



# EMPIRE RANCH FOUNDATION NEWS

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

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

## We are Excited.....

**Empire Ranch Foundation members are outstanding!** Due directly to your support we have been able to renovate the Huachuca House and open it as your new Visitor Contact Station. Without your generous donations this project would not have been possible. But that is not all...

During our current fiscal year ending on June 30, 2012, we've been able to:

- Install several professionally designed, informative wayside signs that interpret the Empire Ranch House.
- Set attendance records at the 2011 Roundup in November and at the April 7th Trail Ride, where we honored ERF past President Richard Schorr, DVM. Dick founded our educational programs with the creation of Legacy Day and has been instrumental in the success of the Foundation from its earliest days.
- Continue our Empire Ranch Film Series at The Loft with a showing of "Monte Walsh," starring Lee Marvin. We enjoyed hearing stories about the movie from our guest speakers: Pam Marvin, widow of Lee Marvin; Todd Roberts, son of producer Bobby Roberts; Mitch Ryan, who played Shorty Austin; and Bo Hopkins, who played Jumpin' Joe Joslin.
- Welcome retired Justice Sandra Day O'Connor for a private tour thanks to Bob and Marion Hyland (see photo and article on p. 3.)
- Begin the purchase of arena panels for the Roundup & Open House. Our goal is a minimum of 40 panels (see article on p. 3).

As we begin our new fiscal year we renew our commitment to preserving and

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## Riders & Diners Relish a Glorious Day at the Empire

The soft whinnies of horses and the creak of saddle leather welcomed all who arrived at Empire Ranch Headquarters for the Empire Ranch Foundation's 2012 Spring Trail Ride & Steak Dinner event held April 7. Sixty-four horse riders departed on the early morning four-hour ride and 56 enjoyed the two-hour ride. Led by Board members Steve Boice and Faith Boice, riders returned to the Empire Ranch with exuberant comments about the beauty of the ride that took them through the rolling hills of Las Cienegas National Conservations Area (LCNCA).

Other guests took in the beauty of the Ranch from a different view, enjoying wagon rides hosted by Board member Bill Schock, learning the art of reata making by Sidney Bassett, or touring the Empire Ranch with Gerald Korte, who related stories of his time working as a cowboy for the Boice family in the 1940s. In the Visitor Contact Station, docents answered questions, and many enjoyed the slide pre-

sentation of the history of the Empire Ranch. Youngsters enjoyed decorating a herd of stick horses to take home, an activity designed by Board member Lucinda Iverson. Throughout the day, members of the Arizona Ghostriders delighted guests with entertaining antics and mock hold-ups.

By early afternoon, more than 120 participants convened under the dinner tent to relax, cool their heels and thirst, and share tales of the day. They enjoyed delightful Western music sung by Janice Deardorff, and joined in for several sing-alongs.

With the grill hot, steaks began to sizzle and guests meandered to the dinner line. They cut into mouth-watering steaks cooked by Steve Boice and a cooking crew, and enjoyed Dutch oven peach cobbler prepared by Board member Tom Rogos, and his wife, Cheryl.

At the recognition ceremony for Honoree Dick Schorr, Steve Boice told of Dick's ranching boyhood in Sonoita, in-

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## Trail Ride (cont'd from p. 1)

cluding working for his grandfather, Frank Boice. ERF president Carla Martin, thanked Dick for his record of accomplishments, including serving two terms on the Board of Directors and two years as ERF President, and establishing in 2004 ERF's youth education programs. Since then hundreds of middle school students have learned of ranching traditions through programs such as the annual "Legacy Day at the Empire Ranch" and "Wild About the Grasslands!" summer camps. Carla presented Dick a platinum portrait of himself taken by photographer Gary Auerbach.

"There were so many people along the way that taught me what I know of ranching life," Dick said, clearly moved as he accepted the gift. "It has given me great enjoyment to share the legacy of the Empire Ranch with so many young people."

The success of the Trail Ride is due to the support and contributions of so many: Steve and Faith Boice, Classic Tents, Janice Deardorff, Arizona Ghostriders, Bandit Outfitters, Nimbus Brewery, our partner the BLM, and, as always, a very hard working group of staff and volunteers!

## Membership (cont'd from p. 1)

protecting this wonderful historic treasure.

**To succeed, we need your membership!**

- We still have work to do on Your Visitor Contact Station roof and windows.
- Please think about items you could donate to our Roundup Silent Auction.
- Help us grow our Volunteer Days. Consider involving your children, grandchildren, or youth groups to share in appreciation of this valuable historic legacy.

You are the motivation behind these accomplishments and future plans.

With sincere thanks,

Carla Kerekes Martin, President

*[Trail Ride photos, from top: Honoree Dick Schorr with Carla Martin and John Komrada; singer Janice Deardorff entertains during dinner; fiddler volunteer Maria McArthur stopped everyone in their tracks; Steve and Faith Boice and cook crew take brief pause; Arizona Ghostriders re-enactors plan their stick-horse get away. (All photos: C. & G. Auerbach)]*



**Register Now  
for WATG!**

Don't miss the opportunity to involve your kids or grandkids this summer in the ERF's highly acclaimed ecology and Western heritage education program, *Wild About the Grasslands! WATG!* is sponsored by the ERF and BLM as part of the Hands on the Lands National Network of Field Classrooms.

**Nature Heritage Discovery Camp**, for students ages 9-12, will be held June 4-6, 2012 (9am-3pm). This hands-on experiential camp offers guided hikes and explorations as young "grasslanders" discover the landscape surrounding the Empire Ranch Headquarters. They will engage in nature study, plant and wildlife identification, nature heritage journaling, legacy quests, and the cowboy skills and traditions of the families who lived and worked on the Empire Ranch. Through art activities and outdoor recreation games they will make new friends and learn to appreciate this unique, historic place. The three-day \$150 camp or \$60 one-day camp includes a free journal and commemorative t-shirt.

**Summer Adventure Camp**, for students ages 13-16, is scheduled for June 7 & 8, 2012 (8:30am-4:30pm). Through guided expeditions and stewardship projects led by local naturalists, scientists, and ranchers, teen conservationists will discover the important resources of Las Cienegas National Conservation Area. They will explore the vegetation communities of the landscape and riparian zone along Cienega Creek. Some of the many hands-on, minds-on activities they will engage in include: birding, wildlife tracking, macro invertebrate study, environmental monitoring, and using Global Positioning System (GPS) devices for field research and outdoor fun. The two-day \$150 camp or \$85 one-day only fee includes a free journal and commemorative t-shirt.

For more information or to register, call 888-364-2829 or contact [admin@empireranchfoundation.org](mailto:admin@empireranchfoundation.org). Mention the ERF Newsletter when you register and receive a \$10 discount.

## Preservation Progress

Highly visible and important preservation progress, particularly for first-time visitors to the Ranch, are the completed improvements to the Huachuca House, now identified as the Empire Ranch Visitor Contact Station, with a beautiful wood sign over the porch (see photo, p. 4). Inside, the "public" space has been reconfigured to make it larger and more functional for distributing information, holding meetings, or having groups gather for the monthly tours led by Foundation docents.

ERF's volunteer efforts are also greatly facilitated. Early this year an electrical up-



February 18 volunteers convene in the new meeting space within the Visitor Contact Station. (photo: C. Auerbach)

grade was completed and the Foundation moved supplies and equipment into the building. The BLM and ERF will soon enter into a formal agreement that will allow ERF to use and maintain the building as an on-site facility for its work on behalf of the Empire Ranch. Repairs to the roof and windows are maintenance items on ERF's immediate "to do" list.

The Arizona State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has reviewed BLM's technical proposal for major structural repairs on the historic Ranch House and Adobe Haybarn and has requested revisions which will be incorporated into the contract specifications. BLM still hopes to have the contract out for bids, the bids reviewed and evaluated, and the contract awarded by September 30th.

In the meantime a full-scale repair of a wind-damaged section of the South Barn roof will be completed this spring. Work plans and a materials list were drawn up by ERF volunteers at the February Volunteer Work Day. The BLM will provide the materials, and ERF volunteers the muscle. Thanks for another "save" for our historic buildings!



## Sandra Day O'Connor Visits the Empire Ranch

January 20 was one of those beautiful sunny days at the Empire Ranch. But that wasn't all.

Retired Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor found time in a swing through the Sonoita area to visit the Empire Ranch. Marion Hyland and Mac Donaldson had the pleasure of showing her the house and barns before taking a ride on the ranch roads to discuss herd rotation and grasses.

Ranches are nothing new to Justice O'Connor as her book, "Lazy B," fully describes. She grew up on a cattle ranch near Lordsburg, New Mexico, and some of our Empire stories seemed very familiar to her, including encounters with Geronimo.

She is very aware of issues regarding southwestern history, conservation, culture and values. One of Justice O'Connor's passions is education. She created, with help from professionals, a unique computer program accessible at the website *iCivics.com*. Using computer games, it teaches young people how the government works, and is well worth exploring online.

Justice O'Connor left with a big smile and literature about the Empire Ranch. She encouraged us to continue our efforts and wished us continued success. What a great day!

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**Saturday, November 3, 2012**

**12TH ANNUAL  
ROUNDUP & OPEN HOUSE  
AT THE EMPIRE RANCH**

"Where the spirit of the  
Cowboy comes alive!"

An authentic Western event  
for the entire family.



## Corralling Support for Arena Panels

For the past few years, neighbors of the Empire Ranch have generously lent arena panels for the Roundup & Open House by taking down their own arena, transporting the panels to the Empire Ranch, and helping us assemble them for the arena events. ERF is now requesting help from members to purchase 40 to 60 arena panels, and we hope you can help.

A commemorative engraved name plaque (25 character limit) acknowledging your donation will be adhered to each panel. The cost of a panel is \$175. This is a Members only opportunity! The purchase of arena panels is separate from membership contributions.

The arena will be set up each year for the Roundup & Open House and for other events as needed. To place your order or for more information call 888-364-2829 or email [admin@empireranchfoundation.org](mailto:admin@empireranchfoundation.org).

## Empire 100—Great Art Works Spur Great Sales

The 12th annual Empire 100 Western Art Show & Sale closed with a flurry of sales, bringing the total to 27 pieces of art with a total value of \$32,000. Many called the show, led by new chair Laura Davis, one of the best artistically to ever grace the walls of Northern Trust. We greatly appreciated the opportunity to show the fine works of art from Featured Artist Don Crowley.

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Tours started at new Visitor Contact Station (above). Some visitors arrived in historic cars (below). (photos: C. Auerbach)

## AZ Archaeology Month Tours & Hiking Events

Docent led tours of the Empire Ranch and guided hikes down the Heritage Discovery Trail marked a glorious day at the historic Empire Ranch on March 10th. The day was sponsored by ERF and BLM in recognition of Arizona Archaeology Month.

Among the "guests" were a 1922 Essex and a 1927 Model T Ford, cars driven out by members of the Old Pueblo Touring Association. Guests enjoyed the tours and the hike, which featured activities showcasing the upcoming *Wild About the Grasslands! Summer Camps* (see article p. 2)



## New Volunteer Docents

Seven enthusiastic volunteers completed the Foundation's second docent training workshop on January 28, 2012, covering ranching in Arizona, Empire Ranch history and preservation, ERF, and Las Cienegas. Several of the new docents have already completed the second phase of the training process—participating in tours led by an experienced docent. Everyone will be completely trained by the end of summer.

Free docent-led tours of the Empire Ranch House are offered on the second Saturday of each month, at 11am and 1pm. We are grateful to the Fred W. Stang Foundation for providing seed funding for the program. Between July 2011 and March 2012 the docents have given tours to over 270 individuals, as compared to 84 between July 2010 and June 2011.

## Empire 100 (cont'd from p. 3)

The diversity of the artworks ranged from oil, pastels and watercolor paintings, to intricate bronze sculptures, and intriguing metalwork sculptures. The 100 works were selected from more than 400 artist's submissions.

The Empire Ranch Foundation is proud to announce John Solie as the Featured Artist for next year's art show. John's work is highly acclaimed for the incredible images he has captured on canvas, images renowned for their ability to reflect the very essence of the subject.

The Empire Ranch Foundation is greatly appreciative of Northern Trust's longstanding sponsorship of the art show, and also recognizes the many volunteer hours contributed by its staff.

## Working Calendar

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

### May

2 "Legacy Day at the Empire Ranch" program for Elgin middle school students

3 "Monte Walsh" at the Loft Cinema, 3233 E Speedway, Tucson, 7pm, \$25

12 Free Docent-led tours of Empire Ranch House, 11am, 1pm. Meet at Empire Ranch Visitor Contact Center

19 ERF Board Meeting, 9am-Noon

### June

4-6 "Wild About the Grasslands!" Nature Heritage Discovery 3-day Summer Camp, ages 9-12

7-8 "Wild About the Grasslands!" Summer Adventure Campout, 2-day, 1 night, ages 13-16

9 Free Docent-led tours of Empire Ranch House, 11am, 1pm. Meet at Empire Ranch Visitor Contact Center

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

### July

14 Free Docent-led tours of Empire Ranch House, 11am, 1pm. Meet at Empire Ranch Visitor Contact Center

21 ERF Board Meeting, 9am-Noon

### August

11 Free Docent-led tours of Empire Ranch House, 11am, 1pm. Meet at Empire Ranch Visitor Contact Center

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

## 2012/2013 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.