

EMPIRE RANCH FOUNDATION NEWS

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

www.empireranchfoundation.org

President's Message

Howdy folks...I have been reading a lot of articles lately about the west. Several themes resonate--the importance of the west and its rich history, the importance of ranching, and the cowboy code. The Empire Ranch is so important to the history of Arizona and our country, especially the story of how it was able to grow and prosper. We must preserve this great ranch so that its legacy can be passed on to future generations. I want to thank each and every one of you for your membership and support. Without you we wouldn't be able to sustain and preserve this historic treasure.

We have made a lot of improvements this year, but we have so much more that needs to be done. I hope you will respond generously to the request for a year-end donation included in this newsletter issue. With your continued support we can achieve our goals. 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 that we can achieve our goals.

We are fortunate to have the ranch and Las Cienegas National Conservation Area, one of the most beautiful areas in Arizona. I encourage all of you visit the ranch, join us for one of our docent tours, or lend a hand at one of our volunteer days.

Your support for our annual Roundup was fantastic!

Thank you for all that you do.

Happy Trails,

Ron Martin, ERF President



The Old West As It Was

Excitement was in the air as visitors arrived to experience the "Old West As It Was" at the 2014 Empire Ranch Roundup and Open House on November 1st. The wide variety of activities and entertainment provided wonderful opportunities to learn and have fun.

The action packed arena events featured demonstrations of ranch roping and cattle handling by Joel Eliot, Brian Baldwin, & Deanna Walsh; cowboy mounted shooting by the Tombstone Ghost Riders; and precision military riding by B Troop, 4th U.S. Cavalry (Mem.). Steve Boice demonstrated the rehabilitation work of the Horse'n Around Rescue Ranch.

The Cowboy Conversations attracted overflow crowds to learn about the history of cordage and horsehair rope making from Jesús García; about movie making and stuntmen from Bob Shelton, Don Collier, Rodd Woolf, Marty Freese and Bunker de France; the living history of Buffalo Bill from Dane Johnson; and hear tales about lawman Jeff Milton and guns of the old West spun by John Larkin. Conversations about Empire Ranch history included stories of Walter Vail told by Van Fowers; Vail family vignettes by Susan Vail Hoffman; tales of the Empire Ranch as his backyard from Steve Boice; and cowboy life experiences during the 1940s by Gerald Korte.

Western Skills experts included Casey Abbs (blacksmithing), Ben Claridge (leather carving), Jesús García (horse hair rope making), John Larkin (guns of the Old West), Lynne London &

(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)*

Kevin Berry (saddlemaking), John Russell (horseshoeing), Bill Shock (branding), Dick Schorr (reata making), Chris Schrager (adobe brick making), and wood carving (David Valenzuela). Western authors and ERF's non-profit partners were kept busy all day.

Kids especially enjoyed the stick horse decorating and riding. Interpretive hikes along the Heritage Discovery Trail were popular pursuits. The Mustang, Rafael and Rattlesnake 4-H clubs once again sponsored the Kid's Corral, featuring ranch livestock. And the miniature horses from S&N Ranch charmed everyone who encountered them.

Musical entertainment, including a dancing demonstration by Sarah Deardorff, was provided by The Bill Ganz Western Band, western singer Janice Deardorff, and the Cadillac Mountain Bluegrass Band. The rib-hugging barbecue and fixins served by the Elgin/Sonoita Cowbells, Arbuckles' cowboy coffee, and Dutch oven cobbler prepared by Tom and Cheryl Rogos were enjoyed by all.

The Roundup is made possible by the outstanding support of our volunteers and presenters, and the financial support of the Roundup sponsors, underwriters, and silent auction donors listed below. We are especially grateful for the support of the BLM and the help of the Sierra Vista Brownie Troop 419, Junior Troop 104, and Cadette/Senior Troop 1224.



Roundup events engaged all ages and interests throughout the day (photos: C. Auerbach, S. Reichardt, C. Sparfield)

Roundup Sponsors and Auction Donors

Lead Sponsors (\$500+): Anonymous • Arbuckles' Coffee Roasters • Mary Vail Bond • Classic Tents • Jack Furrier Western Tire & Auto • Steve Hazen • Realty Executives/Bryce & Sally Reichardt • Roberts & Associates, PLC • Schouten & Sullivan, CPAs • Tucson Rodeo Parade Museum

Friends & Supporters (\$100-\$499): Big Hat Society • Capital Wealth Investments • Honorable Ray Carroll • Elgin/Sonoita Cowbells • Ed and Robin Demyanovich • Hinman's Wood & Wool • Jack & Elizabeth Layton • Maureen O'Brien & Craig Bell • Dan Robinette & Linda Kennedy • Ralph and Ingeborg Silberschlag • Stewart Title • Suffolk Hills Pet Clinic • Bill Toland • Carl Vail

Auction Donors (\$50 & up): Casey Abbs • Alfonso Gourmet Olive Oil & Balsamics • Melinda Anderson • Arbuckles' Coffee Roasters • Arizona Theatre Company • AZ Hops and Vines • Bandit Outfitters • Marianne Mortensen Blake • Jackson Boelts • Murray Bolesta • Wade & Alison Bunting • Callaghan Vineyards • Casa Del Rio • Charron Vineyards • Chris Bubany Studio • Civano Nursery • Cometmoth Sight and Sound • Sheila Cottrell • Carolyn O'Bagy Davis & Laura Davis • Steve "Bunker" deFrance • Dillard's • Dos Cabezas WineWorks • Duquesne House Bed & Breakfast • Elizabeth Arden Red Door Spas • Fleming's • Fox Restaurant Concepts • Golf n' Stuff • Hamilton Distillers • Interior Expressions • Invisible Theatre • Lucinda Iverson • Susan Vail Hoffman & Ron Hoffman • Jeanne Peterson Insurance • Jim Kelly • Kief-Joshua Vineyards • Kim Yubeta Designs • Madaras Gallery • Carla & Ron Martin • Drayanna Masingale • Marge Pape • OK Feed & Supply • Old Pueblo Veterinary Clinic • OPTIMO Hats • Orlando Jewelers • Patronato San Xavier • Sally Reichardt • Doris Rickard • Rolling Hills Golf Course • Kathie Schindel • Dick & Leonor Schorr • Schouten & Sullivan • Sherry & Nelson Secor • Serendipity Salon • Simutek • Skate Country • Deb Bagoy Skinner/ Sapphire Moon Designs • Sonoita Vineyards • Southwest Canyon Creations • Square Top Ranch • Tanque Verde Guest Ranch • The Art & Framing Company • The Café • The Gaslight Theatre • The Sonoita Inn and Steak Out • Nancy Thornes • Vail & Vickers Co. • Wilhelm Family Vineyards • Judith Williams • Becky Zimmerman • Beth Zimmerman

Preservation Progress on All Fronts

ERF-funded work to replace the roof over the **Feed Barn/Mechanic's Shop** will be underway soon. A licensed roofer will install new trusses and sheathing on the structure, and attach the original distressed corrugated metal roofing to replicate the prior appearance of the Barn. Thus we'll preserve the same visual greeting to the Ranch that decades of visitors know and love.

Initial replacement adobes for stabilization of the **Adobe Hay Barn** have already been cast by the contractor, Statistical Research Inc., and are curing at their yard in Tucson. Once comments on the final submitted work plan are addressed, the work on site will begin, likely in November.

Two dozen volunteers worked with the ERF and BLM staff during the August 16th and October 18th Volunteer Work Days. Some of the maintenance and landscaping tasks completed included: cleaning the Ranch House, the Tack Room, and the Visitor Contact Station (VCS)/Huachuca House; repairing and painting the rear screen door on the VCS; reinstalling the awning over the door to the Cowboy Cook's Quarters (Room 8); mowing grass and trimming plants around the Ranch House, VCS, Feed Barn, and Heritage Discovery Trail.

Preservation and interpretation projects included preparing new baseboards for installation in Room 23, hanging a manta in Room 6 of the Ranch House, and installing updated room description signs in all rooms of the Ranch House.

We hope that you will make a New Year's resolution to join us for the 2015 Volunteer Work Days; February 21, April 18, June 20, August 22, and October 17. It's a great way to make new friends and to make a difference.



August 16 volunteers smile for the camera (photo: C. Auerbach)

NPLD Celebration at Empire Ranch

A great turn out of volunteers joined in stewardship, nature walks, docent led tours, and educational activities to celebrate National Public Lands Day (NPLD) on September 27th. The 2nd annual Empire Ranch NPLD celebration was hosted by the Foundation's Wild About the Grasslands! Youth Education and Outreach program and the BLM's Youth in Wilderness program.

A big part of Saturday's volunteer workforce was comprised of students from Hiaki High School, the Patagonia Youth Enrichment Center, and Tucson area schools. In the morning all worked hard to clear the overgrowth of vegetation and complete the hummingbird planters on the Heritage Discovery Trail, and to spruce up the Ranch House and Visitor Contact Station. The afternoon educational sessions on observing native species led by LoriAnne Barnett of the USA-National Phenology Network were enjoyed by all.

"Thanks for bringing us out here. We want to come back soon. In spite of all the hard work everyone had fun. What a difference after the cleanup. Big kudos to all those kids who did an excellent job! See you for the next one!" said a geo-cache enthusiast who attended the event this year and last.



Students completing Hummingbird Planters with Louis Valenzuela, Yaqui (Yoemy) artist (photo: K. Pye)



Observing native species with LoriAnne Barnett, USA-National Phenology Network (photo: G. Corkill)

Coming in March...

15th Annual "EMPIRE 100" WESTERN ART SHOW AND SALE

March 29 — April 19, 2015

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

Sales begin at Opening Reception Sunday March 29, 2pm-5pm New Location!

Tucson Desert Art Museum
7000 E. Tanque Verde Rd
(at Sabino Canyon)

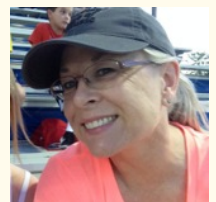
To benefit the
Empire Ranch Foundation
Laura Davis, "Empire 100" Chair

After March 20, 2015,
participating artists' work can be
viewed on the foundation's website,
www.empireranchfoundation.org



Welcome Ali Boelts

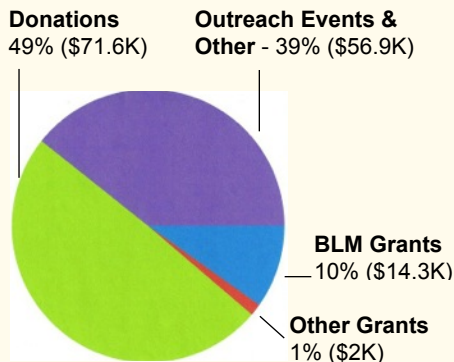
We are delighted to welcome Alison (Ali) Boelts as ERF's new administrator. Ali brings extensive experience in marketing, event planning, and volunteer recruitment and coordination. Tucson born and bred, Ali graduated from the University of Arizona with a B.A. in Philosophy. Her past professional positions include serving as executive director of TROT (Therapeutic Riding of Tucson); marketing manager of Tucson Old Pueblo Credit Union; and volunteer recruiter and coordinator of Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA). She is an active volunteer in non-profit organizations including Arizona Greyhound Rescue, Tucson Girls Chorus, and the Greater Tucson Fire Foundation Memorial Committee. Ali's goals with the ERF are to be an effective communicator to our dedicated supporters while increasing community awareness of the foundation's mission.



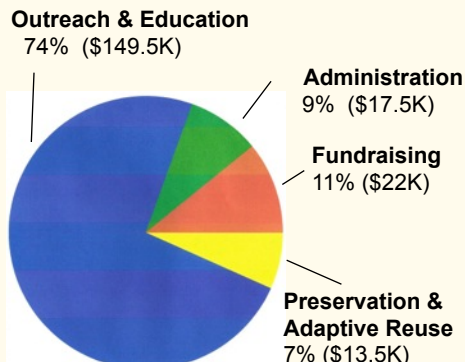
Empire Ranch Foundation

Financial Summary FY13: July 2013 through June 2014

Income, by Source of Funds: \$144,744 Total



Expenditures, by Use of Funds: \$202,517 Total



Income during FY13 totaled \$144,744—49% from member donations, 39% from outreach events and other sources, 10% from BLM grants, and 1% from other grants. Expenditures during FY13 totaled \$202,517—74% for outreach and education programs; 11% for fundraising; 9% for general administration; and 7% for preservation and adaptive reuse projects.

The above figures include \$14,256 in BLM grant income and \$24,948 in outreach and education expenditures that were managed by ERF for projects not on the Empire Ranch. Not included are more than 8,524 hours of labor contributed by ERF volunteers, valued by BLM at \$191,960 for grant matching purposes.

End-of-year assets totaled \$192.7K, comprising \$58.1K in BLM grant funds (fully obligated); \$25K in the Vail endowment and 5.6K in other ERF restricted funds; 45.8K in ERF unrestricted funds obligated for preservation, education, and interpretation projects; and \$58.2K in ERF unrestricted unobligated funds.

Gifts In Remembrance

The Empire Ranch Foundation gratefully acknowledges gifts recently received

In Memory of:
Earl F. Glenn, Jr.,

Carey Ingram,
Dusty Vail Ingram,
Violet Mangin,
Christine Shirley,
Sandy & Virginia Wilkinson
Margaret Vail Woolley

In Honor of:
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.

November

- 15** Annual Member Meeting and Board-of Directors election of officers, all welcome, 9am to 1pm.
- 22** Docent-Led Tour of the Empire Ranch House, 11am, free, open to all.

December

- 13** Docent-Led Tour of the Empire Ranch House, 11am, free, open to all.
- 27** Docent-Led Tour of the Empire Ranch House, 11am, free, open to all.

January

- 10** Docent-Led Tour of the Empire Ranch House, 11am, free, open to all.
- 17** ERF Board Meeting, 9am to Noon.
- 24** Docent-Led Tour of the Empire Ranch House, 11am, free, open to all.

February

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

March

- 1** Entries postmark deadline, 2015 Empire 100 Art Show & Sale
- 14** Docent-Led Tour of the Empire Ranch House, 11am, free, open to all.
- 21** ERF Board Meeting, 9am to Noon.
- 28** Docent-Led Tour of the Empire Ranch House, 11am, free, open to all.
- 29** Empire 100 Western Art Show & Sale Opens, Tucson Desert Art Museum, 7000 E. Tanque Verde Rd, Tucson. New location! **Show runs through April 19.** (see notice on page 3)

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 acknowledgements.)

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
- ☐ (\$,000) Patron
- ☐ (2,500) Majordomo
- ☐ (\$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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