

# EMPIRE RANCH FOUNDATION NEWS

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[www.empireranchfoundation.org](http://www.empireranchfoundation.org)



## What a Day What a Ride

The soft whinnies of horses and the sounds of clinking and creaking tack greeted 91 excited riders who arrived at the Empire Ranch Headquarters on April 6th for the 2019 Spring Trail Ride. Under beautiful blue skies the three-hour ride, led by Steve Boice, was the first to depart to explore the beauty of the grasslands and riparian areas of Las Cienegas National Conservation Area (LCNCA). Faith Boice's 1.5-hour ride departed soon after. Everyone on the two wagon rides delighted in learning about the history of the Empire Ranch and the natural resources of LCNCA from docents Gail Corkill and Chip Fears.

Before and after the rides all enjoyed visiting the raffle and silent auction tables, the vendor booths, and the ERF gift shop. Docent Karen King provided tours of the Ranch House. The delicious chuckwagon lunch, cooked up by the EZ Cattle Company, was consumed in the comfort of the Adobe Haybarn. After lunch ERF President Faith Boice presented Nick and Jean Olmsted with the Heart of the Empire award for their extraordinary efforts on behalf of the Foundation as site hosts and docents (bottom photo).

We are grateful for the contributions of All Around Trail Horses, Rex Dalton and crew, Steve and Faith, and the ERF volunteers who helped make the event



(photos: F. Boice, S. H. Peterson)

such a success. Hope to see you next year on April 4th!

## A Grand Milestone A Grand Celebration



Ribbon cutting moment, and guest speakers Christy, Boice, Lopez, Kolbe and Bibles (photos: D. Drobka)

After more than a year of structural stabilization work, the BLM and ERF commemorated the preservation of the historic Empire Ranch House with a Milestone Celebration on Saturday, March 23.

Over 250 guests gathered for opening remarks and ribbon-cutting under a tent in the House Corral. Former U.S. Representative Jim Kolbe and former BLM State Director Dean Bibles shared recollections and stories about the establishment of Las Cienegas National Conservation Area in 2000. Pima County Supervisor Steve Christy praised the work of the Foundation to protect and preserve this iconic symbol of Arizona's ranching heritage, and BLM Tucson

*Continued p. 3*

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## Historic Preservation Terms and Treatments

For the past few months, most “hands-on” work at Empire Ranch has focused on getting the Ranch House visitor-ready after the long closure for stabilization work and preparing for the Milestone Celebration. So, it seemed like a good time to review some of the terminology we use in preservation work.

Historic buildings can be stabilized, remodeled, protected, renovated, preserved, rehabilitated, reconstituted, restored, reconstructed, or conserved. The treatment chosen has critical implications as it can change a property’s physical history, and, as a result, the way it is remembered, studied, and interpreted by future generations. BLM’s treatment of historic buildings is guided by the 1995 Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties which consolidates recommended treatments into four main categories: preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, and reconstruction.

**Preservation** focuses on the maintenance and repair of existing historic materials and retention of a property’s form as it has evolved over time. It retains historic materials through conservation, maintenance, and repair, and reflects a building’s changes over time, through successive occupancies and uses.

**Rehabilitation** is process of making possible a compatible use for a property through repair, alterations, and additions while preserving those portions or features that convey its historical, cultural, or architectural values. Like preservation, it emphasizes the retention and repair of historic materials, but more latitude is provided for replacement because it is assumed the property is more deteriorated prior to work.

**Restoration** is the act or process of accurately depicting the form, features, and character of a property as it appeared at a particular period of time. It allows removal of features from other periods in its history, and reconstruction of missing features from the restoration period. Restoration often entails a move away from material authenticity; some historic materials are removed if they belong to a different time period, and missing features are re-built.

**Reconstruction** re-creates vanished or non-surviving portions of a property for interpretive purposes. It entails the

least authenticity of historic materials. History is depicted using new materials, based on written records, drawings and photographs, archaeology, and other research findings.

As you visit the Empire Ranch Headquarters, look at the buildings with a critical eye, and see if you can figure out which treatments were employed, and why.

## New Timeline and Families Exhibits

In preparation for the re-opening of the Empire Ranch House after the completion of the 2017-2018 stabilization project Alison Bunting, ERF volunteer archivist and historian, assisted by Robin Pinto and Mary Melcher, developed two replacement interpretive exhibits for the Ranch House.



An updated “Timeline” exhibit (above) for the Living Room of the Victorian Addition replaces the Timeline first developed in 2004. The new Timeline details significant events that occurred in the history of the Empire Ranch between 1870 and 2000, illustrated by photos from the ERF archives.

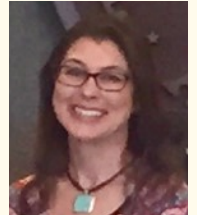
A “Families” exhibit in the Master Bedroom replaces the “Who Lived Here” exhibit developed in 2010. It features photos and descriptions of Empire Ranch owner families (Vail and Boice), families who have ranched the Empire under lease arrangements (Donaldson and Tomlinson), and other families that lived on the Empire during the Vail and Boice eras. Both exhibits were installed in time for the Milestone Celebration.



## Farewell Lahsha

Lahsha Brown’s last day as ERF Administrative Director was April 12, 2019. Lahsha made the difficult decision to resign due to on-going health issues. In her farewell message to ERF volunteers she noted how much “I truly love the work and the organization.”

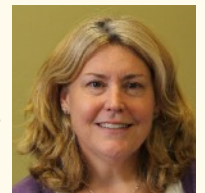
Lahsha is most proud of her close working relationship with the ERF Board and volunteers and BLM staff. She fostered a team approach to the Foundation’s preservation and education work. She was instrumental in planning the Milestone event celebrating completion of the stabilization project of the Empire Ranch House and new interpretive exhibits. We hope she heals well and wish her the best in her future endeavors.



## Welcome Colleen

Colleen Bergmanis joined the BLM Tucson Field Office as Assistant Field Manager for non-renewable resources in November 2018. Colleen has an MS in Natural Resource and Environmental Management (2003) and a BS in Geology and Geophysics (1999) from the University of Mānoa, Hawaii. She worked for the US Army in Europe and the Forest Service before joining BLM.

“I am very happy to be here and excited to get my feet wet with the BLM,” shared Bergmanis. Colleen enjoys needlecrafts, hiking, dancing, playing pool with her 17-year old son, and jamming with her sweetie on the congas while he plays bass guitar.



## Dedicated Gifts

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

Les Armour, Bob & Mary Bowman,  
Joe Dreyfus, Carey Ingram,  
Ferne Kemp Lewis,  
Joel McCrea

*In Honor of:*

Susan Vail Hoffman,  
Horse’n Around Ranch

## Milestone Celebration (Cont from p. 1)

Field Manager Jayme Lopez expressed his appreciation for the BLM's 22-year collaboration with ERF and presented the Foundation with a plaque.

After the opening remarks Jayme Lopez and ERF President Faith Boice cut the ribbon and invited guests to explore the Ranch House and view the new exhibits, attend the stabilization and preservation tour led by Project Director Eric Means, and enjoy refreshments in the Stone Corral. The event concluded with a standing-room only special presentation in the Adobe Hay Barn by Robin Pinto, Humanities Scholar, entitled "Empire to Las Cienegas National Conservation Area: Ranching and Historic Landscape Change."

Special thanks to Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative, Bashas', and Branches Event Services for their support of the event, and to Steve Boice who provided a wagon ride to speakers and dignitaries. We are deeply grateful to all the volunteers and BLM staff who supported this wonderful celebration.



*Guests enjoying remarks in house corral, refreshments in Stone Corral, and talk in Adobe Haybarn. (photos: D. Drobka, C. Rogos)*

## ERF Volunteers Are the Best

Pioneer Hall at the Santa Cruz County Fair Grounds proved to be a great venue for the ERF Volunteer Appreciation dinner dance on Saturday, April 27th. Upon arrival the over 80 volunteers attending had an opportunity to view the "Movies Filmed in Elgin Sonoita" exhibit in the Bowman & Stradling History Center. The exhibit includes photos contributed from the ERF archives of filming at the Empire Ranch.



A highlight of the evening was the delicious dinner prepared by the Board of Directors, especially the BBQ beef cooked up by Steve Boice. Faith Boice thanked everyone for their support of the historic Empire Ranch and presented certificates and pins to first-year volunteers. Ray Patrone presented Faith with her ten-year volunteer pin.



*(Photos: A. Bunting & C. Rogos)*

The John E. Mann band played wonderful western tunes throughout the evening, and the competitive bidding at the Silent Auction raised over \$700 for the Foundation. It was a wonderful evening and a

## Oklahoma! On the Big Screen



The Foundation is proud to present Gordon MacRae and Shirley Jones starring in "Oklahoma!" as our 2019 Western Movie at the Loft Cinema, in Tucson (3233 E. Speedway Blvd) on **Sunday, September 15th, doors opening at 2pm**. A panel discussion at 2:30pm precedes the 3pm show time.

This classic musical, set in Oklahoma Territory, is based on Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein's 1943 production. Shirley Jones plays a farm girl who is courted by cowboy Curly (MacRae) and farmhand Jud Fry, played by Rod Steiger.

Portions of the 1956 movie were filmed on the Empire Ranch, the Green Co. Cattle Ranch in the San Rafael Valley, Elgin, Canelo and Amado, Arizona.

Tickets are \$15 for ERF members, \$20 for non-members. Purchase at the door or on our website:

[www.empireranchfoundation.org](http://www.empireranchfoundation.org).

special opportunity to express our heartfelt thanks to the volunteers that contribute so much to ERF's mission.

We are also grateful to the Santa Cruz Fair and Rodeo Association Board of Directors for their support of this event, and to the silent auction donors: Anderson Family, Marti Conroy, La Hacienda de Sonoita B&B, Corey Legger, Phil Parks, Sally Pyne, and Rancho Rosa Vineyards.

## Working Calendar

*Note: Please check our website to confirm event details ([empireranchfoundation.org](http://empireranchfoundation.org)). Location: Meet at Visitor Contact Station, Empire Ranch Headquarters, unless otherwise noted. To volunteer, make reservations, or get more information, email [admin@empireranchfoundation.org](mailto:admin@empireranchfoundation.org) or call (888) 364-2829.*

### June

**1 Volunteer Work Day**, 8am-12pm. To volunteer call 888-364-2829 or email [admin@empireranchfoundation.org](mailto:admin@empireranchfoundation.org)

**8&22 Docent-Led Tour of the Empire Ranch House**, 11am-12pm. Free, open to all. Reservations req. by 5pm on day prior to tour

**15 ERF Board Meeting**, 9am-11am. All welcome!

### July

**6 Volunteer Work Day**, 8am-12pm. To volunteer call 888-364-2829 or email [admin@empireranchfoundation.org](mailto:admin@empireranchfoundation.org)

**13&27 Docent-Led Tour of the Empire Ranch House**, 11am-12pm. Free, open to all. Reservations req. by 5pm on day prior to tour

**27 National Day of the Cowboy celebration**, 9am-1pm, Free, open to all.

### August

**3 Volunteer Work Day**, 8am-12pm. To volunteer call 888-364-2829 or email [admin@empireranchfoundation.org](mailto:admin@empireranchfoundation.org)

**10&24 Docent-Led Tour of the Empire Ranch House**, 11am-12pm. Free, open to all. Reservations req. by 5pm on day prior to tour

**17 ERF Board Meeting**, 9am-11am. All welcome!

### September

**7 Volunteer Work Day**, 8am-12pm. To volunteer call 888-364-2829 or email [admin@empireranchfoundation.org](mailto:admin@empireranchfoundation.org)

**14&18 Docent-Led Tour of the Empire Ranch House**, 11am-12pm. Free, open to all, no reservations req.

**15 Oklahoma! Western Movie at The Loft Theater**. 7pm, Loft Theater 3233 E Speedway Blvd, Tucson. All welcome! See article on p. 3.

### November 2 —Advance Notice!

**2 Empire Ranch Cowboy Festival**, 10am-4pm. Free, open to all!

**Celebrate  
National Day of the Cowboy**  
at the  
**Historic Empire Ranch**  
**Sonoita, Arizona**  
**July 27, 2018, 9am-1pm**



**FREE Family Event**  
Demonstrations, Presentations,  
Ranch Tours

Empire Ranch Headquarters  
Las Cienegas National Conservation  
Area, off Scenic Highway 83,  
East Empire Ranch Road  
[www.empireranchfoundation.org](http://www.empireranchfoundation.org)