



EMPIRE RANCH FOUNDATION NEWS

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We've Been Busy

Activities often slow down during Arizona summers, but not at the Empire Ranch. Our workday volunteers have just completed a project to sand, prime, and paint the exterior of the windows and doors of the Empire Ranch House. Volunteers also prepared the Gift Shop for its re-opening in July—it's great to be back in business!

Our outreach team has kept busy by attending the Rotary Club of Sierra Vista 4th of July Celebration and the Southwest Wings Birding and Nature Festival and giving presentations at the Cochise Corral of the Westerners and Southwest Wings. Up next is the Sonoita Rodeo on Labor Day weekend. I'm pleased to announce that we now have a promotional "rack card" for display in area visitor centers, hotels, and B&Bs and for distribution at community events (see photos on p. 2). Let us know if you'd like a supply for your organization or business.

And we're also busy getting ready to host the 21st annual Cowboy Festival on November 5-6, 2022. A successful Festival requires lots of support, both financial and volunteer. This newsletter issue includes forms you can use to sign up as a sponsor or donate items for the Silent Auction. To help as a volunteer see the article on p. 3. Save the dates so you can join us in November!

If you are not an ERF member, please join the Foundation today to help us preserve and protect the Empire Ranch. You can join on our secure website or use the enclosed remittance envelope.

Faith Boice,
President



National Day of the Cowboy

The July 23rd celebration of the National Day of the Cowboy at the Empire Ranch also provided an opportunity to celebrate the re-opening of the ERF Gift Shop. Over 350 participants arrived bright and early to beat the heat and enjoy a morning of activities and shopping.

Western skills demonstrations featured Bill Schock (ranching tools), Dick Schorr (reata making), and Brad Faulkner (saddle making). Steve Boice's Horse'n Around Rescue Ranch crew brought horses and ponies, and Regi Richter demonstrated groundwork horse training techniques.

Jim Liles, National Bareback Riding Hall of Fame & Museum, had a great display of bareback riding equipment and his bronze sculptures. Representatives from the Tucson Rodeo—La Fiesta de los Vaqueros and the Tucson Rodeo Parade Committee promoted the Parade Museum and the 98th Rodeo and Parade, to be held February 18-26, 2023.

A film crew from the Pima County Communications Office filmed the morning activities for use in a short video about the Empire Ranch as part of their "Exploring the County Line" series of places to visit in Pima County. The video can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y-im9Kt1kFFQ>.

Special thanks are due to the cadre of volunteers who made the day a great success.

Horse training techniques demonstrations (left top), docent guided tours (left 2nd), and many informative exhibits filled the morning. (photos: M. Grignano, A. Hooper w/ Throughthehoopazphotos)

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.