



EMPIRE RANCH FOUNDATION NEWS

P.O. Box 842 • Sonoita, Arizona 85637-0842 • (520) 881-1510

www.empireranchfoundation.org

“*Empire 100*” Art Show Delights Visitors

While visitors to the opening receptions at the *Empire 100* Art Show and Sale enjoyed a kaleidoscope of artistic visions of the American West, the loyal volunteers who staffed the receptions at Northern Trust Bank on January 10 and 13 saw a steady stream of dots before their eyes. Not dots of fatigue or vertigo, but red dots as happy buyers placed them on the title cards of the artworks to mark their purchases.

Because of the huge crush of excited viewers last year—600 to be exact—the show organizers this year hosted guests in two smaller receptions. The first, on January 10, was for Foundation members and friends; the second on January 13, was for the broader public.

At the extremely well attended but smaller gatherings, people could really see the art well and visit with the artists, a majority of whom attended both events. There was a friendly buzz of excitement and laughter at the receptions, indicative of people who feel comfortable with one another and who are delighted to see splendid art surrounding them. The result was a tremendous response in sales.

The *Empire 100* Art Show is both invitational (25%) and juried (75%). Twenty five of the bestselling artists are invited to submit one piece unjuried to the next show. This pleases patrons who look forward to seeing work by their favorite artists again. The juried portion of the show provides open opportunity for new talent to be in-



Bruce Andre, an exhibiting artist in the show, also provided musical ambiance for opening receptions at Northern Trust Bank.



Time for serious evaluation.
(photos: B. Lehmann)

cluded. This year there are 65 participating artists (see p. 3 list), 15 of them new to the show. Because the show exhibits high quality work and is very artist-friendly, interest pours in by word of mouth and from the Internet. The collection is predominately western, but it also has a number of “crossover” pieces that are more or less country in feeling, but not traditional in the pure western sense

Through the years, the *Empire 100* has
(continued on p. 3)

A Record-Breaking Year

Our signature question always remains the same: “What makes a great western heritage and education center?”

“You do!” is the ubiquitous answer. Thank you for making us so successful. In 2004, the Foundation broke the previous year’s substantial records for public financial support.

Twice each year we solicit our friends, family, members and associates for help. In May, we enroll memberships. In November, our year end appeal, we ask for both preservation and outreach/educational assistance to support our on-going mission statement.

In response to our November 2004 year end appeal, your money is, right now, restoring the Foundation’s coffers, enabling important projects and programs. The campaign goal is a lofty \$20,000 by April 2005. In just the first two months of the appeal, we have reached nearly 80% of the target, and are still receiving contributions daily. Thank you for your generosity--we need it!

Federal grant funding remains uncertain to date, and therefore continued progress in saving and interpreting the historic Empire Ranch will be heavily dependent upon the success of the Foundation’s fundraising efforts.

If you have not contributed yet to the year end appeal, it is not too late to do so in 2005. Please take a few personal minutes to complete the form at the end of this Newsletter and mail it in! You can push us “over the top.”

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.

Board of Directors Election Report

The following officers were unanimously elected to one-year terms at the November 15, 2004, board meeting:

President—Sarah Miller, of Tucson. A board member since 2003, and our past Treasurer, Sarah has been particularly central in the planning, design, and installation of the Foundation's new information displays covering the history and preservation of the Empire Ranch, featured at the Roundup and other events. She is sole proprietor of Miller Design.

Vice President—George A. Masek, of Sonoita. A board member since 1999, George has been actively involved in the Foundation's organization, management, and fundraising, as well as the art show jury review processes, and is our liaison to the Arizona Historical Society, a co-sponsor of many ERF events.

Treasurer—Billie Donaldson, of Sonoita. A board member since 2001, Billie has been our previous board Vice President and Secretary and has been the central coordinator for ERF Fall Roundups and volunteer participation activities.

Secretary—Zeke Sinclair Browning, of Sonoita. Since becoming a board member in 2004, Zeke has been active in board planning activities and in developing historical narratives about the Empire. Deeply familiar with Southern Arizona and ranching, Zeke is a professional writer and avid horsewoman.

Introductions also are due for three board members elected during 2004:

Ian Tomlinson, of Tucson, elected in February, is a practicing attorney and a Seattle area native who moved to Tucson in 2001 to take an active role in managing his family's VeraEarl Ranch, which borders the Empire Ranch on the west.

Gifts in Remembrance

The Empire Ranch Foundation deeply appreciates recent donations sent in memory of:

Dee Bryers, Earl F. Glenn,
Joan Hedgcock,
Laura ("Dusty") Vail Ingram,
Ed LeGendre, Sam McChesney,
Wag Schorr, Nathan Randolph Vail

Frank Hedgcock, of Tucson, who joined the board in August, lived for many years in Sonoita, where his early ranching experience included several roundups at the Empire Ranch as a Boice family friend. He has extensive professional experience in construction estimating and inspection and is active in ERF's preservation project planning and oversight.

Dick Daggett, of Sahuarita, became a board member in November, but has been a very active ERF volunteer for years, providing major contributions to preservation work at the ranch headquarters and to Roundup and Trail Ride events.

Laurel Wilkening, of Sonoita, a former board officer, returned to the board this November. From 1998-2003, Laurel's contributions to financial planning and management, as well as her skills and interests in research and writing about Ranch history, were invaluable to the Foundation's beginning years.

Board members Carol Barleycorn, Mick Davidson, Susan Ingram Hughes, Walter Kolbe, and Gerald Korte will continue in office.

Three esteemed board members are retiring. *Dick Schorr*, our board President for the past two years who has led so successfully our drive for youth outreach, is retiring from the board in observance of term limits provisions of our bylaws. We are delighted he will continue active involvement in these programs and other ERF activities as a member of the Foundation's advisory board.

Steve Boice, a past board president and true founding father of ERF, is also retiring due to term limits. Steve's contributions to the community spirit of the Foundation, its volunteer preservation work, and the Roundup, Trail Ride, and parade events have been immeasurable. Again, we are grateful for the active support he will continue to give as a member of the advisory board.

Lastly, *John Fawcett*, noted western artist and ERF supporter, is resigning from the board, while continuing his ongoing support, most notably with his generous painting donation for the 2005 *Empire 100* Art Show and Sale.

We are truly grateful for our colleagues' past contributions and for their continuing support and participation as members and volunteers.

BLM Manager Shela McFarlin Leaves



BLM Tucson Field Office (TFO) Manager Shela McFarlin, long a principal in our successful ERF/BLM part-

nership, will be leaving her current post to become Special Assistant for International Programs, effective February 20.

We will sorely miss the benefit of her skilled day-to-day attention to the Empire Ranch Headquarters and Las Cienegas National Conservation Area, and her support of our partnership, but are pleased we will remain in her professional sphere of influence as well as in her heart. In Shela's words: "You can never leave once you experience the Empire."

Shela began helping with ERF long term planning in 1998, as one facet of her position as BLM Phoenix Project Manager, and since November 2001 has been our own TFO Field Manager, overseeing approximately one million acres in Southern Arizona, including Las Cienegas and the Empire Ranch.

It is no coincidence that during this same period the fledgling Empire Ranch Foundation grew from a vision and mission statement into a viable, contributing, membership organization with a detailed plan for the future and a string of accomplishments that illustrates how private-public partnerships can accomplish great things for the people and the land. Shela personally provided invaluable management support towards that growth.

Shela's new responsibilities will focus on borderlands issues, including planning and coordination between BLM and other U.S. and Mexican government agencies and task forces.

Since the Empire is caught up in these issues, she will have multiple occasions to continue working with the TFO on issues important to the Empire. Her office will be located in Tucson, and Shela pledges to remain a faithful ERF member and volunteer.

Shela, we thank you for all your contributions, past and future, and wish you well in this challenging new position.

Art Show (cont'd from p. 1) earned vital preservation funds and many good friends for the Empire Ranch Foundation. A portion of all show sales benefits the Foundation, and artists often give work outright for silent auction.

This year, renowned artist John Fawcett donated the striking watercolor "A Good Line" (see right). All proceeds of the sale of this painting went to the Foundation's programs to preserve and interpret the historic ranch. We are enormously grateful for his generosity.

Other individuals, one by one, have made this event possible. We particularly would like to thank Art Committee Chair Sandi Wolf and her hardworking committee members; Art Coordinator Marion Hyland; the numerous Foundation volunteers who worked so enthusiastically; and the wonderful personnel of our art show host and sponsor, Northern Trust Bank, who go out of their way to welcome everyone each day as the show remains up until February 25. And, of course, we thank the creative participating artists listed below who have made everything possible:

- Roger Alderman • JaNeil Anderson • Kurt Anderson • Bruce Andre • Santos Barbosa • John Burr • Marcia Burr • Bonnie Clute-Ruddick • Millard Davidson • Karen Davis • Nancy Denzler • Mel Dickson • Bruce Dines • Vic Donahue • Tom Dorr • Michael Ewing • John Fawcett • Brent Flory • Claire Goldrick • Daniel Gonzalez • Aline Goodman • Jim Gruzalski • Fred Hambly • Gary Hammil • Sherry Henderson • Chauncey Homer • Glen Hopkinson • Rock Jackson • Carolyn G. Jelks • Reginald Jones • Robert Kembel • Earl Kuhn • Joan LaRue • Lil Leclerc • Stephen E. Lee • Jon Lightfoot • Louis Maestas • Diane C. Maroscia • Buck McCain • Jessica McCain • Bill Mittag • Bill Moomey • Tom Murray • Ruben Nieto • Darcie Peet • Margo Petterson • Nancy Prevo • Russell W. Recchion • Hank Richter • Owen Rose • Mark Rossi • David Simons • Rogue Simpson • Joe Staheli • Phil Starke • Johanna M. Stephens • Ken Stockton • Sherry Blanchard Stuart • Charles Thomas • Sandra VanderWall • Jerry Vaughn • Bernard Vetter • Fred Wackerle • Elizabeth Wallace • Carolyn Watson

The show will remain open to the public (no admission fee), 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday, at Northern Trust Bank, 3456 East Sunrise Drive, Tucson. Please don't miss it!

Sales will continue the entire time of the exhibit. Images of selected art can be seen at www.empireranchfoundation.org.



"A Good Line" watercolor donated by John Fawcett for silent auction.

Free Lunch at the Ranch

By Bruce Lehmann, Ravenous Roving Reporter

I shuffled along in the buffet line at the ranch house making a beeline towards two dessert tables overflowing with temptations when unexpectedly a Foundation member blurted out loudly (while running a dazzling array of caramelized apples under my nose), "Try mine sweetheart...Tarte Tartin!!!"

What a surprise to see and smell right before me the famous inspiration of two sisters, the "Demoselles Tatin," who owned a small country restaurant early in the 1900's in Lamotte-Beuvran, a little town in the center of France, near Orleans. Tarte Tatin is a confection of apples, seasoned with sugar and fresh butter, covered with dough and finally turned upside down after baking. Served lukewarm. I replied unequivocally, "Yum, yum, yes, yes, please...but, where did you learn the special techniques required for such a fabled dessert?" She said, quite nonchalantly, "France." Julia Childs lives on at the Empire Ranch.

That's just one food tale of sixty from the Members Pot Luck Buffet held at the ranch on November 20, 2004. Nearly seventy Foundation members attended the annual event. And well, lunch was not exactly free; the price of admission being just one family favorite dish for the group to savor. But, it seemed nearly free. The grazing was utterly heavenly.

Delicacies from foreign lands are no

Our Special Thanks To

Northern Trust Bank
... an Empire Builder

Your long-standing tradition of community support continues.

Thank you for sponsoring and nurturing the *Empire 100* Western Art Show and Sale.

Empire 100 proceeds support the mission of the Empire Ranch Foundation. Exhibition of art continues through February 25, 2005.



Outgoing ERF president Dick Schorr and incoming president Sarah Miller pause briefly before lunch on the Ranch House porch. Navaho blankets drape rail in the foreground. (photos: B Lehmann).

stranger to the Empire. On December 15, 1877, Herbert Hislop, part owner of the ranch, wrote to his sister in England, "I have just finished making the pudding for Xmas dinner, from the same receipt you sent me last year, only with a few additions." No doubt Hislop prepared the most beloved and traditional of all English puddings at Christmas, Plum Pudding.

After over eating, Foundation members gathered to enjoy Steve Getzwiller share some of his professional genius on Navajo weavings. Thank you Steve for displaying a few treasures from your private collection. The presentation was a unique learning opportunity for all. Members brought Navajo weavings from home for Steve to examine and explain.

We invite you to join us at the ranch for the third annual Members Pot Luck Buffet in November, 2005. Details will be published in the August 2005 newsletter.

Wildlife Candid Cameras On Las Cienegas NCA

By *Catie Fenn, Outdoor Recreation Planner, BLM Tucson Field Office*

Have you ever wondered what type of wildlife walks around the Empire Ranch and other areas within Las Cienegas National Conservation Area (NCA)? Las Cienegas Resource Specialist Keith Hughes already had a good idea, but thought it would be interesting to place a motion sensitive camera on a trail and wait for the results. The results were...very interesting.

Hughes says each new package of photos offers an ever increasing assortment of wildlife "caught on film." Some inhabitants of the area are the usual mule and white tail deer, javelina, bobcat, mountain lion, and an occasional drug smuggler, but the most recent unusual sighting was an opossum. While many of us don't recall ever seeing an opossum in Arizona, there have been reported sightings as early as 1947 in the Huachuca Mountains, about 25 miles southeast of the Empire Ranch.

Although records for sighting opossum in southeastern Arizona may represent escaped eastern Virginia Opossums brought in as pets, there are indications that this latest photo is that of a Mexican Opossum which adds evidence that it is slowly moving its range northwards from Mexico into Southern Arizona. Las Cienegas NCA staff can now add another animal to a lengthy wildlife list to monitor.

If you are interested in becoming a BLM volunteer to help monitor wildlife cameras and photos, please contact Keith_Hughes@blm.gov or at (520) 258-7239.



A Las Cienegas bobcat (Felix rufus-Bobcat) takes to the night life and is captured by trip camera. (photos: K. Hughes)



A deer fawn (species unidentified) is caught in daylight.

Working Calendar

February

- 24 Tucson Rodeo Parade
- 25 Closing day, *Empire 100 Art Show & Sale*

April

- 16 ERF Board Meeting

May

- Spring Trail Ride (details to be determined)

July

- 4 Patagonia Parade

August

- 20 Board Meeting

September

- Empire Ranch Roundup Open House and Western Art Show and Sale (date to be determined)

Preservation Projects Summary

Preservation of the Empire Ranch House and other buildings is a primary mission of the Foundation. Projects recently completed, underway, or scheduled are noted below. Projects we have previously shown as complete are not repeated here.

To see a list of preservation projects completed to date, visit our website at: www.empireranchfoundation.org.

- Execute emergency repairs to Adobe Haybarn NE corner (*Early 2005, depending upon urgency relative to other priorities now under investigation*)
- Determine and correct causes of apparent moisture infiltration to Victorian Addition Master Bedroom walls and floor (*top priority item*)
- Create plan and stabilize Adobe Haybarn for the long term (*priority item once funds are secured*)
- Stabilize lintel over south entry of Zaguam/ Breezeway for the long term (*plan complete; funding redirected in deference to other emergency repair needs*)
- Execute emergency repairs to Ranch Hand's House (*Phase 2 is a priority for funding*)
- Straighten & stabilize leaning concrete garden wall (*plan approved as non-volunteer project; priority item once funds are secured*)
- Emergency repairs to Children's Addition floor framing and walls (*a priority item once funds are raised*)
- BLM final approval of adaptive reuse plan for ranch buildings (*Early 2005*)

2004/2005 Membership Reply

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

Name: _____

Street/P.O. Address: _____

City, State, ZIP : _____

Phone: (____) _____ FAX: (____) _____

Check enclosed MasterCard Visa Card

_____ / _____
Card Number Exp.Date. Signature

This membership donation is also in memory of _____

This is a gift membership from: _____

EMPIRE RANCH FOUNDATION



- \$25 Homesteader
- \$50 Total Wreck Miner
- \$100 Wrangler
- \$250 Vaquero
- \$500 Jefe
- \$1,000 Patron
- \$5,000 Cattle Baron
- \$10,000 Territorial Governor
- \$ _____ 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.