



EMPIRE RANCH FOUNDATION NEWS

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www.empireranchfoundation.org

Happy Trails at the Empire Ranch

April 6, 2013 proved to be a glorious spring day at the Empire Ranch, perfect for riding and enjoying the beauty of Las Cienegas National Conservation Area (LCNCA). Thirty-four riders headed out at 9 am for a four-hour ride led by trail boss Steve Boice. An hour later Faith Boice led 18 riders as they departed for a two-hour ride.

We are grateful for the outstanding efforts of Steve and Faith who co-chaired the event and for their attention to the safety of riders which was greatly appreciated by all. Two wagon rides gave more than 20 visitors an opportunity to view the majestic landscape of LCNCA from a different view. Wagon riders learned about the history of the Empire Ranch from narration provided by Board Member Bill Schock. Throughout the day ERF docents Kimberly Patterson and Lois Kolesar provided tours of the Empire Ranch House.

By early afternoon everyone was back and ready for conversation, entertainment, and great food. Western songwriter and entertainer Janice Deardorff's performance captivated the audience throughout the afternoon. Board member Lucinda Iverson assisted children and adults alike in the fine art of decorating stick horses. Steve Boice transformed from trail boss to master chef to cook up the delectable steaks that were served with beans, coleslaw, and salsa. The Dutch oven cobbler prepared by Tom and Cheryl Rogos provided a sweet ending to a great meal.

After dinner ERF President Ron Martin and Board Member Steve Boice com-
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Horseback and wagon riders enjoyed beautiful weather and scenery; dinner guests relaxed as they enjoyed western music, tours, and other activities; Marin Tomlinson displayed her stick horse creation for the camera. (C. Auerbach.)

Your Membership Counts!

I would like to take a minute and explain why membership in the Empire Ranch Foundation is so important! The West is not just a place, it is a way of life. There is a code of conduct that cowboys and cowgirls live by. In this world of electronics and high tech, there is a need to step back and reflect upon what it means to have respect for people, the land, and the livestock and wildlife that share this land with us.

The Empire Ranch is a special place, one where the "Cowboy Code" still exists. Membership in the Foundation is a way of preserving the West, its heritage, and the friendships and respect we all have for one another. It is with your help that we perpetuate this important legacy through the preservation of the Empire Ranch.

Please take some time to join or renew your membership today! Help us continue our mission to preserve these important values for ourselves and for the generations to come. Happy Trails and Thank You!

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.

Trail Ride (cont'd from p. 1)



Trail Ride Dinner honoree Ian Tomlinson and wife Kristin; Trail Boss Faith Boice; rider John Sierra. (photos: C. Auerbach)

mended Trail Ride Dinner Honoree Ian Tomlinson, whose cattle graze LCNCA, keeping the 137-year Empire ranching history alive. Ron presented Ian with a beautiful "Heart of the Foundation" plaque and ERF denim shirt, honoring him for his work with BLM biologists and land management specialists to preserve the lands through innovative grazing, water, and land use methods.

At the close of the dinner, Ron Martin, assisted by Ian and Kristin Tomlinson's two daughters, Marin and Addison, drew names for the raffle prizes—including the top prize—a 50/50 split of the pot. The winner of the pot, Tim Manning, donated his winning back to the Foundation and received resounding applause!

Special thanks are due to so many who contributed to the success of the 2013 Trail Ride, including Classic Tents for providing the tents, tables, and chairs, Bandit Outfitters for providing horses and wagons, and to John Komrada who assisted in emceeding the event. Dozens of volunteers helped to set up, prepare the food, and assist with cleanup and take down. This event simply would not be possible without all the help of so many hard working volunteers. *Thank you!*

"Cowboy Life" Exhibit Awarded Matching Grant

ERF has received a grant from the Arizona Humanities Council (AHC) to develop a Cowboy Life exhibit. The exhibit will highlight the Empire Ranch vaquero and cowboy traditions, methods of working with cattle, and daily lives, including social and family life.

The exhibit will be installed in the 1870s section of the ranch house where the cowboys bunked. It will officially open on February 8, 2014, at a Cowboy Life Family Fun Day at the Empire Ranch.

ERF is collaborating with the Patagonia Public Library to develop companion projects and events for a Smithsonian Journey Stories Exhibition, scheduled from January 4 to February 16, 2014, at the Patagonia Library.

The Cowboy Life Exhibit will tell the vaqueros' and cowboys' journey stories, including their migration to Arizona from Mexico and Texas, the transportation methods used during this journey, their motivations to move, as well as traditions which were carried from their homelands to the Empire Ranch.

The AHC grant provides \$10,000 for the exhibit. ERF will match this amount with in kind volunteer hours, ERF and BLM grant funds for education, and cash contributions from two private donors.



Empire 100 Western Art Show Continues Its Successful Tradition

The 13th Annual Empire 100 Western Art Show & Sale at Northern Trust in Tucson was outstanding from start to finish. With the excitement of the opening night bell ringing signifying sales, to the successful close of the show in late February, this year's show drew a steady stream of visitors. At final tally, 23 pieces of art were sold at a value of \$33,955. A portion of each sale supports preservation efforts at the Empire Ranch.

Northern Trust perfectly orchestrated the Empire 100 show with the gracious help of its staff and ERF volunteers. Laura

Departed Friend



Fred Baker, a great friend of the Empire Ranch Foundation, died of complications from heart transplant surgery on April 10, 2013. Fred moved to the Sonoita area in the early 1960s when his father, Howard Baker, purchased a local ranch. After graduating from Claremont Men's College, Fred partnered with his father in owning and operating the Open Cross Ranch until he moved into the land and agricultural real estate business in the late 1970s.

Fred served on the Arizona Game and Fish Commission and worked closely with BLM staff to garner public support for and assist with the land exchanges that led to the creation of Las Cienegas National Conservation Area. He served on the ERF Board of Directors from 2006-2009, and chaired the bylaws and nominating committees. As a result of his leadership and patience the 1997 ERF bylaws were restated and approved by the membership in 2008.

After leaving the Board, Fred continued to help in many ways, including serving on ERF's Advisory Committee, participating in ERF's oral history program, and sharing his ranching expertise with ERF docents-in-training. We will greatly miss Fred's steadfast support and encouragement.

Davis, art show chair, thanked Northern Trust, and specifically Henry K. Boice (whose family heritage is a big part of the Empire Ranch history), and Frances M. Merryman, who has advocated for the show since its founding in 2000.

The Empire Ranch Foundation thanks esteemed artist John Solie for gracing the show as the Empire 100 Featured Artist. We look forward to seeing the works of Carol Swinney who was selected as the Featured Artist for the 2014 show. Information about next year's art show will be publicized in late summer, and posted to our website, empireranchfoundation.org.

Preservation and Rehabilitation Continues

Progress continues on preservation and rehabilitation at the Empire Ranch, although visible, “on-the-ground” effects aren't always evident. At the Empire Ranch Visitor Contact Station —more familiar to many as the Huachuca House—much of the interior rehab is complete, along with the new roof. The historic double-hung windows, dating to the original structure's construction at Fort Huachuca, were removed during abatement of the lead-based paint on and around them. They are being repaired and reglazed in Tucson, and we expect their completion this summer. The last structural issue—damage to the foundations from water running off the slope to the south—will soon be addressed by re-grading the area.

Other smaller projects are completed at volunteer work days. February's efforts included repairs to fences and gates; oil
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February and March volunteers who made it happen. (photos: C. Auerbach)



ERF volunteers with the Foundation's parade wagon entry all decorated and ready to roll. (photo: C. Auerbach)

Snow, Good Spirits Mark ERF Entry in 88th Annual Tucson Rodeo Parade

Volunteers decorating the Empire Ranch Foundation's wagon entry for the 88th Annual Tucson Rodeo Parade needed woolly mittens and good spirits as heavy snow and sleet blanketed the Tucson Rodeo Grounds the night before the Feb. 21 parade. Fortunately, the wagon decorating party was indoors in the covered (but cold) barn!

ERF Volunteers worked for several hours to fasten to the historic farm wagon hundreds of handmade paper flowers in
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Family Fun Day Explores Nature & History

The Empire Ranch Foundation helped to celebrate Arizona Archaeology and Heritage Awareness Month by hosting a Nature Heritage Discovery Family Fun Day! on March 9, 2013. About 40 people braved the chilly day to enjoy tours, led by docent Kimberly Patterson; music by Western songwriter Janice Deardorff; and a letterboxing quest and a hike down the Heritage Discovery Trail led by Gail Corkill, ERF education director. Nearly all were first time visitors to the Empire Ranch!

Family Fun Day at the Empire Ranch is an expanded program as part of ERF's *Wild About the Grasslands!* ecology and Western heritage education program for youth and adults. The next program, *Ranching Across Las Cienegas*, will be a joint effort of ERF and Colossal Cave Mountain Park, on June 8-9, 2013, from 10am to 4pm each day. Please join us!

A Classic Movie for a Classic Cause—*Save the Date*

3:10 to Yuma

Loft Cinema

7:00 pm, Thursday, August 15

Tickets are on sale now for a 7pm, Thursday, August 15 showing of the original (1957) Western classic, *3:10 to Yuma*, starring Glenn Ford and Van Heflin. This event is next in a series of special presentations of classic Western movies at the Loft Cinema (3233 E. Speedway, Tucson), sponsored by the Empire Ranch Foundation. The Green Valley Pecan Company generously underwrites this event, which supports the preservation of the Empire Ranch.

The evening will feature a special film talk and discussion with Peter Ford, son of the legendary actor, Glenn Ford. Peter's wife, Lynda, an actor and stuntwoman in her own right, will also be a guest speaker.

3:10 to Yuma, directed by Delmer Daves, is a taut, suspenseful gem, considered by many to be one of the great Western classics. Glenn Ford stars as a ruthless criminal who has been captured, and Van Heflin is the stubborn rancher who intends to take Ford to the Yuma train station so he can be transferred to await trial. Ford attempts to talk Heflin into letting him go, and the two engage in a psychological war of wills as Ford's gang attempts to break him free.

Tickets are \$20 for ERF members, \$25 for non-members; \$30 at the door. Call 888-364-2829 to purchase, or visit www.empireranchfoundation.org.



Family Fun Day included tours of the Empire Ranch. (photo: C. Auerbach)

