



# EMPIRE RANCH FOUNDATION NEWS

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

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

## Legacy Day 2012

From the moment the Elgin Middle School students arrived at the Empire Ranch on May 2, they were immersed in the sights, sounds, smells and activities of ranching life. After a warm greeting and introductions by Dick Schorr, everyone spent the morning learning how to rope the cowboy way from Joel Eliot & Steve Schmitt; about horses and wagons from Steve Boice; and about the Empire Ranch from a tour led by Walter Vail reenactor, Van Fowers.

By lunchtime, everyone was famished and ready for the traditional ranch fare of beef brisket, beans, tortillas, fresh watermelon and brownies provided by ERF volunteers Alison Bunting, Ron Martin, and Christine Auerbach.

Western entertainer Janice Deardorff provided a wonderful musical accompaniment to lunch, and as the students polished their plates she challenged them to join her in a sing-along. Within minutes young voices were chiming in and laughing heartily when Janice featured their classmates in her lyrics.

Afternoon sessions included rawhide braiding by Dick Schorr and Sidney Bassett and cowboy storytelling by Steve “Bunker” de France.

As always we are extremely grateful for the efforts of Dick Schorr and Board member Ron Martin who organized the event, and to the instructors and volunteers who are helping to ensure that ranching traditions and experiences are passed on to today’s youth.

To see more Legacy Day photos, visit the public ERF Facebook page at: [www.facebook.com/EmpireRanch](http://www.facebook.com/EmpireRanch)



Legacy Day 2012 (photos: C. Auerbach)

## Congratulations!

Due to members’ outstanding financial and volunteer support since ERF’s founding 15 years ago, the Empire Ranch Foundation has received the Governor’s Archaeology Advisory Committee Award in Public Archaeology for a Private Non-Profit Entity. This award is the direct result of our members’ support and belief in preserving and restoring for future generations the enduring story of those that made the Empire Ranch the historic treasure that continues to inspire all of us today.

We are moving ahead with organizing our Visitor Contact Center, adding signs, pamphlets and books to inform visitors. And, as the article on page 3 details, we are making significant progress on preservation projects large and small.

Our Docents are doing a wonderful job of giving tours the second Saturday of each month. This past year they have been able to educate, inform and introduce 320 visitors to the Empire.

All of us on the Board of Directors continue to be inspired by your continuing efforts to support our mission. Your response to our membership appeal is very much appreciated, and to our new members: Welcome! Please tell your friends, and others about this great place.

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).

Remember to “Come on out” to our Annual Roundup and Open House, Saturday, November 3—hope to see you there!

With sincere appreciation,  
Carla Kerekes Martin, ERF President

## Departed Friend



Robert Grantham Boice (“Bob”), second son of Frank and Mary Boice, died at his home in Globe, Arizona, on June 21, 2012.

Bob was just a year old in 1929 when his parents moved to the Empire Ranch where he was raised, and where, as he relates in a Boice Family oral history, “all my heroes were cowboys.”

Bob attended the nearby Empire School through fifth grade, and continued his education in Tucson. He met his best friend and partner, Miriam Hamilton, at Tucson High School, and they married shortly after their graduation from the University of Arizona. Bob and Miriam's first home was in the Huachuca House, also known as “Bob's Casita.” Two of their four children, Mary Elizabeth and Robert Grantham “Grant,” were born during the time they lived on the Empire Ranch. Martha Hamilton and Peggy Frances arrived after the family had moved to the Slash S Ranch, south of Globe in 1955.

Eva Jimenez, who took care of Bob and his brother Pancho when they were young, recalls in her oral history that Bob wasn't much interested in school; his main ambition at the time was to be a roundup cook. However, as Bob reached adulthood he devoted his life to ranching, at the Empire Ranch, then, from 1955 to 1978, on the Slash S Ranch. He and Miriam became active members of the Globe community where Bob started the first 4-H steer club and was the first chairman of the Gila County Fair and Racing Commission. He was a driving force in the development of the Gila County Fairgrounds; the Fairgrounds Exhibition Hall is dedicated to Bob. In 1998 Bob's contributions to Arizona ranching were recognized when he received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the University of Arizona's College of Agriculture, and he was extremely proud when the Boice family received the 2011 Heritage Award from the University of Arizona's College of Agriculture.

## Empire Ranch Arena

Thanks to the generosity of our members, the Empire Ranch Foundation will assemble its own arena at the upcoming Roundup & Open House on Saturday, November 3. The Roundup arena had previously been constructed each year through a generous loan of panels from Mark & Joan Williams.

Approximately 50 panels have been purchased as a result of a special fundraising drive that raised more than \$8,000. Panels are still available for purchase and naming opportunities. Two commemorative plaques engraved with your name or the name of a beloved person will be adhered to front and back sides of each panel.

Members, you can take pride in helping to build this much-needed arena. Panel purchases can be made by sending in \$175 per panel to ERF, P.O. Box 842, Sonoita AZ 85637. Please note “panel purchase” on your check. Or call 888-364-2829 to place your order or for more information.



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## New ERF Board Member

Steve “Bunker” de France of Tucson was unanimously elected to the ERF Board of Directors at the July 21 board meeting.

Bunker, a native of New Mexico, has worked as an actor, a stuntman & double, and in production for a wide range of movies, theatre and television for more than 40 years. He is a former founding Board member of the local chapter of the Western Music Association. He also served 15 years on the governing council of the Screen Actors Guild of Southern Arizona, 12 of those as vice president.

Bunker enjoys cowboy storytelling and recently shared tales with the students attending Legacy Day at the Empire Ranch. He has been a regular volunteer at ERF events and at Volunteer Day, always ready to lend a hand or a tale—or both!

## Western Movie at Loft Draws a Capacity Crowd

The Empire Ranch Foundation followed its successful presentation of Red River in the summer of 2011 with another great western, Monte Walsh, shown last May at The Loft Theatre in Tucson. While the former movie was filmed in large part on what is or was the original ranch, the latter was also filmed close by as those who saw the many outdoor scenes noticed.

The event was made possible through generous underwriting by The Green Valley Pecan Company, and assistance in event marketing by Strategic Issues Management Group.

Audiences packed the theatre not only to watch the great western movie on the large “silver” screen but also to listen to lively discussions from a distinguished panel of guests, including Pam Marvin, widow of the movie's lead actor, Lee Marvin. Joining Pam on stage were Todd Roberts, son of the movie's producer Bobby Roberts; actor Bo Hopkins; Bob Shelton, who was responsible for providing the Mescal location; and stuntman John White.

Our thanks to Board members Emil Franzi, John Komrada and David Steele for their tireless efforts to make this event a success. The next day, they and other Board members, treated guests to a tour of the Empire Ranch so they could see what they had helped support.

The Empire Ranch Foundation's presentation of Western movies will be an annual summer event beginning in 2013. For an interesting listing of movies filmed at or near the Empire Ranch, go to [www.empireranchfoundation.org/PDFdocs/WesternsFilmedAroundEmpireRanch.pdf](http://www.empireranchfoundation.org/PDFdocs/WesternsFilmedAroundEmpireRanch.pdf).



Event special guests, actor Bo Hopkins with Pam Marvin, widow of lead actor Lee Marvin (photo: Scott Dyke/Green Valley News)

## Preservation Projects Large & Small

Joint efforts by the Foundation and the BLM continue to address the many preservation needs of the Empire Ranch Headquarters.

The transformation of the Huachuca House into a Visitor Contact Station continues. ERF recently approved contracts to install a replacement roof and to repair double-hung wood windows in the original portion of the house. This will be funded with help from a generous grant from the BLM. A final task is to underpin the floor beams and joists, since settlement underneath has allowed the floor's center to sag. Left unsupported, the floor movement would eventually cause the walls to rotate.

Addressing all three of these preservation issues now ensures the building's viability for years to come. This work is now underway and expected to be completed by the first of the year.

Meanwhile, work on contracts for the stabilization of the two largest adobe structures continues. There is consensus among BLM local and state agency staff, the BLM contracting office in Denver, and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) on BLM's proposal for completing work on the Adobe Hay Barn. We hope to have that contract awarded this fall.

Progress on the historic Ranch House work is more complicated. Discussions continue on the extent of rehabilitation needed, and the appropriate techniques and materials to address those areas requiring attention. The BLM Tucson Field Office is determined to keep the process moving forward as a high priority.

Meanwhile at volunteer days we continue to address a variety of important needs from deep cleaning and upkeep to general landscaping and weed trimming. Following is a list of projects addressed during several recent volunteer work days:

- Cleaning and restoring the Meat Cooler along the east side of the Zaguán.
- Repairing and strengthening one segment of the Ranch House front porch railing, and scraping and painting the entire railing.
- Repairing the damaged door of the historic gas pump and reinstalling its glass windows.
- Making permanent repairs to a corner of the South Barn roof, which was damaged by high winds last November.



*Volunteers at work repairing the front porch railing (photos: C. Auerbach, K. Patterson).*



*Archaeology award (from left) Bryan Martyn (Dir., AZ State Parks), Carla & Ron Martin (ERF), Jim Garrison, (State Historic Preservation Officer) (photo: E. Vondy, State Historic Preservation Office)*

## Awards Galore

We are most honored that the Empire Ranch Foundation recently was awarded the Arizona Governor's Archaeology Advisory Committee (GAAC) 2012 Award in Public Archaeology for a Non-Profit Entity. The award was given in recognition of ERF's accomplishments which have provided a lasting and beneficial impact on the Empire Ranch Headquarters and Las Cienegas National Conservation Area. ERF President Carla Kerekes Martin and Vice President Ron Martin accepted the award at a ceremony in Prescott, AZ, on June 14. We are grateful to Shela McFarlin and the Cienega Watershed Partnership for nominating the Foundation for this prestigious award.



Congratulations also to Chris Schrage, BLM Historic Preservation Specialist, who received the U.S. Forest Service Regional Award for Excellence in Heritage.

The award recognizes Chris' outstanding preservation efforts with historic structures in the Coronado National Forest, including the remaining five buildings of Kentucky Camp, a historic mining concern located southwest of the Empire Ranch. Chris works for both the Coronado National Forest and the BLM Tucson Field Office. As part of his BLM responsibilities Chris has contributed significantly to Empire Ranch preservation efforts, providing leadership and supervision to ERF's volunteer preservation work, and collaborating with the Board to develop plans and secure funding for projects.



**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Saturday,  
November 3, 2012**

**12TH ANNUAL  
ROUNDUP & OPEN HOUSE  
AT THE EMPIRE RANCH**

For more information, please see enclosed Roundup flyer or visit [www.empireranchfoundation.org](http://www.empireranchfoundation.org).



## 100 Years of Ranching

The Empire Ranch Foundation was a proud supporter of a special event at the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds which paid tribute to southeastern Arizona's ranching heritage and Arizona's Centennial.

The Nogales International and the Bowman Stradling History Center co-sponsored a ranching theme drawing contest for Santa Cruz County public schools' 5th grade students. Everyone in the community had an opportunity to view the 231 drawings submitted, and the children attending enjoyed branding and roping lessons, and participated in a letterboxing quest organized by Gail Corkill, ERF education director.

Each child was asked to describe the inspiration for their drawing, and ERF provided a cash prize for the Best of Show writing winner: Jacqueline Ruiz from Lincoln School in the Nogales Unified School District. Her description of the delightful scene she rendered follows:

*I was inspired by my Aunt Rebeca. Her barn was full of grass. She had cows, horses, pigs, chickens, and also beautiful flowers and a garden. When I grow up I would like to have a barn with all my aunt's things and animals.*

## Gifts in Remembrance

The Empire Ranch Foundation gratefully acknowledges gifts recently received

*In Memory of:*

John Paul Andree, Judith Auerbach,  
Les Armour, Sonya Bayler,  
Jimmie Beville, Bob Boice,  
Jane & Blake Carrington,  
Eldon Corkill, Duwayne Frohwein,  
Earl F. Glenn, Jr.,  
Gene & Alvessa Hummel,  
Carey Ingram, Dusty Vail Ingram,  
Sylvia Kalish, Earl Kern,  
Lucy O. Ross, Christine Vail Shirley,  
Al Vail, Evelyn Vail, Laura Perry Vail,  
Russ Vail, William Banning Vail, Jr.,  
Margaret Vail Wooley

*In Honor of:*

Christine Auerbach, Marie Kasetta Barr



Legacy Day students touring the Ranch House, guided by Walter Vail reenactor Van Fowers (photo: C. Auerbach)

## Working Calendar

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

### August

- 11** Docent-led tours of Empire Ranch House, 11am, 1pm, free, open to all.
- 18** Volunteer Work Day, 8am-Noon. All welcome! RSVP 888-364-2829.

### September

- 8** Docent-led tours of Empire Ranch House, 11am, 1pm, free, open to all.
- 15** ERF Board Meeting, 9am-Noon.

### October

- 13** Docent-led tours of Empire Ranch House, 11am, 1pm, free, open to all.
- 20** Volunteer Work Day, 8am-Noon. All welcome! RSVP 888-364-2829.

### November

- 3** Roundup & Open House at the Empire Ranch, 10am-4pm, Empire Ranch Headquarters, public invited, \$10 donation per vehicle suggested.
- 10** Docent-led tours of Empire Ranch House, 11am, 1pm, free, open to all.
- 17** ERF Annual Board Meeting & Elections, all welcome, 9am-Noon.

### December

- 8** Docent-led tours of Empire Ranch House, 11am, 1pm, free, open to all.

### January

- 12** Docent-led tours of Empire Ranch House, 11am, 1pm, free, open to all.
- 17** Empire 100 Western Art Show & Sale Opening Reception (Preview dates January 14-16; show runs through February 28), Northern Trust, 6444 E Tanque Verde Rd., Tucson Please note new location!

## 2012/2013 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.*