



EMPIRE RANCH FOUNDATION NEWS

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

www.empireranchfoundation.org

President's Message

Howdy folks. I want to take this opportunity to thank each of you for your generous response to our May membership drive. There are not many historic ranches left in the west and with your help we *will* protect and preserve the Empire Ranch for future generations to enjoy. If you haven't renewed your membership yet, please do. Use the mail-in form on page 4, or visit us online at www.empireranchfoundation.org

Good news! The revised design specifications for the Adobe Haybarn structural repairs are approved and work will begin soon.

I also want to update the status of the Mechanic's Shed/Feed Barn, a historic ranch out-building in use for almost 100 years. Last summer the roof was damaged by wind and its remnants were removed due to safety concerns. Our members quickly and generously responded to our appeal to help fund the roof replacement. However, recent studies by BLM found some additional structural issues and these will have to be addressed after the roof is on, and before the building is opened for public access. We are excited to move forward with the roof and we thank you for your financial help for this effort.

There have been many improvements in various rooms in the Ranch House and at the Visitor Contact Station (see p. 4-5). We hope you'll visit soon to see the result of your membership support. And, of course, we look forward to welcoming you to the 2014 Roundup and Open House on Saturday, November 1.

Thank you and happy trails.

Ron Martin, ERF President



"El Dorado" at The Loft Cinema (top 3);
Cindy Mitchum and Emil Franzi at Empire
Ranch. (photos: G. Auerbach, G. Corkill)

"El Dorado," A Classic Movie for a Classic Cause

The 4th annual Western Movies at The Loft Event on August 7th featured the 1966 acclaimed movie *El Dorado*, starring John Wayne and Robert Mitchum. Special guest Cindy Mitchum, niece of Robert Mitchum and daughter of John Mitchum, engaged the audience with insights about the complex lives of her father and uncle.

Emil Franzi opened the discussion with the showing of *America, Why I Love Her*, written by John Mitchum and narrated by John Wayne, a moving tribute to America and one of John Mitchum's favorite works. Cindy related stories of her childhood, and answered questions from the audience with a charming, wry sense of humor.

Cindy toured the Empire Ranch earlier in the week and remarked that, "The Empire Ranch is one of the most inspiring ranches I've been to." She was "honored to be part of something so important," and wondered "...who do I know who can help in this important effort?"

Ron Martin, ERF president acknowledged The Green Valley Pecan Company for their generous underwriting of the event, Strategic Issues Management Group for their assistance with marketing and publicity, and Hacienda del Sol Guest Ranch Resort for providing accommodations.

We greatly appreciate the contributions of Board member and event chair Emil Franzi, who ensures the success of this annual summer event. For a list of movies filmed at or near the Empire Ranch visit: www.empireranchfoundation.org/empireranch/movies.



Congratulations to BLM's Chris Schrager

Chris Schrager received the 2014 Arizona Governor's Award for Professional Archaeologist at a ceremony on June 13th. The nomination was spearheaded by Shela McFarlin with the Cienega Watershed Partnership in recognition of Chris' work for the BLM Tucson Field Office and for the Coronado National Forest, and his work with Empire Ranch Foundation, Friends of Kentucky Camp, Friends of Brown Canyon, Friends of the San Pedro River, Cienega Watershed Partnership, and youth groups such as the Boy Scouts. Chris' friends and colleagues enthusiastically supported his nomination because, as the award states, "he has put his passion for heritage preservation and his professional and practical skills to work to the benefit of historical resources in Southern Arizona for over 25 years."

Tenth Anniversary Of Legacy Day

"It's my favorite field trip of the year!" said one Elgin School student as he arrived at the Empire Ranch Headquarters on May 7 for Legacy Day 2014 at the Historic Empire Ranch. The fifty middle school students and their teachers always look forward to the variety of educational sessions designed to expose them to Arizona's rich ranching heritage.

This year's Legacy Day included instruction in roping from Joel Eliot, archaeology from Chris Schrager, horses and wagons from Steve Boice and Theresa Warrell, rawhide braiding from Dick Schorr, range management from University of Arizona graduate students, and a session on the new Cowboy Life Exhibit, located in two rooms of the oldest part of the Empire Ranch House. Many of the students remarked how much the rooms have changed for the better, with the cowboy gear items in the exhibit display case drawing the most interest.

The brisket, beans, tortillas, and fresh watermelon lunch prepared by ERF volunteers is another favorite; second and even third helpings helped satisfy appetites. The students were entertained by Western singer Janice Deardorff, and later enthusiastically participated in a sing-along of favorites.

Special thanks are due to key organizer Dick Schorr who founded Legacy Day ten years ago. We so appreciate the contributions of the presenters, and volunteers Alison Bunting, Anna Schorr Coleman, Bunker DeFrance, Ron Martin, and Peggy Theibert.



Elgin School students absorb Legacy Day. (photos: C. Auerbach)

Best Wishes Christine



After more than seven years of outstanding service as ERF's Administrative Director Christine Auerbach has resigned to pursue other professional opportunities. "I want to thank Christine with boundless ap-

preciation for her service and dedication to the Empire Ranch Foundation," said ERF President Ron Martin.

When asked about the contributions she is proudest of Christine said, "I am most proud of expanding our membership and volunteer base, initiating our new web page, and utilizing social marketing tools so that more people can be connected with the Empire Ranch (Foundation)." Christine's tenure began just as ERF and BLM began a volunteer work day program to provide hands-on support of preservation and interpretation work at the Ranch. She was instrumental in recruiting and retaining vol-

unteers; the number of volunteer hours contributed increased 47% (from 5,800 to 8,527) between 2008 and 2013.

Other accomplishments include instituting a silent auction at the annual Roundup and Open House which raised more than \$61,000 since 2007; reconfiguring and expanding the membership database; and expertly managing ERF fundraising events. We wish Christine the best in her new endeavors and are grateful that her "...passion for this project (Empire Ranch preservation) will be life long." Christine can be reached at her personal email address, ca@christineauerbach.com.

Youth in Wilderness Program

The BLM and the Pascua Yaqui community began a Youth in Wilderness (YIW) partnership 10 years ago in Las Cienegas National Conservation Area to provide opportunities for Pascua Yaqui youth to be outdoors and learn about their cultural heritage and its close ties with nature. Initially, a popular three day YIW campout was held at LCNCA. In 2013 a grant became available through the BLM and ERF to continue YIW as a "Hands on the Land" outdoor classroom experience.

Since March, YIW mentors have led nine family-friendly events with over 50 youth and adult participants at the Empire Ranch Headquarters. Educational experiences included learning about the Yaqui/Yoeme culture and heritage through guided walks in the cottonwood gallery of the Empire Gulch where mentors explained how important the elements of nature are to their culture (cottonwood trees, hummingbirds, deer and clay).

Other activities included traditional storytelling, beginning wood carving on cottonwood, and discussions on how to preserve the Yaqui/Yoeme heritage. They built an adobe planter along the Heritage Discovery Trail, filled it with hummingbird-attracting plants, and helped to plant shrubs at the Visitor Contact Station.

Several follow-up classes were held at Old and New Pascua communities in Tucson. YIW mentors include David Jaimez; Juan and Thomisina Jaimez and their sons, Mark and Steven; Louis David Valenzuela; Norma Mena; Juan Soto, Principal of Hiaki High School; and Catie Fenn, BLM.



Youth in Wilderness participants tend to a new adobe planter they built along the Heritage Discovery Trail. (photo: C. Fenn)



Plan to Attend!
Saturday, November 1, 2014
14th Annual ROUNDUP & OPEN HOUSE
AT THE EMPIRE RANCH

For more information, please see enclosed Roundup flyer or visit
www.empireranchfoundation.org



Celebrate 2014 NPLD

Empire Ranch Foundation will celebrate the 21st Anniversary of National Public Lands Day (NPLD) on September 27, 2014, as one of the more than 2,000 sites participating in the nation's largest, single-day volunteer effort for public lands. We are calling for adults, families, public schools, and youth organizations to lend a hand at the historic Empire Ranch.

The Foundation's Wild About the Grasslands! (WATG) youth education and outreach program, in partnership with Youth in the Wilderness HOL, will be hosting a volunteer workday and free educational event from 8am to 2pm.

Plan to stay for the afternoon festivities including free lunch, guided nature hikes and much more!

To volunteer for this event, please contact us by calling (888) 364-2829 or email admin@empireranchfoundation.org. Learn more at www.empireranchfoundation.org, or www.handsontheland.org, or by visiting www.publiclandsday.org.



Preservation Update

We've seen much progress on preservation and stabilization project by ERF volunteers, BLM, and contractors at Empire Ranch. The design phase for the stabilization of the Adobe Hay Barn has received final approval from the Arizona State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). We hope to begin construction on this project, funded by a Federal contract administered by BLM, this summer.

BLM is now working on revisions to the stabilization proposal for the Empire Ranch House to incorporate some of the same solutions developed for the Adobe Hay Barn. Once the new approach has been reviewed and approved, the agency can move forward with a request for proposals to implement the stabilization strategy.

In May the enthusiastic team of Doug & Sally Pyne, Christine Auerbach, and Jerryl Moore cleaned, sanded, and painted the metal Youngstown Cabinets installed in the 1950s by Frank Boice in the Family Kitchen. The cabinets now appear well

(continued on p. 4)



Doug and Sally Pyne in renewed kitchen.

Would You Like to Serve on Our Board of Directors?

The Empire Ranch Foundation is seeking Board of Director candidates with an interest in our mission: to protect, restore and sustain the Empire Ranch historical buildings and landscape as an outstanding western heritage and education center. The Board holds meetings every other month on Saturdays, typically at the Empire Ranch. More information about the Empire Ranch can be found on our website: www.empireranchfoundation.org. If you are interested, please email the Administrator, admin@empireranchfoundation.org, or call 888-364-2829.

Preservation (cont'd from p. 3) cared for rather than rusted relics. The fluorescent light fixture was removed, cleaned, and reinstalled. Additional preservation work, including wall patching and painting, and installation of linoleum flooring is planned.



On Saturday June 14, nearly 30 ERF volunteers (see photo above) worked with BLM staff on several maintenance, landscaping, and preservation tasks. Irrigation was installed by JK Diamond Nursery and new trees and shrubbery were planted in front of the Visitor Contact Station (VCS); holes at the base of the walls in the Middle Room of the Victorian Addition were repaired, and replacement baseboard was prepared for future installation; the top of the exterior wall of the Foreman's Quarters (Room 8) was re-mortared with amended adobe and the bird-block taken off to remove a swarm of bees was replaced; both the Ranch House and the VCS were cleaned; dry grass and shrubs around the Ranch House were cut back; and the assessment and repair of the corral fences and gates continued around the Loading Chute.

Plan to join us at an upcoming Volunteer Work Day-it's a special way to help to preserve, protect, and interpret the won-

derful heritage resources at the Empire Ranch!



Volunteers, including Pascua Yaqui youth, plant shrubs in front of the VCS. (Photos: C. Auerbach)

Gifts in Remembrance

The Empire Ranch Foundation gratefully acknowledges gifts recently received

In Memory of:

John Paul Andree, Les Armour,
Mary Vail Boland, Miriam Boice,
Blake & Jane Carrington,
Earl F. Glenn, Jr., Patti Kelly,
Ferne Kemp Lewis, Tomás López,
M. E. Manning, Sr., Travis Martin,
Christine Vail Shirley,
Dick Theibert, Mary (Brownie) Vail,
Edward Newhall Vail,
Thomas Edward Vail,
Walter & Margaret Vail,
Wally Whitcomb, Margaret Vail Wooley

In Honor of:

Christine Auerbach, Bob Shelton

Working Calendar

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

August

- 16 Volunteer Work Day, 8am to noon. All welcome! RSVP 888-364-2829
- 23 Docent-Led Tour of the Empire Ranch House, 11am, free, open to all.

September

- 13 Docent-Led Tour of the Empire Ranch House, 11am, free, open to all.
- 20 ERF Board Meeting, 9am to noon.
- 27 Docent-Led Tour of the Empire Ranch House, 11am, free, open to all.
- 27 National Public Lands Day Work Day & Celebration, All Welcome. 8am-2pm Worker RSVP 888-364-2829

October

- 11 Docent-Led Tour of the Empire Ranch House, 11am, free, open to all.
- 18 Volunteer Work Day, 8am to 2pm (note extended time).. All welcome! RSVP 888-364-2829
- 25 Docent-Led Tour of the Empire Ranch House, 11am, free, open to all.

November

- 1 Roundup & Open House at the Empire Ranch, 10am-4pm. Public Invited, \$10 donation per vehicle.
- 8 Docent-Led Tour of the Empire Ranch House, 11am, free, open to all.
- 20 ERF Annual Board Meeting & Elections, All Welcome, 9am-Noon.
- 22 Docent-Led Tour of the Empire Ranch House, 11am, free, open to all.

December

- 13 & 22 Docent-Led Tours of the Empire Ranch House, 11am, free, open to all.

2014/2015 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.)

Mail Address: _____

City, State, ZIP : _____

Phone: (____) _____ Email: _____

Check enclosed Charge to: MC Visa Discover This is a new address

Credit Card Number Exp.Date. CSV Code Signature

This donation is also in memory/appreciation of _____

This is a gift membership from: _____

EMPIRE RANCH FOUNDATION



- (\$50 & under) Homesteader
- (\$75) Total Wreck Miner
- (\$100) Wrangler
- (\$250) Vaquero
- (\$500) Jefe
- (\$1,000) Patron
- (\$2,500) Majordomo
- (\$5,000) Cattle Baron
- (\$10,000) Territorial Governor
- \$_____ 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.