



EMPIRE RANCH FOUNDATION NEWS

P.O. Box 842 • Sonoita, Arizona 85637-0842 • (888) 364-2829

www.empireranchfoundation.org

Howdy and Happy 2014

The Foundation is looking forward to an exciting 2014. We were honored in January to be part of a group receiving an Interior Department Partners in Conservation Award (article on p. 4). With your help we will move forward with numerous preservation projects (article on p. 3), and are excited that Adobe Haybarn stabilization work has begun! We will definitely have a "Grand Opening" and perhaps an ol' fashioned barn dance to celebrate completion.

We will participate in the exciting raffle sponsored by Jim Click Automotive to win a 2014 Jeep Cherokee! Every dollar raised from ERF's raffle ticket sales goes to supporting the Foundation's projects. Tickets are \$25 each or five for \$100; the drawing is November 13, 2014. Call ERF at 888-364-2829 to buy your winning ticket!

We will also host a fantastic Spring Trail Ride on April 5th, our Western movie event on August 7th, and our annual Roundup & Open House on November 1st.

Volunteers are integral to keeping the Empire Ranch alive! We need you for bi-monthly Volunteer Days, for special events, and to help staff our Visitor Contact Station and have it open more often. To offer help, please contact us at 888-364-2829 or admin@empireranchfoundation.org.

Personal thanks to those of you that responded to our year-end appeal or have renewed your membership. I encourage all our supporters to renew or become new members to help preserve and protect the Empire Ranch. We can't do it without your support.

Thanks and happy trails,
Ron Martin, President

Published by the Empire Ranch Foundation, a not-for-profit organization, in cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management. The purpose of the Foundation is to protect, restore, and sustain the Empire Ranch historical buildings and landscape as an outstanding western heritage and education center. Donations to the Foundation may be sent to: P.O. Box 842, Sonoita, AZ 85637-0842.



Empire 100 show draws lively crowd as guests eye and discuss their favorite offerings; bell rings (bottom right) signifying another sale! (photos: G. Auerbach)

"Empire 100" Art Show & Sale Welcomes Art Lovers at Inviting New Venue

The Foundation's 14th Annual "Empire 100" Western Art Show & Sale has opened to wide acclaim, in a spacious new location in midtown Tucson. At the show's February 5 Opening Reception for members and guests, more than 300 excited viewers enjoyed the arresting selection of original oils, watercolors, and sculptures created by dozens of nationally known and emerging artists from throughout Arizona and the Southwest.

The show's new location at the Tucson Jewish Community Center provides ready opportunity to get up close and personal to examine and savor the 100 works of art the jury selected from more than 300

entries. This year's unique selections are receiving a hearty thumbs up from art lovers. At the reception's close, more than \$10,000 in art sales was recorded with high expectations for active sales during the run of the show through Sunday, March 9.

Winning "Best of Show" was Featured Artist Carol Swinney's stunning oil painting, *The Grand View*; and winning "Best of Empire-Inspired Art" was Roger Alderman's colorful interpretation of Ranch House buildings in *Back in the Day*. Empire 100 Chair Laura Davis announced the Featured Artist for next year—Doug Oliver of Prescott, known for his captivating land-

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scape images of soaring skies and vast desert vistas.

The full show will remain open to the public for viewing and sales, Sundays through Fridays, through March 9. Make your plans to visit while there are still many great buying opportunities. Plans can include a meal at the convenient café on site. While you satisfy your tastes for art, you can also save some precious Arizona history—a portion of all sales benefits the Foundation's preservation and education programs at the historic Empire Ranch. Images of all artworks included in the show also may be viewed on the ERF website empireranchfoundation.org.



Amanda Ritchie, Featured Artist Carol Swinney, Dennis Ritchie and Molly Ross commemorate purchase of one of Carol's paintings; Board Member Gene Raymond welcomes a guest to the gallery; Gary Auerbach, Carolyn & John Davis, and Sandi & JJ Marie were among 300 reception guests. (photos: C. Auerbach)

2014 "Empire 100" Western Art Show & Sale

Tucson Jewish Community Center/
Jewish Heritage Center
3800 E River Rd, Tucson AZ 85718
(River & Dodge)

**A portion of all sales will benefit
preservation and education at the
historic Empire Ranch**

Art Viewing Hours: M-Th 7am-10pm;
Friday 7am-6pm; Sunday 9am-8pm;
Closed Saturday

February 3 - March 9, 2014

Featured Artist Carol Swinney
Chair, Laura Davis

Participating Artists

Geri Acosta • Kim Adams
Susan Adler • Linda Ahearn
Chuck Albanese • Roger Alderman
Santos B. Barbosa
Joan Bartlett • J.S. Barton
Terry Bowman • Palmer Butler
Stephanie Campos • Don Carter
Bonnie Casey • Judy Choate
A.R. Christensen • Cindy Clayberg
Rose Collins • Karen Cooper
Robert Deurloo • Linda Dobkin
Bonnie Gasior • Beth Giachetti
Al Glann • Aline Goodman
Jean Green • Leigh Gusterson
Frederick Hambly
Janine Hart Manemann
Carolyne Hawley
Sherry Henderson • Jim Hollon
Paul Hopman • Shirley James
Keri Jelks • Debra Jones
Sue Krzyston • Susan E. Libby
Christine Lytwynczuk
Diane Maroscia • Paul Miller
Bill Mittag • Nancy Monsman
Bill Moomey • Roseann Munger
Becky Neideffer • James Obert
Doug Oliver • Brenda Peo
Doug Quarles • Hank Richter
Barry Sapp • Clement Scott
Brenda Semanick • Eric Slayton
Marla Smith • John Solie
Mano Sotelo • Judy Sprague
J.M. Steele & Tod Steele
Carol Swinney • Tammy Tappan
Martha A. Thompson
Cecy Turner • Sandra VanderWall
Burneta Venosdel • Jack Wahl
Sarah J. Webber

2014 Foundation Leaders

The Empire Ranch Foundation's elected leaders for 2014 are:

President-Ron Martin of Tucson will serve a second term as President. He joined the board in 2008 and served as Second Vice President from 2009-2011. Ron is a principal manufacturing engineer with Raytheon Missile Systems Company, and has interest in the ERF preservation efforts.

Vice President-Carla Kerekes Martin of Tucson was elected to a second term as Vice President and a third board term. Carla served as ERF Treasurer (2007-2009) and ERF President (2009-2012). She is an executive assistant and office manager for an accounting firm in Tucson, and is especially interested in ERF's educational programs.

Secretary-Peggy Theibert of Tucson was elected to a third term as Secretary and a second board term. A retired attorney, Peggy is especially interested in ERF's education and history and archives programs.

Treasurer-Gene Raymond of Elgin was elected to the Board of Directors and as Treasurer. After a distinguished career in the U.S. Army (1972-1995), retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel, Gene entered the private sector. From 1995 until 2012 he held test engineering and supervisory positions with BDM Engineering Service Company, TRW, Northrop Grumman Corporation, and TASC, Inc. Gene brings a wealth of expertise to ERF having served on the board and as Treasurer for the Elgin Community Club and as an elder and chair of the Finance Committee of Faith Presbyterian Church in Sierra Vista.

Board member Emil Franzi of Tucson was elected to a third term. Faith Boice, Steve Boice, Bunker De France, Karen Kamp, Lucinda Iverson, Bill Schock, David Steele, Tim Vail, Judith Williams, and David Yubeta will be continuing on the board. We are so grateful for the contributions of time and expertise of these dedicated volunteers.

We extend our appreciation to departing board member, J. Jeffrey Matthews, who served two terms on the Board of Directors (2007-2013), chaired the ERF Finance Committee for three years, and was always an enthusiastic "greeter" at the annual Roundup & Open House.

2014 Preservation Plans

ERF's Preservation Committee has developed an ambitious list of preservation projects for volunteer days. They include continuing to repair and replace wood elements on corral fences and gates; rehabilitation of the Loading Chute next to the Tack Room; repairing damaged baseboards and other interior wood elements; rehabilitation of the screened sleeping porch next to the Children's Addition; and restoring the rusted areas on the metal cabinets in the family kitchen.

In addition, a few "special" projects have been proposed for trained volunteers: repairs to several rolling barn doors that have either deteriorated or been removed; restoration of the Blacksmith's Shop in the south end of the South Barn; and creation of an "Adobe Repair Team" to work on patching cracks and eroded areas around the Ranch House.

Meanwhile, work has started on the stabilization of the Adobe Haybarn! Contractor Statistical Research, Inc. (SRI) has erected scaffolding inside the structure and installed security fencing outside. Most of the work early this year will involve having SRI finalize their design, which will be reviewed by BLM and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Once it's been approved, work should be underway in late spring. Planning for the replacement roof on the Feed Barn continues, with details of the plan being brought up to BLM agency standards. We still hope to have both barns stable and usable by Roundup 2014.

Testing of soils and adobes for compression strength and moisture retention has been completed at the Empire Ranch House. The results will be used by BLM and SHPO to devise a stabilization strategy for the historic ranch house that satisfies all stakeholders. At that time, BLM can move forward with a request for contractor proposals to implement the stabilization strategy.

There's a lot going on at the Empire Ranch in 2014—please come out, have a look, and join us at one of the volunteer work days.

Thanks again for your support of our ongoing efforts to preserve, protect, and interpret the wonderful heritage resources at the Empire Ranch!



Adobe Haybarn security fencing and scaffolding herald the start of onsite stabilization work. (photo: A. Bunting)

Visit and Learn

The Cowboy Life exhibit is now a permanent display in Rooms 3 & 6 in the northeast section of the Ranch House. Plan to visit soon to view the panels which describe the role of vaqueros and cowboys in the history of the Empire Ranch. Room 3, where the cowboys bunked, has been outfitted with an iron bed similar to those once used, and several chaps and other cowboy wear are on display in the closet. In Room 6 a Hibbard, Spencer, Bartlett & Co. display case, originally used in the General Store in the town of Fairbank, AZ,

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**Plan to join us for
Empire Ranch
Heritage Discovery Day**
To celebrate Arizona Archeology &
Heritage Awareness Month
March 8, 2014
11:00am - 2:00pm
At Empire Ranch Headquarters
Outdoor Adventures for Kids of All
Ages; Tours; Guest Speaker



Join the 2014 Spring Trail Ride at Empire Ranch!

Saddle Up for the 2014 Spring Trail Members Ride at the Empire Ranch in Sonoita on Saturday, April 5. You'll ride through the rolling hills and spectacular scenery of the Las Cienegas National Conservation Area.

The day's events include a glorious morning ride, followed by a casual barbecue under the shade of the Stone Corral, followed by an afternoon ride. Ride in the morning, afternoon or both!

We'll also offer scenic wagon rides for those who want to experience the Empire Ranch from a different point of view. Music, tours and a chance to enjoy the serenity of the Empire Ranch are all part of the day's activities. Join us for the ride only, wagon ride or just the barbecue lunch and festivities.

There are two rides to choose: a three-hour morning ride and/or a three-hour afternoon ride—each offers an escape into lush grasslands of Las Cienegas you won't soon forget! Bring your own horse, or make advance horse rental reservations with us (limited supply, please register early).

See the enclosed flier for registration and more details. For more information, go to www.empireranchfoundation.org, or call the Empire Ranch Foundation at 888-364-2829. See you at the 2014 Empire Ranch Spring Trail Ride on April 5!





CWP board member Shela McFarlin (center left) receives award certificate from Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell, flanked by DOI officials, and representatives of CWP partner organizations and the BLM.

ERF Receives DOI Conservation Award

On January 16 in Washington, D.C., the Empire Ranch Foundation was honored to be a member of one of the 20 public-private partnerships that received the Department of the Interior's 2013 Partners in Conservation Awards for exemplary conservation results through cooperation and community engagement.

The Cienega Watershed Partnership (CWP) was nominated for the award by the BLM for three projects that promote understanding and stewardship of the natural and cultural resources of the Las Cienegas National Conservation Area.

ERF was recognized for its participation in the CWP's Oral History Work Group to collect and transcribe oral history interviews to encourage cultural preservation of the region. We are most grateful for this honor and national recognition.

To learn more about the subjects and subject matter of oral history interviews that have been gathered and transcribed by the Foundation, please visit our website www.empireranchfoundation.org.

2013/2014 Membership Reply

Yes, I want to help save the Empire Ranch for future generations!

Name: _____

(Please enter name(s) in your preferred format for acknowledgments.)

Mail Address: _____

City, State, ZIP : _____

Phone: (____) _____ Email: _____

Check enclosed Charge to: MC Visa Discover This is a new address

Credit Card Number / Exp.Date. CSV Code Signature

This donation is also in memory/appreciation of _____

This is a gift membership from: _____

Visit (cont'd from p. 3)

is full of interesting tools of the trade such as bridles, branding irons, and spurs.

Allow time to browse the binder that includes photos of and oral history quotes from former cowboys, relatives and family owners. Peruse photos and census records (1880-1940) that show who was living and working at the Empire Ranch.

We are also pleased to announce an expanded docent-led tours, now offered on the second and fourth Saturday of each month, at 11am. Meet at the Visitor Contact Station, and be sure to check out the special items available in the gift shop.



Steve Coleman and Hector Lopez constructed the Cowboy Life exhibit stands (photos: A. Bunting)

Gifts in Remembrance

The Empire Ranch Foundation gratefully acknowledges gifts recently received

In Memory of:

Fred Baker, Mary Vail Boland,
Eldon Corkill, Joseph LoBrillo,
Hal Nedham, Julia S. Ruch,
William T. Tollefson, Oscar G. Ward,
Judy Wheeling

In Honor of:

Susan Vail Hoffman

Working Calendar

Location: Meet at Visitor Contact Station, Empire Ranch Headquarters, unless otherwise noted. To volunteer, or for more information, call (888) 364-2829.

February

3-28 14th Annual Empire 100 Western Art Show & Sale (Feb. 3-March 9), Tucson Jewish Community Center, 3800 E River Road, all are welcome, Sunday through Friday

22 Docent-Led Tour of the Empire Ranch House, 11am, free, open to all.

March

1-9 14th Annual Empire 100 Western Art Show & Sale, Tucson Jewish Community Center, 3800 E River Road, all are welcome, Sunday through Friday

8 Heritage Discovery Day (in recognition of Arizona Archaeology Month), 11am-2pm, free, open to all.
Docent Led Tour of Empire Ranch House, 11am, free, open to all.

9 Final day, 14th Annual Empire 100 Western Art Show & Sale

15 ERF Board Meeting, 9am to noon.
22 Docent-Led Tour of the Empire Ranch House, 11am, free, open to all.

April

5 Spring Members Trail Ride & Western Barbeque Lunch at the Empire Ranch, horseback and wagon rides including lunch, see article p. 3.

12 Docent-Led Tour of the Empire Ranch House, 11am, free, open to all.

19 Volunteer Work Day, 8am to noon. All welcome! RSVP 888-364-2829

26 Docent-Led Tour of the Empire Ranch House, 11am, free, open to all.

EMPIRE RANCH FOUNDATION

- \$35 Homesteader
- \$50 Total Wreck Miner
- \$100 Wrangler
- \$250 Vaquero
- \$500 Jefe
- \$1,000 Patron
- \$2,500 Majordomo
- \$5,000 Cattle Baron
- \$10,000 Territorial Governor
- \$_____ Year-end Gift
- \$_____ Other

Please Mail To: Empire Ranch Foundation, P.O. Box 842, Sonoita, AZ 85637

The Empire Ranch Foundation has an IRS 501(c)(3) non-profit classification; donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law.