

March 2024
Volume 25, Issue 1

EMPIRE RANCH FOUNDATION NEWS

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Volunteers: The Lifeblood of the Foundation

I cannot adequately express how grateful the Empire Ranch Foundation is for the more than 171 volunteers who helped us accomplish so much in 2023. Our volunteers contributed over 5,571 hours, valued by the BLM at \$177,151.

The majority of 2023 volunteer time was divided between ERF events (36%); volunteer workdays and preservation programs (22%); Gift Shop operations (11%); and docent tours, outreach and education programs (10%).

Please consider joining our volunteer team! We provide training, camaraderie, food, and fun. To volunteer and/or become an ERF member visit the Get Involved section of the ERF website or send us an email (admin@empireranchfoundation.org).

Thanks so much to everyone who responded to our year-end appeal. We received over \$8,000 in donations in December! During 2023, contributions to the New Ranch House Fund totaled almost \$10,000.

In 2024 we plan to increase and improve our exhibits and interpretive programs. We will address the Native story and the stories of the cowboys and women who lived and visited at the Empire Ranch. The interpretation will reach far and wide, taking advantage of the ranch at its largest size and presenting topics that are part of the lore of the land if not the ranch itself.

*Faith Boice McCabe,
President*



Making Merry at the Empire Ranch

It was a picture-perfect winter day for the 400 visitors who attended the Christmas at the Ranch celebration on December 9, 2023. Santa held court on the east side of the Empire Ranch House and the Grinch and Regi Richter's horse Remington roamed the grounds, delighting children and adults alike.

The Mountain Saddle Band played their original tunes and holiday favorites in the Adobe Haybarn and the Saguaro Strutters performed lively line dances. The "make and take" ornament station was a popular activity and the coffee, hot chocolate, and cookies provided by ERF volunteers were enjoyed by all.

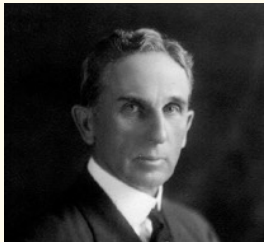
The vendors, non-profit organizations, and the ERF gift shop were busy all day with shoppers. Special thanks to the ERF volunteers who decorated the Ranch House and provided welcoming assistance at the event.



(photos: D. Christie)

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.

Henry Stephen Boice (1859-1919)



In 1928, the Empire Ranch was purchased by the Chiricahua Ranches Company (CRC), which was incorporated by three Boice brothers, Henry Gudgell, Frank Seymour, and Charles Gudgell. Cattle ranching was a family business begun by their father, Henry Stephen Boice, whose extensive ranching accomplishments set the stage for the Boice family contributions at the Empire Ranch.

Henry S. (photo above) was born in New Mexico in 1859. His father, Stephen Boice, was a physician. "Young Boice started regular cowboying when he was 15 years old - at \$15 a month." He worked for the Creswell Young ranch, becoming its foreman at age 18. In 1881 Henry partnered with Dave Berry to run the 777 outfit in eastern Montana near the North Dakota border. Theodore Roosevelt's ranch bordered the 777, and Henry S. came to know Roosevelt.

"The 777 was a steer operation. Henry would contract for steers throughout the Southwest, as many as 25,000 of them a year! On one occasion, early in their business association, Henry Boice bought a big bunch of Texas cattle and trail herded them to North Dakota. Berry-Boice operated on this scale for 12 years..." [Richard Schaus, *Hereford Tradition of Arizona's Boices*, 1959].

Henry S. was among the first to buy purebred bulls and breed up his stock. He traveled to Independence, Missouri to purchase bulls from the firm of Gudgell and Simpson, which imported bulls, especially Herefords. While there he met Charles Gudgell's daughter LuBelle, and they married in 1892. The couple settled in Independence after their marriage, and moved to Kansas City, MO by 1897. Henry and LuBelle had five children, all born in Missouri: Henry Gudgell, Frank Seymour, LuBelle, Helen, and Charles.

In 1897 the Boice-Berry Company ceased operations and Henry established the H.S. Boice Cattle Company. In 1898 he purchased the Point of Rock Ranch located along the Cimarron River in Kansas and Oklahoma. [Topeka State Journal, 3/1/1898]. The Boice family home remained in Kansas City, but they spent



LuBell Gudgell and bull Beau Gaston



Front row, L-R: LuBelle Boice, Frank Boice, Mary Boice, Charles Boice; Back row (L-R): Walter Young, Helen Boice, Henry G. Boice (photos: courtesy of Bob & Miriam Boice)

summers at Point of Rock. Henry G. and Frank began to learn cowboying skills at the early age of 6 1/2 and 5 respectively.

In 1905 Henry S. became the manager of the famed XIT Ranch in Channing, TX, and the Boice family left Kansas City for Channing. The XIT was established in 1879 when the Texas Legislature appropriated three million acres of land to finance a new state Capitol building. The land was to be sold over time to finance the Capitol building and the ranch was established to use the land until it was sold. When Henry S. assumed management responsibilities, the land holdings were being sold in smaller plots to farmers. He managed the ranch until the last of its cattle were sold in 1912. During his tenure he worked to develop a pure-bred Hereford herd using Gudgell & Simpson stock.

In 1908 Henry S. organized a syndicate to purchase the Block Ranch in New Mexico. He was also managing the Chiricahua Cattle Company (CCC), established in the 1870s in the Sulphur Springs Valley of SE Arizona. The CCC was owned by a group of Texas investors and Henry S. persuaded the controlling partners to purchase 400 of the XIT purebred Hereford herd to stock the CCC.

In its heyday the CCC controlled over 1.6 million acres of grazing land. By the time Henry S. undertook its management homesteaders were farming in the Sulphur Springs Valley so the CCC shifted its grazing operations to permitted land on the San Carlos and Fort Apache Indian reservations. [Richard

Schaus, Hereford Tradition of Arizona's Boices, 1959].

The name of the Chiricahua Cattle Co. was changed to Boice, Gates & Johnson in 1908. By 1912 the Boice, Gates & Johnson Co. was running 20,000 head of cattle on the San Carlos Indian reservation, and 4,000 head on the White Mt. district. The company headquarters were in the West Wells area, east of Pearce. Henry S's eldest son, Henry G., began to manage Boice, Gates & Johnson in 1917, and was later joined by brothers Frank (1920) and Charles (1925).

On December 7, 1919, Henry S. Boice died in Pasadena, CA. He had been ill for several months. He is buried at Forest Lawn Memorial Park in Glendale, CA.

2024 ERF Leadership

The Foundation officers for 2023-2024 are: Faith Boice McCabe, President; Rick Collins, Vice President; and Christine Haaksma, Secretary/Treasurer.

Steve Boice, Marti Conroy, Bill Dobias, and Tim Vail were elected to additional terms (2023-2026) on the Board of Directors at the December 15th annual meeting along with one new member.

Larry Fisher of Tucson is Research Professor Emeritus in the School of Natural Resources and the Environment, University of Arizona. His teaching, research, and program outreach interests focus on large landscape conservation, climate change adaptation, public lands policy, environmental conflict, and international conservation and sustainable development.

Larry has also been involved with a number of non-profit organizations working on environmental conservation and management, including the Cienega Watershed Partnership, the Altar Valley Conservation Alliance, Photovoices International, Arizona Desert National Parks Partnership, and the Sky Island Alliance.

Continuing Board members include Rick Collins, Christine Haaksma, and Faith Boice McCabe.

We gratefully acknowledge the contributions of departing board member, Ray Patrone, who served two terms on the Board (2017-2023). Ray first became involved in the ERF volunteer workday program. He served as Vice President (2018-2021), coordinated various aspects of the Cowboy Festival, and actively participated in ERF preservation projects.

Alan Nyiri: Artist in Residence

The Bureau of Land Management Tucson Field Office recently announced the selection of Alan Nyiri, site host at the Las Cienegas National Conservation Area and photographer, as its first artist in residence. Alan is an accomplished fine art photographer and custom publisher, who in retirement has volunteered in 15 different National Parks, National Wildlife Refuges, Historic Townsites and National Conservation Areas.

He recently noted: “I am excited to represent the national conservation area and other beautiful landscapes the BLM manages in Arizona. Through my photography, I hope to increase public awareness of these special places and the need to sustain them for future generations.”

Several of Alan’s wonderful images are included on this page. To see more visit his website: <https://alannyiriphotography.zenfolio.com/> or his Facebook Empire Ranch Album: <https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.748176223776722&type=3>



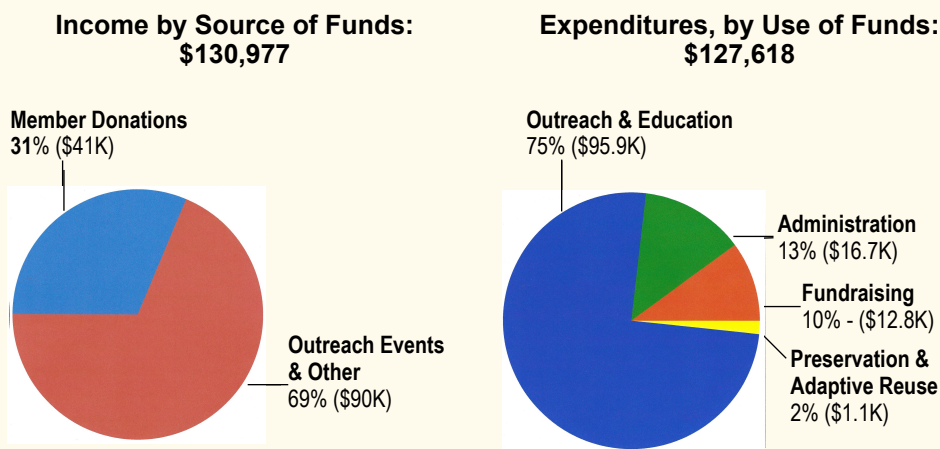
Outreach and Gift Shop Coordinators Needed

The Foundation is looking for volunteer coordinators for the ERF Gift Shop and for ERF Outreach activities. The Gift Shop coordinator oversees all Gift Shop operations including scheduling, training, and ordering. The Outreach coordinator recommends outreach events, handles the registration, attends each event, and recruits and trains volunteers. For additional information or to volunteer please contact Faith Boice McCabe, ERF President, (faithboice@yahoo.com).



Local events and gatherings are great places to increase public awareness of the Empire. (photo: F. Boice McCabe)

Empire Ranch Foundation Financial Summary: January through December 2023



The Foundation hosted six annual events and provided a full schedule of docent tours and volunteer workdays in 2023. An administrative assistant began working full time in January. Income during FY23 totaled \$130,977—31% from member donations and 69% from outreach events and other sources. Expenditures during FY23 totaled \$127,618—75% for outreach and education programs; 13% for general administration; 10% for fundraising; and 2% for preservation and adaptive reuse projects. Not reflected in these figures is the more than 5,771 hours of labor contributed by ERF volunteers, valued by BLM at \$177,151 for grant matching purposes, and the cost of materials supplied by BLM for preservation projects.

End-of-year assets totaled \$235K, comprising \$30K in BLM grant funds (fully obligated); \$25K in the Vail endowment and \$51K in other ERF restricted funds; \$21K in ERF unrestricted funds obligated for preservation, education, and interpretation; and \$108K 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 2024

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

9 & 23 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 2024

6 Spring Trail Ride, 8-2pm, experience the Empire's beautiful grasslands on a guided horseback ride. Fun event for the whole family. Reservations can be made online at empireranchfoundation.org or call (888) 364-2829.

13 & 27 Docent-Led Tour of the Empire Ranch House, 11am-12pm. Free,

reservations required by 5pm the day prior to the tour.

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

May 2024

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

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

18 Movie Under the Stars, sundown. Free event at the Empire Ranch Headquarters.

June 2024

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

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

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

Come Ride with Us!

Saturday, April 6, 2024



Join us for our Spring Trail Ride on April 6, 2024. 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 29, 2024.