

EMPIRE RANCH FOUNDATION NEWS

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www.empireranchfoundation.org

Roundup Open House Features the Woman's Touch

The 2006 Roundup celebrated Women on the Empire, and what a celebration it was! The day was warm and clear, and over 1,600 excited attendees enjoyed a feast of activities. The stabilized adobe haybarn was the site of a historical re-enactment of Empire Ranch history. Actors dressed in period clothing posed in six sets designed to represent different time periods, such as Margaret Vail's 1880's Victorian parlor, while narrator Mike Wright, described the Vail, Boice, and Donaldson/BLM eras in the ranch's history. A continuously running slide show provided a more detailed look at the events and people of the Empire between performances. Special thanks are due to Tina Miller, Tombstone Mercantile Co., and the Tombstone Vigilettes for the sets, costumes, and actors.

The rooms of the original ranch house came alive once more as children took advantage of the Kid's Corral activities, and grownups enjoyed narrated tours of the buildings, the photographic exhibit featuring the Women of the Empire, dedicated to Katherine "Kitty" Boice Bennett, 1952-2004, and the display of cowgirl memorabilia from the Cheri Champbell Raftery Collection. The raffle and silent auction offerings of the Ranch Store were the best ever.

Outside of the ranch house the Cross-roads Quilters demonstrated the art of hand quilting on a quilt donated for the silent auction, and four outstanding women au-
(continued on page 2)



A few 2006 Roundup moments... (photos by Claire Harlan)

A Great Year and a Promising Future— Please Help Us

What a great year it has been for the Empire Ranch Foundation! Even the land that suffered through drought during winter and spring was drenched by generous monsoon rains! So too you have rained your support upon the Foundation. This year we had more events, more participation, more members and more generous financial support. **THANK YOU!**

Your donations enabled the Foundation to step in and begin emergency repairs on the Victorian addition when the west gable began to tilt dangerously. You helped restore the structural stability and the roof to the South Barn. There is more to be done: new foundations are needed under part of the west wall of the Victorian addition, and the lintel and gable need to be reinforced; we are eager to undertake long planned treatment of the floors and interior wall surfaces in the Victorian addition.

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HAVE YOU RESPONDED FOR THE MEMBER'S POTLUCK?

We hope you're planning to join us at the Annual Empire Ranch Foundation Member's Potluck Buffet. Bring your family and your favorite dish.

**Saturday, November 18, 2006
From Noon to 2:30**

Guided Tours and Historical Slide Shows will be available.

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.

thors, Betty Barr, Jane Coleman, Jane Eppinga & Heather Irbinskas, signed books and entertained their fans. Everyone also enjoyed touring the restored, colorfully painted vintage travel trailers brought to the Roundup by Sisters on the Fly and visiting the exhibits of ERF's friends and supporters.

The arena events featured the All Cowgirl Mounted Shooters, Team Ranch Sorting by Joe & Patty Scelso, and Escaramuza Y Charros Flor de Primavera equestrian performances displaying riding and roping techniques from the heritage of the traditional Mexican rodeo "La Charrería." The 4th Calvary Regimental Band, Rena Randall & the Due West Trio, and Lou Stebner & the Oro Valley Riders provided wonderful musical entertainment throughout the day.

The Foundation is grateful for the many participants, volunteers, artists, and exhibitors who made the 2006 Roundup such a success. Special thanks are due to Billie Donaldson, who orchestrated the entire event, John and Judy Komrada, Mike Segneri, Frank Hedgcock, Alison Bunting, and to the BLM for its ongoing collaboration with ERF. We also thank the Vail, Boice, and Donaldson families who provided photographs for the exhibit. And we gratefully acknowledge the following major supporters and underwriting sponsors whose financial support helped to enrich everyone's day:

- Arbucks' Ariosa Coffee •
- Bobbie Stuart • Babacomari Ranch •
 - Buffalo Gals of Sonoita •
 - Dorothy Finley •
- Friends of the Ranch Kristi Keller & Bernie Bauer • J. Jeffrey Matthews •
 - Parties Plus • Sands Ranch •
 - Santa Cruz County Cowbelles •
 - Schouten, Klein and Sullivan PC •
 - Sonoran Institute •
 - The Stockmen's Bank •
- U.S. Bureau of Land Management •
 - US Press & Graphics •

Education at the Empire Ranch

The third annual Legacy Day at the Empire Ranch proved even more successful than the previous two years' events. A dynamite program for the youngsters included Native American pottery-making by a Santa Clara Pueblo potter, adobe brick-making and brick-laying, range plant identification by a University of Arizona professor, roping instruction by four local cowboys and a demonstration of raptor (bird of prey) flight and habitats by the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum. A delicious Dutch-oven cowboy lunch was enjoyed by everyone.

Each year the Foundation stresses different hands-on classes for 6th, 7th and 8th grade levels from local schools. The students, as well as those parents and teachers attending, learn a great deal through experience in an outdoor laboratory, the Empire Ranch. Programming for adults is recommended for expansion.

Legacy Day has proven so successful under the leadership of Dick Schorr that the ERF Board of Directors voted enthusiastically at its September meeting to expand the education program over the next few years.

Precipitated, in part, by the receipt of seed money of \$7,700 from the Bureau of Land Management to develop and coordinate a curriculum for their "Hands on the Land" program, the Board is also committed to education as declared in our mission statement. Dick Schorr has identified potential leadership for an expanded program and other educators are stepping forward to assist developing a week-long program emphasizing hands-on learning to occur in the summer months. Topics will include ranch life, ecology, archeology, history and other topics. See the November appeal article (on p. 1) for information about how you can help.

Heritage Discovery Trail Project

The Foundation is pleased to announce that it has received \$15,000 in Challenge Cost Share funds from the Bureau of Land Management for the *Heritage Trail Discovery Project*. The trail, described in the Empire Ranch's *Adaptive Reuse Plan* is primarily designed for children and/or family audiences and will link parking, the Empire Ranch House and buildings, and a variety of planned ranch landscape features.

The project involves design, alignment, and construction of the trail; development of an interpretive plan for the trail; and the purchase/construction and installation of interpretive materials (e.g. wayside signs, brochures) on the trail.

ERF volunteer, Lucia Konrath, from The Center for Rural Leadership, will develop the interpretive plan. A trail designer or landscape architect will design the physical layout of the trail, which the BLM will construct. The project is scheduled to begin in late 2006 and be completed in 2007/08.

BLM Celebration and Collaboration

This year, the Empire Ranch Roundup & Western Art Show was celebrated and promoted by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management as an official National Public Lands Day (NPLD) event and to mark the centennial of the Antiquities Act, the primary legislation that enables the Bureau of Land Management to protect and preserve archeological and historic properties, such as the Empire Ranch, on federal lands.

The event was also nominated and approved to be listed as an NPLD volunteer project and cultural event that promotes education, stewardship and volunteer efforts to manage this historic property. Funding received as part of this recognition was used to enhance the Roundup experience for all participants. The Foundation is most grateful for its ongoing collaboration with the Tucson BLM office staff who devote many hours to preparing for and participating in the Roundup and other Empire Ranch projects.

The Decoy Premier Packs the House

June 26th proved to be a gala evening as ERF members and friends packed Tucson's historic Fox Theater to view a sneak preview of the Justin Kreinbrink film *The Decoy*. This classic western was filmed entirely in southern Arizona, and featured Arizona actors. We are deeply grateful to the producers, Higgins/Kreinbrink Productions, LLC, Janet Russ, and Richard DeBernadis, for contributing the proceeds of the sneak preview in support of the Foundation's preservation and educational programs.

New Faces and Old Friends

Tom Black, a new face to the Empire art shows, was the signature artist for the Roundup Art Show. It was a privilege to introduce him to our western friends. Tom is internationally known as a master painter. His distinct style produces paintings that look as though they could have been stored in a dusty old museum for centuries while others are playful and spontaneous. The subject matter is more animals, figures and landscapes rather than still lifes. He is an artist's artist, and is appreciated professionally for his generous sharing of technique with young painters. Tom's painting of a little calf sleeping, "Sugar Bud", captured the hearts of everyone at the art show.

The show exhibited an unprecedented 120 art works by 60 artists. Thirty paintings were spawned from the spring invitational artist photo shoot last April. The tack shed provided a perfect background for Tom Dorr, Fred Hambly and Toni James.

Dorr's painting of a cowboy in the doorway, worth \$2,500, was auctioned for \$1,300 to a happy Tom Melsh, long time Dorr admirer. Fred Hambly's dramatic painting, "Wait Until High Noon", also featured a cowboy in the tack room doorway. His subject was in period dress, six-shooter and all. It was the first painting to sell. Toni James, a new artist to the show, won the People's Choice Award for her remarkable color pencil painting, "Shootin' the Breeze," of two period dressed cowboys leaning against the tack shed enjoying a strictly male tete-a-tete.

The organizers of the art show got into the spirit of the Roundup theme, "Women on the Empire", by wearing prairie dresses. Women were the subjects of eleven paintings. The most popular cowgirl painting was Tom Dorr's rendition of Jennifer Donaldson roping. Native American women were subjects in Anella Campbell's "Shawl Dancer", Marlene Fodor's "Mystic Eyes", Dinah Jasensky's first "Pow Wow", Jessica McCain's "Her Name Is Sunshine", and Lindsay Ewing's "The Song That White Wolf Painted". The viewers were quick to notice the Ewing last name. And, yes, Lindsay is the daughter of the Artist of the Year winner, Michael Ewing.

The show netted \$7500 for the Empire Ranch Foundation. The highest priced



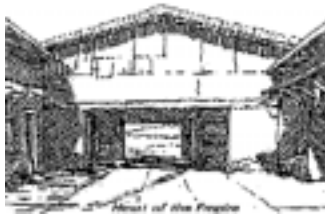
"Sugarbud", 8"x12" oil, by Tom Black.

piece to sell was \$2,500 and the average price was \$856. Special thanks are due to Marion Hyland, Keri Jelks, and Christin Peterson for their planning and coordination of this wonderful event.

Coming Next!

THE EMPIRE 100 WESTERN ART SHOW AND SALE

Benefiting the
EMPIRE RANCH FOUNDATION



Sponsored by Northern Trust Bank
January 22-February 28, 2007

At Northern Trust Bank
3450 E. Sunrise Drive,
Tucson, Arizona

8:30 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Monday through Friday

A juried exhibition of one hundred exceptional original works in oil, water color and bronze by nationally known painters and sculptors.

A Private Viewing and Reception for Foundation Members Only will be held **January 22, 2007.**

Members, please save the date and watch for your invitation in the mail.

For a list of participating artists (available after January 5, 2007), please visit:

www.empireranchfoundation.org

2006 Restoration Projects

One of the major responsibilities of the Empire Ranch Foundation is to monitor the condition of the historic ranch house and adjacent structures. These buildings have not benefited from regular maintenance and repair over the years and "catching-up" with our long list of projects for every major structure is an ongoing process. With limited funds available difficult choices must be made, and only the most critical restoration, maintenance and repair can be accomplished. ERF relies on recommendations from its preservation contractor, Statistical Research Inc. (SRI), which has extensive experience in the preservation and restoration of historic buildings.

In 2006 the Board determined that top priority must be given to emergency repairs to South Barn and the west gable of the Victorian Addition of the main ranch house. The South Barn, located approximately 200 feet south of the ranch house, had lost some of its metal roofing along with much of its structural stability. The south wall of the west gable of the Victorian addition was leaning outward, causing a large crack in the west wall and separating the roof at the peak.

Based on SRI inspections and recommendations, the work necessary to stop further deterioration of barn and the gable was initiated in June and several phases were completed in September of this year. The South Barn was replumbed and rebraced to correct leaning, and the missing metal roofing was replaced. The work on the west gable consisted primarily of installing external bracing on the south wall of the gable and patching the large crack in the west wall.

These most recent projects are only the first phases in the restoration of these two structures. Much more additional work is necessary to these and the other facilities. Phase 2 of the work we began on the Victorian Addition needs to be completed, including foundation work along the west wall of the master bedroom and bath, and reinforcing and anchoring the lintel and gable. Your continual help and support is vital to achieving our mission to protect, restore and sustain the Empire Ranch historical buildings and landscape.

Gifts in Remembrance

The Empire Ranch Foundation deeply appreciates recent donations

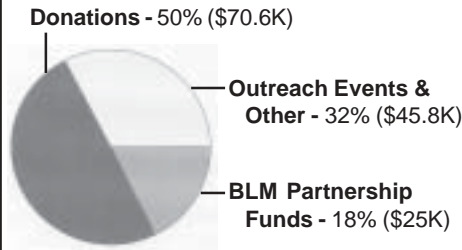
In memory of:

Boice Family from 1950's,
 Kitty Boice, Fred C. Brown,
 Blake & Jane Carrington,
 Reagen & Hettie Lee Gardner,
 Earl F. Glenn, Jr., Sally Grennan,
 Ken Hale, Carey Ingram,
 Laura "Dusty" Vail Ingram,
 Jim Kinsey, Ed Legendre, Jr., Susi Lenz,
 Sara Jane Hedgcock Lindberg,
 Raymond & Veris McBride,
 Robert Bolton McGee,
 Clint & Cassie Mellor,
 Julia S. Ruch, Wag Schorr,
 Al Vail, Ed Vail, Russ Vail, Tom Vail,
 W.B. "Bill" Vail, Sandy Wilkinson
 And in honor of:
 Sarah Miller,
 Friendship of Laurel Wilkening

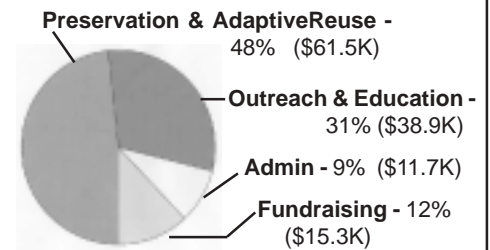
Empire Ranch Foundation

Financial Summary FY05: July 2005 through June 2006

Income, by Source of Funds \$141,400 Total



Expenditures, by Use of Funds \$127,440 Total



Income during FY05 totalled \$141,400—50% from donations, 18% in cost share grant funds from our BLM partner, and 32% from outreach events and other sources. Income increased 49% over FY05, despite delay in receipt of \$14K additional partnership funds awarded by BLM (received in FY06). Expenditures totalled \$127,440—48% for preservation and adaptive reuse projects, 31% for outreach and education programs, 9% for general administration, and 12% for fundraising.

End-of-year assets totalled \$101.8K, comprising \$5.9K in BLM partnership funds (fully obligated); \$65.6K in ERF unrestricted funds obligated for preservation (including \$14K obligated pending receipt of BLM grant funds); \$3.2K in ERF restricted funds for repairs; and \$27.1K in ERF unrestricted unobligated funds.

A Promising Future—Please Help Us *(cont'd from p. 1)*

Our Legacy Day, the educational program for youth, has been a great success (see article. p. 2), so much so that the Board has approved a significant expansion of our educational activities to include adults and multi-day programs in the summer. Educating people young and old about all aspects of ranching and the land in "the West" is a passion we have. Last year your donations helped us to develop new printed materials for the public, accumulate additional historical information, photographs and materials, and to make them more available at the ranch. This

year our goal is to reach more people of all ages. Help us reach out to urban families; we need your support.

Money isn't everything. We need your involvement too. If you have the time and inclination we have volunteer opportunities for everyone: outdoor work and indoor work, light construction, education, gardening, office work, greeting folks at events and cleaning up afterwards and much more. If you would like to get active, leave us a message on our new toll free phone number 1-888-364-2829 or at our website empireranchfoundation.org

Working Calendar

November

- 3 Arizona Historical Society Tour of Ranch Headquarters
- 18 Board Meeting and Officer Elections
- 18 Members' Potluck Lunch

January

- 20 ERF Board Meeting
- 22 Opening Day "Empire 100" Art Show & Sale, Tucson, AZ
- 22 Members' Reception "Empire 100" Art Show & Sale, Tucson, AZ

February

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

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: _____

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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