



EMPIRE RANCH FOUNDATION NEWS

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

www.empireranchfoundation.org

Thanks for All You Do!!!

We can't say THANK YOU enough to our wonderful supporters! Our volunteers are amazing and we couldn't provide all the services we do without them! During the 2018 Federal fiscal year our volunteers contributed over 7,000 hours to preservation, interpretation, and education efforts at the Empire Ranch and Las Cienegas National Conservation Area! Did you know these hours are valued at more than \$165,500 by our partner, the BLM? See the article on p. 3 for more about our volunteer program.

Included with this issue is a letter requesting a year-end contribution to help us do even more in the upcoming year! If you haven't renewed or joined, now is your chance by using the enclosed envelope! To learn more about making a financial contribution, please contact us at admin@empireranchfoundation.org.

We are pleased to announce a special recognition for donors whose annual contributions are at the \$1,000 level or higher—your choice of a merchandise item from the ERF Gift Shop, including ERF logo denim shirts and t-shirts, and books about the Empire Ranch. Of course, donations of any amount are always welcome and are paramount to preserving and enhancing the historic Empire Ranch.

There are so many wonderful things happening at the Ranch. Keep watching, keep sharing, and please stay involved! We succeed because of you and we are so thankful to have you as our partners!

Sincerely,
Faith Boice,
ERF President



Plenty of western action! photos: C. Rogos, C. Smith)

A Grand Festival It Was

The Roundup & Open House gained a new name in 2018—the Empire Ranch Cowboy Festival. The over 1,900 guests who arrived on November 3rd were delighted to be able to explore the re-opened Ranch House and enjoy the varied and exciting activities of the day.

The fast-paced action in the Main and Field arenas featured the colorful and exciting riding of the Charros y Modelos de Tucson, B Troop, 4th U.S. Cavalry (Mem.) military riding, and the Tombstone Ghost Riders mounted shooting. Skilled demonstrations by BLM's Wild Horse and Burro Program and horsemanship by Lanny Leach captivated all. The Tombstone Vigilantes drew lots of laughs with their old West skits and antics.

Western skills demonstrators included Chris Schrager (adobe brick-making); Casey Abbs (blacksmithing), Ozuna Boot Company (boot making); Coronado National Forest (mule packing & cross-cut saw); Bill Schock (branding); Dick Schorr (reata braiding); Brad Faulkner (saddlemaking); and Byrd Moss (silver-smithing). Livestock demonstrations were provided by Horse'n Around Rescue Ranch (Theresa Warrell & Steve Boice) and S & N Ranch miniature horses.

The Cowboy Conversations talks were standing room only. Speakers included Bunker DeFrance, Marty Freese, & Russell True (In Front & Behind the Camera); Van Fowers (History of Old Tucson: 1939-today); Marty Freese (Movies In/Around the Empire); Dick Schorr (Ranching in Eastern Santa Cruz

(continued on p. 2)

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Cowboy Festival (Cont'd)



County); Russell True (Dude Ranching in Arizona); Mac Donaldson (Ranching within the Endangered Species Act); Patricia Preciado Martin (Mexican-American Ranching Families in the San Rafael Valley); Greg Dowell (The Total Wreck Mine); Gary Turner (Thomas Jefferson Turner); Faith and Steve Boice (The Boice Family Legacy); J.J. Lamb (The Story of Vail, Arizona); Susan Vail Hoffman (Vail Family Vignettes); Eddie Gardner (The Gardner-Lopez Connection to the Empire Ranch); Michael Brescia (Vaqueros and the Influence of Spain & Mexico on the Ranching Culture in the North American West); Doug Hocking (Tom Jeffords, Friend of Cochise); Steve Lindsey (Ranching for Generations); and Robin Pinto (Photographic Archaeology of Empire Ranch Headquarters).

The Bill Ganz Western Band, Cowboy Way, and Ballet Folklorico la Paloma & Danza Cultural Mexicana cele-

Roundup Sponsors

Cash Sponsors: Barker Steel Construction, Inc. • Susan Barrable • Bogutz & Gordon, PC, Estate & Trust Law • Boot Barn • Capital Wealth Advisors, Michael Guidroz • Circle Z Guest Ranch • Copper Brothel Brewery • Cropper's Chevrolet Buick GMC • Empire Ranch Foundation Board of Directors • Hamstra Heating and Cooling, Inc. • Susan Vail Hoffman & Ron Hoffman • Home Projects, LLC • Elizabeth Layton • Ozuna Boot Company • Patty Wagon Music • Pinnacle Peak Steakhouse • Rachel B. Tierra Antiqua Realty • Roberts Alexonis Group • Schouten & Sullivan PLLC • Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative • Vera Earl Ranch, Inc.

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(photos: A Bunting, C. Rogos, C. Smith)

brated Southeast Arizona's rich cultural heritage with wonderful music and dance. Lively conversations took place throughout the day with the 15 non-profit organizations and five western authors in attendance.

We are so grateful for the presenters, the BLM, and the over 100 volunteers, including Sierra Vista Girl Scout Troops 104, 419, 1224, Copper State Renegades Equestrian Drill Team, the Sonoita Rodeo Royalty, and the Sonoita Border Patrol Explorers who insured the day's success. Special thanks to the sponsors and raffle donors listed below for their generous financial and in-kind support.

Interpreting the Empire Ranch House

The re-opening of the Empire Ranch House provides a wonderful opportunity to update and add exhibits and interpretative materials. Two long standing exhibits are being revised and updated. The History of the Empire Ranch Timeline, on display in the Living Room of the Victorian addition, will now cover the time period 1870-2000, ending with the establishment of the Las Cienegas National Conservation Area. This change allows us to provide much more information and photos about the families and other owners of the Empire Ranch. The focus of the Who Lived Here? exhibit in the Master Bedroom will change from individuals who actually lived in the Master Bedroom to Empire Ranch Families.

Throughout the Ranch House we will add some furniture and interpretive signs to explain items on display and architectural features of the building. In the Children's Addition we will install an exhibit of toys dating between 1886 and 1960.

Our goal is to have most of this work completed in time for the grand re-opening celebration of the Ranch House, scheduled for March 9, 2019.

Donations Sought

We're seeking donations of the following items.

- Vintage or reproduction toys (dating between 1886 and 1960)
- Duncan Phyfe style dining chairs
- 1940s china, linens, accessories (e.g., vases, candlesticks) and knick-knacks
- Victorian accessories (e.g. vases, candlesticks, hat pins) and knick-knacks
- Braided rugs
- Darkroom equipment (late 1800s.)

If you can help, please contact Sally Pyne (520-319-8142, spyne@cox.net).

Dedicated Gifts

The Empire Ranch Foundation gratefully acknowledges gifts recently received
In Memory of:

Bob & Miriam Boice, Kitty Boice,
Mary Vail Boland, Marion Hyland,
Dusty Vail Ingram,
Travis Cody Kerekes Martin,
My four big brothers,
Edward Newhall Vail &
Mary Brownie Vail

In Honor of:

Faith Boice, Bunker DeFrance

Preservation Efforts Mark National Public Lands Day



On Saturday October 22nd, approximately 20 members of the ERF and volunteers from the Tucson area helped BLM staff celebrate National Public Lands Day by completing a variety of preservation and maintenance tasks at Empire Ranch Headquarters. Outdoor Recreation Planner Robert Walter led a group that cleared vegetation and repaired areas of erosion along the Heritage Discovery Trail.

Acting Las Cienegas Field Manager June Lowery coordinated work on the Victorian Addition's porch. Old paint was scraped off the wooden railings and front windows, and wood putty was used to smooth out rough spots in the wood in preparation for later priming and painting. Other volunteers cleaned the Ranch House interior, sweeping and mopping the floors and polishing the wooden built-ins. Several broken window panes were also replaced. The Foundation treated the volunteers to a good lunch in appreciation for all the hard work.

On October 17th eight volunteers worked with Chris Schrager to complete repairs and prime all the wood elements of the Victorian Addition porch. The Cowboy Life and Master Bedroom displays were re-installed, and several new interpretive signs were hung. The October 27th workday was devoted to getting ready for the Cowboy Festival on November 3d. A final coat of paint was added to the Front Porch, the Ranch House and Huachuca House were thoroughly cleaned, and grounds near the buildings were weeded and mowed.



October volunteers getting important things done. (photos: A. Bunting, J. Lowery, BLM)

Volunteering Needed: Please Join Us

A volunteer is a person who freely takes part in an enterprise or undertakes a task. The enterprise, of course, is the Empire Ranch. The task(s) that our volunteers undertake include helping at our events, outreach booths, and work days at the ranch. We welcome new volunteers. Do you enjoy working with others, like to organize, have carpentry skills, like to work outdoors, or paint? We would love to have you join us.

Volunteering is being helpful, personally rewarding, and a way to interact with a new set of friends. It is also a reminder of how good it feels to do something for somebody else. We are a great group to work with--we share a love of this historic ranch and are committed to its preservation, and we have fun doing it.

Would you please think about helping us? Our mission is to protect, restore, and sustain the Empire Ranch historical buildings and landscape. My name is Marti Conroy and I am the Volunteer Coordinator. Please give me a call at 520-247-6097 (leave message) or email me at wrangler4504@gmail.com

Solar Cinema!

It turned out to be a beautiful evening under the stars at the Empire Ranch, Thursday, Sept. 20, 2018, for a special showing of the 1957 classic *3:10 To Yuma*. The movie was projected on a 20 ft. inflatable screen, with state-of-the-art projection and sound, thanks to a special partnership with The Loft Cinema. As part of The Solar Cinema Shot on Location program the movie was free and 120 people turned out for the experience.

Before the movie, families enjoyed a chuck wagon dinner from Rex Dalton E-Z Cattle Co, tours of the ranch house, and visiting the gift shop. Retired Hollywood stuntman Bunker DeFrance and "Voices of the West" producer Harry Alexander gave guests a behind the scenes look into the making of *3:10 To Yuma*, especially the portions that were filmed at the Empire Ranch.

The Foundation would like to thank Tucson Sunbelt Rentals for donating the use of light towers for parking. A special thanks to the many dedicated volunteers and The Loft Cinema.



Inflated screen support pillars and sound system readied for the screening (top); chuck wagon dinner (middle); outdoor movie shown under the stars (bottom). (photos: C. Rogos)

Working Calendar

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

December 2018

- 8** ***Christmas at the Ranch***, 10am-2pm, Free, Western holiday fun.
Docent-Led Tour of the Empire Ranch House, 11am-12pm, free, open to all, no reservations req.

January 2019

- 12&26** ***Docent-Led Tour of the Empire Ranch House***, 11am-12pm, free, open to all, no reservations req.
- 19** ***ERF Docent Training Class***, 11:30am to 4pm. Call 888-364-2829 to register or for more information.
- 26** ***ERF Board Meeting***, 9am-12pm. All welcome! Call 888-364-2829 for location.

February 2019

- 9&23** ***Docent-Led Tour of the Empire Ranch House***, 11am-12pm, free, open to all, no reservations req.
- 16** ***Volunteer Work Day***, 8am-2pm. To volunteer call 888-364-2829, email admin@empireranchfoundation.org

Cowboy Festival 2018— Hope You Were There!



March 2019

- 9** ***Grand Re-Opening Empire Ranch House / Milestone Celebration***
- 9&23** ***Docent-Led Tour of the Empire Ranch House***, 11am-12pm, free, open to all, no reservations req.
- 16** ***ERF Board Meeting***, 9am-12pm. All welcome! Call 888-364-2829 for location.

April 2019

- 6** ***Spring Trail Ride at the Empire Ranch*** - Save the Date!!

Christmas at the Ranch



Be sure to join us for **Christmas at the Ranch** on **Saturday, December 8, from 10am to 2pm**, a fun way to start the holiday season. The Empire Ranch House will be decked out for Christmas, with cowboy boot stockings on the fireplace, mantels with garlands and ornaments, and a little village in the family kitchen window.

Have your picture taken with Santa, and make and take a Christmas tree ornament or card. Sample homemade cookies and candies, sing favorite Christmas carols, and do some Christmas shopping with various Sonoita craft vendors and the Elgin/Sonoita Cowbells.