



# EMPIRE RANCH FOUNDATION NEWS

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



Art show scenes, including Empire 100 Chair Marion Hyland (top center) announcing show awards; and winning bronze "Never Touch a Cowboy's Hat" (bottom left). (photos: C. Auerbach, A. Bunting)

## Northern Trust Puts Empire Ranch Up Against the Wall

After a sterling relationship of six years, the Empire Ranch found itself up against the wall at Northern Trust at the January 22nd opening reception of the Empire 100 Art Show and Sale. Hold on! No trouble is brewing! Northern Trust continues to be the most faithful supporter we have.

The "wall" is actually a collection of 20 paintings and three sculptures by artists who have attended the Empire Ranch photo shoots. While not all are exact replicas of the vistas, buildings, and people of the ranch, each features some portion of the locale. A new award, "Best of the Empire" was presented to Michael Ewing for his painting of the ranch headquarters. For the first time, the traditional "People's Choice Award" went to a bronze. Deborah Fellows' "Never Touch a Cowboy's Hat" won the crowd's acclaim.

The Empire 100 Art Show has matured

into a competitive premier event on the western art circuit. Over 460 entries were culled by the jury to the 100 in the 2008 exhibition. The art is consistently excellent, and varied in style and price. More than 500 enthusiastic people crowded the rooms and hallway at the opening reception. At closing time, a record-breaking twenty-five paintings and three sculptures had sold. Those who could not take the crush returned to the bank early the next day to place red dots on their choices in a less hectic environment.

Art collectors and enthusiasts are welcome at the bank from 8:30 until 4:00 Monday through Friday until the show closes on February 29th. Visit ERF website [www.empireranchfoundation.org](http://www.empireranchfoundation.org) to see images. Art may be purchased at Northern Trust or by calling (888) 364-2829.

(See p. 2 for list of Empire 100 artists.)

## Thank You One and All!

ERF already has much to be thankful for in 2008. In January we learned that the BLM has secured funding for a grant to ERF to conduct structural/seismic assessments of four key historic structures: the Empire Ranch House, Hired Man's House, Adobe Haybarn, and Grove House. The assessments, to be performed under our long term contract with preservation specialist Statistical Research, Inc., will prove invaluable in guiding future preservation projects at the Ranch.

In addition, the Patagonia Regional Community Foundation has awarded ERF a generous grant in support of continuing and expanding our *Wild About the Grasslands!* youth program (see article, p. 4.)

Contributions from members in response to our November appeal arrive on a daily basis. Thank you so much! With this support we plan to undertake two high priority projects—permanent repair of the lintel, which supports the wall and ceiling above the south entrance into the zaguan, and the corrals around the ranch house—assuming the structural assessment study affirms their priority.

If you have not contributed to the 2007 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. Thank you!



## Participating Artists “Empire 100” Art Show

January 22 -February 29, 2008

At Northern Trust

3450 E. Sunrise Drive, Tucson AZ

8:30 am - 4:00 pm

Monday through Friday

Casey Abbs • Patricia Ackor  
Roger Alderman • JaNeil Anderson  
Kurt Anderson • Bruce Andre  
Carole Andreen-Harris  
Susan Ashmore • Jack Atkins  
Santos Barbosa • Bernita Barfield  
Sherry Blanchard Stuart  
Hugh Blanding • Karen Bonnie  
Terry Bowman • Jane Bradley  
Sydney Brown • Palmer Butler  
Vicki Catapano • Patrick Caulley  
Bonnie Clute-Ruddick  
Connie Cook • Cat Corcilus  
Katherine Cudney  
Rebecca Dahlke • Don Dane  
Mick Davidson • Nancy Denzler  
Linda Dobkin • Michael Ewing  
Deborah Fellows  
Frederick Fellows • Bernie Fierro  
Brent Flory • Jon Gerik  
Aline Goodman • Lois Griffel  
Jim Gruzalski • Fred Hambly  
Sherry Henderson  
Chauncey Homer • Sam Iddings  
Rock Jackson • Dinah Jasensky  
Carolyn G. (Keri) Jelks  
Reginald Jones • Earl Kuhn  
Frank Lalumia • Shannon Lawlor  
Jon Lightfoot • Jerry Loczi  
Robert Luedtke • Diana Madaras  
Del Marinello • Patty Mathes  
Buck McCain • Jessica McCain  
Mary Michael • Bill Mittag  
Bill Moomey • Judith Moore-Knapp  
Nancy Monsmon  
Roseann Munger • Joe Netherwood  
Susan Oyler • Mac Pakula  
Darcie Peet • Margo Petterson  
Christine Picavet • Walter Porter  
Nancy Prevo • Hank Richter  
Owen Rose • Jeff Skelly  
Jill Slaymaker • Janice P. Smith  
Marla Smith • Joe Staheli  
Shirley Stewart • Ken Stockton  
Wayne Sumstine • Virginia Thorne  
Bernard Vetter • Jack Wahl  
Carolyn Watson • Sarah J. Webber  
Larry Wollam



## Empire Ranch Foundation Board Elections Results

The following new officers and board members were recently elected by the ERF Board of Directors:

*President*—Alison Bunting of Sonoita, who served as Secretary/Treasurer in 2007, is a retired university librarian who is especially interested in researching and documenting the history of the Empire Ranch.

*Vice President*—Fred S. Baker, of Sonoita, was elected to a second term as Vice President. 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.

*Secretary*—Kristi 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.

*Treasurer*—Carla Kerekes Martin of Tucson, elected to the board in November 2007, is an executive assistant and office manager for an accounting firm in Tucson. Carla and husband Ron Martin are very interested in the restoration of the Empire Ranch house and the continuing programs providing education and historical information to people young and old throughout Southern Arizona.

*Board Member*—Emil Franzi is a long-time Tucson resident. He is a writer/columnist currently with the Explorer and talk show host @ KVOI 690AM hosting Inside Track with Tom Danehy and Voices of the West with John Komrada on Saturdays from one to five p.m.

*Board Member*—J. Jeffrey Matthews is a real estate investor, developer and residential and commercial broker (with Long Realty in Tucson) and has lived in the Tucson area for over fifty years. Prior to going into real estate, he was a third generation new car dealer, and has always been active in community activities and boards. Jef's interest in the Empire Ranch dates back to performing "touch and go" landings on the Empire Ranch airstrip with his then (1962) flight instructor, Sherry Boice.

Board members David Daiss, John Komrada, Sarah Miller, Tom Rogos, Richard Schorr and Tim Vail will be continuing on the board. We look forward to the contributions that these dedicated volunteers will make to the Foundation in the coming year.

Special thanks are due to the three Board members who completed their terms at the end of 2007:

Laurel Wilkening provided distinguished leadership as President during the past year. She was active on the History, Archives, and Publications Committee and held the offices of Secretary and Treasurer during a previous term on the Board of Directors.

Frank Hedgcock served as Treasurer, as ERF's liaison to other organizations, and on the preservation, Roundup, finance and bylaws committees.

Mike Segneri served on the education, preservation, and roundup committees and assisted in the asbestos removal project in the Victorian Addition.

## Empire Ranch Foundation Bylaws Vote

On Saturday, March 15, 2008 at 11:00 a.m. at Empire Ranch Headquarters the *Active Members* of the Empire Ranch Foundation will consider and vote upon amendments and alterations of the 1997 ERF Bylaws. An Active Member is defined in the 1997 Bylaws as: ... *those who have completed the orientation course conducted by the Bureau of Land Management, and who, having been admitted to membership, justify such membership through regular volunteer service (Article II, Section 1a). Regular volunteer service is further defined in the standing rules: An active Member should contribute at least forty (40) hours of volunteer time annually (Article XIII).*

In accordance with the ERF Bylaws individuals who, according to ERF records, qualify as Active Members were mailed a copy of the proposed Bylaws changes and a notice of the meeting at least 30 days prior to the March 15, 2008 meeting. Any ERF member who feels he/she qualifies as an Active Member and who did not receive the Bylaws mailing are urged to contact Christine Auerbach, ERF Administrator by phone: 888-364-2829 or email: [admin@empireranchfoundation.org](mailto:admin@empireranchfoundation.org)

## Members and Board Enjoy Annual Potluck Luncheon

On November 17, 2007 the Board of Directors hosted the annual membership potluck lunch at the Empire Ranch Headquarters. Approximately 50 members joined in food, conversation, camaraderie, and to view many of the accomplishments of the past year.

A generous spread of delectable local fare was arranged in the screened porch of the Victorian Addition. This was a scene reminiscent of the popular 4th of July picnics hosted by Mary Boice in much the same way. Those picnics certainly must have been wonderful celebrations of life on the ranch and the ranching heritage of the area as a whole.

Coming together on this wonderful afternoon gave the group the opportunity to see and discuss the many improvements to the grounds and structures during the past year, as well as review the educational programs conducted.

Improvements, completed by contractors and in Volunteer Work Days, included repairs to the West Gable foundation and wall stabilization; repair and repainting of the walls in the Living and Dining Rooms; removal of carpeting and asbestos tile in the Dining Room and Kitchen areas; and repair of the roof of the Mechanic's Shop.

Many viewed a slide show of the *Wild About The Grasslands!* program held in June, and took the opportunity to walk the new Heritage Discovery Trail. The setting also gave rise to conversations about opportunities for continued preservation and historical interpretation work to be undertaken in 2008.

Those attending, as well as the membership as a whole, cannot help but feel that significant progress was made this



Potluck lunch moments. (photos: T. Rogos)

year in advancing preservation and expanding community outreach, especially to the area children who have enjoyed hands-on programs teaching them about the meaningful contributions that the ranch and the cattle industries had in the development and culture of Arizona.

## Empire Ranch Named to Arizona List of Significant Endangered Historic Places

On August 30, 2007, the Arizona Preservation Foundation (APF) released its 2007 List of Arizona's Most Endangered Historic Places. Compiled by preservation professionals and historians, the list identifies endangered cultural resources of major historical significance to the state. The Empire Ranch Headquarters was one of 17 properties selected.

By identifying these properties, the APF hopes to engender action and support among government entities and residents

and to further preservation and restoration efforts.

"We are pleased to be recognized among such an esteemed group of historic properties named," said Laurel L. Wilkening, former president of the Empire Ranch Foundation. "We hope this designation will serve to educate people about the Empire Ranch and the Foundation's efforts to restore and preserve the Ranch for generations to come." For more information, see APF website, [www.azpreservation.org](http://www.azpreservation.org).

## Roundup Dinner and Barn Dance Shakes the Rafters

A beautiful fall evening rewarded guests attending the Cowboy Cuisine Dinner following the annual Roundup. Our host for the evening, Christopher Mitchum, graciously entertained guests with his film making anecdotes while sharing his passion for making classic style western films for the next generation.

Western fare, including rib eye steaks cooked to order and local wines, were provided by Jody & Ted Walker at their lovely Walker Ranch in Sonoita. As a special treat, western recording artist Larry Dean played original & classic western music, accompanied by Luke Halpin on fiddle.

A terrific time was had by all while helping to raise money for the preservation of the Empire Ranch. Many thanks to all the volunteers, especially Sarah Miller, and Janet Russ, who made this event possible!



Dinner hosts Paul Miller, Christopher Michum, Sarah Miller, and Jane White take a brief break.



Food and dance for all! (photos: P. Miller) 3

## Patagonia Regional Community Foundation Grant Awarded ERF

Gail Corkill, Education Director of *Wild About The Grasslands!*, submitted a proposal to the Patagonia Regional Community Foundation, an affiliate of the Arizona Community Foundation, to seek funding to continue the *WATG!* Summer Outdoor Education Program. The goals of the project are: 1) to purchase needed field equipment and instructional supplies for youngsters attending the 2008 *WATG!*; and 2) to initiate a free equipment loan program for local area youth groups and schools.

*WATG!* is an ERF/BLM sponsored week-long outdoor experiential program, for students grades 6 to 8, focused on the natural resources of Las Cienegas and the cultural heritage of the Empire Ranch.

PRCF approved \$2,500 to create 14 *WATG!* Hands on the Land Nature Expedition Daypacks. These daypacks, complete with the essential tools of a naturalist, are key to expanding *the WATG!* program and environmental education curriculum.

Thanks to the generosity of PRCF *WATG!* participants will be able to use these daypacks as they explore the natural wonders of the LCNCA. In addition, PRCF has made it possible for the ERF to launch an equipment loan program which will be developed and piloted during the 2008-2009 school year. The Nature Expedition Packs will be made available for loan to benefit local classroom teachers, youth program leaders, and families of Patagonia and Sonoita-Elgin for use on-site at Empire Ranch Headquarters and LCNCA.



### New Information Kiosk

To accommodate and educate the increasing numbers of visitors to the Empire Ranch Headquarters, an information kiosk is now in place, offering visitors a variety of information about the Empire Ranch and the Las Cienegas National Conservation Area.

Located in the living room of the Victorian Addition, the kiosk contains a bulletin board to post upcoming events and several holders for Foundation newsletters, brochures, room and building descriptions and BLM maps. Built of corrugated tin and patterned after a similarly constructed historical timeline also located in the Victorian Addition, the unit houses a table with guestbook, affording visitors an opportunity comment on their visit, as well as request to be added to the ERF mailing list.

The kiosk was built as part of an Eagle Scout project by Nate Dusenberry of Catalina Council Boy Scout Troop 739. The project required Nate to show leadership skills by presenting a design to the Board, developing a budget, seeking financial support for the project, and directing fellow troop members in the building the kiosk. ERF and BLM are most grateful for Nate's and his fellow scouts' contributions, and welcome requests for Eagle Scout or other volunteer projects.

### Gifts in Remembrance

The Empire Ranch Foundation deeply appreciates recent donations received *in memory of*:

E. Neil & May Carr,  
Earl F. Glenn, Jr.,  
Chuck & Jan Hammond,  
Joan Hedgcock,  
Laura "Dusty" Vail Ingram,  
Red Martin,  
William Schulmeyer,  
Godfrey T. Sill,  
Ed Vail, Laura Perry Vail

And *in appreciation of*: Laurel Wilkening

### Working Calendar

#### February

**1-29** Empire 100 Art Show - Open to the Public, 9am-4pm Mon-Fri, through February 29, Northern Trust, 3450 E. Sunrise Dr., Tucson

**16** Volunteer Work Day, 8am-Noon

#### March

**15** ERF Board Meeting, 9am-Noon, Empire Ranch Headquarters

#### April

**19** Volunteer Work Day, 8am-Noon, Empire Ranch Headquarters

#### May

**17** ERF Board Meeting, 9am-Noon, Empire Ranch Headquarters

**tba** Legacy Day student education day, Empire Ranch Headquarters [date to be announced]

#### June

**tba** Hands on the Land Summer Institute, Empire Ranch Headquarters [date to be announced]

## 2007/2008 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     MasterCard     Visa Card     This is a new address

\_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_  
Card Number                      Exp.Date.                      Signature

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

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

### 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

**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.

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