



EMPIRE RANCH FOUNDATION NEWS

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

www.empireranchfoundation.org

Saddle Up!

A warm, clear day provided a perfect setting for 130 guests attending the 2011 Spring Trail Ride. Nearly 70 riders saddled up and headed out mid morning to enjoy the beauty of Las Cienegas National Conservation area, guided by father/daughter team of Steve and Faith Boice. Wagon rides provided an alternate opportunity for another 30 folks to share in the experience, especially for youngsters not quite ready for the saddle.

Afternoon activities included entertainment, tours, demonstrations, and an old-fashioned steak dinner, topped off by Dutch oven peach cobbler prepared by Tom and Cheryl Rogos. Cowboy singer Joel Eliot headlined, providing the audi-



Riders gathering to hit the trail (photo: C. Auerbach)

ences with easy listening Western songs. Dick Schorr provided an opportunity for hands on reata making, Gil Payette charmed audiences with traditional Native American storytelling, and Dane Johnson delighted young and old alike with his personifica-

tion of Buffalo Bill.

A highlight of the day's events was the recognition ceremony for Gerald Korte. Instrumental in ERF's founding in 1997, Gerald was the first ERF President (1997-
(continued on p. 2)

Moving Forward

Empire Ranch Foundation members, you are outstanding! The progress made this past year is directly due to your support.

We are very proud to announce that our 2011 Roundup has been designated an Official Arizona Centennial Event! We look forward to seeing all of you at this year's exciting event to celebrate the Empire Ranch and Arizona's Centennial.

Our current fiscal year will be ending on June 30, 2011. Since June 30, 2010, we've have been able to:

- Renovate and tell the story of the Master Bedroom in the Ranch House and place representative pieces for the period on display.
- Host the 2010 Fall Roundup and the 2011 Spring Trail Ride—both events were very successful and filled with the camarade-

rie of our members and a lot of fun!

- Specially honor our very own Empire Ranch Cowboy Gerald Korte, one of the founders of the Empire Ranch Foundation and its first president.
- Begin the bidding process for the start of the work on the Adobe Haybarn in conjunction with our partner the BLM.

As we begin our new fiscal year, we renew our commitment to preserving and protecting this wonderful historic treasure.

We need your membership to keep moving forward:

- We are beginning the restoration work on the Huachuca House so it can become your Welcome Center. This will be your place to stop in and take a rest after walking the Heritage Discovery Trail, or to learn about the Empire Ranch, its stories from the past and plans for the future,

and the ecological and biological wonders of Las Cienegas National Conservation Area.

- Our program, *Wild About The Grasslands!*, continues to spread knowledge of our rich cultural heritage to our youth. Pass on the news to your kids, neighbors' kids, 4-H members, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts to sign up for our summer programs. (See details in article on page 3.)
- Our Volunteer Days continue to grow and to encourage people of all ages to become active participants in the preservation of the Empire Ranch.

You Are The Empire Ranch Foundation! Together we will be unstoppable and will **Keep Moving Forward.**

With sincere thanks,

Carla Kerekes-Martin, President

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.

Trail Ride (cont'd from p. 1)

1998), negotiated ERF's first assistance agreement with BLM, and served on the Board until 2005. He funded development of ERF's 501(c)3 submittal, and established a fund for the repair and maintenance of the Headquarters windmill.

Gerald first came to the Empire Ranch in 1946 at the age of 17 to work for the Boice family as a cowboy. By age 18, he drew top hand wages, continuing to work at the Empire until 1949.

As an ERF Advisory Committee member, Gerald continues to participate at Board meetings, and to share his expertise and knowledge as a member of the Preservation Committee. Gerald is probably best known to the public as the premier Empire Ranch tour guide. His engaging stories of ranching life at the Empire never fail to captivate young and old alike.

Advisory Committee members Steve Boice and Marion Hyland were among those who gave tribute to Gerald. ERF president Carla Kerekes Martin presented Gerald with the "Heart of the Foundation" plaque.

The success of the trail ride is due to the help of so many. Our deepest thanks to the great volunteers who helped with setup, cooking, and takedown; to Prime Event Group, Inc. for supplying tents, tables and linens; and to Nimbus Brewery Company, for donation of beer.



Steak dinner (top photo) and tribute to Gerald Korte (on left in lower photo), rounded out a great day. (photos: C. Auerbach)



Ranch House (left) and Huachuca House (right). (photo: W. Bunting)

Preservation Projects Address Major Needs

Preservation projects on the Empire Ranch historic headquarters buildings are moving ahead on multiple fronts, with the assistance and collaboration of many. At the bi-monthly volunteer work day on Saturday, February 19th dedicated volunteers helped move wood from another site for the corral fence repair project, while others continued the ongoing preparation and painting of exterior wood trim around doors and windows. A new volunteer, Annie Margarita, has extensive experience with interior plasters and finishes; she continued to work on the rehabilitation of walls and ceilings in the Middle Bedroom in the Victorian Addition. The entire Ranch House got its first thorough cleaning since last fall's Roundup, and tools and materials previously stored in the Huachuca House were moved to a new storage cabinet and work bench in the Feed Barn.

This last activity was part of the process to prepare the Huachuca House for transformation into a Welcome Center and office/storage space for the Foundation. This project is being spearheaded and funded by the Empire Ranch Foundation, working in collaboration with BLM. The first phase of the work—creating a larger interior space for the public, and renovating a bathroom so that it is ADA-compliant—should be underway by the time this newsletter goes to press.

At the same time, the BLM is working on contracts to complete structural stabilization of the Adobe Hay Barn and the historic Ranch House. The technical specifications for the Hay Barn contract are completed, and it is in the early stages of the solicitation process. Once bidders have submitted their design/build proposals, the agency can move ahead with the contract award, consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), and logistics

arrangements so that work can commence. BLM hopes to have the project underway this summer, and completed before this year's Roundup.

The work on the Ranch House is much greater in scope and complexity, so the process requires more planning and review. Currently, technical specifications for this contract are being completed; once they are approved, the actual contract can be finalized and put out for bid. Actual on-the-ground work is projected to begin at the end of the year.

Finally, restoration of the Ranch House doors, handles, and rimlocks should be complete by the time you read this! Tucson craftsman John Weiss, a specialist in historic wood preservation, has replaced modern doors and hardware throughout the Ranch House - uncovering some beautiful engraved hinges and escutcheons hidden under layers of paint! Please take a moment to appreciate this effort on your next visit.

Family Summer Weekend in the Wild, August 6 & 7

A new collaborative education program, co-sponsored by ERF and Colossal Cave Mountain Park, is scheduled for August 6 & August 7, 2011. Family Summer Weekend in the Wild features lectures about ranching and western heritage. During Western Heritage Saturday at Empire Ranch (August 6, 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm) kids of all ages will learn about "Family Life on a Working Cattle Ranch." A \$5 donation is suggested. During Sunday in the Park at Colossal Cave (August 7, 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm) families and adults will learn about "Ranching Across the Cienegas". A \$5 entry fee is required. Come ask questions, learn together, and socialize.

To register, call the Empire Ranch Foundation (888) 364-2829, or email admin@empireranchfoundation.org

Empire 100 Art Show - An Unqualified Success!

The 11th annual Empire 100 Western Art Show & Sale was a resounding success, contributing more than \$10,000 for preservation from the sale of more than 43 pieces of art valued at over \$42,000.

"This year's show had it all, a wide variety of work from established and emerging artists, a stellar Members & Friends Opening Reception, and robust sales through out the run of the show," said Ginger Hambly, chair of the art show.

The diversity of the artworks ranged from oil, pastels and watercolor paintings, to intricate bronze sculptures, and life-size metalworks. The 100 works were select from more than 400 submissions from artists representing more than a dozen US states. Bill Moomey's work was a highlight, drawing significant attention as this year's Featured Artist.

The Empire Ranch Foundation is proud to announce Don Crowley as the Featured Artist for next year's art show. Crowley is an illustrious artist recognized and respected for many different kinds of paintings, but he is perhaps best known for his sensitive and skilled portraits of Native American women and children. In 1995, he was elected to the Cowboy Artists of America.

The Empire Ranch Foundation recognizes Northern Trust, with deep appreciation for their longstanding sponsorship of the art show, and the many volunteer hours contributed by Northern Trust staff.



Seven-foot "Vaquero" by Pat Frederick found a new home during the show.



"Red River" as last featured by ERF, screened in the Adobe Haybarn in 2005.

"Red River at The Loft" - A Classic Movie for a Classic Cause, July 14

The Empire Ranch Foundation presents "Red River at The Loft" - a classic movie for a classic cause!

"Red River," Howard Hawks' masterpiece, is one of the greatest Westerns ever filmed, a saga of obsession and rivalry between a man and his adoptive son amid an epic struggle for survival in the Old West.

Filmed in the Sonoita-Patagonia area and partly on the Empire Ranch itself, this 1948 classic contains many familiar shots for those knowing the area. They dammed the San Pedro River for the cattle crossing, and you will see the 1880 Adobe Haybarn in another famous scene.

Keeping that Hay Barn and the other buildings around is what the Empire Ranch Foundation is all about. Proceeds from this event will go towards that goal.

For a double added attraction, intermission will feature former Old Tucson Impresario Robert Shelton who was directly connected to more western movies, actors, directors, and just about everybody else. Sharing personal memories of both The Duke and Howard Hawks will be that great character actor and voice of Encore Westerns, Don Collier.

Come join us, 7pm, Thursday, July 14 for "Red River at The Loft". The Loft is located at 3233 E Speedway Blvd, just east of Country Club Road.

Tickets are \$25, and may be purchased by calling 888-364-2829, or online at www.empireranchfoundation.org, or by mailed payment to Empire Ranch Foundation, P.O. Box 842, Sonoita, AZ 85637.

Last Chance to Register for WATG! 2011

Don't miss *Wild About the Grasslands!* (WATG!), the Empire Ranch Foundation's outdoor adventures and explorations for youth. Round trip transportation from Old Vail Middle School to Empire Ranch Headquarters is available.

Nature Heritage Discovery Days, scheduled for June 6-7 is designed for ages 9-14 years. Through guided hikes and explorations these "grasslanders" will discover the Cienega Creek. They will learn about the importance of this precious water source to support a diversity of plants, wildlife, and its significance to the people who depend on it. These youngsters will engage in hands-on activities such as plant and wildlife identification, nature journaling, rope making, build a model of the Cienega Watershed, and use directions and compass to find hidden treasures. The registration fee per child is \$70 (includes a t-shirt).

Summer Adventure Campout, scheduled for June 10-11 is designed for ages 12-17 years. Through guided expeditions and field study led by local experts these "grasslanders" will discover the forces that shape the landscape of the Las Cienegas NCA. They will explore rare habitats, learn camping and ranching skills, and partici-

SAVE THE DATE!

Historic Empire Ranch 11th Annual Roundup & Open House



"An Official
Arizona
Centennial
Event"

**Saturday, November 5, 2011
10am to 4pm**

- o Cowboy Arena events
- o Western skills, lore & storytelling
- o Ranch House tours
- o Kids Corral
- o Western Author's Pavilion
- o Historic Buggies & Wagons
- o Music, Auction & Raffles
- o Expanded Western Barbecue

Public Invited!

pate in a service learning project. Campers will engage in activities such as nature journaling, wildlife tracking, macro invertebrate study, adobe brick making, creating nature inspired art, and using Global Positioning System (GPS) devices for both science and treasure hunting. The registration fee per child is \$150 (includes a t-shirt and 3 meals); the optional registration fee for parents is \$75/person.

To register, call the Empire Ranch Foundation (888) 364-2829, or email admin@empireranchfoundation.org

Departed Friend: Jake Kittle

Jonathan "Jake" Kittle, a charter member of the Empire Ranch Foundation Board of Directors (1997-2000), passed away in Tucson on January 19, 2011. A graduate of the University of Arizona with a degree in animal husbandry, Jake owned and operated the Mule Shoe Ranch north of Benson, followed by ranches in Show Low, AZ, Wyoming, and California.

His ranching expertise and knowledge of individuals and granting agencies proved invaluable in the early development of ERF, as did his steady voice of reason and ready laugh during board deliberations and debates. A good friend of former Empire rancher John Donaldson, Jake conducted an oral history of John that documents the Donaldson rotation system for cattle grazing, the economics of ranching on the Empire, and the challenges of ranching on public lands.

We much appreciate and benefited from his important early contributions to the Foundation.

We've Gone Digital!

We are pleased to announce that the Empire Ranch Foundation oral histories recorded on analog audiocassettes have been converted to digital format. The conversion was funded by a grant from the Bureau of Land Management to the Cienega Watershed Partnership Oral History Work Group (CWP/OHWG). The conversion to digital format is an important step to ensure that our oral history recordings remain available for the foreseeable future, and will also make it easier to feature excerpts from the recordings in educational exhibits and on the web.

ERF has also benefitted from its participation in two recent training sessions sponsored by CWP/OHWG: "The Fundamentals of Interviewing" and "Using Current Technology and Media", and the opportunity to attend the Southwest Oral History Annual Meeting in Los Angeles. A list of ERF oral histories, past and present, is available on the ERF website: <http://www.empireranchfoundation.org/OralHistories.htm>

Introducing Ranger Rick

Meet Ranger Rick, recently recruited to accept donations from visitors to Empire Ranch Headquarters in support of ERF's preservation and interpretation efforts. The "iron ranger" secure donation box is located at the entry to the Heritage Discovery Trail.



Working Calendar

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

May

4 "Legacy Day at the Empire Ranch" Outreach day for area middle school students

21 ERF Board Meeting, 9am-Noon

June

6-7 "Wild About the Grasslands!" Nature Heritage Discovery Summer Day Camp, ages 9-14

10-11 "Wild About the Grasslands!" Summer Adventure Campout," ages 12-17

18 Volunteer Work Day, 8am-Noon Call 888-364-2829 to volunteer

July

14 "Red River" at the Loft Cinema, 3233 E. Speedway, Tucson, 7pm

16 ERF Board Meeting, 9am-Noon

August

6 Family Summer Weekend in the Wild: Western Heritage Saturday at Empire Ranch, 2-4pm

7 Family Summer Weekend in the Wild: Sunday in the Park at Colossal Cave, Colossal Cave Mountain Park, 16721 E Old Spanish Trail, Vail, 2-4pm

20 Volunteer Work Day, 8am-Noon

September

17 ERF Board Meeting, 9am-Noon

October

22 Volunteer Work Day, 8am-Noon

November

5 2011 Roundup & Open House, 10am-4pm

2011/2012 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.

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