



# EMPIRE RANCH FOUNDATION NEWS

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

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

## Quick Draw at the Empire Art Show

Yes, that's right. There was a quick draw at the Empire 100 Western Art Show and Sale at Northern Trust Bank on January 15 when several hundred people gathered for the opening reception. Now if you are thinking of a shoot out at the O.K. Corral, not so. Everyone familiar with western art shows knows that there are a handful of mad artists who can be persuaded to paint live for the admiring public. This is called a quick draw. Sometimes the piece is auctioned off or sold outright at the end of the kick-off event.

The Empire 100 is proudly showing work of quick draw expert, John Fawcett. He recently painted a wonderful picture of a mule at the Mountain Oyster Show in Tucson. The owner of the animal out bid everyone else for the prize. Fawcett is most noted for capturing the relationships between animals and people. He had plenty of anatomical practice as a veterinarian before he decided to fully devote his time to art. His first hand knowledge of horses and dogs makes his paintings particularly appealing. He says, "I want to make the viewer smell the horse, hear the hoof beats, and have all their senses be taken in by the painting." And that sensual fullness and energy completely involve the viewer in his exceptional watercolor and oil paintings. He captures movement, mood, posture and intensity of animals and cowboys in a unique way. John, no stranger to the Empire show, has recently moved to Tucson, with his wife, Elizabeth.

This year, Phil Starke took the challenge. Phil, who likes to gather most of his



"*Corner of the Corral*," oil by Phil Starke and "*Ranch Gelding*" watercolor by John Fawcett, from the ongoing "Empire 100" art show and sale in Tucson.

inspiration outdoors, has actually painted on the Empire Ranch. His preference to start paintings outdoors helps him capture the atmosphere and light. Sometimes he combines elements of several excursions into one painting back in his studio. Phil

(continued on page 2)

## Just Terrific...

...are our words for the recent turnout of financial support from our many friends. In November 2003, we hollered out loud and clear, "Help!" The adobe haybarn is desperately in need of continued stabilization, particularly emergency repairs to the leaning west wall and gable. Within days of the plea, financial support was forthcoming from all parts of the country.

Our November appeal war chest is now up to \$16,000, with more in route. With a little help from our uncommitted funds, we confidently project reaching the awesome challenge of \$20,000 and thus triggering the BLM cost-share funding proposal for an additional \$50,000.

Thank you. Your generous support, coupled with the BLM cost-share funding, takes us one huge step toward arresting the ravages of time on this historic structure. In our May issue we will update you on our repairs progress. Until then, please keep those remittance envelopes coming!

## Saddle Up—5<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Trail Ride

Across the Famous Empire Ranch

May 8 (Saturday), 2004

Steve Boice, head wrangler for the annual Spring trail ride and a direct descendant of the legendary Boice Family, past owners of the Empire Ranch, invites you to join him and other Foundation members on a fascinating journey through western history and some of the most scenic ranch landscape on earth.

See page 3 inside for details and reservation information.

## Quick Draw (Cont'd from p. 1)

has always been an artist. Originally from Kansas City, he studied art in the American Art Academy in Chicago. That is where he was "thrown out on the streets" to paint for experience. Since then, nothing unnerves him. He and his wife, Shari, moved back to Missouri where he spent years painting the farms and ranches of the Midwest. About ten years ago Phil fell in love with the southwest and finally just pulled up stakes for Tucson. Phil, who is very popular with other artists as mentor and teacher, describes his style as impressionistic realism. His performance at the Empire opening was a big hit!

Both of these nationally published painters immensely enrich the Empire 100 Western Art Show and Sale. They have been featured in just about every venue of the western art recognition world. Their work, together with the shining works of all our marvelous participating artists will be on view through February 27, 8:30am-4:00pm, Monday-Friday at Northern Trust Bank, 3450 E. Sunrise Branch, Tucson.

All artists are donating a portion of each sale to support the work of the Foundation. Our warm thanks to:

- Roger Alderman • Kurt Anderson •
- Bruce Andre • Santos Barbosa •
- Jean Sharp Beck • James Butler •
- Stephanie Carleton • Bonnie Casey •
- William Cook • Glenn Dean • Gwen Dean •
- Nancy Denzler • Bruce Dines •
- Victor Donahue • Tom Evans •
- Michael Ewing • John Fawcett •
- Brent Flory • Robert Goldman •
- Claire Goldrick • Aline Goodman •
- Jim Gruzalski • Frederick Hamby •
- Gary Hamil • Ray Harm • Chauncey Homer •
- Glen Hopkinson • Richard Iams •
- Rock Jackson • Robert Kembel •
- J. E. Knauf • Earl Kuhn • Joan M. LaRue •
- Jon Lightfoot • Thomas Lorimer •
- Buck McCain • Jessica McCain •
- Paul Miller • Bill Mittag • Bill Moomey •
- Tom Murray • Ruben Nieto • Darcie Peet •
- Nancy Prevo • Hank Richter • Owen Rose •
- Mark Rossi • Rogue Simpson • Joe Staheli •
- Phil Starke • Ken Stockton •
- Cezanne Stutesman • Ken Sullivan •
- Gabor Svagrik • Charles Thomas •
- Jerry Vaughn • Bernard Vetter •
- Carolyn Watson •

For a descriptive list of all artworks, as well as selected images, visit our website at [www.empireranchfoundation.org](http://www.empireranchfoundation.org).

### Special Thanks To

#### Northern Trust Bank ... an Empire Builder

Your longstanding 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 Feburary 27, 2004.

## A Tasty Tradition Is Born

The mouth watering smells drifting through the ranch house 1950's vintage kitchen were truly enticing. Over forty-five Foundation members gathered November 15 to share a huge assortment of tasty home made treats, old time tales and simple good times in the ranch house Victorian Addition. Under a flawless blue sky and perfect Southern Arizona temperatures, the 1st Annual Membership Pot Lunch was a real crowd pleaser.

Thanks to all for joining in on the fun!

## Board of Directors Election Report

The following officers were unanimously elected or reelected to one-year terms at the November 16 board meeting:

**President**—Richard T. Schorr, of Tucson. A board member since 1997, Dick is our previous board President, and has been prominent in Foundation planning, outreach development, and events. He conducts an active veterinary practice in Tucson.

**Vice President**—Billie Donaldson, of Sonoita. A board member since 2001, Billie is our previous board Secretary and has been key organizer for ERF Fall Roundups and volunteer participation. She is active in the Sonoita ranching community.

**Treasurer**—Sarah Miller, of Tucson. A board member elected in 2003, Sarah has expertise in business and in design aesthetics, and experience in the nonprofit sector, having served on the Girl Scouts of America Board of Directors, and in varied roles for special events for the Girl Scouts, Telluride Film Festival, and Jim Click. She is sole proprietor of Miller Design, and holds a degree in design from the University of Arizona.

**Secretary**—Susan Ingram Hughes, of Burtonsville, MD. A board member since 2000, and a Walter Vail descendant, is the previous board Vice President, edits the ERF newsletter and website, and is active in archives and preservation projects.

We also would like to introduce three additional members who were elected to the ERF Board of Directors during 2003:

**Carol Barleycorn**, of Tucson, a past board member, grew up on the Empire Ranch as a Boice family member, and was part of the original team to incorporate the

Foundation. A self-avowed Nature lover, she is eager to develop ERF educational outreach pilot programs for youth. She chairs the Fundraising Committee.

**Mick Davidson**, of Sonoita, also a past board member, brings a wealth of practical past experience and is a professional architect, ideally suiting him for a vital role in preservation and adaptive reuse planning and projects. Mick grew up on the High Haven Ranch adjoining the Empire, and is also a talented painter.

**Walter Kolbe**, of Hereford, was raised on Patagonia's Rail X Ranch, and shared with his family the enormous responsibilities of daily ranch management. He combines ranch experience in equal proportions with business/economics experience learned in Phoenix and the Midwest. The mix is perfectly suited for lending valuable expertise to the Foundation.

Working together with the above officers and new members are continuing members of the board Steve Boice, Gerald Korte, and George A. Masek.

Four esteemed board members are leaving in 2004. Laurel Wilkening, who has served so successfully in the positions of Secretary, Vice President, and Treasurer of the Foundation, is retiring in observance of term limits contained in our bylaws. For the same reason, Jane Woods, who did so much to connect the Foundation to the community and its history, and Jake Kittle, who was an invaluable organizational leader, are also retiring. And Jacquie McNulty, History Committee Chair, is also retiring after two years valued service.

We are grateful for these colleagues' dedicated contributions over the past years, and for their continuing support and participation as members and volunteers.

## **Dear Members,**

Year 2003 has been a banner year for the Empire Ranch Foundation. A great deal of this must be credited to our administrative person, Bruce Lehmann, whose enthusiasm and expertise has made our communications to you about or events so well received.

*It is hard to go into detail about the work of so many who have contributed to make this project to broadly received. I thank all of you for your support.*

*Our membership has increased by nearly 150. Contributions for our appeals are at a record level. Attendance growth at our annual events has demonstrated that you are very interested in preserving the buildings of this historic ranch as well as preserving the ranching culture that underpins our whole activity.*

*The momentum is growing as we enter a new phase of our Foundation in cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management. The new phase is community outreach, which begins now in 2004. Climb on board!*

*Richard Schorr, President  
Empire Ranch Foundation*

## **Youth Outreach Initiatives**

What better way to serve our community than to help our youth appreciate our past and to see how it is interwoven with our present! The Foundation is determined that this be our theme and part of our purpose for 2004.

We have met with school administrative personnel and are currently planning several school activities at the Empire Ranch. Hopefully these will serve as models for expanded educational activities for the future.

In essence, approximately 30 students will spend a day at the Empire Ranch along with their teachers. Under the guidance of the teachers, students will participate in class periods with specific topics that will relate to their current academic studies but also with life on the ranch past and present.

Perhaps you as members have other ideas on offering community outreach. If you do, please give us a call. (Phone Bruce Lehmann, at (520) 881-1510.)

## **Pronghorn on the Empire**

To some people visiting the historic Empire Ranch the most exciting thing to see is one of the small herds of pronghorn “antelope” resident on the surrounding grasslands of Las Cienegas National Conservation Area.

Although commonly called antelope, these animals were mistakenly identified by early explorers in North America. They saw the horns and assumed that pronghorn were a type of antelope. Today, scientists believe that the pronghorn is the last surviving member of an animal family found only in North America and that no other animal living today is related to the pronghorn.

No one knows when the first pronghorn lived in the area, but paleontologists speculate that they have been here since at least the latter part of the Pleistocene, 20,000 to 30,000 years ago, and that they probably evolved from a goat-like creature that roamed in southeast Arizona perhaps one million years ago.

Pronghorn leg bones have been recovered by archaeologists from campsites used by prehistoric people who hunted the animals for food about 3,400 years ago. One of the earliest historic mentions of them in the Empire Ranch area is contained in records made by John Bartlett in 1851.

Bartlett was sent by the U.S. Government to survey and explore land acquired from Mexico after the Treaty of



*Pronghorn recently photographed on the Empire (photo: K. Hughes)*

Guadeloupe Hidalgo. In September of 1851 he visited an area west of the San Pedro River, where he had set-up his base camp.

He described the area as a plateau countryside that supported a short grass cover similar to that of the western prairies and where drainages contained swamps and pools of water surrounded by luxuriant stands of head-high grass and groves of small oaks. He also stated that his survey party saw antelope.

Some Arizona scholars believe that Bartlett was describing the Empire Valley and that the swamps and pools were those along a stream later named Cienega Creek, which runs north through the Empire Ranch lands to a confluence with Pantano Creek to empty into the Santa Cruz River. Cienega is a Spanish word which translates roughly into English to mean “marshy” or “swampy.”

The pronghorn represented in the Empire Valley archaeology sites as well as

*(continued on page 4)*



## **The Spring Trail Ride Gathers — Please Join Us! —**

*(Continued from page 1.)* As in years past, Trail Ride participants will enjoy two very different excursions on May 8—one in the morning starting at 8:00 AM, and the other in the afternoon, starting at 1:00 PM. Each ride will explore different sections of the ranch. You may join just one

ride or both. At lunch, Steve Boice will enchant you with stories of ranch life in the “good old days” and serve us a fine ranch cooked meal. Tours of the historic ranch buildings will be available. After an exhilarating ride you will see why the Empire Ranch is officially designated an *American Treasure*. Lunch will be served at a reasonable fee, and relaxing onlookers are welcome.

Rider reservations are limited! To reserve your place, please clip out and complete the reservation form on the following page and mail it to us. If you have questions, please call either of the telephone numbers listed on the reservation form.

*(Note: Beginners with limited previous experience (4 rides) are welcome; however, the planned rides are not recommended for individuals with no experience.)*

## Pronghorn (Cont'd from p. 3)

the "antelope" reported by Bartlett were members of a group of animals known scientifically as the Family Antilocapridae. Animals in this family have two pronged or forked horns, present in both sexes. Each horn has a straight bony core covered by a hard sheath of fused hairs. The horns are shed and replaced annually.

No credible figures exist as to the actual numbers of pronghorn inhabiting the Empire lands when U.S. settlers, homesteaders and ranchers began moving into the valley shortly after the Gadsden Purchase was ratified in 1854. However, livestock brought into the valley during following decades presented a type of competition for food and water that pronghorn had never faced, and the large numbers of livestock that would eventually graze the area would reduce grass cover needed during the fawning period to protect antelope newborn and young from predatory wolves and coyotes.

Prehistoric people killed pronghorn when the opportunity presented itself, but their hunting implements were constrained to bow, arrow and perhaps large nets, limiting the numbers of animals taken. However, high powered rifles were a more efficient means to "bag an antelope," and the numbers killed increased annually during the next century.

By the 1940's a combination of over-hunting, animal predation and loss of grass cover had caused an almost complete disappearance of pronghorn from the Empire.

In 1981, the Arizona Game and Fish (G&F) Department obtained and trans-

ferred 51 pronghorn from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. These pronghorn were the *A.a. mexicana* subspecies, commonly referred to as "Chihuahuan" pronghorn, captured near Marfa, Texas.

By 1984, the transplanted Empire Ranch population had grown to around 100-120 pronghorn, and has fluctuated around those numbers ever since. The Arizona G&F has studied factors that influence pronghorn fawn survival on the Empire—forage quality, predator density, frequency of disturbance and amount of fawn hiding cover.

The ecologically responsible rest-rotation grazing that is practiced on the Empire Ranch today enables pronghorn and livestock to coexist without excessive competition for forage and cover. Indeed, the pronghorn population has increased to the point that one or two hunting permits are issued each year, selected through a draw system.

During their evolution, pronghorn adapted to exploit and survive in an ecological niche that existed among grazing animals that lived in southeast Arizona during the Pleistocene, such as giant long-horned bison, mammoth, musk ox and horses. Fortunately, the pronghorn diet adapted to coexist with those grazing animals fits into the needs for survival alongside cattle as well. Pronghorn consume mostly broadleaf plants while cattle eat mostly grass.

*Article contributed by Max Witkind (Archaeologist/Anthropologist, BLM Tucson Field Office) and Keith Hughes (Natural Resource Specialist, Las Cienegas National Conservation Area).*

## Working Calendar

### February

- 26 Tucson Rodeo Parade
- 27 Closing day, *Empire 100* Art Show & Sale

### April

- 17 Board Meeting

### May

- 8 Spring Trail Ride (see article p. 3, and reservation form below)

### July

- 4 Patagonia Parade

### August

- 21 Board Meeting

### September

- 11 Empire Ranch Roundup Open House and Western Art Show and Sale

## Preservation Projects

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

- Execute emergency repairs to Adobe Haybarn (*Phase 2 is top priority for fundraising*)
- Create plan and stabilize Adobe Haybarn for the long term (*priority item once funds are raised*)
- Stabilize lintel over south entry of Zaguan/Breezeway for the long term (*plan complete; funding redirected in deference to emergency repair needs*)
- Execute emergency repairs to Ranch Hand's House (*Phase 2 is a priority for funding*)
- Straighten & stabilize leaning concrete garden wall (*volunteer project; to be scheduled once plan completed & approved*)
- Create plan for repair of Children's Addition floor framing and walls (*February 2004*)
- Repair Children's Addition floor framing and walls (*a priority item once repair plan approved and funds are raised*)
- Create plan for adaptive reuse of ranch buildings (*draft plan now in review; finalize Spring 2004*)

### Reservation Request

#### Spring Trail Ride on the Empire Ranch

Saturday, May 8, 2004

Mail with check to: Empire Ranch Foundation •P.O. Box 842 •Sonoita AZ 85637

For information call: •Steve Boice 520-907-8765 •Bruce Lehmann 520-881-1510

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Eve Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Event	Persons	Amount	Total
Trail Riders	#	\$35 each (includes FY04 basic Membership*)	\$
Horse Rentals	#	\$75 per horse (half day or all day is same price)	\$
		<b>Total</b>	\$

\*Membership for July 1, 2004, through June 30, 2005

Number of morning riders 8am \_\_\_\_ Number of afternoon riders 1pm \_\_\_\_ or both \_\_\_\_