



# EMPIRE RANCH FOUNDATION NEWS

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

## President's Message

It's been a whirlwind summer with more exciting activities planned for the rest of the year! The outdoor (almost) showing of Red River and the National Day of the Cowboy celebration were a resounding success! We promoted the Empire Ranch and ERF to over 400 people at our outreach events since May.

Our new Administrator, Mr René Blatté, has hit the ground running! I hope you'll soon have a chance to meet him. I am so grateful for the efforts of Christine Haaksma, Marti Conroy, and Alison Bunting, who helped cover the Administrator's duties until we filled the position.

I hope to see you at the Loft Cinema Movie Event in Tucson on September 15th for the showing of *Oklahoma!* This year it's a Sunday matinée. Special thanks to the Tucson Rodeo Parade Museum which will have the actual surrey that was used in the movie on display!

Next up is National Public Lands Day at the Empire Ranch on October 12th; our BLM partner has a variety of volunteer activities planned for the day.

Of course, don't forget to attend the 19th Empire Ranch Cowboy Festival on November 2nd. We'll have many new and lots of favorite activities, performers, demonstrators, and speakers.

The key to our success is our volunteer and member support. Consider becoming a Cowboy Festival sponsor or volunteer. If you are not a member, please join; or renew your membership if it is due. You can volunteer, or become a member, or sponsor donor using the inserts in this issue or via the ERF website: [www.empireranchfoundation.org](http://www.empireranchfoundation.org).

Faith Boice, President



(photos: F. Boice, C. Rogos)

## National Day of the Cowboy

ERF welcomed over 460 enthusiastic participants in its celebration of National Day of the Cowboy on Saturday July 27th. The morning started off with an informative presentation on "*George Bascom, Cochise, and the Start of the Apache Wars*" by author Doug Hocking.

Regina Richter, Arizona Horseman's Challenge Participant, demonstrated groundwork horse training, and Horse'n Around Rescue provided an opportunity for close-up interaction with some of their rescue horses.

Western skills demonstrations included blacksmithing by Casey Abbs; leatherworking by Phil Parks; saddle making by Brad Faulkner, reata making by Dick Schorr; and ranching tools by Bill and Kathie Schock. The Vera Earl Ranch cowboys and cowgirls and the Sonoita Royalty provided roping demonstrations and lessons.

The children delighted in visiting the petting zoo, and 27 riders took advantage of short trail rides, all provided by All Around Trail Horses.

Everyone enjoyed the docent-led tours, shopping in the ERF gift shop, and the vendor booths which featured leather products, rustic signs, photography, cookies, jewelry and household products. Balladeer Bruce Andre provided roving music throughout the day. Over \$200 was raised from the silent auction and raffle.

This fun day was made possible by the outstanding contributions of all the ERF volunteers, the Sonoita Rodeo Royalty, the Turquoise Circuit, and the demonstrators.

*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.*