

EMPIRE RANCH FOUNDATION NEWS

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Santa, Snowballs, and Shopping

Over 350 excited visitors attended the 2022 Christmas at the Empire Ranch event on December 10th. The Ranch House was festively decorated for Christmas and provided the perfect venue for “making and taking” Christmas ornaments and consuming the wonderful array of cookies and candies provided by ERF volunteers.

Santa and Mrs. Claus (ERF board members Nick and Jean Olmsted) welcomed children on the Front Porch of the Victorian Addition. Santa was especially touched by the wishes of more than one child: "I'd like my family all to be together. I don't want anything for myself."

In the garden area east of the Ranch House John Adams & Ken Brown of Permafrost Road provided music throughout the day and managed to stay out of range of the faux snowball fights. Regi Richter's horse Remington, sporting a Santa hat and bells, greeted visitors, as did the miniature donkeys from the Forever Home Donkey Rescue & Sanctuary. The ERF gift shop and seven vendors reported brisk sales.

(photos: Through the Hoop Photography)



Our Valued Volunteers

On January 21st the ERF Board of Directors honored the 2022 volunteers during the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner (see p. 2). Since 2020 all ERF activities have been accomplished by volunteers only, and we are so grateful. In 2022 189 volunteers logged over 6,555 volunteer hours. The value of these hours amounts to \$196,312.

Volunteers are key to accomplishing ERF's mission to protect, restore and sustain the Empire Ranch historical buildings and landscape. We help preserve the historic buildings at monthly volunteer workdays. And volunteers help us host events and outreach activities to raise public awareness, funds and friends.

I'm delighted to announce the ap-

pointment of Adriana Arrington as ERF Administrative Assistant and Volunteer Coordinator (see p. 3). With Adriana's assistance we hope to accomplish even more in 2023. If you'd like to join our volunteer team and/or become an ERF member please visit the Get Involved section of the ERF website.

*Faith-Boice McCabe,
ERF President*

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.

2023 Officers and Board

The Foundation officers for 2022-2023 are: **Faith-Boice McCabe**, President; **Marti Conroy**, Vice President; and **Christine Haaksma**, Treasurer.

Two new members of the Board of Directors were elected at the December 15th annual meeting:

Rick Collins of Tucson is a National Park Ranger at Tumacácori National Historical Park where he conducts tours and historical research, supervises the tour docents, and is responsible for social media and the volunteer newsletter. He previously worked in Medical Television at the University of Arizona Health Sciences Center. Rick is active in the Tubac Historical Society, the Friends of the Tubac Presidio Historic State Park, the Tucson Presidio Trust, and coordinates the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail Mounted Color Guard. Richard's expertise will prove invaluable to the ERF interpretation and history programs.

Jimmy Lehman of Sierra Vista recently moved to Cochise County from Alabama, where he worked in management in the private sector for a national pizza chain and national mortgage companies. He has extensive experience with nonprofit organizations including Northwest Y.M.C.A. in Huntsville, Alabama, and C.A.S.A., now rebranded as Enable Madison County (Alabama).. Active in the Huntsville Madison County Chamber of Commerce, Jimmy helped Chamber members with research, promotional opportunities, and networking. Jimmy looks forward to working with the "dedicated group of people serving a great cause in keeping the [Empire Ranch] buildings, land, history and more alive for future generations."

Continuing Board members include Faith-Boice McCabe, Steve Boice, Marti Conroy, William Dobias, Christine Haaksma, Raymond Patrone, and Timothy Vail.

We are most grateful for contributions of two departing board members:

Dave McNamara (2016-2022) first became involved in ERF as a volunteer workday participant and docent. While on the Board of Directors he was an active member of the Events and Outreach & Education committees. He and his wife Pat have provided wonderful support at all ERF events.

Kimberly Patterson (2014-2022)

Come Ride with Us Saturday, April 1, 2023

Join us for our Spring Trail Ride on April 1, 2023. It's a wonderful opportunity to experience Las Cienegas National Conservation Area (LCNCA) grasslands. We'll have guided horseback rides, a catered Chuck Wagon lunch, and more.

Registration is easy on our website at www.empireranchfoundation.org/ranch-events/trail-ride/. Registrations are due no later than March 18, 2023.

Volunteers—the Heart of the Foundation

On Saturday, January 21st, 2023, the ERF Board of Directors welcomed ERF volunteers and their families to an evening of dinner and dancing to music by Jay Faircloth, a local Tucson musician/song writer. Everyone enjoyed posing at the photo booth (see below) and bidding on the Silent Auction items.

Board Members served a delicious meal featuring beef prepared by Steve Boice and raised on his Single Star Ranch. Faith-Boice McCabe expressed appreciation for the volunteers' contributions to preservation of the Empire Ranch. Five lucky volunteers went home with door prize awards—\$50 gift certificates for the ERF gift shop.



was a member of the first ERF docent class in 2011 and has provided docent tours since then. She served as Secretary (2015-2017), Gift Shop Manager (2014-2022), and on the Finance & Development and New Ranch House committees. Kimberly created the Online Gift Shop on the ERF website.

Dave and Kimberly were appointed to the ERF Advisory Committee and look forward to remaining active in ERF activities.

Departed Friend

Jim Kolbe



Former Congressman James (Jim) Kolbe died on December 3, 2022. He served eleven consecutive terms in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1985 to 2007. Jim's involvement with the Empire Ranch began soon after he moved to Arizona in 1947 when his parents, Walter and Helen Kolbe, purchased the Rail "X" Ranch, which had been part of the Empire Ranch. Located between Sonoita and Patagonia the Rail "X" ranch consisted of 500 acres of irrigated farmland on which corn, alfalfa, and barley was grown. It was also a working cattle ranch and a guest ranch. Jim and his three siblings, Walter, John and Beth, all participated in the work of the ranch. His parents were friends of Frank and Mary Boice and Jim fondly recalled visits to the Empire Ranch as a boy, especially outdoor games and swimming pool parties.

Jim left Patagonia when he was only 15 to become a page for Arizona Senator Barry Goldwater, completing his high school education in Washington, D.C. His next involvement with the Empire Ranch was in 1988 when he supported the efforts of local citizens and the BLM to bring Empire Ranch lands into public ownership through a series of land swaps, creating the Empire Cienega Conservation Area. In 2000 Jim sponsored the legislation that established Las Cienegas National Conservation Area, ensuring the protection of the Empire Ranch and surrounding landscape.

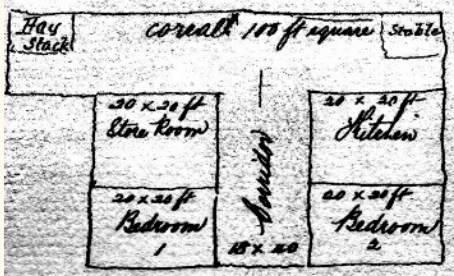
The Foundation was honored when in March 2019 Jim participated in the Special Milestone Celebration commemorating the stabilization and preservation work on the historic Empire Ranch House (see photo above). He was very supportive of the Foundation.

"...what you're doing ... is great—all the work that you and your colleagues are doing to preserve it and keep it as an educational resource for future generations I think is wonderful." [ERF Oral History Interview with Jim Kolbe, 2011].

The Original Empire Ranch House

When Walter Vail and Herbert Hislop established the Empire Ranch in 1876 two important features of the 160-acre homestead they purchased was a building and with attached corral which were constructed circa 1870 by Tucson businessman, Edward Nye Fish. Designed in traditional Sonoran style and constructed of adobe, the four-room building supported a flat, mud-covered roof. The four rooms were separated into two halves by an 18' wide and 60' long zaguán or entrance corridor. The adobe-wall of the corral was attached to the building so its only entrance was through the zaguán. This arrangement provided protection for Empire livestock from night-raiding Chiricahua Apaches.

The original 1870s section of the Ranch House still exist today unlike the original corral. No photographs document the building and corral. However, a sketch with dimensions and written description exists in a letter that Hislop wrote to his sister in November 1876.



His sketch showed the layout and purpose of the two pairs of rooms on either side of the zaguán. He also included information regarding functions within the corral: a storage area for hay and a stable. In his letter, Hislop described the logic of the building and corral arrangement.

“... there are 4 rooms in the house two bedrooms, kitchen and store-room at the back of the house is the corral for corralling the cattle in, the reason it is put at the back of the house is on account of the Indians so as one can keep their cattle safe at night, as that is rather a favorite time for the Indians to run off with stock ...”

The zaguán was an entrance feature of traditional Spanish and later Mexican architecture. Typically large enough for carriages to pass through into an inner courtyard, riders and passengers could access internal living and work-

ing quarters in safety. Wagons, stage-coaches, and later pickups drove into the zaguán to unload supplies and people.

The zaguán today (photo below) has a wood frame “meat cooler” which was



used to store freshly butchered meat, except in summer. Quarters of beef wrapped first in blankets, and then tarps, were laid on the floor of the cooler. On cold nights the meat was unwrapped and hung on hooks to further chill/freeze it. Its use for this purpose was discontinued when electric power arrived at the Empire Ranch around 1957.

Our thanks to ERF Advisory Committee member Robin Pinto for allowing us to share the results of her work on photographic archaeology of the Empire Ranch.

Welcome Adriana!

We are pleased to welcome Adriana Arrington as the Empire Ranch Foundation Administrative Assistant and Volunteer Coordinator. Adriana joined the ERF team in late 2022. A native Tucsonan, Adriana grew up in Vail, AZ. She has held bookkeeping, human resources, and office management positions in the private and non-profit sectors.



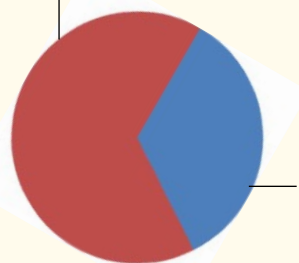
Adriana also manages her family’s ranch, the M Lazy J Ranch in Klondyke, AZ. Her initial goals are: “To offer relief to some of the amazing volunteers who have worked effortlessly to keep the Foundation going and to continue to aid in the preservation of the rich history of the Empire Ranch.”



Empire Ranch Foundation Financial Summary: January through December 2022

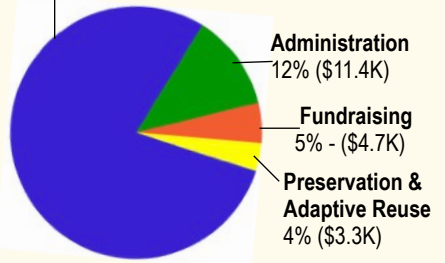
Income by Source of Funds:
\$126,282

Outreach Events
& Other
66% (\$83K)



Expenditures, by Use of Funds:
\$91,807

Outreach & Education
79% (\$72.4.9K)



The Foundation was able to host four annual events and provide a full schedule of docent tours and volunteer workdays in 2022. For a second year, the administrator position remained unfilled with volunteers handling critical responsibilities of the position. Income during FY22 totaled \$126,282—34% from member donations and 66% from outreach events and other sources. Expenditures during FY22 totaled \$91,807—79% for outreach and education programs; 12% for general administration; 5% for fundraising; and 4% for preservation and adaptive reuse projects. Not reflected in these figures is the more than 6,555 hours of labor contributed by ERF volunteers, valued by BLM at \$196,312 for grant matching purposes.

End-of-year assets totaled \$231K, comprising \$30K in BLM grant funds (fully obligated); \$25K in the Vail endowment and \$41K in other ERF restricted funds; \$23K in ERF unrestricted funds obligated for preservation, education, and interpretation; and \$112K in ERF unrestricted unobligated funds.

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, or for more information, call (888) 364-2829. or email admin@empireranchfoundation.org

March 2023

4 **Volunteer Work Day**, 8am-12pm. To volunteer call 888-364-2829 or email admin@empireranchfoundation.org

11 & 25 **Docent-Led Tour of the Empire Ranch House**, 11am-12pm. Free, open to all, reservations required by 5pm the day prior to the tour.

April 2023

1 **Spring Tail Ride**, 8am-2pm. Reservations can be made online at www.empireranchfoundation.org or call (888)364-2829.

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

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

May 2023

6 **Volunteer Work Day**, 8am to 12pm, Empire Ranch Headquarters. To volunteer call 888-364-2829 or email admin@empireranchfoundation.org

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

June 2023

3 **Volunteer Work Day**, 8am to 12pm, Empire Ranch Headquarters. To volunteer call 888-364-2829 or email admin@empireranchfoundation.org

10 & 24 **Docent-Led Tour of the Empire Ranch House**, 11am-12pm. Free, reservations required by 5 pm the day prior to the tour.

15 **ERF Board Meeting**, 6pm. All Welcome! Call 888-364-2829 for loca-



LCNCA Signage

The Bureau of Land Management recently installed new signage along Las Cienegas National Conservation Area (LCNCA) roads. The signs provide distance information and directions to Empire Ranch Headquarters, designated campgrounds, and other points of interest on LCNCA.

