

EMPIRE RANCH FOUNDATION NEWS

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

www.empireranchfoundation.org

Have You Seen It?

We have a beautiful new roof on the Visitor Contact Station. Your support and belief in our mission has allowed us to replace the roof and some supporting wood. We deeply appreciate the contributions of our nationally recognized Historic Preservationist and Board member, David Yubeta, who directed and managed this project.

To all of you who have been so supportive of our commemorative arena panels fund raiser—Congratulations! They were a beautiful addition to our arena events at the Roundup this year. Many thanks to Board member Steve Boice for his help in ordering and delivering the panels.

We are very grateful to Mark and Joan Williams for so generously lending us their panels over the past years.

Huge thanks are due to Sharon Hunt and Gail Corkhill for their new book on the Empire Ranch (see article, p. 3).

Much appreciation to Sally and Doug Pyne for the difficult and beautiful work they did restoring the Zaguan meat cooler. It looks wonderful.

I would very much like to acknowledge our wonderful Docents! Last year more than 320 visitors enjoyed docent tours at the Empire Ranch.

ERF has the very best members anywhere. We hope you will consider making a year-end gift in support of the needs described in the enclosed letter. Thank you for your continuous support and belief in passing on this historic legacy. Because of all of you the Empire Ranch Foundation is **better than ever!**

In appreciation,
Carla Kerekes Martin, President



(Roundup photos: C. Auerbach, D. Drobka, & P. Irvin)

The Old West As It Was

The families that lived at the Empire Ranch were noted for their hospitality and for throwing a good party. The Empire Ranch Foundation family, including members, volunteers, Western presenters, and Bureau of Land Management staff continues this tradition by hosting an annual Roundup & Open House. By all accounts this year's party on November 3rd was a great success as 2,500 enthusiastic participants experienced the Old West as it was.

Arena events featured exciting performances of ranch roping and cattle handling by Joel Eliot, Steve Schmitt, and Deeanna Walsh, cowboy mounted shooting by the Tombstone Ghostriders, and precision military riding by B Troop, 4th U.S. Cavalry (Mem.). The popular working border colliers from CP Ranch, trained by Craig and Carrie Pottinger showed off their skills, and Steve Boice demonstrated horsemanship skills and spoke about his work at the Horse'n Around Rescue Ranch.

Each year, the Cowboy Conversations get better. Van Fowers and Susan Vail Hoffman shared Vail family stories, and Steve Boice and Gerald Korte recalled their experiences playing and working on the Empire Ranch during the Boice days. Jesús Garcia shared the history of cordage and horsehair rope making. The Old West came alive through tales of some of its most interesting characters told by John Larkin (Lawman Jeff Milton), Scott Dyke (McLaury Brothers of the OK Corral gunfight), and Dane Johnson (Buffalo Bill).

In the corral to the east of the Empire Ranch House, ERF docents gave short pre-

(continued on p. 2)

Roundup (cont'd from p.1)



sentations on the Empire Ranch House and its history to prepare visitors to explore the buildings throughout the day. A record number of Western authors drew crowds for book signings and general conversations, including Gail Corkill and Sharon Hunt who signed copies of their newly released *Images of America* book on the Empire Ranch. (See article on p.3 for additional information.)

Nearby, Western Skills experts answered questions and demonstrated leather carving (Ben Claridge), mule packing, (Lyman family), horseshoeing (John Russell), horse hair rope making (Jesús Garcia), branding (Bill Shock), reata making (Dick Schorr), and adobe brick making (Chris Schragger and David Yubeta).

Children especially enjoyed visiting the Kid's Corral, sponsored by the Mustang, Rafael and Rattlesnake 4-H clubs, petting the miniature horses from S&N Ranch, and youth activities by *Wild About the Grasslands!* outdoor education program, including decorating stick horses.

Music of the West, Southern Arizona style, filled the air through outstanding performances by the Bill Ganz Western Band, the Mariachi Apaches of Nogales High School, and western singer Janice Deardorff. Delectable cowboy grub included barbeque & fixins served by the Cowbelles, Arbuckles' cowboy coffee, kettle korn and Dutch oven cobbler pre-



pared by Tom and Cheryl Rogos. Bidding at the silent auction was fast and furious, with nearly 200 items up for bid.

The success of any party is the direct result of good planning and hard work. We are so grateful to our volunteers and presenters who contribute thousands of hours each year. And deep thanks to our sponsors and auction donors listed below who help make the event financially possible.

Roundup Sponsors and Auction Donors

Lead Sponsors:

- Classic Tents
- Jim Click Automotive Team
- Jack Furrier Western Tire & Auto Care Center
- Schouten & Sullivan
- Jack & Joy Timken Foundation
- Tucson Rodeo Parade Museum

Friends & Supporters:

- June Converse
- Charles & Nancy Doolittle
- Susan Vail Hoffman & Ron Hoffman
- Beth Kolbe
- Jack & Bette Layton
- Lazy RR/Maureen O'Brien & Craig Bell
- Herbert LeGendre
- National Bank of Arizona
- Pima County Parks & Recreation
- Gordon Purvis Insurance
- Roberts & Associates PLLC
- William J. Sanders DVM
- Santa Cruz County Cowbelles
- Margo Susco
- Jacquie Tibbs

Roundup Auction & Raffle Donors:

- Apache Gold Casino Resort
- Arbuckles Coffee Roasters
- Arizona Aerospace Foundation
- Arizona Cardinals
- Arizona Horseback Experience
- Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum
- Christine & Gary Auerbach
- Skip Bailey
- Bernita Barfield
- Bashas' Community Gifts Program
- Sandra Bellamy
- Big Hat Society
- Buffalo Gals of Sonoita
- Wade & Alison Bunting
- Palmer Butler
- Canelo Hills Vineyard & Winery
- Bonnie Casey
- Charron Vineyards
- Colossal Cave Mountain Park
- Sheila Cottrell
- Mike & Sue Culp
- Millard Davidson

(continued on p. 4)

We Raised the Roof!



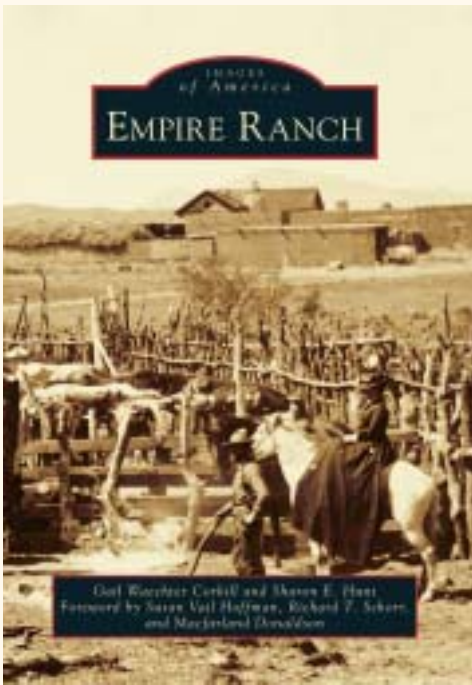
Empire Ranch Visitor Contact Station
(photo: A. Bunting)

Thanks to donations from members as well as partnership funding from the BLM, a new standing-seam metal roof was installed on the Visitor Contact Station (VCS), and it looks great! Later this year, contractors will remove lead paint from the wood windows, and the window reconstruction work will proceed. Next, structural problems under the house will be addressed, and additional wall repairs and new paint are planned for the interior. The Empire Ranch VCS—more familiar to many as the Huachuca House—is “open for business” every 2nd Saturday of the month, when docent-led tours of the Ranch are made available to the public.

We've also completed repairs on the historic gas pump west of the Adobe Hay Barn, including restoration of its glass panels, and the damaged roofs of the South Barn and Adobe Haybarn are now secure. The first phase of the corral fence repairs was completed by Joshua Vause, an Eagle Scout candidate from Vail Boy Scout Troop 716, and his team,

In September ERF coordinated a workshop for its Board of Directors and BLM staff with James Garrison, the Arizona State Historic Preservation Officer, who discussed the principles and policies that govern historic preservation undertakings. The informative discussion which followed applied the concepts learned to efforts at the Empire Ranch. With a better understanding of how we can accomplish the preservation tasks, and continued support from ERF members and volunteers, we anticipate that in 2013 even more progress will be made in our plans to preserve and protect the unique heritage resources at the Empire Ranch.





Local Authors Release New Book, *Empire Ranch*

We're excited to announce the publication of *Empire Ranch* by Gail Waechter Corkill and Sharon E. Hunt. The foreword is written by Susan Vail Hoffman, Richard T. Schorr, and Macfarland Donaldson.

This pictorial history, which is part of Arcadia Publishing's popular Images of America series, boasts more than 200 annotated vintage and contemporary images selected from ERF photo archives and provides readers with a unique opportunity to connect with the history that shaped the ranching community in southern Arizona and left an indelible mark on the cattle ranching industry in Arizona.

The tale of the Empire Ranch spans over 135 years—from territorial Arizona to the present. This book celebrates the ranching lives of the Vail, Boice, and Donaldson families, and provides a glimpse into the struggles and successes of the ranch's men, women, and children who forged a "cattle ranching empire" in the rolling grasslands and oak-studded hills of the Cienega Valley.

Empire Ranch (\$21.99) is available from the Empire Ranch Visitor Contact Center (888-364-2829), Arcadia Publishing (www.arcadiapublishing.com), local bookstores, Amazon, and Barnes & Noble. Gail and Sharon will donate a portion of the proceeds from the sale of the book to the Empire Ranch Foundation.

Olde Time Holiday Celebration December 8

Plan to visit the Historic Empire Ranch for an "Olde Time Holiday Celebration" on Saturday, December 8, 2012, from 11 am to 3 pm. Planned festivities include:

- Docent Led Tours (11 am & 1 pm)
- Sing-along with Western singer & songwriter Janice Deardorff (12 noon & 2:30 pm)
- Holiday Cookie Making (12:30 pm)
- House Decorating & Christmas Tree Trimming Party with special living history welcome from Walter and Margaret Vail (2:00pm)

This FREE event is part of ERF's Family Fun Day Weekend in the Wild! program funded in part by the BLM's Hands on the Land Program. Upcoming 2013 Family Fun Day free events will be announced in the ERF Newsletter, ERF's E-News and on ERF's website and Facebook page.



Dusty and Bill Vail surveying a snow fall at the Ranch, 1918 (photo: D. V. Ingram)

YES! 2012

YES! stands for Youth Engaged Stewardship, a program intended to make a difference in both the landscape and in young lives. Using Arizona Game and Fish Heritage Funds and partner contributions, the pilot program was developed by the Cienega Watershed Partnership, Prescott College Ironwood Tree Experience, Vail School District, the FROG Conservation Project, and the BLM.

Seven students from Vail and Tucson high schools were selected to develop and conduct a conservation project on Las Cienegas National Conservation Area (LCNCA). The team chose to focus on improving the frog habitat at the Cotton-

Coming in January...

13th Annual "EMPIRE 100" WESTERN ART SHOW AND SALE

A juried exhibition of 100 exceptional original works of Western art by nationally known painters and sculptors. Show will also present art inspired by the Empire Ranch

Featured Artist: John Solie

January 14 - February 28 at Northern Trust

6444 East Tanque Verde Rd., Tucson (note new branch location)
Gallery viewing 9am-3pm, M-F, except bank holidays

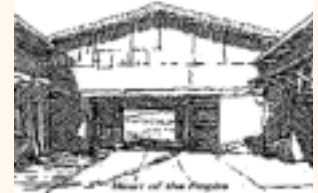
Open for Previews: January 14-17

Sales begin at Opening Reception Thursday, Jan. 17, 4:30pm-7pm
(By invitation, rsvp required)

Sponsored by Northern Trust to benefit Empire Ranch Foundation

Laura Davis, "Empire 100" chair

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



wood Tank. Work to date includes laying out fencing and planting deer grass. Final projects are placing rocks around the tank edge, creating a rock island, and designing an educational interpretive sign.

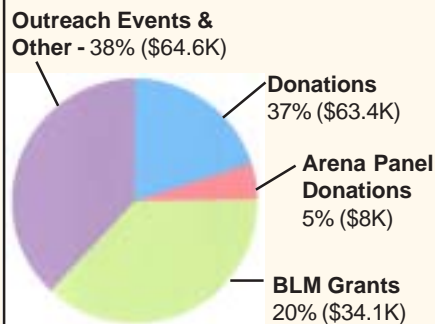
Participant Celeste Martino provided the following assessment of YES!:

"The YES! Program was a program unlike any that I had yet to experience. It gave me an opportunity not only to say I wanted to make a difference and how, but to also carry it out and see it through. With this program we had the opportunity to develop the skills that came with having total control over what we could do. It adds a certain experience to the program you can't get anywhere else, and embodies the name "YES!" perfectly."

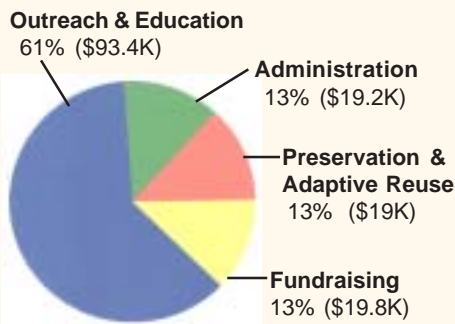
Empire Ranch Foundation

Financial Summary FY11: July 2011 through June 2012

Income, by Source of Funds \$170,185 Total



Expenditures, by Use of Funds \$151,402 Total



Income during FY11 totaled \$170,185—38% from outreach events and other sources, 37% from member donations, 20% from BLM grants, and 5% from donations for the purchase of arena panels.

Expenditures during FY11 totaled \$151,402—61% for outreach and education programs; 13% for preservation and adaptive reuse projects; 13% for fundraising; and 13% for general administration.

End-of-year assets totaled \$174K, comprising \$41.7K in BLM grant funds (fully obligated); \$1.3K in ERF restricted funds for education; \$28K in the Vail endowment and ERF restricted funds for repairs; \$7.9K in ERF restricted funds for arena panels; \$40.3K in ERF unrestricted funds obligated for preservation, education, and interpretation; and \$54.8K in ERF unrestricted unobligated funds.

Roundup Auction & Raffle Donors *(continued from p. 2)*

Laura Davis & Carolyn O'Bagy Davis • Steve "Bunker" de France • Desert Legacy • Dickman's Meat & Deli • Doc Kindrick Spice Co. • Dos Cabezas WineWorks • Empire Fagan Coalition • Connie Engard • Four Winds West • Pat Frederick • Funtasticks Family Fun Park • Global Arts Gallery & Lillian's Closet • Paula & Leo Golembiewski • Golf 'n Stuff • Good Egg • Hacienda Del Sol Guest Ranch Resort • Carolynne Hawley • High Noon Feed and Tack • Susan Vail Hoffman & Ron Hoffman • Hollycake • Indigo Desert Ranch Gallery • Invisible Theatre • Lucinda Iverson • Jabez Ranch Horsemanship • Rockwell Jackson • James Culver Leather • Jeanne Peterson Insurance • Keri Jelks • Kennedy Desert Art • Kid's Center • Kief-Joshua Vineyards • Kim Yubeta Designs • La Cucaracha de Tubac • La Hacienda De Sonoita • Laffs Comedy Caffe • Lightning Ridge Cellars • Madaras Gallery • Carla & Ron Martin • George Masek • Drayanna Masingale • McGraw's Cantina • Karen McLain • Judy & Nick Montalto •

National Optical Astronomy Observatory • Joyce Nelson • OK Feed & Supply • Old Pueblo Veterinary Clinic • Paintings by Terry Bowman • Palo Verde Cleaners • Pantano Hair 109/Tiffany Acosta • Patronato San Xavier • Brenda Peo • Doug & Sally Pyne • Rancho Rossa Vineyards • Red Door Spas • Doris Rickard • Kathy Robbins • Cheryl Rogos • Rolling Hills Golf Course • Dick & Leonor Schorr • Running Shop • Clement Scott • Brenda Semaniak • Elizabeth Shuler-Pointer • Simoniz Car Wash & Detail • Skate Country • Sole Shoes • Southwest Canyon Creations • Sparkle Cleaners • Judy Sprague • Square Top Ranch LLC • Steak Out Restaurant & Sonoita Inn • Texas Roadhouse • Thomas Cleaners • Tohono Chul Park • Joanne Triplett • Tucson City Golf • Tucson Museum of Art • Dikki Van Helsing • Norma Varela/Illusions • Jack Wahl • Lea Ward • WarPony Horseworks, LLC • Westward Look • Wilhelm Family Vineyards • Judith Williams • Laurie Williams

Working Calendar

Location: Meet at Visitor Contact Center, Empire Ranch Headquarters, unless otherwise noted. More info: 888-364-2829

December

- 7 Entries postmark deadline, 2013
Empire 100 Western Art Show & Sale
- 8 *Olde Time Holiday Celebration at the Historic Empire Ranch House, 11am-3pm, free & open to all. Join us for a fun family holiday event (article p. 3)*

January

- 12 *Docent-led tours of Empire Ranch House, 11am, 1pm, free, open to all.*
- 14-17 *Open to the Public for Previews, Empire 100 Western Art Show & Sale, 9am-3pm, Northern Trust, 6444 E Tanque Verde Rd., Tucson.*
- 17 *Members & Friends Invitation-Only Opening Reception, Empire 100 Western Art Show & Sale, Northern Trust, 6444 E Tanque Verde Rd., Tucson. Please note new location!*
- 18-31 *Empire 100 Western Art Show & Sale - Open to the Public, M-F, 9am-3pm, Northern Trust, 6444 E Tanque Verde Rd., Tucson.*
- 19 *ERF Board Meeting, 9am-Noon.*

February

- 1-28 *Empire 100 Western Art Show & Sale - Open to the Public, M-F, 9am-3pm, Northern Trust, 6444 E Tanque Verde Rd., Tucson.*
- 9 *Docent-led tours of Empire Ranch House, 11am, 1pm, free, open to all.*
- 16 *Volunteer Work Day, 8am-Noon. All welcome! RSVP 888-364-2829*
- 28 *Final Day, Empire 100 Western Art Show & Sale, 9am-3pm, Northern Trust, 6444 E Tanque Verde Rd*

March

- 9 *Docent-led tours of Empire Ranch House, 11am, 1pm, free, open to all.*
- 16 *ERF Board Meeting, 9am-Noon.*

Gifts in Remembrance

The Empire Ranch Foundation gratefully acknowledges gifts recently received *In Memory of:*

Inofre De La Ossa, John Donaldson, Patti Kelly, Earl F. Glenn, Jr., Jim Pickrell, Christine Vail Shirley

Please Mail Donations 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.

[n12]