

EMPIRE RANCH FOUNDATION NEWS

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www.empireranchfoundation.org

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 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.

Movie Under the Stars

Almost 200 western film aficionados enjoyed the June 4th outdoor showing of *"Last Train from Gun Hill"*. Before the movie started Steve Boice shared stories about his interactions as a young boy with the actors and film crew.



The audience settles in... (photos: F. Boice)

The film was shown in the open field northwest of the Empire Ranch House where there was plenty of room to set up groupings of folding chairs. Many brought their own picnic dinner or enjoyed the fare served by EZ Cattle Company Cow Camp Café & Chuckwagon. Many bags of free popcorn dished up by ERF volunteers were consumed.

The Foundation is most grateful for the support of The Loft Solar Cinema program that provided the free movie screening and to Sunbelt Rentals, Inc., that provided light towers for the parking area.

New "Rack" Card To Promote Empire Ranch



(For distribution at visitor centers, hotels, events, etc..)

Legacy Day 2022

It was wonderful to once again welcome middle school students from Elgin and Patagonia for Legacy Day at the Empire Ranch on May 4, 2022. Seventy-five enthusiastic youngsters received hands-on instruction from experts recruited by Dr. Dick Schorr. We are most grateful for the participation of Shane Lyman (roping), Steve Boice (horse care), UA College of Agriculture (range management), Dick Schorr (reata making), and Chris Schrager (adobe repair).

ERF volunteers cooked and served a wonderful chuckwagon-style lunch that included shredded beef donated by Vera Premium Beef. Singer-songwriter Janice Deardorff entertained everyone during the lunch break. At the end of the day the students left with an understanding and appreciation for the ranching heritage of southeastern Arizona.



Departed Friend: Lea Ward



Early ERF Board Member and lifetime supporter, Lea Ward, died on May 15, 2022 in Tucson, at the age of 89. After a career as a surgical nurse in Tucson, Lea and her husband Oscar retired

to Sonoita in 1995. She immediately became involved in local organizations including Santa Cruz County Cowbells and the Empire Ranch Foundation.

Lea served on the ERF Board of Directors in the early days of the Foundation (1999-2002) and enthusiastically assisted in the early fund-raising activities. She was an active participant in the oral history program, conducting an interview with Eva and Dick Jimenez, who lived and worked on the Empire Ranch in the 1930s and 40s. Lea also served on the ERF Advisory Committee until a few years before her death.

Dedicated Gifts

The Empire Ranch Foundation gratefully acknowledges gifts recently received

In Memory of:

Charles G. Boice, Dusty Vail Ingram,
Travis Cody Kerekes Martin,
Annie McGee, Raymond Morelli,
Lea Ward

In Honor of: Horse'n Around

Rescue Ranch & Foundation



Visiting students practice reata braiding, get up close to ranch animals, lunch in the Stone Corral, and pose for the group shot —parts of a busy day. (photos: F. Boice)

Search for *A Star is Born* Honeymoon House



In 2021 ERF received an email from Garry Rollins of Indianapolis, IN, who was looking for the location of the honeymoon house constructed for filming of the 1976 film, "*A Star is Born*" (see photo above).

Garry knew the location was somewhere on the 42,000-acre Las Cienegas National Conservation Area (LCNCA), and he was hoping that ERF might be able to help. Following is his account of what happened next.

I knew that the art director for "*A Star is Born*" was Polly Pratt who chose a site familiar to Hollywood. The 1968-69 western "*Monte Walsh*" had constructed a cowboy ranch named the "Slash-Y" on the same site. The prior ranch was destroyed for the construction of the "*A Star is Born*" house.

Alison Bunting, a historian at the Empire Ranch Foundation put me in contact with stunt performers who worked on the film, movie historians, and local ranchers. All provided clues to the location, but none knew the exact location of the structure.

With the knowledge I learned, I slowly went through still frames of "*Monte Walsh*" and "*A Star is Born*" to look for geographical clues in the backgrounds. A famous mountain referred to as "Biscuit Peak" south of AZ-82 appears in both movies. From there, hours were spent aligning Google Earth locations to find a match.

In April 2022 I took a road trip to see if I could succeed in finding the location. I had selected an area on the eastern edge of the LCNCA and north of AZ-82. Upon arrival, I learned my suspected location was on State Trust Land and required a permit for entry. The two-track dirt road is located on the north side of AZ-82 approximately 6.3 miles east of Sonoita, AZ. After obtaining a permit, I explored the area on foot and in my vehicle.

The dirt road moves up a hill to a

Discovering the Land

"We wanted to get people back on the land, not just sitting in chairs listening to science, even good science" said, Tom Meixner, Cienega Watershed Partnership (CWP) Chairman, about the May 7 "Discovering The Land" event. Instead of the traditional Science on the Sonoita Plain, CWP and its major event partner, Friends of the Sonoita Creek (FSC), planned a 2022 approach emphasizing "Community, Science, and Partnership in the Sonoita and Patagonia Regions"—two watersheds, lots of good science, and partner engagement

ERF was pleased to host the morning session which began with 3 tours at the Empire Gulch (birds and restoration) and the Empire Ranch House docent-led



Ranch house tour (photo: F. Boice)

tour. Tom and local hosts from ERF and the BLM welcomed and introduced speakers: the University of Arizona (mesquite removal and hydrology), Arizona Game and Fish (prairie dogs), Pima Association of Governments (water resources and hydrology), Antelope Foundation (antelope) and the FROG Project (frog status).

Afternoon events at The Nature Conservancy's Sonoita Creek Preserve were convened by the FSC with topics on trail maintenance, citizen activism, restoration, water monitoring, and field demonstrations from seven partner organizations.

flat mesa. Within just 5-10 minutes of walking the area becomes flat. Within just another 5 minutes of walking there is a depression on the left that is excavated approximately 3' deep and is about 20' x 40'. This is the location of the adobe house in the movie. You will see evidence of the destroyed house. Some concrete and Mexican terra cotta tile are visible on the edge of the dirt

Coming November 5 & 6
Don't Miss It!

21st Annual Empire Ranch Cowboy Festival

Saturday & Sunday
November 5 & 6, 2022
10am to 4pm,
at Empire Ranch Headquarters



Open to all!

For more information, please see
enclosed flyer or visit
www.empireranchfoundation.org

Volunteers Needed

Can you help as a Cowboy Festival volunteer this year? The festival will be held for two days, Saturday, November 5th and Sunday, November 6th. Our preparation days will be November 3rd and 4th, with takedown day on November 7th.

To volunteer go to the ERF website www.empireranchfoundation.org and fill out the Cowboy Festival volunteer form. Questions? Contact Marti Conroy by email at Wrangler4504@gmail.com or phone: (520) 247-6097. We hope you can help!

road. Glass, plaster, rebars, and charred wood also exist.

If you go, PLEASE leave no trace and "Take nothing but photos, leave nothing but footprints." This is protected state land and all artifacts should be left for future explorers. To obtain additional information and the GPS coordinates for the location send an email to: admin@empireranchfoundation.org.

Working Calendar

Note: Please check our website to confirm event details (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 or call (888) 364-2829.

September

- 10 Volunteer Work Day**, 8am-12pm. To volunteer call 888-364-2829 or email admin@empireranchfoundation.org
- 10&24 Docent-Led Tour of the Empire Ranch House**, 11am-12pm. Free, open to all. Reservations required by 5pm on day prior to tour
- 11 "Gunfight at the OK Corral" Western Movie at the Loft Cinema**, 2pm, Loft Theater, 3233 E Speedway Blvd, Tucson. See details at right. All welcome!

October

- 1&22 Volunteer Work Day**, 8am-12pm. To volunteer call 888-364-2829 or email 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

- 20 ERF Board Meeting**, 9am-11am. All welcome! Call 888-364-2829 for location.

November

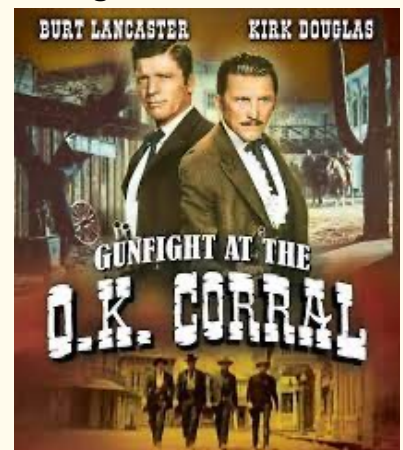
- 3&4 Cowboy Festival Set Up**, Volunteers NEEDED! 8am-3pm. To volunteer call 888-364-2829.
- 5&6 21st Annual Empire Ranch Cowboy Festival, Empire Ranch Headquarters**, 10am-4pm. Free, open to all!
- 7 Cowboy Festival Tear Down**, Volunteers NEEDED! 8am-3pm. To volunteer call 888-364-2829.
- 12&26 Docent-Led Tour of the Empire Ranch House**, 11am-12pm. Free, open to all. Reservations req by 5pm on day prior to tour

December

- 3 Volunteer Work Day**, 8am-12pm. To volunteer call 888-364-2829 or email admin@empireranchfoundation.org
- 10 Christmas at the Empire Ranch**, 10am-2pm. Empire Ranch House. Docent tours available during the event. Free, open to all!
- 15 ERF Board Meeting**, 6pm. All welcome! Call 888-364-2829 for location.

Sunday, September 11
Don't Miss It!

Gunfight at the OK Corral



The Foundation is proud to present Burt Lancaster and Kirk Douglas starring in "Gunfight at the OK Corral" as our **2022 Western Movie at the Loft Cinema, in Tucson (3233 E. Speedway Blvd) on Sunday, September 11th, doors opening at 2 pm.** A panel discussion at 2:30 pm precedes the 3 pm show time.

Tickets are still available: \$25 advance purchase; \$30 at the door. Purchase online: <https://loftcinema.org/film/>