



EMPIRE RANCH FOUNDATION NEWS

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Welcome Back!

The National Day of the Cowboy celebration provided the perfect opportunity to welcome our members, supporters, and friends back to the Empire Ranch. Our first volunteer workday on July 10th attracted 25 eager workers who spruced up the Ranch House and made minor repairs. Docent-led tours, held on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month, were back on the schedule in August.

Planning for the Empire Ranch Cowboy Festival, scheduled for November 6-7, is in high gear. We're excited to be expanding the event to two days, as suggested by many of you. We need your help to ensure the success of the 2021 Festival. Please consider becoming a Sponsor or contribute to the Silent Auction using the forms enclosed with this issue of the newsletter. We also need many volunteers to help before, during, and after the Festival—see the article on p. 3. Donation and volunteer sign-up forms are also available on our secure website.

We're excited about the positive reception our online Gift Store is receiving. We're so pleased to be able to make Empire Ranch Foundation goods available to our out-of-state supporters.

It is wonderful to be "back in the saddle" at the historic Empire Ranch.

Faith Boice, *President*



*Day of the Cowboy moments
(photos: A. Bunting, S. Reichardt)*

Celebrating Cowboys and Rain

Outdoor summer events in Arizona are risky. The heat can be extreme, or the monsoons can strike. In 2021 the July 24th celebration of National Day of the Cowboy was wet. Despite the steady rain over 200 smiling visitors turned out to enjoy the morning. Arizonans are so grateful for every drop of rain, and don't mind getting a bit soggy.

Promptly at 8 am a line formed at the EZ Cattle Company Cow Camp Café and Chuckwagon for the savory biscuits and gravy breakfast. The Stone Corral provided a sheltered place to eat and a good view of the corral where Empire Ranch cowboys tethered their horses.

Demonstrators and vendors were throughout the Ranch House, and everyone enjoyed exploring, learning, and shopping. Western skills demonstrators included: leather artist Phil Parks; reata expert Dick Schorr; rancher Bill Schock; and saddle maker Brad Faulkner.

Steve Boice and Teresa Warrell brought horses and ponies from Horse'n Around Rescue Ranch, and Regi Richter provided groundwork horse training demonstrations. Volunteers at the Foundation outreach table were busy all day, answering questions and selling items from the ERF Gift Shop. Over 40 participated in the docent tours, and a total of \$305 was raised in the 50/50 auction.

We are so grateful for the support of everyone who made the 2021 National Day of the Cowboy a success. Most especially the more than 30 volunteers who worked cheerfully and tirelessly in the rain.

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.