

EMPIRE RANCH FOUNDATION NEWS

P.O. Box 842 * Sonoita, Arizona 85637-0842 * (888) 364-2829

www.empireranchfoundation.org

Membership Dues Reduced!

The Empire Ranch Foundation continues to reach new audiences, capturing more and more hearts in the communities in the region. Ironically, most people don't realize that it takes their support to achieve the goal of preserving these important ranch buildings. In order to increase that support the Foundation has made a big decision. We're reducing the basic membership to only \$35.00.

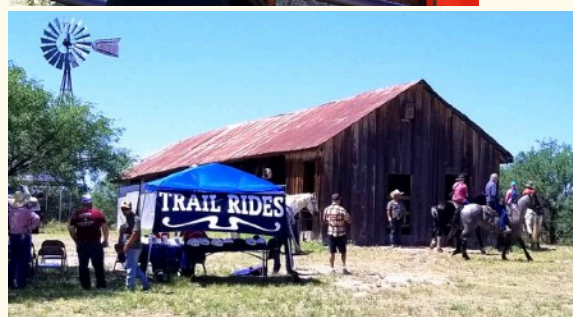
Now, honestly, we'd love to receive more financial support for this important piece of Arizona history, but we are taking a chance on you. We are asking you to encourage your friends and acquaintances to take advantage of the reduced membership rate.

Success isn't just about money. A large membership demonstrates to our partners that the Empire Ranch is meaningful to the community and worthy of investment. Your membership is the one thing you can do that doesn't require time or energy but has a profound impact. We urge you to help in this campaign.

You can join or renew your membership on our secure website (empireranchfoundation.org) or use the remittance envelope inserted in this newsletter. Membership means caring and caring means future generations will enjoy the beauty and history that is the Empire Ranch.



Cowboy Culture & Heritage Celebration



Pack goats, ranching tools and saddle demonstrations, music and poetry, and trail rides kept visitors interested and entertained at National Day of the Cowboy. (photos: F. Boice-McCabe, A. Bunting)

National Day of the Cowboy (NDOC) celebrates contributions of the Cowboy and Cowgirl to America's culture and heritage. At the Foundation's first NDOC celebration in 2016, 30 participants took guided tours of the Ranch House, and enjoyed bag lunches, and presentations on local ranching and western movies.

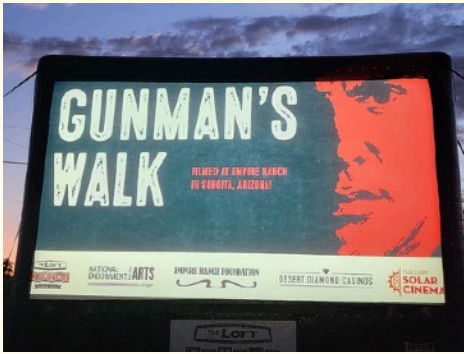
On July 22, 2023, over 300 excited visitors attended our celebration featuring music and cowboy poetry by Arizona Cowboy, Gary Kirkman, and Western skills demonstrations by Ron Applegate (blacksmithing & chuckwagon cooking), Mark Ellis (saddles & weapons), Bill Schock (ranching tools), and Dick Schorr (reata braiding). At the Horse'n Around

Rescue Ranch arena Regi Richter, demonstrated groundwork horse training techniques. Steve Shaw's pack goats captivated everyone's interest.

Fifty riders enjoyed the trail rides on Las Cienegas National Conservation Area. Western ware and other goods were on display at the vendor and non-profit booths. The chuckwagon breakfast and lunch offerings hit the spot.

We are always grateful for the contributions of the volunteers and participants who ensure the success of our events. Special thanks are due to those who helped control an early morning tree fire in the nearby Empire Gulch until BLM firefighters arrived.

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.



Gunman's Walk Under the Stars

The Foundation's first Movie Under the Stars showing of 2023 featured Gunman's Walk, starring Van Heflin, Tab Hunter, Kathryn Grant, and James Darren. With 85+ guests in attendance, it was an extraordinary evening! Our first snack bar and popcorn concession proved to be very popular.



Thank you to The Loft Cinema and our amazing volunteers for your hard work and dedication to the Empire Ranch Foundation! Don't miss the September 23rd showing of Night of the Lepus. Details can be found on the flyer enclosed with this newsletter.



The show begins as the sky darkens... (photos: F. Boice-McCabe)

Learning About Ranching Legacy

On May 3, 2023, middle school students from Patagonia and Elgin enjoyed Legacy Day at the Empire Ranch. We are so grateful for the efforts of the day's instructors: Dick Schorr (reata rope braiding), Steve Boice (horse care), Chris Schrager (adobe brick repair), Shane Lyman (roping), and the UA College of Agriculture experts (range management).

ERF Board members cooked up and served a great chuckwagon lunch of shredded beef, beans, coleslaw, and tortillas. Special thanks to Vera Earl Premium Beef for donating the delicious beef and to ERF Past President Dick Schorr who organized and coordinated the day.



Visiting middle-school students learning about adobe brick repair (above), care of ranch animals (top R), roping (mid R), enjoying a chuckwagon lunch (bottom R), and posing for a group photo (below) as parts of a filled Legacy Day. (photos: F. Boice-McCabe)



Dedicated Gifts

The Empire Ranch Foundation gratefully acknowledges gifts recently received

In Memory of:

Don Butler, Emil Franzi,
Dusty Vail Ingram, Ferne Kemp Lewis,
Patricia Pettis

In Honor of:

Marti Conroy,
Horse'n Around Rescue Ranch & Fdn.

Preservation Update

Thanks to the efforts of ERF's many talented volunteers, the Middle Room and Pantry of the Empire Ranch House have been reopened to the public.

The Pantry, located next to the Family Kitchen, was closed off when its metal drop ceiling partially collapsed, revealing the original wood beam ceiling. After removing the collapsed section of the metal ceiling along with lots of dirt and debris, the remaining 4-foot metal ceiling sections along the room's west side were secured. The exposed wood ceiling was cleaned and oiled, and all the interpretive pantry items were cleaned and returned to the shelves.



The plaster ceiling of the Middle Room, located adjacent to the Master Bedroom, Living Room, and Dining Room, developed a large crack, causing some of the plaster to fall. Volunteers removed a section of the plaster in the cracked area, revealing the original lath ceiling. The edges of the plaster around the lath were amended with lime. The Middle Room was used as a bedroom, guest room and a family room, interpretive plans for this room will focus on its role as a family room.



Volunteers continue to work on a variety of painting projects, including the interior surfaces of all the Ranch House windows and doors, the eaves of the Master Bedroom and Bathroom (see photo right), and the Children's Room in the Children's Addition.

Special thanks to local contractor Mega Trend, Inc., which donated labor and equipment to repair the metal roof of the Adobe Haybarn, using supplies provided by BLM. Once the work was completed access to the barn was restored.

Eagle Scout Projects

Two Eagle Scout candidates from Tucson troops recently completed projects on the Heritage Discovery Trail (HDT) at Empire Ranch Headquarters.

Ethan Fouts, Troop 141, installed 13 bird nesting boxes in trees along the trail (top photo below).



Paige N. Bullis, Troop 739, constructed and installed 10 benches in the area along the trail that formerly housed the Chiricahua Leopard frog refugia. The small amphitheater created by the benches provides a place to rest, picnic, or seating for outdoor educational presentations (photo below).



We are most grateful for these HDT enhancements provided by Ethan and Paige and their teams. Thanks are also due to the ERF volunteers who cleared brush in the amphitheater area and coordinated the projects.

(photos: M. Conroy)



Coming November 4-5

Don't Miss It!

22nd Annual

Empire Ranch Cowboy Festival

Saturday & Sunday

November 4-5, 2023

10am to 4pm,

at Empire Ranch Headquarters



An exciting, educational, and fun family event. Plan to attend!

www.empireranchfoundation.org

See enclosed flyer for more details.

Welcome Joan

ERF is pleased to welcome Joan Breiner, the BLM Tucson Assistant



Field Manager for Renewable Resources. Joan has a Ph.D. in Soils and Water Science, a B.S. in Plants and Soil Science, and a B.S. in Political Science/Economics. She previously served as the Assistant Director of the Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) Division for the North Dakota Public Service Commission.



(photos: A. Bunting)

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. Contact: To volunteer, make reservations, or get information, email admin@empireranchfoundation.org or call (888) 364-2829

September 2023

- 9 Volunteer Work Day**, 8am-12pm.
9&23 Docent-Led Tour of the Empire Ranch House, 11am-12pm. Free, open to all. Reservations required by 5pm on day prior to tour.
23 Movie Under the Stars FREE showing of "Night of the Lepus," Sundown. See enclosed flyer for more information.. All welcome!

October 2023

- 7 Volunteer Work Day**, 8am-12pm.
14&28 Docent-Led Tour of the Empire Ranch House, 11am-12pm. Free, open to all. Free, reservations req. by 5pm on day prior to tour.
20 ERF Board Meeting, 9am-11am. All welcome! Call 888-364-2829 to RSVP.

November 2023

- 2&3 Cowboy Festival Set Up, Volunteers NEEDED!** To volunteer call 888-364-2829.
4&5 22d Annual Empire Ranch Cowboy Festival, Empire Ranch Headquarters. Please see our website for current information, www.empireranchfoundation.org
6 Cowboy Festival Take Down, Volunteers NEEDED! 8am-3pm. To volunteer call 888-364-2829.
11&25 Docent-Led Tour of the Empire Ranch House, 11am-12pm. Free, open to all. Reservations req by 5pm on day prior to tour.
December 2023
3 Volunteer Work Day, 8am-12pm. To volunteer call 888-364-2829 or email admin@empireranchfoundation.org
9 Christmas at the Empire Ranch, 10am-2pm. For current information please see our website www.empireranchfoundation.org.
9 Docent-Led Tour of the Empire Ranch House, 11am-12pm. Free, open to all. Reservations required by 5pm on day prior to tour.
22 ERF Board Meeting, 9am-11am. All welcome! Call 888-364-2829 for location.



Cowboy Festival Volunteers Needed

Can you help as a Cowboy Festival volunteer this year? The festival will be held for two days, Saturday and Sunday, November 4th and 5th. Our preparation days will be Thursday and Friday, November 2nd and 3rd, with take down day on November 6th.

To volunteer go to the ERF website [www.empireranchfoundation.org] to fill out the Cowboy Festival Volunteer form. Questions? Contact Adriana Arrington by email at admin@empireranchfoundation.org or call (888) 364-2829. We hope you can help!

