

EMPIRE RANCH FOUNDATION NEWS

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

www.empireranchfoundation.org



President's Message

What do monsoon winds and the Empire Ranch have in common? Two separate wind storms this past summer blew off the roof from the Mechanic's Shop/Feed Barn. The first storm blew off part of the tin roof and the BLM was able to tack it down. A couple of weeks later, the second storm blew off a larger section, and we were unable to salvage it. We currently have a great barn with a sun roof!!

Government funding for repairs is pretty much unavailable, so in keeping with Empire Ranch Foundation's mission to protect and preserve the Ranch buildings, the Foundation will fund the roof replacement. We wouldn't be able to do this without the support of our members.

Please help us with a generous year-end contribution. If you renewed your membership in May, this donation will be added to your existing membership level. If you haven't renewed or joined, I encourage you to do so now using the form enclosed with this issue. Please help us with the continued preservation of the Empire Ranch! With sincere thanks,

Ron Martin, President

Cowboy Life at the Empire Ranch

November 2nd proved to be a magnificent day at the Empire Ranch as more than 2,000 excited visitors arrived to celebrate cowboy life, past and present. A special treat was the opportunity to view and comment on the Foundation's new Cowboy Life Exhibit panels. The exhibit will officially open at a February 8, 2014 event as a permanent display in the room of the original Ranch House where the cowboys bunked.

Overflow crowds vied for seats at the Cowboy Conversations, especially for Bob Shelton and Don Collier's presentation on Arizona's Western Movies. Jesús García (cordage and horsehair rope making) and John Larkin (guns of the West) related the history of these important tools of the trade. Van Fowers, Edward Gardner and Susan Vail Hoffman told tales of life at the Empire Ranch during the Vail years, and Gerald Korte and Norman Hinman shared their experiences as cowboys on the Empire during the Boice days. Stories of Old West characters were spun by Scott Dyke (OK Corral Gunfight), Dane Johnson (Buffalo Bill), John Larkin (Texas Sheriff John Slaughter), and PJ Lawton (Mountain Men).

Western arena events featured exciting performances by the Balderrama Family's Dancing Horses, expert ranch roping and cattle handling by Joel Eliot, Brian Baldwin and David Kay, cowboy mounted shooting by the Tombstone Ghost Riders, and precision military riding by B Troop, 4th U.S. Cavalry (Mem.). Board

(continued on p. 2)



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)

Member Steve Boice and Theresa Warrell of Horse'n Around Rescue Ranch along with Bruce Norton of Jabez Ranch demonstrated horsemanship.

Western Skills experts engaged audiences with blacksmithing (Casey Abbs), leather carving (Ben Claridge), horse hair rope making (Jesús García), saddle making (Lynne London and Kevin Berry), mule packing (Lyman family), horseshoeing (John Russell), branding (Bill Shock), reata making (Dick Schorr), adobe brick making (Chris Schrager and David Yubeta), wood carving (Louis David Valenzuela), and tortilla making by Lydia Martinez. The Amerind Foundation's display of historic branding irons attracted many. Non-profit organizations and Western authors were busy throughout the day while reenactors from the Arizona Ghostriders entertained everyone.

Fun activities for kids included the popular stick horse decorating, guided hikes along the Heritage Discovery Trail, journaling, wildlife observation and data collection, geocaching, and letterboxing by the Foundation's Wild About the Grasslands education program. A visit to the Kid's Corral, presented by the Mustang, Rafael and Rattlesnake 4-H clubs, and the miniature horses from S&N Ranch provided up-close interactions with ranch livestock.

Way Out West, the Mariachi Apaches of Nogales High School, and western singer Janice Deardorff delighted all with their outstanding musical performances. Rincon Market provided the barbeque and fixins which were served by the Elgin/Sonoita Cowbells, assisted by the Girl Scouts Troop from Sierra Vista.

Roundup Sponsors and Auction Donors

Lead Sponsors: • Anonymous • Arbuckles' Coffee • Classic Tents • Green Valley Pecans • Jim Click Automotive Team • Jack Furrier Western Tire & Auto • National Environmental Education Foundation • Roberts & Associates, PLLC • Schouten & Sullivan • Tucson Rodeo Parade Museum • VFW Post 549

Friends & Supporters (\$100-\$499): • Anonymous • Babacomari Ranch • Craig Bell & Maureen O'Brien • Big Hat Society • Capital Wealth Investments • Bonnie Day • Katie & Bruce Dusenberry • Hydra Leather • Bob Pieper • Santa Cruz County Cowbells • Barbara J Schild • Jacqui Tibbs • Trifam Foundation • Carl & Jan Vail • Lea Ward • Donald & Nancy Webster

Auction Donors (\$50 & up): • Alfonso Gourmet Olive Oil & Balsamics • Phil & Leslie Allen • Alvernon Optical-Gary & Barbara Scheer • Anonymous • Apache Gold Casino/Resort • Arbuckles' Coffee Roasters • Arizona Aerospace Foundation • Arizona Cardinals • Arizona Horseback Experience • Arizona Theatre Company (continued on p. 4)



2013 Roundup moments (photos: D. Steele, C. Auerbach)

Arbuckles' cowboy coffee, served by Pat and Denney Willis and their son Josh, and Dutch oven cobbler, prepared by Tom and Cheryl Rogos, hit the spot.

As always, we are so grateful for the support of the Bureau of Land Management and our presenters and volunteers who contribute thousands of hours each year. Lastly, this event would not be possible without the financial support of our Roundup sponsors, underwriters, and auction donors listed below.



Ribbon cutting event for WATG student alumni's new visitor information signs (photo: C. Auerbach)

Celebrating NPLD

On September 28 more than 50 ERF volunteers participated in a national 20th anniversary celebration of National Public Lands Day (NPLD). Their work focused on maintenance of the Heritage Discovery Trail, removing litter, and improving the grounds around Empire Ranch House.

"This has been a special day with so much accomplished," said Gail Corkill, director of ERF's Wild About the Grasslands (WATG) youth education program, acknowledging the work of project leaders Jeffrey Cooper, Tim Corkill, Ben Roelke, Chris Roelke, Martha Roelke, and volunteers from local geocaching clubs and Tucson Yaqui High School.

The event was hosted by WATG and highlighted the Cache In Trash Out (CITO) initiative of the worldwide geocaching community to volunteer to preserve the natural beauty of outdoor resources. Two new geocaches, Ranch to Riparian and South Entrance Endeavor, were released on the morning of the event. The fun included a ribbon cutting ceremony for three WATG student-created visitor information signs funded in part by a grant from Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative Foundation. Many volunteers took part in guided nature hikes led by Wulf and Netzin Steklis and the Geocaching 101 course taught by Jeanne Peterson and Barb Jensen.

SAVE THE DATE!

Cowboy Life Exhibit Opening & Family Fun Day

Saturday, February 8, 2014
Empire Ranch Headquarters
10am to 3pm
Free and Open to All

Please see enclosed flyer.



New ERF Website Debuts

Check out our new website! It's still www.empireranchfoundation.org, but with a fresh look and so much more information. The redesign was made possible by a grant from the National Environmental Education Foundation.

The new website conveys at first glance what the Empire Ranch Foundation is about, with easy navigation, photos and graphics to illustrate the work being done by ERF and BLM, and provides numerous ways for the viewer to become involved.

The new website was designed by Hirsch Fishman, owner of Addicott Web (<http://www.addicottweb.com>). The site uses WordPress software that allows easy updating and maintenance by ERF staff and volunteers.

As we bid farewell to our previous website, launched in 2001, we send special thanks to volunteers Perry Doubt, who designed it, and to retiring webmaster Susan Hughes who has managed it these past 12 years.

New BLM TFO Manager

ERF is delighted to welcome Vi Hillman as the new BLM Tucson Field Office manager. Some of her previous assignments include associate district manager for Arizona's Colorado River District in Lake Havasu City; field manager at the Newcastle Field Office in Wyoming; and interagency fire training specialist for Utah BLM and the Intermountain Regional Office.

We look forward to collaborating with Vi on ERF's preservation, outreach, and education programs.



Preservation Contracts Moving Forward

Several preservation efforts at the Empire Ranch will soon be underway. The Foundation has entered into an agreement to begin work on a replacement roof for the Mechanic's Shop/Feed Barn (see President's Message, p. 1). The contractor is developing technical drawings for the project which will be reviewed and approved by BLM. The contractor will then draw up a final cost bid, and the contract will be finalized. We hope to have work commence soon after the new year.



ERF's latest "blue sky" project. Please help us with your year-end contribution!

Meanwhile, BLM has selected a contractor for stabilization work on the Adobe Haybarn. Next, preliminary meetings will take place to develop the final design, and on-site work will begin after review by BLM and the State Historic Preservation Office.

Testing of the soils and adobe at the historic Ranch House is underway and will deliver data to help answer questions about structural problems with the house: are they caused by compression of the adobes; failure of the foundations; instability of the soils; or a combination of more than one of these? Once we have a better idea of the problem, a stabilization plan that addresses the root causes can be developed, approved, and undertaken for this major preservation project.

As you visit the Empire Ranch in the months to come, be on the lookout for these and other preservation efforts, and watch out for construction zones!



Coming in February...

14th 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. The show will also present art inspired by the Empire Ranch.

A portion of all sales benefits the Empire Ranch Foundation.

Featured Artist: Carol Swinney

February 3-March 9, 2014

New Location!

Tucson Jewish Community Center/Jewish Heritage Center
3800 E River Rd, Tucson, AZ 85718
(River & Dodge)

Art Viewing Hours: M-Th 7am-10pm;
Friday 7am-6pm; Sunday 9am-8p;
Closed Saturday.

Open for Previews: February 3-5

Sales begin at Opening Reception
Wednesday, Feb. 5, 4:30pm-7pm
(By invitation, rsvp required)

*After January 15, 2014,
participating artists' work can be viewed
on the Foundation's website,
www.empireranchfoundation.org
Laura Davis, "Empire 100" Chair*

Departed BLM Friend

Grant Drennen, a long-time friend of Las Cienegas NCA, died in late September. He was a Range Specialist at BLM's Tucson Field Office from its opening in 1992 until he retired in 2008.

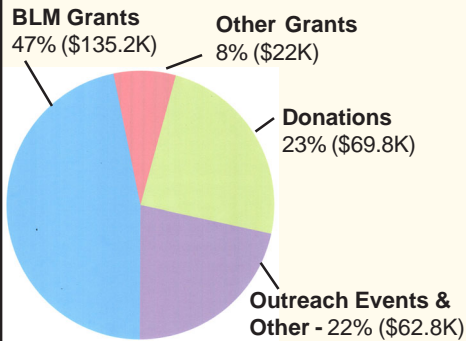


Grant managed Empire-Cienega grazing allotments with the Donaldson and Tomlinson families, and was lead author for the range, soils, grazing, and vegetation management plans for LCNCA. He headed many successful projects at LCNCA/Empire Ranch, and was a mentor to many. He will be missed.

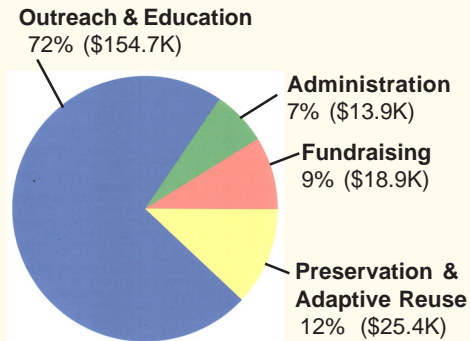
Empire Ranch Foundation

Financial Summary FY12: July 2012 through June 2013

Income, by Source of Funds \$289,788 Total



Expenditures, by Use of Funds \$213,046 Total



Income during FY12 totaled \$289,788—47% from BLM grants, 23% from member donations, 22% from outreach events and other sources, and 8% from other grants. Expenditures during FY12 totaled \$213,046—72% for outreach and education programs; 12% for preservation and adaptive reuse projects; 9% for fundraising; and 7% for general administration.

The above figures include \$61,200 in BLM grant income and \$55,411 in outreach and education expenditures that were managed by ERF for projects not on the Empire Ranch. Not included are more than 8,527 hours of labor contributed by ERF volunteers, valued by BLM at \$185,803 for matching grant purposes.

End-of-year assets totaled \$250K, comprising \$104.6K in BLM grant funds (fully obligated); \$18.6K in ERF restricted funds for education; \$28.1K in the Vail endowment and other ERF restricted funds; \$52.9K in ERF unrestricted funds obligated for preservation, education, and interpretation; and \$46.1K in ERF unrestricted unobligated funds.

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

• Christine & Gary Auerbach • Skip Bailey • Bandit Outfitters • Bernita Barfield • Benson Feed & Supply • Big Hat Society • Murray Bolesta • Buffalo Gals of Sonoita • Wade & Alison Bunting • Palmer Butler • Callaghan Vineyards • Charron Vineyards • Chris Bubany Studio • Dorothy Dannis • Millard Davidson • Steve "Bunker" de France • Mac Donaldson • Dos Cabezas Wineworks • Dragonfire Clayworks • Neale Duncan • Duquesne House Bed & Breakfast • eegee's • Robert W. & Cathy Eiting • Fleming's • Four Winds West • Fox Restaurant Concepts • Gary Auerbach Platinum Photography • Paula & Leo Golembiewski • High Noon Feed and Tack • Norman Hinman • Susan Vail Hoffman & Ron Hoffman • Invisible Theatre • Lucinda Iverson • Jabez Ranch Horsemanship • Jeanne Peterson Insurance • Keri Jelks • K Newby Gallery of Tubac • Jim Kelly • Kid's Center • Kief-Joshua Vineyards • Kim Yubeta Designs • Kino Springs Golf Club / Nogales • Kramer & Dagucan, LLP • Laffs Comedy Caffe •

Madaras Gallery • Carla & Ron Martin • Drayanna Masingale • McGraw's Cantina • JoAnne Meyer • Judy & Nick Montalto • Byrd Moss • Northside Lighting & Fans • Carolyn O'Bagy Davis & Laura Davis • OK Feed & Supply • Old Pueblo Veterinary Clinic • Orlando Jewelers • Paintings by Terry Bowman • Patronato San Xavier • Ray & Carol Patrone • Brenda Peo (Ohrel) • Plumb & Level • Doug Pyne • Doug Quarles • Sharon Quarles • R.B. "Buck" O'Rielly/Pat Pettis • Red Door Spas • Doris Rickard • Kathy Robbins • Rolling Hills Golf Course, Inc. • Dick & Leonor Schorr • John Scott • Sherry & Nelson Secor • Skate Country • Sole Shoes • Southwest Canyon Creations • Square Top Ranch LLC • Wade Starr • Tohono Chul Park • Top Stitch Embroidery • Tucson City Golf • Louis David Valenzuela • Jack Wahl • Walmart • Westin La Paloma Resort & Spa Tucson • Judith Williams • Laurie Williams • Ye Olde Clock Shoppe

Working Calendar

Location: Meet at Visitor Contact Station, Empire Ranch Headquarters, unless otherwise noted. To volunteer, or for more information, call (888) 364-2829.

December

14 Docent-led tours of Empire Ranch House, 11am & 1pm, free.

January

3 Postmark deadline for Artists' entries for 2014 Empire 100 Western Art Show & Sale.

11 Docent-led tours of Empire Ranch House, 11am & 1pm, free.

18 ERF Board Meeting, 9am-Noon

February

3-5 Preview Days, Empire 100 Western Art Show & Sale, Tucson Jewish Community Center, 3800 E River Rd, Tucson (River & Dodge); M-W, 7am-10pm. Note new location!

5 Members & Friends Opening Reception, Empire 100 Western Art Show & Sale (By invitation only), Tucson Jewish Community Center, 3800 E River Rd, Tucson (River & Dodge); 4:30-7pm. Please note new location!

6-28 Empire 100 Western Art Show & Sale - Open to the Public, M-Th 7am-10pm, Fri 7am-6pm, Sun 9am-8pm, Closed Sat., Tucson Jewish Community Center, 3800 E River Rd, Tucson (River & Dodge).

8 Official Opening, Empire Ranch Cowboy Life Exhibit, reception with kids' activities, music, cowboy gear displays, demonstrations, and tours, 10am-3pm, free, open to all.

15 Volunteer Work Day, 8am-Noon. RSVP 888-364-2829. All welcome!

March

1-9 Empire 100 Western Art Show & Sale - Open to the Public, M-Th 7am-10pm, Fri 7am-6pm, Sun 9am-8pm, Closed Sat., Tucson Jewish Community Center, 3800 E River Rd, Tucson (River & Dodge).

8 Empire Ranch Archeology - special activities honoring Arizona Archeology Month, 9am-3pm; Docent-led tours of Empire Ranch House, 11am & 1pm, free, open to all.

18 ERF Board Meeting, 9am-Noon

April

5 2014 Spring Trail Ride & Steak Dinner, Save the Date!