

Thriving in these tumultuous times

Advent is a time of preparation and anticipation in new beginnings and new birth. It is especially pertinent this year as our secular world experiences rapid change and anticipates more. We each have different and personal responses to our election outcomes, and regardless of your political views or perspectives on the social justice issues, change is stressful and anticipation comes with an edge of anxiety and stress. None of us are immune because we all have loved ones and people we respect that have differing views. Or possibly we feel we are being judged or dismissed in ways we can't ignore. In our polarized world where we can be unfriended with a key stroke, all sides can demonize and degrade the other. We are not immune.

Our common challenge is to love and respect each other. In this context, loving each other means listening and trying to understand others. Respect means mutual adherence to the values we share in our country and values from our faith. All religious traditions - Christian, Buddhist, Islamic, Jewish and others - share common values. Adherence to these values in practical terms means listening hard, judging less, asking questions for understanding, making fewer assumption about others and striving to understand.

None of this is easy. We need a place and quiet time away from the cacophony. My prayer for each of us is to find the physical space and personal time to quieten the noise and listen to ourselves and others as we muddle through the tumult in very human ways. If it is helpful to you, La Foret offers a place of sanctuary away from the hectic pace - quiet space, sacred ground, natural environment - for reflection and prayerful consideration of issues you face personally or your church or organization faces. We welcome everyone to use this place as a quiet sanctuary. You are welcome to call the office to let us know you are coming (no charge) to walk the labyrinth or visit the chapel or go for a walk. We'll let you know if there are groups here that could distract you. This is our Advent gift to you. If your church, organization or family wants a meeting hall, we offer these at reasonable rates. We're not heavily booked in the winter and can usually accommodate you with short notice.

Above all else, care for yourself and those around you in healthy and healing ways that build relationship and understanding. May the Christian season of Advent be a time of preparation and anticipation of wonderful things to come, regardless of your tradition. Amen.

'Dance in the Woods!' *Christmas dance party!*

~ Open to the public! Invite your friends! ~

Last month's Thankful to Dance Social was such a fun success! Over sixty dancers filled the floor, dancing to great music filled our beautiful Inglis Hall. The guests loved the snack spread, and the pies were a hit...yum!

For December, we are continuing the holiday fun with a *Christmas Dance Party!* Dancers are invited for the beginner lesson at 6:00 pm, continuing into a social dance party to try out those fun new patterns. This month, we welcome dancers to dress up, to complete this "Christmas Dance" experience (semi-formal, though you may dress as casual or as formal as you wish!).



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

There will be a Two-step lesson at 6:00 pm, taught by Tasha. It will be a great introduction to some social dance moves to practice during the dance party. And she is there all evening, to help with questions and offer dance tips. We'll play music perfect for dancing Two-step, West Coast, Cha Cha, Nightclub, Waltz, 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, DEC. 18th, 2016

Beginner *Country Two-Step* Lesson
6:00pm - 7:00pm

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

Employee Highlight: Tim Cole

Buildings and Grounds Director

Tim works hard for La Foret, giving his thoughts and efforts on a near-constant basis. He lives on property, so he is the eyes of our camp, and he's on call with his help for any issues that may arise.

Tim is an incredible asset to La Foret, as the one who oversees the buildings on property and all of our beautiful land. Tim has initiated countless improvements and helped to save La Foret an impressive amount of time and money.

On a daily basis, Tim is met with interesting quirks unique to each building and finds resolution to issues found in this constant property upkeep...and he manages more than *twenty* unique buildings on La Foret's property! It's a job requiring the work of a patient and skilled handyman.

Tim also manages volunteer groups, is head of La Foret's maintenance workers, oversees our two-year-long mitigation project, fully-maintains our pool, he performs mechanic work on all La Foret vehicles, he even helps at our social dance (you should see his moves!), and much more.

La Foret is thankful for Tim, his hard work and efforts, and his devotion to the greater good for La Foret.



Tim, pictured with his girlfriend, Tasha

"Originally from Dallas, I first came to Colorado on a camping trip when I

-- Private and semi-private lessons are also available! Click [HERE](#) for more information! --



"Snowflakes are one of nature's most fragile things, but just look what they can do when they stick together."
- Vista M. Kelly

was 19 years old and from that day forward I vowed to make it my home. It took nearly 20 years but I made it! Never did I imagine I would end up in a place that captures the essence of the state like La Foret and Black Forest does. I love it here immensely. I am grateful every day for the challenge and opportunity to help La Foret, myself and the rest of the staff move into the future."

-Tim

P.S. I love you Tasha!

"12 Days of Christmas" -- La Foret Style!



On the first day of Christmas, La Foret gave to me...

A big Moose in the Meadow.



On the second day of Christmas, La Foret gave to me...

Two historic buildings.



On the third day of Christmas, La Foret gave to me...

Three forest men.

On the fourth day of Christmas, La Foret gave to me...

Four walking trails.

On the fifth day of Christmas, La Foret gave to me...

Five winter weddings.

On the sixth day of Christmas, La Foret gave to me...

Six Yurts for camping



**On the seventh day of
Christmas, La Foret gave
to me...**

**Seven campers
singing.**



**On the eighth day of
Christmas, La Foret gave
to me...**

**Eight Squabbits
playing.**



**On the ninth day of
Christmas, La Foret gave
to me...**

**Nine couples
dancing.**

**On the tenth day of
Christmas, La Foret gave
to me...**

Ten special cabins.



**On the eleventh day of
Christmas, La Foret gave
to me...**

**Eleven mule deer
grazing.**

**On the twelfth day of
Christmas, La Foret gave
to me...**

**Twelve modified Ute
trees.**

Merry Christmas from the staff at La Foret! We wish *you*, and all our dear friends across the country a very delightful holiday season. Have a Magical Christmas and incredible start to the New Year!

Forward this email

STAY CONNECTED



