



EMPIRE RANCH FOUNDATION NEWS

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www.empireranchfoundation.org



Imagine...

Howdy folks, and welcome to summer! Summer months bring warmer temperatures (ok hot), but, if you have a chance to visit the ranch during monsoon, you are welcomed by spectacular skies, sunrises, and sunsets.

It's a quieter time when you can come out and imagine. Imagine riding a fine horse through the rolling grasslands, herding a bunch of cattle, the early morning smell of coffee and biscuits as the cowboys wrangle their horses preparing for a full day's work. Imagine Dusty Vail and Steve Boice riding horses, climbing trees, doing what kids do with the ranch as their playground. Imagine our very own cowboy, Gerald Korte doctoring calves and looking for screwworms, or an entire movie company rolling onto the ranch to shoot a genuine western movie. Imagine all of the things that went on at this historic ranch.

This is what the ranch is all about, and why it's important to preserve and protect it for future generations. I want to thank all of you that have renewed your membership or joined as new members. If you haven't done so yet, please do, by using the envelope enclosed with this newsletter, or by visiting us online at www.empireranchfoundation.org.

Please come out for a visit, enjoy, and imagine.

Ron Martin, ERF President

“The Shootist” Fundraiser— A Special Night Out at the Movies

The 2015 Western Movies at The Loft event, held on August 12th at The Loft theater in Tucson, featured the 1976 acclaimed movie, “The Shootist,” John Wayne’s last film. “The Shootist” is generally considered a classic and one of John Wayne’s greatest.

Emil Franzi, introduced featured speaker Miles Swarthout, son of Glendon Swarthout who wrote the original novel. Miles related the story of how his father came up with the idea for the book, and how it was eventually made into a film. Did you know that John Wayne was responsible for changing the filming location from El Paso to Carson City, and that he had his own horse ‘Dollar’ written into the script? Wayne also insisted on changing the ending of the screenplay. In 2014 Miles pub-



Earlier in the day Miles visited the Empire Ranch for a special tour of the historic buildings led by Steve Boice, who was raised on the Empire, and Gerald Korte, who was a cowboy there in the 1940's.

Each summer ERF hosts the showing of a classic Western movie on the big screen at The Loft Cinema to raise funds Empire Ranch preservation. We are most grateful for the sponsorship support of The Green Valley Pecan Company, Strategic Issues Management Group (SIMG), and the Hacienda del Sol who helped to make this event possible. We greatly appreciate the tireless efforts of Event Chair Emil Franzi and



Moviegoers and Miles Swarthout at The Loft (top), Miles and guides touring the Empire (below) (photos: S. Reichardt)

ERF event volunteers, who make this annual summer event a success.

Legacy Day 2015

A day at the Empire Ranch is always an exciting experience, but it was especially so for the 6th and 7th graders from the Elgin School who participated in Legacy Day on May 13th. Being outdoors on a beautiful spring day, learning about ranching life, can't be beat.

Throughout the day the students learned about roping from Joel Eliot and Randy Echert, reata braiding from Dick Schorr, horses and horse handling from Steve Boice, and about range management from the University of Arizona Rangeland Management program staff. A special treat was the Dutch oven biscuit making session taught by Tom Rogos and Gail Corkill. The results provided wonderful snacks throughout the morning.

At noon, everyone adjourned to the Stone Corral for the traditional brisket, beans, and tortillas lunch prepared and served by Alison Bunting, Ron Martin, and Gene Raymond. Western singer Janice Deardorff serenaded the students while they ate, and later led them in a sing-along of favorites.

Special thanks are due to Dick Schorr, Anna Schorr Coleman, and Ali Boelts who organized the day's activities. We are very grateful for the generous contributions of the instructors and the volunteers and staff that made the day possible.



Legacy Day activities. (photos: A. Boelts)

Welcome, Bobbie Farewell, Ali

We are delighted to introduce Bobbie Young, ERF's new Administrative Director. Bobbie brings a wealth of experience in not-for-profit leadership and management, event planning, fundraising, and volunteer development. She has served as the Executive Director of Lohse Family YMCA in Tucson, Recreation Supervisor for Green Valley Recreation, Regional Executive Director for the Central Coast YMCA of California, and the Volunteer Coordinator of the Monterey Jazz Festival.

Bobbie has lived in Tucson for the majority of her life and appreciates the beauty of Southern Arizona. She and her husband, Western fiddle player Benny Young, are actively involved in the Western Music Association. Bobbie is delighted to join an organization dedicated to the preservation of the Empire Ranch's history and heritage.

We also bid farewell to Alison (Ali) Boelts, ERF Administrative Director during 2014-2015. We wish her the best in her new position with the Boys and Girls Club of Tucson.



National Public Lands Day on September 26

The BLM and ERF will be celebrating National Public Lands Day on Saturday, September 26, 2015 (8am to 1pm) at Empire Ranch Headquarters. Activities will focus on weeding, pruning and raking the Heritage Discovery Trail, a 3/4 mile ADA (American with Disabilities Act) compliant trail. This work will help keep the trail ADA compliant and accomplish required "fire wise" treatments.

A free continental breakfast, lunch and beverages will be provided. Volunteers can also take a guided tour of the historic Empire Ranch house led by Empire Ranch Foundation docents. To volunteer for this event, please contact us by calling (888) 364-2829, or email admin@empireranchfoundation.org.

Learn more at ERF website www.empireranchfoundation.org, or by visiting www.publiclandsday.org.

Gifts in Remembrance

The Empire Ranch Foundation gratefully acknowledges gifts recently received

In Memory of:

Jimmie Beville,

Bob & Miriam Boice,

Pancho Boice,

E. Neil & May Carr,

Earl F. Glenn, Jr.,

John D. Hedgcock,

Gordon Howard, Carey Ingram,

Dusty Vail Ingram,

Gene & Alvessa Hummell,

Rockwell E. Jackson, Patti Kelly,

The Lopez Vaqueros,

M. E. & Irma Manning,

George Masek,

Arley McNeil, Gail Phelps,

Rod Taylor, Nathan R. Vail

In Honor of:

Bob & Mary Bowman

We Need Your Input!

If you haven't already, please take a moment to complete ERF's member survey to let us know how we are doing in accomplishing our mission and serving the needs of our members.

Go to <http://empireranchsurvey.questionpro.com> to complete the survey online. Or call 520-732-7931 to have a hard copy mailed to you that you can fill out and mail back to us.

The survey closes Sept. 30, 2015. Please participate. We truly value your input!



Volunteers Aid Empire Preservation

After a “tailgate” safety meeting, volunteers at the June 27th ERF Volunteer Work Day spread out to clean both the Ranch House and Visitor Contact Station, and to attack the new vegetation brought on by the monsoon.

They also completed projects to reconstruct the historic Loading Chute and the pool equipment shed cover; installed hog-wire fences around three recently-planted Arizona Ash trees in front of the Visitor Contact Station; and removed the remnants of two dead trees taken down earlier by BLM Fire crews. Despite the heat, it was a fun and productive day. At upcoming work days we’ll be tackling the prepping and painting of doors and windows around the Ranch House, as well as continuing with repairs to corral fences and gates.

During work to stabilize the Adobe Haybarn some interesting elements of the



Hard working volunteers at June 27 work day. (photos: A. Boelts)



original floor were uncovered. Now that the temporary bracing is removed and the structure is safe, the BLM Historic Preservation Specialist wants to expose the entire floor and record any features exposed. This would be done by supervised volunteers, after which some form of non-permanent flooring will be laid over it so that the space can be used for various events. If you are interested in participating in the project, please contact the ERF at 888/364-2829 or email admin@empireranchfoundation.org.

YES! 2015 Program Studies NCA Grasses

The Youth Engaged Stewardship YES! 2015 program just concluded nine sessions focused on building youth leadership by planning and implementing a restoration project at Las Cienegas National Conservation Area. Ten students (aged 15-18) from various Vail and Tucson high schools made a positive impact by forming the Cienega Conservation Corps and conducting the Gardner Sacaton Restoration Project.

The Gardner Sacaton grassland area has an increasing amount of bare earth spots causing erosion. The students designed a project to determine what restoration methods can work over a longer period to stop the growth of bare earth spots and support sacaton vegetation.

They established two 100'x80' test areas (one fenced, one not) and investigated several methods of treatment: scarifying the top soil, planting alkali sacaton, and placing rock structures to hold soil.

Four control plots in each of the test areas were also set up. The students marked the grid, photographed each plot and carried out the treatments. These test areas will now be monitored by other

classes and individuals over the next few years to assess what works in restoration.

The YES! 2015 youth were a determined and especially scientifically-oriented group who didn't take the easy way out. They decided what work should be done, formed work teams and managed their budget to cover tools, supplies, and small stipends for the youth participants.

Collaboration with adults is essential for YES! to be successful. Ian Tomlinson, whose cattle graze on LCNCA, volunteered his crew to build a fence to keep out cattle for one test area. He also explained how the grazing system works, moving cows between pastures, and other facets of range management. Many scientists from several agencies also contributed time including the BLM (Tucson and Safford), US Geological Survey, the University of Arizona, The Nature Conservancy, the FROG Project, Pima Association of Governments, and the YES! Partners.

YES! is a program developed and managed by the Cienega Watershed Partnership, Ironwood Tree Experience, and Empire High School (Vail, AZ). The Tucson BLM funded this restoration research work through a grant to the Cienega Watershed Partnership.



YES! participants marking and treating test plots. (photos: S. McFarlin)

Empire Ambassadors

We invite ERF members to become part of an exciting new program at the Empire Ranch by joining the Empire Ambassadors—a cadre of volunteers who on weekends open the Visitor Contact Center, greet visitors, promote upcoming events and ERF, and do some general housekeeping and grounds maintenance.

Your involvement can be as often as one day every month or one day a couple of times a year. Our goal is to have Ambassadors on site every Saturday and Sunday for about 4 hours when there are no other activities scheduled. To register interest or obtain more information send an email to admin@empireranchfoundation.org or call us at 888-364-2829.

Working Calendar

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

September

12, 26 *Docent-Led Tour of the Empire Ranch House*, 11am-12pm, free, open to all, no reservations req.

19 *ERF Board Meeting*, 9am-noon. All welcome!

26 *“National Public Lands Day Work Day & Celebration,”* 8am-1pm, all welcome. Workers RSVP 888-364-2829 (see article p. 3)

October

10, 24 *Docent-Led Tour of the Empire Ranch House*, 11am-12pm, free,

open to all, no reservations req.

17 *Volunteer Work Day*, 8am-2pm. All welcome! RSVP 888-364-2829.

November

7 *15th Annual Roundup & Open House*, 10am-4pm, Empire Ranch Headquarters, free, public invited, \$10 donation per vehicle requested.

14, 28 *Docent-Led Tour of the Empire Ranch House*, 11am-12pm, free, open to all, no reservation req.

21 *ERF Annual Board Meeting & Elections*, 9am-noon. All welcome!

December

12 *Docent-Led Tour of the Empire Ranch House*, 11am-12pm, free, open to all, no reservations req.

**Coming November 7—
Don't Miss it!**

15th Annual Roundup & Open House at the Empire Ranch

**Saturday, November 7th
10am to 4pm
Empire Ranch Headquarters**



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

EMPIRE RANCH FOUNDATION



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