

# EMPIRE RANCH FOUNDATION NEWS

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[www.empireranchfoundation.org](http://www.empireranchfoundation.org)

## Legacy Day Lessons Include Spring Branding at the Empire

The cattle were bawlin' when 50 Elgin Middle School students arrived at the Empire Ranch on "Legacy Day" May 4th to enjoy a wonderful array of educational experiences. The bawling was due to Ian Tomlinson's spring branding taking place in the upper corrals, providing an unexpected opportunity to observe real-life ranching activities.

After a warm welcome from program founder Dick Schorr, everyone had a chance to practice roping with Joel Eliot and Steve Schmitt, try their hand at braiding rawhide with instruction from Dick Schorr, and learn about horsemanship and horse rescue from Steve Boice and Theresa Warrell of the Horse'n Around Rescue Ranch Foundation.

BLM's Chris Schrage gave an introduction to archaeology, illustrating with specimens found on Las Cienegas National Conservation Area. Students learned how to use compasses and binoculars as they walked the Heritage Discovery Trail with Gail Corkill, director of ERF's education program, and enjoyed tales told by former Empire Ranch cowboy, Gerald Korte.

The ever-popular beef brisket, beans, and brownie lunch, provided by ERF volunteers Alison Bunting, Ron Martin, Gail Corkill, Carla Martin, and Christine Auerbach, was eaten with lightning speed. Special thanks are due to Dick Schorr and Board member Ron Martin who organized the event, and to the instructors and volunteers who made the day so special.



*Legacy Day 2011 (photos: C. Auerbach)*

**Join Us For Our 11th Annual  
Roundup & Open House!**

**"Centennial Celebration of  
the Cowboy"**

**at Empire Ranch Headquarters,  
Las Cienegas NCA, Sonoita, AZ**

**Saturday, November 5, 2011**

**See enclosed flyer, or visit  
[www.empireranchfoundation.org](http://www.empireranchfoundation.org)**

## Thanks for Stepping Up!

Our annual membership drive is once again succeeding due to our outstanding members stepping up! More than 200 members have already renewed, and we are pleased to welcome 22 new members. Our progress is made possible through your participation and financial support.

The Huachuca House renovation into a Visitor Contact Station continues, to be ready for our annual Roundup & Open House on November 5. This year begins the Arizona Centennial celebration, and we are very proud that the Roundup & Open House has been selected as an Official Arizona Centennial Event.

We continue to move ahead with room interpretation research for the Victorian Addition. Concurrently, a committee of interpretive experts will be established to develop a long-term interpretation plan for Empire Ranch Headquarters that will include history, cultural, and natural resource information.

We are able to continue this work through the generosity of our members. Please take an active role in your Foundation through your membership support, by recruiting new members, or by attending a Volunteer Day to help with the renovation of the Huachuca House and the preservation of the Empire Ranch. The Empire Ranch belongs to you. Thank you!

If you have not yet joined or renewed your membership, please do so with the membership form on page 4 or on our website, [www.empireranchfoundation.org](http://www.empireranchfoundation.org). Thanks for Stepping Up!

*Carla Kerekes-Martin  
President*

## Foundation Launches Docent Training Program

Early in June, 27 docents-in-training attended the Empire Ranch Foundation's first Docent Training Workshop. New docents study Empire Ranch history, and develop interactive and interdisciplinary skills for working with groups of school children, adults, and families who visit the Empire Ranch.

Workshop topics and instructors included "Ranching in Southeastern Arizona and the Empire Ranch" by Bill Schock; "History of the Empire Ranch" by Alison Bunting; "Empire Ranch Buildings and Preservation" by Chris Schrager; "Empire Ranch Foundation Background" by Carla Martin; and "History of Las Cienegas Na-

tional Conservation Area" by Karen Simms. The second phase of the training process involves participating in tours led by an experienced docent. In July, six docents completed this phase, and by early fall, everyone will be fully trained.

With the help of our docents, we are now offering hour-long guided walking tours of the Empire Ranch House, at 11am and 1pm, on the second Saturday of each month. While we have not scheduled our next docent-training session, we will be happy to take your name for when information is available. The docent training is made possible by a generous grant from the Fred W. Stang Foundation.

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## New ERF Board Members Elected

The ERF Board of Directors unanimously elected Lucinda Iverson and David Steele as board members at the July 16, 2011 Board meeting.

**Lucinda Iverson** of Tucson was born in New Mexico and raised on a ranch where she began her involvement with rodeo and horse shows, 4-H and Future Farmers of America. Her family and their horses moved to Alaska in the early '70s.

Lucinda attended Texas Tech University on an athletic and rodeo scholarship. After earning a B.S. in Physical Education, Lucinda joined the US Navy where she rose to the rank of Captain and is a Bronze Star recipient for services in Iraq. With 30 years of active and reserve service, Lucinda is retiring from the Navy in November 2011.

As a civilian, Lucinda is a financial analyst at Raytheon Missile Systems. Throughout her career she has been ac-

tively involved in a variety of volunteer activities.

**David Steele** of Tucson is principal owner of The Strategic Issues Management Group, Inc. A graduate of the University of Arizona, David has spent almost two decades working in politics and public policy. He worked in a variety of capacities for U.S. Senator Dennis DeConcini, serving as the senior policy advisor to the Senator on environmental, water, energy and natural resource issues.

As an active member of the Tucson community, David is a member of the KUAT Public Advisory Board, the Minutemen, a community-based organization supporting the Arizona Air National Guard in Tucson, and serves on the Capital Campaign Steering Committee for the Southern Arizona Center Against Sexual Assault. He is married with two children.

## "Red River" Fundraiser Draws 250 Guests

More than 250 guests enjoyed a special July 14th screening of the movie, "Red River" at The Loft Cinema, an ERF fundraiser that proved to be most popular with Tucsonans and Sonoitans. Special guests Bob Shelton, of Old Tucson fame, and Don Collier, veteran western actor, provided guests with an opportunity to chat, sign autographs and mingle during the pre-movie reception.

"Red River" was selected because of its ties to the Empire Ranch. The Howard Hawks' movie classic was filmed in the Sonoita-Patagonia area and partly on the Empire Ranch itself. Guests got to see Elgin in 1946 and the San Pedro in artificial flood for the famous river crossing scene.

Bob Shelton and Don Collier had the audience enchanted as they listened to their recollections of Western movie making in a talk that preceded the movie. They both knew Hawks and the Duke from other movies including "El Dorado" filmed at Old Tucson in which both played and gave us several anecdotes about Wayne and other stars.

Honored at the event were sponsors, Dick and Nan Walden, of Green Valley Pecan Co. Dick spoke of his affection for the Ranch, its place in Arizona history, and why it needs to be preserved as part of our heritage.

The event was a financial success, netting over \$4000 for preservation of the Empire Ranch, and we hope to schedule similar fundraisers showing other movies filmed in the area.

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## News of Old

When space permits, we hope to include interesting historical accounts of happenings at the Empire Ranch. The following article appeared in *The Bisbee Daily Review*, July 27, 1907:

### Fat Sheriff Outruns Two Fleet Cowboys

*Tucson, July 26.* Sheriff Yancey McFadden of San Luis Obispo County, California, champion sprinting criminal-catcher of California, has made good in Arizona. The scene of his exhibition was the Empire ranch, owned by Vail and Gates. The California officer has been visiting there for several days and he returned to the city yesterday with his brother H. McFadden, who is foreman of the ranch.

The fame of this heavy-weight sprinter preceded him and when he arrived the cowboys as is their wont, began to jest about the running ability of the gentleman. The

*(continued on p. 4)*



"Red River" event sponsors Dick and Nan Walden are flanked by special guests Bob Shelton and Don Collier, outside The Loft box office (photo: G. Auerbach)



## A "Home on the Range" for the Foundation

The Huachuca House, located west of the Empire Ranch House, was originally built as quarters at Fort Huachuca, and comprised a large front room, bedroom, bath, and kitchen. After World War II, the house was purchased from the Army by the Boice family and moved to its current location to serve as a home for newly-wed Bob and Miriam Boice. Two bedrooms and a bath were added to increase the living space. Over the years, the building housed ranch families, BLM employees, and volunteers.

Soon the Huachuca House will begin a new era, as a Visitor Contact Station for the Empire Ranch and Las Cienegas National Conservation Area. The original bathroom is being remodeled to comply with ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) standards. A wall was removed to provide a larger open space for interpretive displays, distribution of information, and starting point for guided tours. This phase of the work will be completed by November.

Eventually, the Huachuca House will get a new roof, heating and cooling, energy-efficient windows, and other improvements. The two rear bedrooms will be used as office space for the Foundation, which is funding the rehabilitation work. Thanks to many generous contributions, our new "on-site home" is getting closer!

At the June 18 Volunteer Day, nearly 30 folks came to help, allowing us to accomplish even more than we had planned!

Tasks completed that day included cleaning of rooms in the Ranch House; treatment of wood for the corral repairs project; repair of the timeline display; painting the Dining Room; continued patching of the Middle Room walls and ceiling plaster; and trimming bushes and grasses away



June 18 volunteers  
(photo: C. Auerbach)



WATG! Nature Heritage Discovery Camp participants (photo: G. Corkill)

## Wild About the Grasslands! 2011

Twenty-four excited youngsters arrived at Empire Ranch Headquarters, June 4-11, for outdoor adventures and hands-on explorations aimed to capture the excitement of the outdoors and the flavor of the ranching cowboy way of life.

The overnight Youth Leadership Camp (June 4-5) prepared teens to serve as mentors and instructors for younger campers attending the Nature Heritage Discovery Camp. The program focused on what one must know, be, and do to be an effective member of the camp leadership team.

The Nature Heritage Discovery Camp (June 6-7) combined learning with lots of fun. Through guided hikes youngsters identified native grasses and birds, observed Chiricahua Leopard Frogs, and learned about the threat of bullfrogs to the

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from the ranch house. The lower drainage areas were cleaned in preparation for summer rains; the gutters and downspouts cleaned and checked.

We had quite a few new volunteers, and many regulars and we are very grateful to each and every one for their time and energy to care for the Empire Ranch Headquarters. We look forward to a great turnout for the next work day, Saturday August 20 - c'mon out and join us!

June 18 volunteers  
(photo: C. Auerbach)



WATG! Teen Stewards hike Cienega Creek (photo: G. Corkill)

delicate balance of the natural wetlands. They practiced roping a "dummy" cow, adobe-brick making, and making their own bandana using native grasses and the brands of the Empire Ranch. Families joined the fun in an ice cream social with pioneer cobbler from the Vail Preservation Society's Territorial Kitchen Exhibit.

"I liked when we caught all the bugs and looked at all the frogs," said one nine year old. "I learned that the frogs are endangered species. We learned how to make adobe bricks that are used to fix the adobe barn. Camp was a wonderful opportunity to learn."

Teen campers attending the overnight Summer Adventure Stewardship Camp (June 10-11) experienced camping under the stars, heard stories of life as a teenager on the Schock Family Ranch, cooked their own chuck wagon meals in Dutch ovens, created hand-stamped leather bracelets, and collected data along the Cienega Creek as part of the BLM's annual Wet-Dry Monitoring event and Frog Conservation Project. There was plenty of "Sloppy Joe Biscuit Bake" and "Fruit Dump Cake" to satisfy everyone!

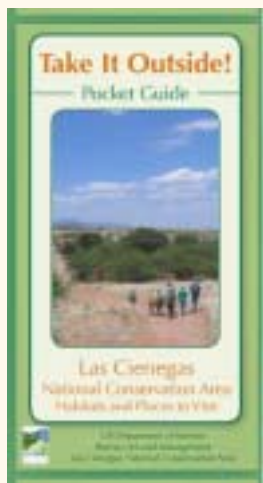
Attendance for eight children was made possible through scholarship support from the Anne Stradling Equine Foundation, Mountain Empire Rotary, Patagonia Elementary Parent Teacher Club, and Jim & Karen Winch.

## New Pocket Guide to Las Cienegas NCA

We are pleased to announce the publication of *"Take It Outside! Pocket Guide of Las Cienegas National Conservation Area: Habitats and Places to Visit,"* providing overview of Las Cienegas NCA, and its Cienega watershed, historic Empire Ranch, and distinct habitats. The guide includes an illustrative map, and opportunities for children (and adults) to answer thought provoking questions, complete learning activities, and take a self-guided tour of "cool" places for kids to visit.

Gail W. Corkill, Ed D, in collaboration with Netzin G. Steklis, MA, prepared the guide with inspiration from children attending *Wild About the Grasslands!* Funding for the guide was provided by BLM's Take It Outside: Children and Nature Initiative, the Fred W. Stang Foundation, and ERF.

Free color copies of the pocket guide were distributed for the first time at the August 6 Western Heritage Day at the Empire Ranch, and are also available from the Empire Ranch Foundation on request.



## Gifts in Remembrance

The Empire Ranch Foundation deeply appreciates donations recently received  
In Memory of:

John Paul Andree, Les Armour,  
Grover & Beatrice Conrad,  
John Donaldson, Earl F. Glenn, Jr.,  
Carey Ingram,  
Laura (Dusty) Vail Ingram, Patti Kelly,  
Carl & Helen Kerekes,  
Ferne Kemp Lewis, Ben Long,  
Bill Schulmeyer, Al Vail, Ed Vail,  
Russ Vail, Sandy & Virginia Wilkinson,  
Margaret Vail Woolley

## News of Old (cont'd from p. 2)

high altitude and the balmy breezes put the sheriff in fine fettle and he challenged the cowpunchers to a run. It was accepted eagerly and the distance "was fixed at 60 yards."

Here was where the cowpunchers made their mistake, for with their saddle legs they should have known that it requires more than a 60-yard jog to work out the kinks, for cowboys, like sailors, have poor land legs.

The race was run and the sheriff won by two yards. He was challenged again and the second race he won also. That was too much for the punchers and they challenged the sheriff to ride bronchos with them, but the offer was declined with regret He had been on hurricane decks before, he stated, and had no desire to cause an earthquake In Pima County.

(Right) Empire Ranch foreman Hadden McFadden at Empire Headquarters, ca 1900 (photo: courtesy G. & A. McFaddin)

## Working Calendar

[Location: Empire Ranch Headquarters, unless otherwise noted. To volunteer, or for more information, call (888) 364-2829]

### August

13 Empire Ranch House Guided Tours, 11am, 1pm, Free

20 Volunteer Work Day, 8am-Noon

### September

10 Empire Ranch House Guided Tours, 11am, 1pm, Free

17 ERF Board Meeting, 9am-Noon

### October

8 Empire Ranch House Guided Tours, 11am, 1pm, Free

22 Volunteer Work Day, 8am-Noon

### November

5 2011 Empire Ranch Roundup & Open House, "Centennial Celebration of the Cowboy," 10am-4pm. Free \$10 per vehicle donation suggested.

12 Empire Ranch House Guided Tours, 11am, 1pm, Free

19 ERF Board Meeting, 9am-Noon

### December

2 Artists entries due for 2012 "Empire 100" Western Art Show & Sale

10 Empire Ranch House Guided Tours, 11am, 1pm, Free



## 2011/2012 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.)

Street/P.O. Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP : \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Number

Exp.Date. Signature

This donation is also in \_\_\_memory/\_\_\_appreciation of \_\_\_\_\_

This is a gift membership from: \_\_\_\_\_

## 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.