



EMPIRE RANCH FOUNDATION NEWS

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www.empireranchfoundation.org

Empire Art Show and Sale, Never A Dull Moment

Mother Nature chose Monday, January 22nd, to send Santa Cruz and Cochise Counties a humongous blanket of snow, crippling travel plans of many Southern Arizonans who planned to attend the gala opening of the Empire 100 Art Show and Sale at the Northern Trust Bank in Tucson. However, those who did make it provided plenty of enthusiasm as they enjoyed the lovely art and were entertained by the music of Bruce Andre with his guitar.

Surprises continued when the featured artist, Santos Barbosa, noticed that Bruce Andre was indeed the model for a painting that he had in his car. The painting was not finished in time to officially be included in the Empire show. Santos asked the hostess of the reception if it would be all right if he fetched the painting to show Bruce. As he was returning to the party, painting in hand, a guest opened the door for him, saw the painting and said, "I want to buy that painting."

The end of the second reception on Thursday, January 26, posted a respectable number of red dots on title cards indicating sold art. But, there are many wonderful paintings and sculptures in a variety of styles, subjects, sizes and media still on exhibit for sale until February 28, including the humorous painting by Bernard Fierro of a pickup bed full of working dogs. This painting received a resounding number of votes for the People's Choice Award. Also



Bernard Fierro's painting "Desert Dogs" received the People's Choice award.



Bruce Andre and Helen Chester enjoy the fun at the Empire 100 (photo: P. Erskine)

available is Santos Barbosa's signature painting entitled "A Rainbound Stage". The auction bids for the painting did not meet the reserve, so it is up for sale at \$3,600. Visitors may view and buy art throughout the exhibition during regular banking hours from 8:30 A.M. until 4:00 P.M. at Northern Trust Bank, 3450 E. Sunrise, or on our website: www.empireranchfoundation.org.

Proceeds go toward historic preservation of the Empire Ranch.

New Water System Nears Completion

Soon, the Empire Ranch Headquarters will be enjoying the benefits of new water lines and improvements to the well and storage systems. During November and December 2006 Soto Construction of Tucson, under a contract from the Bureau of Land Management, installed new pressurized lines to supply the Huachuca House, Field Station, and Grove House, as well as hose bibs or hydrants at several locations. New storage tanks have been installed south of the windmill, and the well pump will be relocated shortly. Once electronic system controls are connected, a safe, dependable supply of potable water will be available throughout the Headquarters complex.

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Thanks for Responding to Our Year-End Appeal!

Contributions to our November appeal for funding to match challenge grants, continue emergency repairs, expand events and educational programs, and support improved interpretive information for our ranch visitors is on track to match last year's very strong response. Thank you!

If you have not contributed to the 2006 year end appeal, it is not too late to do so. Please take a few moments to complete the form at the end of this Newsletter and drop it in the mail.

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.

Participating Artists

“Empire 100” Art Show

January 22 -February 28, 2007

At Northern Trust Bank

3450 E. Sunrise Drive, Tucson AZ

8:30 am - 4:00 pm

Monday through Friday

Casey Abbs • Roger Alderman
Kurt Anderson • JaNeil Anderson
Roger Archibald • Susan Ashmore
Jack Atkins • Santos Barbosa
Jane Barton • Lorrie Beck
Robert Berk • Sherry Blanchard-Stuart
Sydney Brown
Margarethe Brummermann
Stewart Burchard • Patrick Caulley
Helen Chester • Connie Cook
William Cook • Lynn Coppes
Don Crowley • Don Dane
Millard Davidson • Nancy Denzler
Linda Dobkin • Tom Dorr
Jill Dredge • Katheryn Drummond
Michael Ewing • Deborah Fellows
Fred Fellows • Bernard Fierro
Brent Flory • John H. Gerdes
Robert Goldman • Daniel Gonzalez
Aline Goodman • Lois Griffel
Jim Gruzalski • Faye Gustafson
Frederick Hambly • Gary Hammil
Rick Hansen • Sherry Henderson
Dan Hickman • Chauncey Homer
Rock Jackson • Dinah Jasensky
John Jefferies • Keri Jelks
Brian Jones • Reginald Jones
January Jorgenson • Robert Kembel
Earl Kuhn • Frank LaLumia
Nadine Leo • Robert Luedtke
Kath Macaulay • Diana Madaras
Lou Maestas • Patricia Mathes
Jessida McCain • Paul Miller
Bill Mittag • Bill Moomey
Judith Moore-Knapp • Roseann Munger
Tom Murray • Joe Orr
NannSea Patton • Darcie Peet
Margo Petterson • Christine Picavet
Walter Porter • Brooks Powell
Nancy Prevo • Bob Quick
Russell Recchion • Carol Reilley
Hank Richter • Howard Rogers
Frank Rose • Owen Rose • Mark Rossi
David Schwindt • Jill Slaymaker
Joe Staheli • Johanna Stephens
Wayne Sumstine • Carol Swinney
Charles Thomas • Virginia Thorne
Narrie Toole • Sandra VanderWall
Bernard Vetter • Gregory Villegas
Fred Wackerle • Jove Wang
Carolyn Watson • Tanner Wells

Introducing New BLM Staff

The Empire Ranch Foundation works in close partnership with the Bureau of Land Management, especially with professional managers and specialists at the BLM's Tucson Field Office. We are pleased to introduce:

Scott Berkenfield was appointed Manager of the Ironwood Forest National Monument & Las Cienegas National Conservation Area in June 2006. Prior to coming to Tucson he worked in the Grand Canyon and Grand Teton National Parks as well as for the U.S. Forest Service and BLM in Wyoming and Utah. Scott has a B.S. in Recreation and Resource Management from Northern Arizona University. He has worked on cattle ranches and built adobe houses, so is greatly interested in the preservation of the Empire Ranch.

Patrick Madigan assumed the responsibilities of Field Manager for the Bureau of Land Management's Tucson Field Office in September, 2005. He is responsible for the management of one million acres of public land that range from the international border to the Phoenix area. He has a degree in geography from South Dakota State University and a master's degree in Public Administration from the University of Wyoming.

His most recent assignment prior to Tucson was in the BLM State Office in Cheyenne, Wyoming; previously he was the Field Manager in Monticello, Utah, where he was charged with the multiple-use management of about two million acres of public land.

Chris Schragger was born in Chicago and was raised there, the San Francisco Bay Area, and northern Arizona. He graduated from high school in Sedona (before New Age) and attended several colleges, getting degrees in Anthropology and Education from the University of Arizona. Chris currently works as a historic preservation specialist for both the BLM and U.S. Forest Service. He has many years of experience in masonry, other construction, archaeology, and teaching, all of which he plans to use in working with the BLM, the Foundation, and others to carry on the preservation and interpretation of the Empire Ranch.

Foundation Elections Report

The following officers were unanimously elected to one-year terms at the November 18, 2006, board meeting:

President—Laurel Wilkening of Tucson/Sonoita. was elected to the board upon retiring from 27 years in university teaching, research and administration. Having lived 57 glorious years in the Southwest, she has a passion for the human and natural history of the area. She has served as Secretary and Treasurer of ERF.

Vice President—Fred A. Baker, of Sonoita, was elected to the Board in March 2006. He is a former Sonoita area cattle rancher and is currently the manager of the Sonoita Branch Office of Headquarters West, Ltd. a ranch and residential real estate firm. He is particularly interested in public information and education about ranching, range management, and the history of the Sonoita, Elgin, Canelo, Patagonia region.

Secretary/Treasurer—Alison Bunting of Sonoita, elected to the board in March 2006, is a retired university librarian who first volunteered to help organize the ERF archives. She is especially interested in researching and documenting the history of the Empire Ranch and in ERF's educational programs.

Introductions also are due for four additional individuals who were elected as board members during 2006:

David Daiss of Sonoita was elected to the board in November 2006. A retired custom home builder he is now co-publisher of *True West* magazine and is actively involved in The Cowboy Mounted Shooting Association.

Kristin Keller of Tucson was elected to the board in November 2006. Her enthusiasms for nature and historic preservation blend with her love for exploration on horseback and birding.

John Komrada of Tucson was elected to the board in May 2006. He brings years of experience in special events and the entertainment industry, and has actively participated in ERF events for several years.

Tom Rogos of Sonoita, a retired banker, was elected to the board in November 2006. He and his wife Cheryl

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A Cordial, Social Gathering

The Board of Directors of the Foundation hosted the annual membership potluck lunch on November 18 inside the old, historic Empire Ranch headquarters. Home-cooked, favorite dishes were brought by the nearly 80 people attending.

It was a cordial, social gathering where folks took time for conversation with friends not seen for a spell and it was a time of reflection on the past year's activities. New acquaintances were made and old friendships renewed in the fresh autumn air out on the ranch.

Sitting in the large dining room one could easily imagine the discussions and conversations that took place there many years ago. Those discussions could have been about mining problems at the Total Wreck Mine in the mountains on the north end of the ranch. Concerns were likely voiced at the long table about the cattle fly causing the screw-worm infestation in the newborn calves or the threat of tick fever spreading from Texas.

Our conversations in November would likely seem mundane to the rugged individuals that once sat in those same rooms and helped carve out a cattle industry in the Arizona Territory and the young state of Arizona. However, we have a challenge also: to keep alive the traditions and the stories of the way of life of our predecessors and to encourage our youth to value and preserve this heritage.

Those that missed the potluck, missed a wonderful event. Join us next year!

*Story and photos
by Dick Schorr*



Mesquite Removal Project Underway

The BLM's Tucson Field Office initiated a grassland restoration project on 300 acres within Las Cienegas National Conservation Area (LCNCA). Removal of mesquite in the area known as the "airstrip" began in January, and is intended to promote growth of native grassland, and large expanses of warm-season perennial grass. The growth of more native grassland will, in turn, encourage the return of native wildlife to the area such as pronghorn antelope, scaled quail, grassland sparrows such as Baird's Sparrow, and the grasshopper sparrow. The grassland habitat will also improve suitability for species such as the Aplomado Falcon, which once occupied the area.

The mesquite is mechanically removed using equipment specially fitted with rubber tracks designed to do minimal damage. A rubber-tracked loader with a chipping/mulching head is used to remove the mesquite down to the ground. To prevent re-sprouting, the tree stumps are treated with a chemical called "Pathfinder" that is effective in controlling many wood species. The chemical is applied directly to the stumps only, and is not applied in wet or windy weather to prevent over spraying and potential harm to other plants.

Mesquite removal was approved through extensive public participation that led to the LCNCA Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement. One possible use of the mesquite wood under consideration is to have students participating in Legacy Day and volunteers build "retaque" fences or screens at ranch headquarters.

The Empire Ranch Makes Great Reading

The Empire Ranch was featured in a number of articles and publications issued in 2006:

Hidden Treasures of Santa Cruz County, by Betty Barr. (Sonoita: BrockingJ Books, 2006.) This compilation of historical accounts of people and places in Santa Cruz County includes chapters on the Vail and Boice families and Dusty Vail. The Empire Ranch is also mentioned in numerous other locations throughout the book.

Desert Empire, by Tammy LeRoy (Western Horseman, 71(7): p. 38-44, 2006.) This article, complete with wonderful photographs, features the ranching techniques and contributions of the Donaldson family.

Walter L. Vail—Empire Builder, by Willard Thompson (Persimmon Hill, publication of the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum, 34(1); p. 49-52, Spring 2006). This illustrated article recounts Walter Vail's founding and expansion of the Empire Ranch.

The Last Drive: Trailing Empire Ranch steers from Arizona to California in 1890, by Ned Vail with introduction by Willard Thompson (Range, Winter 2007, p. 10-13), republishes Ned Vail's first-hand account of this final cattle drive, conducted to defy Southern Pacific Railroad rate increases.

The Empire Ranch is a *Featured Adventure Site* on the BLM's heritage sites education web pages. In addition to learning about many educational and volunteer opportunities, you can take a virtual tour of the Ranch, complete with photos and historical facts at: www.blm.gov/heritage/adventures/menu/featured_site_az.html.

Water Supply (from p. 1)

Excavating the trenches for the new water lines unearthed some interesting historic materials, as well as the locations (several were something of a surprise!) of prior utility system lines. Some segments of galvanized water lines were unearthed, as were earlier drain lines made of terra cotta flue tiles. Near the road below the Field Station, a cache of about 50 horseshoes was found. The trenching also exposed a section of what appears to be a windmill shaft; several pieces of 6" diameter pipe with riveted seams and joints; a metal plate with its surface enameled; and a hand-forged pipe coupling.

Two artifacts were particularly interesting. A pair of rusted pliers was found in the area behind the Adobe Barn while repairing a long-time leak in an existing water line. The pliers are about 4" long, with 1/2" cutting edges at the top. The handles are 1/4" iron rod; they may have fitted into wood handles to give the user more leverage. A few visitors to the Ranch that day suggested the tool might have been used for pulling horseshoe nails: we certainly welcome other ideas!

Perhaps the most unique find was the lower half of a teaspoon, found by the backhoe operator in the parking area east of the corrals. The stem is embossed along both edges and stamped "STERLING" on the back. The spoon itself has a fine detailed engraving: an image of a two- or three-story mission-style building, with "SAN FELIPE CHURCH" inscribed above it. As with the pliers, BLM archaeologists and Foundation historians would enjoy hearing from anyone with knowledge about such a church.

We hope to eventually display these and other historic artifacts in the Ranch House.

ERF Elections (from p. 2)

own and operate La Hacienda de Sonoita, a Cowboy/Western themed B&B.

ERF Past President Sarah Miller was elected to a second three year term as board member, and Frank Hedgcock, Richard Schorr, Mike Segneri, and Tim Vail will be continuing their terms on the board. We welcome the contributions that these dedicated volunteers will make to the Foundation in the coming year.

Special thanks are also due to four members who retired from the Board of Directors in 2006:

Completing their maximum six-year tenures on the Board are Billie Donaldson who has served as Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President and as ERF Roundup Coordinator; and George Masek, who chaired the Nominating Committee, served as Vice President, and worked actively in ERF art shows. Also retiring are Thor Hansen who served as ERF volunteer coordinator, and Walter Kolbe who served as Secretary.

Several Advisory Committee members will continue to provide significant volunteer support to Foundation activities including: Susan Hughes (in preservation, and history, archives and publications committee activities); Marion Hyland (as art show coordinator); and Gerald Korte (in preservation and bylaws committee activities).



Gifts in Remembrance

The Empire Ranch Foundation deeply appreciates recent donations

In memory of:

Rex Allen, Blake & Jane Carrington, J.C.—a sweet friend, Patty Claridge, Reagen & Hettie Lee Gardner, Earl F. Glenn, Jr., Ken Hale, Neel Hall, Joan Hedgcock, Carey Ingram, Laura "Dusty" Vail Ingram, Fern Kemp Lewis, Julia S. Ruch, Louis Sands, Sr., William Schulmeyer, Dr. Joseph A. Shields, John & Goldie Stark, Mae Wampler Steffy, Al and Russ Vail, Mary Morgan Vail, Walter W. Walker, Sandy Wilkinson, Gail A. Zinn

And in appreciation of:

John Donaldson, The Donaldson Family, Susan Hughes for the ERF Newsletter, Sarah Miller

Working Calendar

February

28 Closing Day "Empire 100" Art Show & Sale, Tucson, AZ

March

17 ERF Board Meeting

April

27&28 Artist Shootout at Empire Ranch (by invitation only)

May

19 ERF Board Meeting

-- "Legacy Day" student education day on the Empire [specific date to be determined]

2006/2007 Membership Reply

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

Name: _____

Street/P.O. Address: _____

City, State, ZIP : _____

Phone: (____) _____ Email: _____

Check enclosed MasterCard Visa Card This is a new address

_____ / _____
Card Number Exp.Date. Signature

This membership donation is also in memory of _____

This is a gift membership from: _____

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.

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
- \$ _____ Year-end Gift
- \$ _____ Other