

EMPIRE RANCH FOUNDATION NEWS

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The Spring Trail Ride on April 2, 2016...

was awesome! Our thanks to the more than 90 riders participating on this perfect day for a ride. Steve & Faith Boice provided us a view of the ranch not experienced by many. Such beauty!

Our riders, a great mix of veteran trail riders and new to the ranch horsemen, had a great day on the trails. The first ride of the morning rode west through the vast grasslands. One veteran rider told us he enjoyed that ride because it was a bit more challenging, and there was so much to see. The afternoon riders headed east towards the Cienega Creek and got to experience the creek crossing. Such a wonderful time; many were ready to sign up for next year!

Those not riding enjoyed Ranch House tours by Gerald Korte, storytelling by Bunker deFrance and Heritage Discovery Trail walks led by Gail Corkill. Hamburgers and hot dogs were grilled by Marty Maynard and served by Larry and Dee Winter, while our guests were serenaded by Stewart MacDougall, playing western songs on his piano.

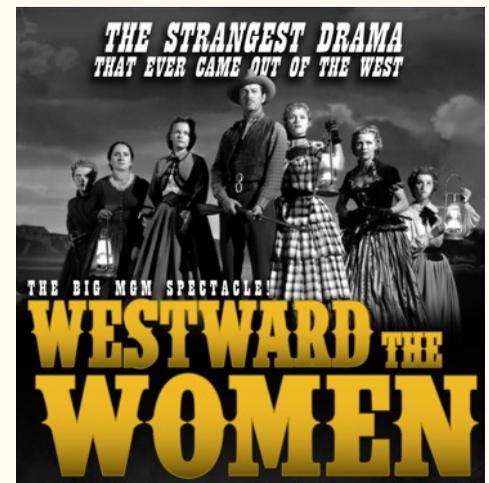
A special "Loyal to the Brand" award was presented at lunchtime to Alison Bunting. Alison was the President of ERF (2007-2009) and is also our Historian/Archivist, docent trainer, keeper of the website, and knower of all things. Thank you, Alison, for your commitment and dedication to the Empire Ranch Foundation - and for being "Loyal to the Brand"!

Many thanks to our outfitters All Around Trail Horses and their wranglers as well as our member volunteers for their help in setting up, registration, and breaking down. See you next year!



Riders gather at ranch house, then roam;
Alison Bunting receives "Loyal to the
Brand" award. (photos: B. Young)

Coming August 10!



Don't miss the showing of our 6th annual summer western movie, Wednesday, August 10th, 6:30pm, at The Loft Cinema in Tucson. This year it's the superb, but unusual, 1951 film *Westward the Women* starring Robert Taylor, Denise Darcel, and John McIntire. It's about a group of 200 single women in the 1850's forming a wagon train led by Taylor going from Chicago to their future husbands in California. Directed by the legendary William Wellman, the film is gritty and ahead of its time, and considered by critics to be one of the most under-rated westerns.

Our program also will feature actor William Wellman, Jr., who wrote *Wild Bill Wellman*, the biography of his dad. We are thrilled to have Mr. Wellman Jr. join us and look forward to some wonderful anecdotes of his dad and Hollywood as it was!

Tickets go on sale June 1, 2016, at Eventbrite.com. \$20 for ERF members; \$25 for non-members; \$30 at the door.

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