

## **Ponderosa: Updates on Progress**

We are so happy that our beloved Ponderosa Lodge is receiving some very in-depth care and improvements thanks to the State Historical Fund grant and the matching gifts of our friends.

So far, side room floors have been taken up to excavate below the joists. This will allow for better drainage and moisture control. Due to the floors being pulled up, we are able to install new flooring in one side room and remodel a bathroom.

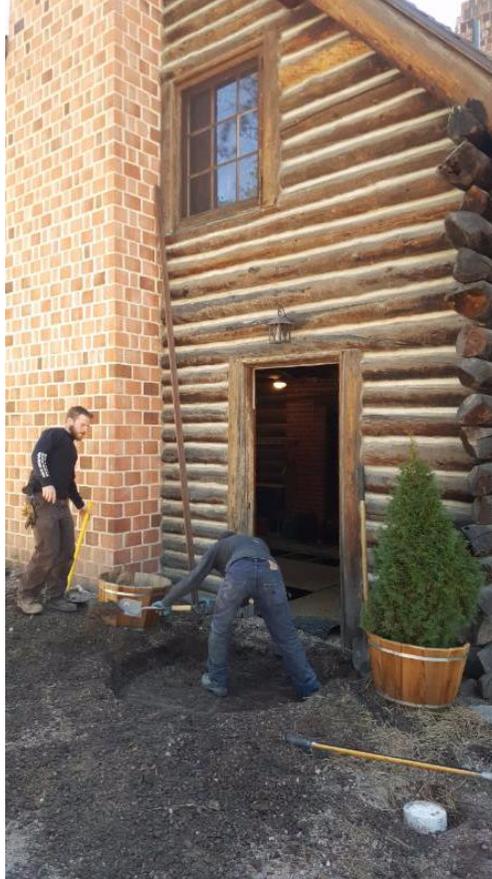


*Redevoting the table and chair storage space into a kitchenette.*

In the gorgeous main room, some panels of wood flooring have been fixed, which will put an end to the 'lump' in the floor during the moist summer days. There are also some functional improvements that will rearrange Ponderosa's coffee area to create a more formal kitchenette.

The number one goal is to preserve and protect to help Ponderosa last for another 90+ years!

Most of the work will actually be on the outside, shoring



*Diggin' in, for some great improvements!*

up the foundation, creating proper drainage, repairing cracks in masonry and replacing and repairing rotten and damaged logs. While it won't look very different, this work preserves and extends the life of this grand old structure. Historically, Ponderosa was the summer home of Alice Bemis Taylor and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

**History Colorado, State Historical  
Fund grant to La Foret for Ponderosa  
Restoration**

Larry McCulloch  
*Exec Dir-La Foret*

February 4, 2016 - Earlier this week La Foret Conference & Retreat Center received word that we were one of eight applications that received the maximum \$200,000 grant for the restoration of the Ponderosa Lodge. History Colorado State Historical Fund gave out \$3,900,000 in grants in the >\$35,000 category this grant round. These grants are given for requested projects to preserve, rehabilitate, or purchase properties that are of historic significance. Most of the properties are on the National or State Historic register. Ponderosa Lodge is on both.

The \$200,000 along with our required matching money from La Foret of \$85,000 will go specifically for site drainage, log construction repair, chimney repair, added roof drainage, and first floor rehabilitation. This was all spelled out in a budget in the application. The general purpose of this request was to rehabilitate previous water damage and to prevent any new damage. The process for spending these funds is under a very strict and advanced budget process designed to meet standards for historic reconstruction and preservation. The construction company and subcontractors are not yet identified.

This grant will allow La Foret to continue its mission to provide a natural sanctuary to all guests to consider the transcendent issues in their group and individual lives. This grant will allow for visibility in the greater historic conservation community, bringing awareness to Alice Bemis Taylor's historic summer home, La Foret, and the work of the architect Benedict. This may set the stage for further restoration work and helpful grants. History Colorado is aware, as they are in many other of their grant projects, that there will need to be several more phases of rehabilitation.



La Foret is an Open and Affirming facility of the United Church of Christ.

For further information contact Larry McCulloch, Executive Director at 970-481-9243.

[Click to read the March 2016 announcement.](#)

## Letter From the Director

Stewardship of our facility to extend and enhance the usefulness and life of this amazing place is foremost on our minds this month. The extensive work being done to stop and fix the deterioration of

## Employee Highlight: Tasha Hoffner

*Creative Coordinator & Dance Instructor*

Tasha has been a part of La Foret's team since the start of 2015, and has filled many roles along the way. Starting in housekeeping,

Ponderosa Lodge, the grand centerpiece of the facility, is being done with a grant from the State Historical Fund and matching grants from donors. We want to thank First Congregational Church of Colorado Springs for a substantial amount of the matching funds.

Every year the improvements we are able to make largely come from gifts of time and effort from talented volunteers and from donor contributions. If you or your group wants to volunteer, please contact us. Opportunities for skilled and unskilled work abound.

*Larry*

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## 'Dance in the Woods!' *Luck of the Irish!*

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

This month, we get to keep the Irish fun and festivities going for a St. Patty's themed dance party for March 19th. Bring all your lucky charms, because we'll be giving away prizes, including: free entry to next month's dance, a free dance lesson, La Foret gift, and more!



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

kitchen and childcare, Tasha has also served as our certified archery instructor, lifeguard, and day camp leader.

Tasha is the founder and host of La Foret's monthly 'Dance in the Woods' event, 'Something's Movin' day camp, and other various activities representing La Foret throughout the Black Forest community.

La Foret has seen some unique programs develop and improvements take place, as well as resurrecting past ideas (such as restarting a monthly newsletter!). Thanks to Tasha's eagerness and devotion to her community, we are able to offer certain public events, and we even look forward to our "float" in the parade again this year. We are glad to have her creativity and varied-expertise to enhance camp in her own way.



*"Working at La Foret is my dream, perfect job! It satisfies so many interests and hobbies of mine. I love being able to go on an outdoors adventure with young day campers, watching children learn how to swim, teaching kids-adults how to dance, connect to the community, practice archery, yoga, and more...all in a day's work! It suits me perfectly, and keeps me passionate and eager for more. In loving what I do, I don't "work" a day in my life.*

*We have an incredible, fearless team who trust, motivate, inspire, and challenge each other. Just take a look at all of our quotes on the "[Team Page](#)." ...See, we all just looooooove it here!! A great place with great people. Not to mention, this is where I met my love, Tim Cole!*

*La Foret is such a big part of me, and I am so deeply blessed to be here, on this walk in my life. La Foret has been my SANCTUARY since the beginning, and it's becoming so more and more. I am a passionate testimony to this wonderful, cherished place; my heart and home, La Foret."*

*-Tasha*

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## UCC & DOC Open House

We believe in, and support outdoor ministry as part

Cha, Nightclub, Waltz, West 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,  
March 19th, 2016**

Beginner \*dance\* 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](#) ! --



*"May you always have...  
A sunbeam to warm you,  
Good luck to charm you,  
And a sheltering angel,  
so nothing can harm you.  
Laughter to cheer you,  
Faithful friends near you,  
And whenever you pray...  
Heaven to hear you"  
- An Irish Blessing*

of our mission statement and everyday purpose. La Foret has been a long-time home base for UCC and DOC camps and events. We are proud to open our doors not only for a wonderful 2017 summer, but also for a preparatory open house event.

For this 2017 season kick-off, members of the UCC and DOC are invited to an Open House at La Foret. On Saturday March 18th. Reverend Chris Gilmore of the UCC and Shelly Garrison of the DOC are hosting an open house to give parents a chance to check us out and an opportunity for campers to get familiar with the facility.

The open house event will begin at 10:00 am. and end at 3:00 pm. La Foret will provide a no-cost lunch during this event.

Summer camps have been held at La Foret since 1946! La Foret has become a spiritual home for countless campers throughout the years. We invite you to join in the continuation. If you are an alumnus of La Foret, you, too, are welcome to visit us on this day for a bit of nostalgia and renewal.



If you have further questions, please contact:

Rev. Christopher Gilmore  
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720-384- 7028

or

Shelly Garrison  
at skgarrison50@gmail.com  
719-201-3419

[Click HERE to download the letter from Rev. Chris Gilmore](#)

UCC Camp registration at: [RMCUCC](#)  
DOC camp registration at: [CRMDOC](#)

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