

# La Foret

CONFERENCE & RETREAT CENTER

*Providing sanctuary for all to consider the transcendent issues of life*

April 2017

(719) 495-2743 ~ [mail@laforet.org](mailto:mail@laforet.org) ~ [www.laforet.org](http://www.laforet.org)

## IN OUR APRIL EDITION:

Ponderosa's Restoration

Letter from the Director

Spring Swing Dance Party

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### Ponderosa: Continuing the Restoration

Ponderosa's interior refinishing is almost complete! The floors have been sanded, removing years of paint and floor stain buildup to reveal the beautiful original floor, then leveled and re-stained. The main room looks amazing, and the two side rooms are now refinished to match. The elegant hardwood floors now show throughout Ponderosa.



Plumbing, electric, and gas lines have all been updated and improved. We've made improvements to the restrooms, including new counter and fixtures. We hope you enjoy the new side room previously used for storage.

Outside there are many logs being repaired and replaced.

Things in Ponderosa are still looking just as beautiful, vintage, and rustic as this lovely lodge always has. Now the interior is freshened up, we're taking care for Ponderosa to last for another ninety years.



**Funded  
by State  
Historical  
Fund...**

**...With  
matching  
Funds from  
La Foret**



Now that the interior of Ponderosa is all brushed-up and beautiful, it's on to the outside! Check our website and Facebook for more photos and updates on this great project.

We'll be working on:

External log repair and replacement.

Foundation and crack repair.

New gutters and improved drainage around the building.

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### Happenings at La Foret

So many times a new guest tells us that they have passed La Foret on Shoup road for years and "never knew what was in here." This speaks to the remoteness and sanctuary we can offer, but it also means some are missing out on what we offer.

Further down in this newsletter are links to some of the more popular day camps and overnight camps for kids this summer. The [home page](#) of our web site has a more complete list with links. Another way to get to know us is to come to the [Meadowgrass](#) music festival on Memorial Day weekend.

And we have some times this summer and fall that work well for weddings or receptions.

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome at La Foret.

*Larry*

Executive Director

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### The Annual Easter Egg Hunt!

Hosted by the BF Fire Rescue at La Foret



Saturday, April 15th at 10:00 am  
For kids 3 - 12 years old

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Employee Highlight:

**Kelly Halsey**

*Hospitality*

La Foret thrives because of the many caring hands of our staff. The kitchen crew takes on the essential task of feeding our visitors, and Kelly has done an amazing job as a retreat worker. She's a cheerful face that all our guests are happy to see, as they receive each delicious meal in the Dining Hall. At nearly her two year mark here at La Foret, we're thankful for Kelly's hard work and streamlined efficiency in assisting with meal prep and clean up. She's such a great worker- She is quick and caring with each step of the meal process, and beyond.

# 'Dance in the Woods!'

## Spring Swing Party!

~ Open to the public! Invite your friends! Find this event on Facebook @Behappytodance ~

This month, we're celebrating Springtime! With high energy, fun patterns, and a lot of fun, we'll introduce East Coast Swing to start the party. East Coast is a lively swing dance, with simple basic patterns, and a popular look and style, which makes it a lighthearted and easy to learn social dance.



La Foret provides a delicious snack spread, and you are invited to B.Y.O.B. We will provide coffee, tea, water...you may bring beer, wine (21+).

The dance lesson will start at 6:00 pm, taught by our professional instructor, Tasha. It will be a great introduction to some social dance moves to practice during the dance party. Tasha is there all evening, to help with questions and offer dance tips. We'll play music perfect for dancing: Two-step, Cha Cha, Nightclub, Waltz, West Coast and East Coast Swing, and more!

Only \$10 per person, at the door.

*As usual, your money goes to La Foret, and the preservation of this beautiful nonprofit organization, providing safe space in support of community growth.*

**SUNDAY,  
April 23th, 2016**

Beginner \*East Coast Swing\* Lesson  
6:00pm - 7:00pm

Social Dance Party  
7:00pm - 9:00pm

-- Private and semi-private lessons available!  
Find out more at [Happy To Dance!](#) --

A big thank-you to Kelly, for her time and energy spent in the kitchen at La Foret. An important job, that she takes on wonderfully.



*"I am currently a student at Rocky Mountain College of Art and Design and am studying to become an animator. I split my time between school, work, and volunteering at the World War II Aviation Museum. In my free time I enjoy drawing, learning about history and hiking.*

*La Foret is my first job, so its easy for me to say it's the best one I've ever had. Being able to work in the forest, having great co-workers, and good food are just a few reasons why I really do love my job."* - Kelly

## Summer Camp Sign-Up!

We embrace the loveliness of the woods in springtime- the fresh pine smells, new budding wildflowers, and bright, cheerful sunshine. The La Foret grounds are waking up for a summer to flourish! Naturally, these springtime feelings have us preparing for a summer to shine!

With Nature leading the way, it's time to start anticipating your family's summer plans too. Follow the links below. There are camps hosted at La Foret almost every week of the summer! Fill yours with fun, outdoor enrichment and great memories for you and your kids.



"Something's Movin' in the Forest!" at: [laforet.org](http://laforet.org)

Contact:  
Tasha Hoffner  
tasha@laforet.org  
719-495-2743



*"The beautiful Spring came; and when Nature resumes her loveliness, the human soul is apt to revive also."  
- Harriet Ann Jacobs*



UCC Camp registration  
at: [RMCUCC](http://RMCUCC)

Contact:  
Rev. Christopher Gilmore  
[camps@rmcucc.org](mailto:camps@rmcucc.org)  
720-384- 7028



DOC camp registration  
at: [CRMDOC](http://CRMDOC)

Contact:  
Shelly Garrison  
[skgarrison50@gmail.com](mailto:skgarrison50@gmail.com)  
719-201-3419



Bemis daycamp  
registration  
[csfineartscenter.org](http://csfineartscenter.org)

Contact Fine Arts Center  
at: (719) 475-2444

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## Fun Springtime Facts

- In the Northern Hemisphere Spring usually occurs during the months of March, April, May, or from the Vernal Equinox (March 20) to the Summer Solstice (June 21). The opposite is true for the Southern Hemisphere.
- The first day of spring is also called the vernal equinox where there is supposed to be 12 hours of daylight and 12 hours of night.
- In spring, the Earth's axis is tilted toward the sun, increasing the number of daylight hours and bringing warmer weather.
- Severe weather most often occurs during the spring, when warm air begins to move up from the lower latitudes and cold air pushes down from the polar regions.
- Many trees, flowers, plants and bulbs begin to grow during the Spring.
- Animals begin to shed their winter coats for the warmer weather.
- Many birds lay their eggs in the Spring.
- Severe weather most often occurs during the Spring.



- Crops are planted in the Spring.
- Many cultures celebrate the return of spring. It often signifies rebirth or rejuvenation.
- Cherry blossom viewing, known as Hanami, is a major festivity in Japan. Sakura or cherry blossoms is an important symbol in Buddhism.
- In Christianity, Spring is marked by Easter which signifies the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- Easter eggs or Paschal eggs are decorated eggs are being given to celebrate Easter or springtime.
- For the Jewish, Passover is known as "The Spring Holiday".
- In India, Holi or the festival of colors is being celebrated at the beginning of Spring.



- May Day, also known as Labour Day, is the date of many public holidays. The holiday originated from ancient practices but still survived until the modern times.
- In Ireland, spring traditionally starts on February 1 or known as St Brigid's Day.
- In China, as well as other Southeast Asian countries, Spring marks the beginning of a new year in the lunar calendar and is celebrated as the 'Chinese New Year'.
- In literature, Spring symbolizes renewal, rebirth, and start of a better life or times

Fun Facts from KidsKonnnect at: <https://kidskonnnect.com/holidays-seasons/spring/> - Follow the link to free fact sheet and kid's fun spring worksheets by KidsKonnnect.

Forward this email

STAY CONNECTED

