



June 2024
Volume 25, Issue 2

EMPIRE RANCH FOUNDATION NEWS

PO Box 842 • Sonoita, Arizona 85637-0842 • (888) 364-2829

www.empireranchfoundation.org

Empire Ranch Foundation News

The Board of Directors decided at its April 19, 2024, meeting to discontinue publication of the print *Empire Ranch Foundation News* with the June 2024 issue. Several factors led to the decision including the cost of publication and postage, the availability of volunteers, and the ability to bring Foundation news as it breaks to larger audiences via email and social media.

The first issue of the Empire Ranch Foundation News was published in June 2000. Susan Ingram Hughes was instrumental in launching the publication and has been a key member of the production team ever since. Susan is the daughter of "Dusty" Vail Ingram, who was Banning Vail's daughter and Walter Vail's granddaughter. Susan served on the board of directors (2000-2005) and as secretary and vice president.

The ERF Board also voted to honor Susan's outstanding contributions to the Foundation by awarding her the Heart of the Empire award. We are so grateful Susan, for your wonderful support.

Faith Boice McCabe, President



Another Perfect Ride

Perfect day! Great people! Good horses! These are just some of the enthusiastic comments from riders at the 2024 Spring Trail Ride on April 6th. ERF President Faith Boice McCabe led the 3-hour ride, and Vice President Rick Collins, with the assistance of Mark Ellis and Gerry Lawford, led the 1.5-hour ride.

Sixty-five riders participated and returned hungry for the excellent BBQ lunch served up by Gunny's Barbeque of Sierra Vista. Special thanks are due to all the volunteers who helped make the day possible, including Steve Boice who helped plan the rides and kept an eye on the riders throughout the day.



Gerry Lawford, Rick Collins, Mark Ellis heading out for the 1.5 hr. ride. (center top photo) Barb Collins, Faith Boice McCabe, Lupe Mathews greet riders at the registration table (bottom right photo). (photos: F. Boice McCabe)

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.

Filming of Red River

When the Boice family owned the Empire Ranch many Western movies were filmed at the ranch and nearby areas. One of the most iconic is Red River (1948) directed by Howard Hawks and starring John Wayne, Montgomery Clift, Joanne Dru, and Walter Brennan. Location work began in early September of 1946 and was projected to take about eight weeks.

A temporary camp (photo above, right) with 75 semi-portable tent cabins, mess and recreational halls, and other housing and equipment was constructed in the community of Elgin, southeast of the Empire Ranch, at a cost of \$150,000. [Arizona Daily Star, 9/6/1946]. About 250 actors, technicians and directorial staff were housed at the camp, and the Elgin Community Club was used by Hawks and his film editor to view the daily rushes of film.



Filming at the Empire Ranch was scheduled for one day, though preparations undoubtedly took much longer. Bob Boice recalled that "...they went down here in the cottonwoods and picked out a great big, ... massive log, a perfect arch. They chiseled off one side, put that "Red River" "D" brand on it, and put it up on a couple of great big posts..." (see photo above). [Boice Family Oral History, 1991].

The covered saddle rack, located on the east side of the Ranch House, is visible in scenes where Walter Brennan is loading the chuckwagon and talking with Montgomery Clift. Scenes with galloping



Aerial view of Elgin, 1946. The grouping of white structures on the left was the Red River temporary camp.

horses were shot in the corral on the eastside of the Adobe Haybarn (see top two images below).

The San Pedro River near Fairbank was the location for the "river crossing" scene. Five dams were constructed above the crossing point to ensure ample water in the river when several thousand head of cattle crossed. [Arizona Daily Star, 10/11/1946]. The city of Abilene, Kansas was reconstructed at Elgin and the nearby Rain Valley Ranch was the location for most of the cattle drive scenes. Heavy summer rains caused filming delays and added two weeks to the location work.



Congratulations Marti

Marti Conroy received the 2024



Richard Fedele Award for Outstanding Excellence in the Support of the Southern Arizona At-

tractions Alliance (SAAA). An Empire Ranch Foundation board member since 2017, Marti has taken a leadership role in promoting the Empire Ranch via marketing and outreach activities. She greatly deserves this recognition from SAAA for her strong commitment and positive impact on the attractions industry of southern Arizona and the historic Empire Ranch.

Note from the Treasurer

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am happy to announce that Empire Ranch Foundation is now offering a 10% discount at our gift shop for active members of the Foundation effective 7/1/2024.

To become a member or renew your membership send a check in the enclosed envelope, or you can donate securely on the ERF website (www.empireranchfoundation.org). If you have any questions, please call 888-364-2829 or email our administrator at admin@empireranchfoundation.org.

Photo left: John Wayne, Pancho, Bob, and Mary Boice during the filming of Red River, 1946. (ERF archives)



Vera Earl rancher, Ian Tomlinson, explains grazing practices and collaboration with the BLM on LCNCA. (photo: L. Fisher)

Confluence and Collaboration

On April 3, 2024 ERF and BLM hosted a visit from participants attending the Western Collaborative Conservation Network (WCCN) Confluence 2024 meeting. Confluence is the WCCN's premier community-building and learning event, for those working in the collaborative conservation field.

During their field trip the participants learned about the long-standing collaborative adaptive management efforts of the BLM-Tucson Field Office with partners such as the Empire Ranch Foundation, the Cienega Watershed Partnership, Pima County, the Cienega Creek Natural Preserve, and the Vera Earl Ranch.



The Porsche Club of Green Valley visited the Empire Ranch and scheduled a special docent tour of the Empire Ranch House. Requests for tours can be submitted via the ERF website. (photo: A. Nyiri)



Summer Movies

On May 18th the Foundation and The Loft Cinema collaborated to show the first 2024 Movie Under the Stars at the Empire Ranch—*Ulzana's Raid*. Starring Burt Lancaster, Bruce Davison, Jorge Luke, and Joaquín Martínez this classic Western was filmed in Empire Ranch country in 1972. Apache leader Ulzana (Martínez) and his followers leave their reservation to terrorize the countryside. The U.S. Army assigns the task of capturing them to young and inexperienced Lieutenant DeBuin (Davison) who is accompanied by experienced scout McIntosh (Lancaster) and Apache guide Ke-Ni-Tay (Luke).

Coming up on September 14th is the screening of *A Star Is Born* (1976) featuring Barbra Streisand and Kris Kristofferson. Troubled rock star John Norman Howard (Kristofferson) meets and mentors talented singer Esther Hoffman (Streisand) and puts her on the path to stardom. This tragic love story features Esther and John's honeymoon house which was built on Las Cienegas National Conservation Area (LCNCA) near the LCNCA south entrance off Highway 82. Admission to the outdoor showings is free. Bring your own seating, food & flashlights. Snacks and water will be available for purchase.



Gene Raymond with ERF Board Members. (left to right) Marti Conroy, Faith Boice, Rick Collins (rear), Gene Raymond, Bill Dobias, Christine Haaksma. (photo: A. Bunting)

Thank You Volunteers!

The Adobe Haybarn was the perfect venue for the May 4th volunteer appreciation event hosted by the ERF Board of Directors. In 2023 171 volunteers contributed over 5,500 hours in support of ERF's programs and events.

Lunch fare included hot dogs and hamburgers hot off the grill, along with salads, chips and cake. After greeting and thanking everyone attending Faith Boice presented the Heart of the Empire award to Gene Raymond. Gene was a board member (2013-2019) and ERF Treasurer (2014-2019).

Dedicated Gifts

The Empire Ranch Foundation gratefully acknowledges gifts recently received:

In Memory of

Bob & Mary Bowman
 Carey Ingram
 Gardner/Estrada Families
 Rhoda & Max Mindes
 Jerome Posani
 Jack Van Straaten

Working Calendar

Please check our website to confirm event details (empireranchfoundation.org). Location: Meet at Visitor Contact Station, Empire Ranch Headquarters, unless otherwise noted. To volunteer, RSVP, or for more information, call (888) 364-2829 or email admin@empireranchfoundation.org.

June 2024

1 Volunteer Work Day, 8am-12pm.

8 & 22 Docent-Led Tour of the Empire Ranch House, 11am-12pm. Free, reservations required.

21 ERF Board Meeting, 9am-11am. All Welcome! Call 888-364-2829 to RSVP.

July 2024

13 Volunteer Work Day, 8am-12pm.

13 & 27 Docent-Led Tour of the

Empire Ranch House, 11am-12pm. Free, reservations required.

27 National Day of the Cowboy Celebration, 8am-1pm.

August 2024

3 Volunteer Work Day, 8am-12pm.

10 & 24 Docent-Led Tour of the Empire Ranch House, 11am-12pm. Free, reservations required.

16 ERF Board Meeting, 9am-11am. All Welcome! Call 888-364-2829 to RSVP.

September 2024

7 Volunteer Work Day, 8am-12pm.

14 & 28 Docent-Led Tour of the Empire Ranch House, 11am-12pm. Free, reservations required.

14 Movie Under the Stars showing of A Star is Born, Sundown. Free, bring your own seating, flashlight, and food. Snacks will be available for purchase.



Celebrate National Day of the Cowboy at the Historic Empire Ranch
Saturday, July 27, 2024
8 am-1 pm

Fun Family Event
Demonstrations, Trail Rides,
Vendors, Ranch Tours

Empire Ranch Headquarters
Las Cienegas National
Conservation Area
off Scenic Highway 83
East Empire Ranch Road