cans, old car parts, shingles and unfilled holes to three miles of useable recreational trail. Trees were carefully limbed up to provide clear passage and one eight-year old 4-H'er said to me: "Gee, it looks like a park!" I told her it WAS a park, a long skinny one!

We still need to build some erosion control structures on the hills and put finishing touches on areas that had snowcover, but the trail is open for non-motorized use and we invite the Forest residents to enjoy it.

We wish to emphasize the non-motorized use aspect. Our agreement with the State Land Board specifies non-motorized recreational use and the Sheriff has been notified to enforce this regulation.

The participants from the Northridge and Country - Style 4-H groups were from all over the area - from Northgate Road to Falcon. Thank you all. Colleen



"PICK-IT-UP, break-it-up, pack-it-in," Judy vonAhlefeldt (trail-boss?) helped with the project of clearing the equestrian trail around the "North 40."

Byall, the Brunetti's, Karen Conover, Jeanne Dunham, Kyle Fox, Kimber, Pamela and Pat Green, Michelle, Suzanne and Phil Haddock, Barbara Jagoda, Kyle, Patti and Marian Kataldi, the Krasche family, Andi and Kathy Lockwood, Gail Mack, Carole Oberle, Tina, Sandy and Vern Nutter, Ann Marie Rice, Patti and Jeannie Scalla, Tami Steele, Christine Scott, Michelle Stelmach, Wendy Willis, and Julie and Maurie Wood.

Special thanks are due to Andi Lockwood for providing lunch afterwards and to Imelda Evans for offering first-aid services if necessary.





Welcome To Our Newest Lifetime Members

By Rich Mock

My name is Kenneth Tell and my wife is Patti. We are both almost natives to Colorado and were both Air Force “Brats”. We always said one day we would like to live in Black Forest and that dream came true about 5 years ago. We live 4 doors down from the section 16 trail and my wife is an avid runner and spends most days running Section 16. She uses that as her training for the Pikes Peak Ascent. We noticed the Black Forest trails association flyers posted by the parking lot and often thought about joining and when Rich Mock asked us at the brewery one day we jumped at the chance to support the cause.

I am the Commercial Truck Director for Phil Long Ford in Motor City and my dept sells trucks cars and suv's to some large fleets located throughout Colorado. Some of our more notable clients would be the City of Colorado Springs, Colorado Springs Utilities as well as School District Twenty and local Plumbing Electrical Companies as well as several large construction companies. It keeps me busy but everyday I get to drive home to the Forest and wouldn't change that at this point for anything.

My wife works for a large insurance company and she handles software testing and development for companies like New York Life and The Royal Bank of Canada. She has the freedom to takeoff on most days and you will find her running Section 16 to calm her mind. Soon you may see her running there with our new German Shepard addition Sadie.

We welcome the opportunity to Support the Black Forest Trails Association for many years to come to keep our local trails systems available.

Black Forest Brewing Company New BFTA Sponsor

By Rich Mock

Black Forest Brewing Company 11590 Black Forest Road, is now a BFTA corporate sponsor.

Retired Air Force officers, Tara and Donovan Routsis, opened the brewery in March 2018 and have been rockin' it since. They almost immediately expanded into the adjoining suite to create a fest hall that is available for public use. The brewery offers a limited German-themed menu and hosts frequent food trucks. Activities include bingo on Tuesday, trivia on Wednesday and poker on Thursday. And they host a 5K fun run every Sunday. Sounds like fun!

BFBC hosted the recent BFTA membership meeting that was well attended and featured John Anderson speaking on sacred trees in the Black Forest.

The brewery is now open daily. Check their website <http://blackforestbrewingco.com/> and Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/BlackForestBrewingCo/> for more information.

New Trails Planned North of Black Forest Section 16

By Cheryl Pixley

Great news! The developer of Redtail Ranch, Michael Ludwig, has provided easements for trails within his subdivision of 5-acre properties located west of Vollmer Rd and north of Shoup Rd. This year BFTA will be blazing and marking the routes which will ultimately give Black Forest hikers, bicyclists & equestrians new connections from the north and the west to Section 16 Partnership Trail and Pineries Open Space. Please watch your email inbox this spring for opportunities to help with this project!

Black Forest Section 16 Spring Road & Trail Cleanup

By Cheryl Pixley

Your help is needed at Black Forest's most popular county trail to keep it litter-free. You may have seen the signs in and around Black Forest Section 16 saying that BFTA has adopted the 4-mile trail and 2 miles of adjacent roadways. Please join us on Saturday, April 11, 2020, at 9:00 am. We will meet at the parking lot on Burgess Rd just west of Vollmer Rd and plan to finish by 11:00. BFTA members bring your friends! Students are welcome and can earn community service credits, too! Trash bags, orange safety vests and drinking water will be supplied. Bring hat, gloves and sunscreen. Rain (or snow) date is April 25, 2019.

Call Nancy at 495-2605 with any questions

eBikes In El Paso County Parks

By Andy Meng

eBikes are increasing in popularity and we've been getting questions whether eBikes (electric bicycles) are permitted in El Paso County Parks. So we reached out to the county parks department for clarification. They told us that Electric bikes are addressed in section 6.7 of the El Paso County Parks Rules and Regulations document dated March 2019. The regulations state: "6.7 ELECTRICAL ASSISTED BICYCLES: Class I and Class II Electrical Assisted Bicycles may use El Paso County Parks Primary and Secondary trails up to a maximum speed of twenty miles per hour. **Class III Electrical Assisted Bicycles are not permitted on any County trail.**"

There are three classes of eBikes:

Class I: eBikes that are pedal-assist only, with no throttle, and have a maximum assisted speed of 20 mph.

Class II: eBikes that also have a maximum speed of 20 mph, but are throttle-assisted.

Class III: eBikes that are pedal-assist only, with no throttle, and a maximum assisted speed of 28 mph.

Class III eBikes are typically allowed on roads and on-road bike lanes ("curb to curb" infrastructure), but restricted from bike trails and multi-use paths. While a 20-mph maximum speed is achievable on a traditional bicycle, decision makers and agencies consider the greater top-assisted speed of a Class 3 eBike too fast for most bike paths and trails that are often shared with other trail users.

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BFTA Membership

By Andy Meng

By supporting BFTA with your annual membership, you help provide the funding and support for a whole range of issues that affect Black Forest trails and the lifestyle we all want to protect. The Black Forest Trails Association is a non-profit organization under IRS Code Section 501(c)(3). Donations are fully deductible to the extent permitted by tax law.

There are 4 tiers of BFTA membership (Dues are tax deductible):

- 1) Individual / family (\$15 per year),
- 2) Business / club (\$30 per year),
- 3) Donor (\$50 per year)
- 4) Lifetime (\$150 one time).

Membership runs from April 1 to March 31, and if you become a member now, your membership will be good through March 31, 2020. We use PayPal, which is easy and secure, to accept online payments, or you can print out an application and mail your payment in via US Postal service – either option can be completed via our website at **<http://www.blackforesttrails.org/joinrenew>**