



CONTACT: Luanne Mattson
602-374-4371

MARCH EVENTS IN COCHISE COUNTY

COCHISE COUNTY, Ariz. (Feb. 18, 2009) – The hills and grasslands of Cochise County are alive with song, art and literature throughout March. Bisbee makes a colorful splash with the **Bisbee Art Auction**, while Tombstone stages a month-long display of local artists with the **Tombstone Association of the Arts Open Artists Show**. Visitors can swing to the sounds of the **Glenn Miller Band** and creative writers can attend the **11th Annual Cochise Community Creative Writing Celebration** in Sierra Vista.

March 6 & 7, Annual Tribute to Marty Robbins, Willcox

Special guest, Rex Allen Jr., joins in this 18th Annual celebration of the country-music legend with afternoon and evening concerts, carriage rides, a viewing of Robbins' race car. Entertainment will be held on historic Railroad Avenue, and the concerts will be held at the high school.

When: 4 p.m. & 7:30 p.m. concerts

Where: Willcox High School Auditorium, Bisbee Avenue

Admission: \$10-\$15

Info: 520-766-1404; www.friendsofmartyrobbins.org

March 7, Annual Art Auction, Bisbee

Historic Bisbee's 17th annual art auction features nationally recognized artists from southern Arizona. Art lovers can get the jump on the competing buyers by browsing a "Preview" 11 a.m.-4 p.m. on March 7, followed at 6 p.m. by the "Meet the Artists" reception. The live auction starts at 7 p.m., with larger artworks going on the block; meanwhile, in an adjacent room, bidders vie for smaller pieces in a silent auction. "The \$10 admission includes a glass of wine, and great food and deserts donated by the "great chefs of Bisbee"—also known as 'people who like to cook,'" says artist Judy Perry, of the Bisbee Arts Commission.

Arizona artists are invited to submit up to two pieces of work for auction on Friday, March 6, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. To preregister, e-mail Cathy at ckheiner@gmail.com. As an added incentive this year, artists may choose to receive 50 percent of the sale price with the rest going to promote the arts in Bisbee.

When: 7 p.m.-9 p.m. March 7 (preview 11 a.m.-4 p.m.)

Where: Serbian Hall, 216 Park Ave., in the Historic Warren District, Bisbee

Admission: \$10

Info: 520-432-3554 or 1-866-2-Bisbee; www.discoverbisbee.com

March 14, Tour of the Bascom Affair Site, Fort Bowie

Learn about the history and archeology associated with the incident that precipitated the Apache Wars. Park ranger Larry Ludwig, an expert on the Apache Wars and the archeology of Fort Bowie, will lead the tour. Bring water, lunch and good hiking shoes. Call for reservations.

When: 10 a.m.

Where: Meet at Fort Bowie trailhead parking, 13 miles south of Bowie on Apache Pass Road (unpaved)

Admission: Call for fees

Info: 520-847-2500, ext. 21; e-mail larry_ludwig@nps.gov

March 20, Hike the Coronado Peak Trail, Sierra Vista

Spectacular views of Mexico, the San Pedro River Valley, and the San Rafael Valley reward hikers along the Coronado Peak Trail. The adventure begins with orientation at the Coronado visitor center and a drive to the trailhead. Some portions of the trail are moderately steep. Overall distance is about 5 miles. Don't forget sturdy shoes, water and sunscreen.

When: 8 a.m.-noon

Where: Coronado Memorial Visitor Center, 4101 E. Montezuma Canyon Road, Hereford

Admission: Free

Info: 520-366-5515, ext. 22

March 21, Guided Tour of Buffalo Soldier Historical Sites, Sierra Vista

Learn about the accomplishments and history of Fort Huachuca's famous Buffalo Soldiers during the monthly 3rd Saturday tours. The "Buffalo Soldiers" were established by Congress as the first peacetime all-black regiments in the regular U.S. Army. Guided tours stop at historic sites on the post and return at 3 p.m. via bus or caravan.

When: Tour departs at 11:15 a.m.

Info: 520-417-6960 or 1-800-288-3861 for location, admission charge and other details.

Note: Fort Huachuca is an active military installation. Visitor passes are available to US citizens at the post's main gate with a valid driver's license, vehicle registration and proof of insurance (or rental car agreement). All passengers over 13 must have photo identification.

March 21, Hike Fairbank Loop and Presidio Santa Cruz de Terrenate, Fairbank

Join the Friends of the San Pedro River for a hike around this historic area. Visit a once-thriving boomtown of the Wild West, the cemetery, the old schoolhouse and other historic sites. Then cross the river and visit the Presidio. How far into Arizona did Spanish exploration go? Why wasn't the Spanish presidio (fortress) in the San Pedro River Valley ever completed? How did ongoing warfare with Apaches affect life? Learn as you explore one of the state's loveliest river vistas. The moderate-rated hike is about six miles. Wear appropriate clothing and sturdy shoes; bring plenty of water and snacks if desired.

When: 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Where: Meet at Fairbank Schoolhouse

Admission: \$5

Info: 520-459-2555; www.sanpedroriver.org

March 27 & 28, 11th Annual Cochise Community Creative Writing Celebration, Sierra Vista

Arizona writers take note! In a celebration priced for starving artists, an amazing lineup of creative experts await to stimulate your pen at Cochise College. Where else can you learn about realistic dialogue from the likes of Harvey Stanbrough—nominated for a National Book Award, Pulitzer Prize in Letters, etc.—or play Native American games and write poetry with acclaimed Navajo writer Rex Lee Jim for just \$40? The celebration's presentation roster includes published writers in a scope of genres, including children's writing and screenwriting. Visit the website for information on registration and the writing contest with cash prizes. Sponsored by Cochise College, the UofA South Foundation, and the Sierra Vista Parks and Leisure Services.

When: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. March 27; 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. March 28

Where: Ethel Berger Center and Cochise College, Sierra Vista

Admission: \$40 for both days or \$25 one-day registration; \$25 students and seniors

Info: 520-417-4112; www.cochise.edu/information/newsevents/calendar.asp

March 30, Glenn Miller Orchestra, Sierra Vista

The Glenn Miller Orchestra, considered one of the greatest bands of all time, swings down to Cochise County to make sure March goes out like a jam. The orchestra has been touring consistently since 1956, playing an average of 300 gigs around the world every year.

When: 7 p.m.

Where: Performing Arts Center, 5225 Buena School Blvd.

Admission: \$22

Info: 520-417-6960; www.visitsierravista.com

April 3-5, Tombstone Old West Founders Days, Tombstone

Tombstone's annual March celebration known as Ed Schieffelin Territorial Days has a new name: Old West Founders Days, still pays homage to town founder Schieffelin and is now presented jointly with the popular Rose Tree Festival. Enjoy history with mining displays, performances, exhibition, the Tombstone Gun Show, "Taste of Tombstone" featuring samples from local restaurants and evening concerts as well as the Rose Parade and crowning of the Rose Queen! (Tombstone is home to the "World's Largest Rose Tree," according to the Guinness record book ... but that's another great story.)

When: April 3-5

Where: Allen Street

Admission: Free

Info: 888-457-3929 or www.tombstonechamber.com

Ongoing

Tours of Historic Faraway Ranch, Chiricahua National Monument

The Faraway Ranch was one of the earliest cattle and guest ranches in southeast Arizona. Step back in time to experience how life was lived in the early days of the West.

When: 2 p.m. & 3 p.m. Fridays-Sundays

Where: Chiricahua National Monument, 12856 E. Rhyolite Creek Road

Admission: Free with park admission

Info: 520-824-3560, ext. 303; e-mail kathrine_neilsen@nps.gov

Tombstone Association of the Arts Open Artists Show, Tombstone

Exhibits displayed featuring the work of local artists.

When: March 1-31, daily

Where: Art Center, Allen Street

Admission: Free

Info: 520-457-2380

Arizona Folklore Preserve, Sierra Vista

Arizona's Official State Balladeer Dolan Ellis and musical guests perform Saturday and Sunday afternoons in the intimate setting of the Folklore Preserve in forested Ramsey Canyon. With so many songs inspired by various aspects of Arizona lifestyle and culture, Ellis' shows are often presented as themes. Reservations are required.

Feb. 28 & March 1: Bordergrass Trio

March 7 & 8: Sid Hausman, cowboy singer/songwriter

March 14 & 15: Dolan Ellis, "Cochise County"

March 21 & 22: Keeter Stuart, singer/songwriter

March 28 & 29: Call of the West, instrumentalists, song writers and vocalists

When: 2 p.m., Saturdays & Sundays

Where: 44 E. Ramsey Canyon Road, Hereford

Admission: \$15 for adults; \$6 for students 17 and under
Info: 520-378-6165 or www.arizonafolklore.com

Located in southeastern Arizona, Cochise County is one of the most culturally, historically and geographically diverse areas in the American Southwest. Its legendary communities—Benson, Bisbee, Douglas, Tombstone, Sierra Vista and Willcox—were strategically located less than a day’s journey by stagecoach and are now just a short drive from one another.

For more information about Cochise County, contact the Cochise County Tourism Council at 1-800-862-5273 or visit their website at www.explorecochise.com.

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