

EMPIRE RANCH FOUNDATION NEWS

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

www.empireranchfoundation.org

We Are So Proud...

of our Members! Thanks to your continuing support we have been able to remodel the Huachuca House and open it as our Visitor Contact Station. It will be filled with educational and interpretive information on the Empire Ranch and Las Cienegas National Conservation Area. We are so excited to share this accomplishment with all of our members, volunteers and visitors. This project is possible due to the generosity of our members and their dedication to our mission.

We are still in need of funds to continue work on your Contact Station. It needs a new roof, windows, and improved heating and cooling. After 50 plus years of weathering in the Arizona sun the roof has finally given out. Please help us continue the restoration of Visitor Contact Station by contributing online via our website or by sending in your donation with the enclosed form.

We are also looking forward to beginning major restoration efforts on the Adobe Haybarn and main Ranch House. Our partner, the BLM, is currently finalizing plans for this project (see article on p. 3). We are very grateful for the BLM's active commitment to preservation.

Thank you for all your support! Please spread the word to your family and friends. We are so proud of the work our members and volunteers have allowed us to finish. We look forward to welcoming new members and to beginning much larger projects.

Come on out soon and enjoy the new Empire Ranch Visitor Contact Station.

Carla Kerekes Martin
President



Record Crowds Attend 2011 Roundup

More than 2,500 excited visitors gathered at the Empire Ranch on November 5 to celebrate Arizona's centennial at the 2011 Roundup & Open House and its "Centennial Celebration of the Cowboy." The celebratory opening of the new Empire Ranch Visitor Contact Station drew consistent streams of guests to watch a presentation on the history of the Ranch, and to take walking tours given by newly trained docents.

Storytelling and cowboy conversations captivated those interested in learning more about the Empire Ranch. Vail era (1876-1928) stories were related by Glenda Bonin, Greg Dowell, Susan Vail Hoffman, and Van Fowers (who assumed the role of Walter Vail). Stories from the Boice era (1928-1969) were related by Norman Hinman and Gerald Korte, along with Bob Shelton and Don Collier who told tales of Western movie making during this period. Other speakers included Jim Easterbrook, who described the evolution of the American cowboy, and Dick Schorr, who shared his expertise on reata making. John Larkin gave an intriguing history of Arizona rangers, ranchers and rustlers, and later engaged large crowds outside with a demonstration of guns of the Old West.

Arena events included riveting performances by the Cowboy Mounted Shooters, B Troop, 4th U.S. Cavalry (Mem.) Military Riding, and Cattle Handling and Roping by Joel Eliot, Deanna Welsh & Steve Schmitt. Dane Johnson's "Buffalo Bill" reenactment and roping demonstration out-

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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.

Roundup (cont'd from p.1)



side the arena captivated the audience.

Everyone enjoyed the opportunity to interact with Sherry & Nelson Secor's miniature horses, while others enjoyed learning about caring for horses from Horse'n Around Rescue Ranch and Foundation and Jabez Ranch Horsemanship. The Kids Corral provided multiple activities for hands-on fun and an opportunity for the Mustang, Rafael and Rattlesnake 4-H clubs to share their small animal exhibits and educational demonstrations.

In the Stone Corral area Western skills demonstrations featured leather carving by Ben Claridge, mule packing by the Lyman Family, silver bits & spurs by Byrd Moss, horse shoeing by John Russell, branding by Bill Shock and Ian Tomlinson, reata making by Dick Schorr, and adobe making by Chris Schragger and David Yubeta. Non-profit organizations filled the north corral, while ERF's *Wild About the Grasslands!* education institute showcased activities and upcoming programs for kids.

Wonderful sounds and aromas filled the west side of the Ranch House with entertainment by the Bill Ganz Western Band, Mariachi Apaches from Nogales High School, and Sonoita balladeer Bruce Andre. In the Author's Pavilion, authors interacted with avid readers throughout the day. Appetites were satiated by beef barbeque served by the Elgin Sonoita Cowbells, hamburgers served by the Sierra Vista Girl Scouts, kettle corn, and Dutch-oven cobblers, cooked by ERF Board member, Tom Rogos and his wife, Cheryl.

The Foundation is deeply grateful for

the generosity of Jack Furrier Tire & Auto Care for their sponsorship of the media advertisement, which no doubt contributed to the record attendance, and to all our the Roundup sponsors, and our contributors donors to the auction and raffle who make the roundup financially viable. The Roundup is also made possible by the thousands of volunteer hours contributed by our community, the Western presenters who willingly share their expertise and time, and the staff of BLM's Tucson Field Office who provided support for the event. Our sincere thanks go to all.

Roundup Sponsors & Auction Donors

With Special Thanks: • Arbuckles' Coffee Roasters • Classic Tents, Inc. • Elgin Sonoita Cowbells • Jack Furrier Tire & Auto Care • KVOI Radio "Voices of the West" • Photography by Ty Holland • Pima County Parks & Recreation Department • Tucson Rodeo Parade Museum • Mark & Joan Williams

Roundup Sponsors: • Anonymous • Buffalo Gals of Sonoita • Mr. & Mrs. John K. Goodman • Green Valley Pecans • Hoffman Plastics Compound, Inc • Lucinda L. Iverson • John & Dawn Lashley • Mr. & Mrs. Jack M. Layton • Roger & Helen Newton • R & S Manufacturing & Supply, Inc. • Roberts & Associates, PLLC • Ronford Products, Inc. • Santa Cruz County Cowbells • Schouten & Sullivan • Gayle A. Stockwell, DC

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Departed Friend Eldon Lee Corkill

Eldon Lee Corkill, husband of ERF education director, Gail Corkill, passed away on September 16, 2011. After a 28 year career in the U.S. Air Force, Eldon served as a physician's assistant for the Civil Service (Army) until his retirement in 2010. Eldon loved nature and the outdoors and shared his passion for hiking and camping with youngsters as a Scoutmaster for more than fifty years. He was an enthusiastic collaborator in the *Wild About the Grasslands!* program, teaching basic compass skills and orienteering since *WATG!*'s inception.

Just a few weeks prior to his death Eldon excitedly prepared the Dutch oven fruit cobbler enjoyed by those attending Family Fun Weekend in the Wild (see article, p. 3). We'll sorely miss Eldon's advocacy for the Empire Ranch Foundation, and his expertise and enthusiasm for teaching youngsters about the wonders and fragility of our natural world.

Join Our Spring Trail Ride & Dinner at the Ranch



Explore the beauty of the Empire Ranch during the 2012 Spring Trail Ride scheduled for Saturday, April 7, 2012. Following up on the success of last year's trail ride, an expanded event is planned, followed by a dinner at the Ranch. You won't want to miss this opportunity!

For those that want the trail ride experience, but do not want to ride a horse, there will be scenic wagon rides as an option. Watch for details forthcoming in January, including pricing options for trail, horse and wagon rides, or for the dinner only. Email admin@empireranchfoundation.org, or call (888) 364-2829 to add your name to the Trail Ride contact list.



New Visitor Contact Center ready for the Roundup. (Photo: A. Bunting)

Visitor Contact Station Debuts at the Roundup

The remodeled Huachuca House made an exciting public debut as Visitor Contact Center at the Empire Ranch Roundup. The facility has undergone major changes on the inside while preserving its historic look and feel on the outside, an excellent example of adaptive re-use.

The original house, which is now the "public area" in the remodeled center, was purchased from Fort Huachuca after World War II and brought to the ranch by the Boice family. The two bedrooms added to the north end of the building by the Boices have become office and storage areas for the Foundation.

The project has been spearheaded and funded by the ERF, working in collaboration with the BLM. The improvements seen at the Roundup—refurbished public areas inside, and stucco repairs and new paint on the outside—represent the first phase of the project. Upcoming work includes replacing the wooden double-hung sash windows on the original house; installing a new standing-seam metal roof; and repairs and improvements to the ERF rooms.

Meanwhile, the BLM continues to work on contracts to complete structural stabilization of the Adobe Haybarn and the historic Ranch House. The Haybarn contract is in the solicitation process. The technical specifications for the complex and extensive Ranch House contract are being reviewed, so that the contract can be finalized and put out for bid. Both contracts have been made priorities for the 2012 federal fiscal year, which began October 1. We look forward to showing off results from both projects next year!



Family Fun Weekend Is True to Its Name

On August 6 and 7, folks headed to Empire Ranch to learn about "Ranching Across the Cienegas" during the ERF's first *Family Fun Weekend in the Wild*. Seventy people attended the two-day event co-sponsored by Colossal Cave Mountain Park. Funded by the BLM and manned by ERF volunteers, the event was developed as part of the *Wild About the Grasslands!* ecology and western education program.

Wild About the Grasslands! volunteers and guest presenters dressed in period clothing, told stories, gave tours of the Ranch, and entertained kids with a "heritage quest" and hands on activities.

Glenda Bonin gave an exuberant rendering of the childhood tales of Laura ("Dusty") Vail Ingram. Sharon Hunt, author and researcher, described Life on the La Posta Quemada Ranch in Vail, AZ, and its relationship to the Empire Ranch. Vail Preservation Society volunteers were on hand with their Territorial Kitchen exhibit,



Vail Preservation Society volunteers E. Corkill and JJ Lamb engaging weekend visitors (photos: M. Vendituoli)

**Coming in January...
12th Annual
"EMPIRE 100"
WESTERN ART SHOW
AND SALE
at Northern Trust**

**January 9 - March 9, 2012
Open for Previews January 9-12**

A juried exhibition of 100 exceptional original works in oil, watercolor and bronze by nationally known painters and sculptors. The show will also feature artwork inspired by images of the Empire Ranch

The "Empire 100" show is pleased to announce Don Crowley as the Featured Artist

Northern Trust
3450 E. Sunrise Drive
8:30am - 4:00pm, weekdays

Sponsored by Northern Trust to benefit the Empire Ranch Foundation

After December 22, participating artists' work can be viewed on the Foundation's website, www.empireranchfoundation.org

where Scoutmaster Eldon Corkill demonstrated ranch style Dutch-oven cooking. JJ Lamb, historian and president of the Vail Preservation Society, assumed the role of Evie Schley, Vail's first postmistress. Local high school student, Andrew Barker, taught kids how to rope. To top off the afternoon, everyone enjoyed an ice cream social with Dutch oven-made fruit cobbler baked on site.

On Sunday, visitors to Colossal Cave Mountain Park had the opportunity to attend a presentation on Ranching Families of Empire and La Posta Quemada Ranches given by Gail Corkill, Carla Kerekes Martin, and Sharon Hunt. The day ended with a tour of La Posta Quemada Ranch led by docent Van Fowers.

Given the success of this new heritage and ecology weekend, additional family fun events will be scheduled in the coming year.

Working Calendar

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

December

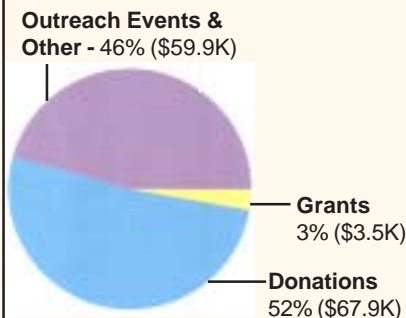
- 2** Postmark deadline for entries, 2012
Empire 100 Western Art Show & Sale
- 10** Docent-led tours of Empire Ranch House, 11am, 1pm, Free. Meet at Empire Ranch Visitor Contact Center

January

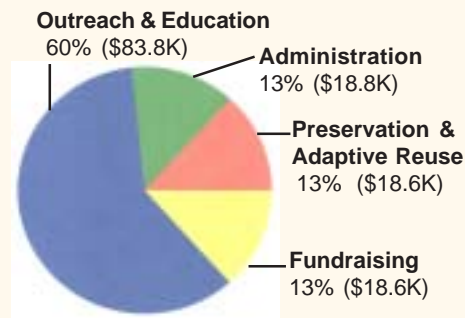
- 9-12** Preview Days, Empire 100 Western Art Show & Sale, 8:30am-4pm, Northern Trust, 3450 E. Sunrise Dr., Tucson
- 12** Members & Friends Invitation-Only Reception, Empire 100 Western Art Show & Sale, 4:30pm-7pm, Northern Trust, 3450 E. Sunrise Dr., Tucson
- 13-31** Empire 100 Western Art Show & Sale - Open to the Public, 8:30am-4pm, Mon-Fri, through March 9, Northern Trust, 3450 E. Sunrise Dr., Tucson
- 14** Docent-led tours of Empire Ranch House, 11am, 1pm, Free. Meet at Empire Ranch Visitor Contact Center
- 21** ERF Board Meeting, 9am-Noon
- ### February
- 1-29** Empire 100 Western Art Show & Sale - Open to the Public, 8:30am-4pm, Mon-Fri, Northern Trust, 3450 E. Sunrise Dr., Tucson
- 11** Docent-led tours of Empire Ranch House, 11am, 1pm, Free. Meet at Empire Ranch Visitor Contact Center
- 18** Volunteer Work Day, 8am-Noon

Empire Ranch Foundation Financial Summary FY10: July 2010 through June 2011

Income, by Source of Funds \$131,345 Total



Expenditures, by Use of Funds \$139,796 Total



Income during FY10 totaled \$131,345—52% from member donations, 46% from outreach events and other sources, and 3% from grants from the Fred W. Stang and Ward J. Timken foundations.

Expenditures during FY10 totaled \$139,796—13% for preservation and adaptive reuse projects; 60% for outreach and education programs; 13% for fundraising; and 13% for general administration.

End-of-year assets totaled \$155K, comprising \$28.6K in BLM grant funds (fully obligated); \$2.3K in ERF restricted funds for education; \$28.4K in the Vail endowment and ERF restricted funds for repairs; \$22.5K in ERF unrestricted funds obligated for preservation; and \$73.2K in ERF unrestricted unobligated funds.



This issue includes a selection of Roundup photos contributed by C. Auerbach, T. Holland, and L. Gregory.

Gifts in Remembrance

The Empire Ranch Foundation deeply appreciates donations recently received In Memory of:

Judith Auerbach, Eldon Lee Corkill,
Earl F. Glenn, Jr., Carey Ingram,
Laura (Dusty) Vail Ingram,
Dick & Eva Jimenez, Patti Kelly,
Jake Kittle, Jim Pickrell,
Joe Shields, Laura Perry Vail

Roundup Auction Donors (continued from p. 2)

Foundation • Estate of Lucy O. Ross • Funtasticks Family Fun Park • Gary Auerbach Platinum Photography • Geier Glove Co. • Global Arts Gallery & Lillian's Closet • Paula Golembiewski • Hacienda Del Sol Guest Ranch Resort • High Noon Feed & Tack • Irena Hine • Norman Hinman • Susan Vail Hoffman • Horsin' Around Ironworks • Hotel Arizona • International Wildlife Museum • Invisible Theatre • Lucinda Iverson • Jabez Ranch Horsemanship • James Culver Leather • Jeanne Peterson Insurance • Kristi Keller • Kevin Simpson Studios • Kid's Center • Kief-Joshua Vineyards • Kim Yubeta Designs • Kino Springs Golf Club • Jim & Beth Kolbe • La Hacienda de Sonoita • Lola Lee Loveall • Madaras Gallery • Many Horses Trading Company • Ron & Carla Martin • Mr. & Mrs. George A. Masek • J. Jeffrey Matthews • Karen McLain • Murray Bolesta/Cactus Huggers • Old Pueblo Veterinary Clinic • Paintings by Terry Bowman • Palo Verde Cleaners • Patronato San Xavier • PF Chang's China Bistro • Philabaum Glass Gallery-Tom Philabaum • Jon Rinaldi Pipes • Doug Pyne • Quail Canyon Ranch Golf Course • Red Door Spas • Doris Rickard • Thomas & Cheryl Rogos • Rolling Hills Golf Course • Rosa's Mexican Food • Running Shop • Kathleen Schindel • Dick Schorr • Shock Ranch • Simoniz Car Wash & Detail • Skate Country • Sole Shoes • Sonoita Vineyards • Southwest Canyon Creations • Sparkle Cleaners • Judy Sprague • Square Top Ranch LLC • Texas Roadhouse • Peggy Theibert • Thomas Cleaners • Tohono Chul Park • Tucson Rodeo • Vista Feed & Supply • Dikki Van Helsland • Vail & Vickers Co. • Jack Wahl • Lea Ward • Warpony Horseworks, LLC • Westin La Paloma Resort & Spa • Wilhelm Family • Judith Williams (As of press time)