



EMPIRE RANCH FOUNDATION NEWS

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

www.empireranchfoundation.org

"Empire 100" Western Art Show Is Spectacular

What happens when 96 highly talented Western artists create 130 original oil paintings, pastels, watercolors, drawings, and sculptures and 35 volunteers from Northern Trust and the Empire Ranch Foundation transform Northern Trust Sunrise Branch into an art gallery? An exceptional exhibition of fine art, that's what.

Art show jurors, led by chair Ginger Hambly, had their work cut out for them. With over 400 entries, the selection of 130 original works of art was extremely competitive. The result was definitely worth the effort—the 2009 Empire 100 Western Art Show and Sale is truly spectacular.

At 4:15pm, January 15, a crowd gathered in the lobby of Northern Trust anxiously awaiting the 4:30pm opening of the 9th annual show. By 4:35pm, a flurry of red "sale" dots had been placed on five paintings. A total of 15 paintings sold during the evening. It was great to have Marion Hyland, the guiding force since the first show, at the sales table to ring the bell when each sale was made.

This year's featured artist was Tom Dorr. Tom has participated in many of the Empire 100 art shows and helped organize the 2006 and 2007 Artists Shootout at the Empire Ranch. The Shootout provided many artists with great Western subject matter for years to come.

A highlight of the show is always "The People's Choice" award. This year's winner was Tom Dorr for his stunning oil painting "Cowboy Gear," consisting of nine 12"x12" vignettes focused on cowboy tack



Show visitors eye and buy (above); Tom Dorr and Ginger Hambly (left) savor his "People's Choice" award (photos: G. Auerbach)

in action. Miniatures were a special feature of this year's show. Jack Wahl received the "Best of Show" miniature award for his oil painting "Spanish Mission," selected by art show staff.

The show will continue through March 13. See page 2 for details on hours and location, and a full list of artists. Visit www.empireranchfoundation.org to see images of all artworks. A portion of each sale benefits ERF programs to preserve and interpret the Empire Ranch.

Many, Many Thanks!

The outlook for 2009 is bright, due to the steadfast financial support of our members and donors. In addition, in December and January, we received word that two separate grant proposals in support of ERF's education programs have been funded by the Fred W. Stang Foundation and the Patagonia Regional Community Foundation (see article on p. 3).

Your response to our November appeal is heartwarming, and we are so grateful. With this support we plan to undertake the permanent repair of deterioration to the signature historic lintel beam supporting the wall and ceiling above the south entrance into the zagan (the lintel is featured in the Empire Ranch logo above).

We are actively pursuing funding opportunities for other critical structural rehabilitation projects identified in the recently completed seismic/structural evaluation report. If you have not contributed to the 2008 year-end appeal, it is not too late to do so. Please complete the form at the end of this Newsletter and drop it in the mail.



A Western Shindig's Comin' Up!

March 7, 2009

**Everyone Welcome!
Make your reservations now...
(see page 3 inside)**

“Empire 100” Art Show Participating Artists

January 12 - March 13, 2009

At Northern Trust
3450 E. Sunrise Drive, Tucson AZ
8:30 am - 4:00 pm
Monday through Friday

Patricia Ackor • Roger Alderman
Ja Neil Anderson • Kurt Anderson
Mark T. Anderson • Tom Arndt
Santos Barbosa • Bernita Barfield
Jean Beck • Lorrie Beck
Stephanie Birdsall • Terry Bowman
Jane Bradley • Sydney Brown
Palmer Butler • Allison Cantrell-Ausley
Natalie Caproni-Carey • Virginia Carroll
Bonnie Casey • Vicki Catapano
A.R. Christensen
Bonnie Clute-Ruddick
Barbara Conaway • William H. Cook
Karen Cooper • Millard Davidson



“Spanish Mission” by Jack Wahl

Jess Davila • Thomas deDecker
Linda Dobkin • Tom Dorr
Katheryn Drummond • Robyn Duenow
Larry Eberle • Matilda Essig
Michael Ewing • Deborah Fellows
Fred Fellows • Bernard Fierro
Brent Flory • Judy Flynn • Jon Gerik
Robert Goldman • Daniel Gonzalez
Aline Goodman • Dennis Grismer
Faye Gustafson • Frederick Hambly

Chauncey Homer • Glen S. Hopkinson
Rock Jackson • Dinah Jasensky
John Jefferies • Keri Jelks
Lawrence W. Lee • Jon Lightfoot
Jerry Loczi • Robert Luedtke
Lee MacLeod • Janine H. Manemann
Patty Mathes • Gery Metz
Paul Miller • Bill Mittag • Bill Moomey
Roseann Munger • Joyce Nelson
Kathleen Newby • Joseph M. Orr
Michaelin Otis • Mac Pakula
Darcie Peet • Margo Petterson
Christine Picavet • Nancy Prevo
Cynthia Reid • Hank Richter
Pauline Roche • Owen Rose
Mary Schaefer • Brenda Semanick
Kelly Singleton • Joe Staheli
Susan Stanley • Katie Stearns
Ken Stockton • Wayne Sumstine
Carol Swinney • Charles Thomas
Sandra Vanderwall • Bernard Vetter
Fred Wackerle • Jack Wahl
Karen Wallace • Phyllis Waltman
Sarah J. Webber • Larry D. Wollam

2009 ERF Officer and Board Member Elections

The ERF Board of Directors unanimously elected the following officers and members of the Board of Directors at the November 15, 2008 board meeting:

President—Alison Bunting of Sonoita will serve a second term as President. A retired university librarian especially interested in researching and documenting Empire Ranch history, she served as Secretary/Treasurer in 2007.

Vice President—John Komrada of Tucson was elected to the board in 2006. His years of experience in the entertainment industry and expertise in special events have greatly enhanced ERF events such as the Roundup.

Secretary—Kristi Keller of Tucson will serve a second term as Secretary. Her enthusiasm for nature and historic preservation blend with her love for exploration on horseback and birding.

Treasurer—Carla Kerekes Martin of Tucson will serve a second term as Treasurer. She is an executive assistant and office manager for The Elliott Accounting Group in Tucson, and is especially interested in the restoration of the Empire Ranch house and ERF's educational programs.

Steve Boice, a past board member and President from 1999 to 2001, was elected to a new term on the board. A grandson of Frank S. Boice, Steve grew up on and ranched the Empire. As an ERF founder his involvement in the Foundation stems from his love for the place where he grew up.

Ron Martin was elected to the board in May, 2008. A principal manufacturing engineer with Raytheon Missile Systems Company, his interests include historic preservation/restoration and horses.

Timothy Vail was reelected to a second term on the ERF board. A great-grandson of Walter Vail, born and raised on Vail Company's California ranches, Tim is a practicing equine veterinarian and was previously a professional rancher.

Board members Fred Baker, Emil Franzi, J. Jeffrey Matthews, Sarah Miller, and Tom Rogos will be continuing on the board. We are most grateful for the contributions that these dedicated volunteers will make to the Foundation in the coming year.

Special thanks are due to Richard Schorr, who completed his third stint on the ERF board at the end of 2008. Dick is well known for his vision and outstanding contributions to ERF's educational programs, and his leadership as ERF

President from 2002 to 2004. Dick will join the ERF Advisory Committee and remain involved in our education programs, so we will continue to benefit from his support and counsel.

BLM Selects New LCNCA Manager

ERF is pleased to welcome Markian Rekszynskyj as the new Manager for the Las Cienegas National Conservation Area and San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area.

Mark began his federal career with the National Park Service in 1984 at the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island national monuments. He joined the BLM in 2000 and has spent the past eight years in the Las Vegas area as the Manager for Red Rock Canyon NCA and Sloan Canyon NCA. He has managed several multi-million dollar projects with distinction and oversaw completion of a new Red Rock Canyon Visitor Center, to open in 2009.

Mark's ability to work closely with partnerships has been the foundation of his career. Mark was born and raised in New York City and earned a Bachelor's degree from the City University of New York with a double major in Biology and Psychology .

WATG! Summer Youth Program Awarded Key Foundation Grants

The Empire Ranch Foundation recently received generous education grants from two local charitable foundations.

The Fred W. Stang Foundation awarded a \$5,000 grant for the 2009 *Wild About the Grasslands!* (WATG!) Summer Day Camp. The Stang Foundation's mission is to enhance the common good of the Arizona community, with priority given to programs that support the needs of children, the underprivileged, and nature's gifts that enrich our lives. The funding will support stipends for WATG! educators and assistants who will engage middle-school students in hands-on experiential activities, including hiking expeditions.

The Patagonia Regional Community Foundation (PRCF), which supports non-profit organizations serving the communities of Patagonia, Sonoita, Elgin, and Canelo, provided \$2,800 to publish outdoor discovery field journals and companion guides for youngsters.

The Empire Ranch Foundation aims to provide outdoor education programs to reconnect children to nature and appreciate Arizona's ranching heritage. Youngsters (grades 6-8) attending WATG! spend one fun-filled week at Empire Ranch Headquarters to learn about life on the Ranch, create works of art inspired by nature, and explore the semi-desert grasslands while using global positioning systems (GPS).

The outdoor discovery field journal is designed to encourage students to record outdoor learning experiences, sketches, and observations when visiting the Empire Ranch, Las Cienegas NCA, and other nature sites. It will become a keepsake for them to share with their family and friends.

The companion guide, created especially for teachers, will be used with the journal to supplement outdoor classroom instruction. Patagonia High School students from the Community Coalition of Eastern Santa Cruz County's Teen Enterprise Café will help in the graphic design of the publications. Several teachers from local schools will help pilot the project.

These curriculum tools will support the WATG! summer program activities. In addition, they will be available as part of the Hands on the Land Equipment Loan



WATG! youngsters heading to Empire Gulch, and working a science project (photos: N. Steklis)

Program which was made possible last year by a grant from the PRCF. Thanks to their generosity and the support of the BLM Tucson Field Office, community educators and families may borrow, free of charge, 14 WATG! expedition daypacks for hikes, field trips, and outdoor adventures.

New Highway Sign Marks Empire Ranch

Visitors will have an easier time finding the Empire Ranch Headquarters as a result of the new Arizona Department of Transportation signs clearly visible on Highway 83. We greatly appreciate the BLM's assistance in submitting the signage request to ADOT. The signs were installed just in time for readers of the January 2009 issue of *Arizona Highways* who followed-up on the magazine's listing of Arizona's 25 best weekend getaways, which includes the Empire Ranch!



A Western Shindig!

Make your Reservations
(888) 364-2829

The Empire Ranch Foundation presents

A Western Shindig!

Saturday, March 7, 2009

4:00pm to 6:30pm

Mountain Oyster Club,
Tucson, AZ

To honor the following 2009 "Top Hand" Award recipients for their support of the Empire 100 Western Art Show & Sale:

Henry K Boice, John L. Claps, and
Frances McL. Merryman of
Northern Trust, Tucson
&

Empire 100 Western Art Show Founder
Marion Hyland

Western Serenades by Bruce Andre
Quick Draw, Dancing,
Western Keepsake Photos, Auction

\$50 per person

Includes Light Grub & Two Drinks

(beef fajitas & carnitas taco bar, cowboy coleslaw, old-time slow-baked beans, cow chip cookies)

Advance Reservations Only,
Due by February 28, 2009.

To make reservations, call
(888) 364-2829 or email to
admin@empireranchfoundation.org



(Photo: R. Bracht)

Empire Ranch Historical Documents Now Online

The University of Arizona (UA) Library's Special Collections Department now provides online access to some of the most important original documents and photographs of the early days of the Empire Ranch, and related resources. The historic materials were organized for a Special Collections exhibit: "Remembering an Empire: The Empire Ranch of Southern Arizona," open to the public from July 10-September 5, 2008.

In July, Alison Bunting (ERF president), Dr. Tim Vail (ERF board member), and Christine Auerbach (ERF administrator) were interviewed about the Empire Ranch and the Foundation. The interview is available for listening at: www.library.arizona.edu/speccoll/public_programs/podcasts/empireRanchInterview.html

On September 2, in a presentation for the Friends of the UA Library, Alison Bunting reviewed the history of the Empire Ranch for a fascinated audience of about 60 people. A podcast of the lecture is available at: http://www.library.arizona.edu/speccoll/public_programs/podcasts/empireRanchBunting.html

The photographs, maps and artifacts in the exhibit made vivid the story of the ranch. The UA Library has now digitized much of the material which can be viewed in an online exhibit at: <http://digitalcommons.library.arizona.edu/x/exhibits/empire>

Among the resources now available is the diary of Edward Vail, recording events in a successful cattle drive from the Empire Ranch to southern California undertaken in 1890 in response to the Southern Pacific Railroad's raising cattle shipping fees to levels that cattlemen considered ruinous. After this successful drive, other ranchers began to plan their own drives. The Southern Pacific rescinded its fee increase.

In addition to printed matter, many photographs of the people, the place, and ranching activity are online. Most notably, all photos in an album owned by Harry L. Heffner, who managed the Empire Ranch from 1902 to 1905, are available for viewing at: www.uair.arizona.edu/holdings/collection?r=uadc://azu_empirephotos1/ and ...2/.



Ranch foreman's children Perry and Tommy McFaddin (l) and Harry Heffner (r), ca. 1898. (Courtesy Special Collections, Univ. of Arizona Library, Empire Ranch Collection).

2008/2009 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: _____

Gifts in Remembrance

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

E. Neil Carr, Raymond A. Day,
Earl F. Glenn, Jr.,
Laura "Dusty" Vail Ingram,
Dick Jimenez, Julia S. Ruch,
Bill Schulmeyer, Joe Shields,
Godfrey Sill, John & Goldie Stark,
Laura Perry Vail, Russ Vail,
Oscar Ward

And in appreciation of:

Boice Family, Bob & Mary Bowman

Working Calendar

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

February

1-28 Empire 100 Western Art Show & Sale
- Open to the Public, 8:30am-4pm,
Mon-Fri, Northern Trust, 3450 E.
Sunrise Dr., Tucson

21 Volunteer Day, 8am-Noon

March

1-13 Empire 100 Western Art Show & Sale - Open to the Public, 8:30am-4pm, Mon-Fri, Northern Trust, 3450 E. Sunrise Dr., Tucson

7 ERF presents *A Western Shindig!* 4:00pm to 6:30pm, at the Mountain Oyster Club, 6400 E. El Dorado Circle, Tucson, AZ

13 Free public tours, 10am and 1pm, in recognition of Arizona Archeology month

21 ERF Board Meeting, 9am-Noon

April

18 Volunteer Day, 8am-Noon

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.

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