



# ELKHORN RANCH

TUCSON ARIZONA

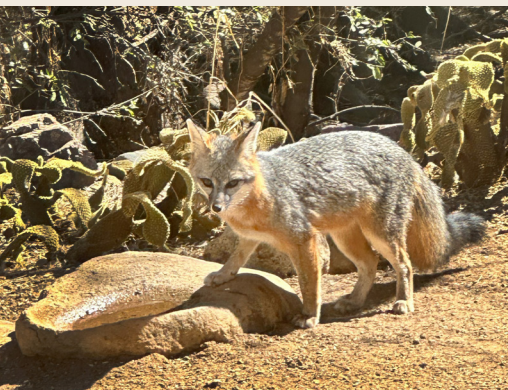
JULY 2025 ~ SEASON 80



ELKHORN GUEST STEVE KESSEL SPENT HOURS STUDYING AND PHOTOGRAPHING A RUFOUS-BACKED ROBIN, A SPECIES COMMON IN CENTRAL MEXICO BUT RARELY SEEN IN SOUTHERN ARIZONA

## Dear Friends,

You might wonder whether the ranch birds miss you during the summer? The answer is yes. Summer bird feeding slows to a trickle, but like you, we enjoy the show and figuring out who's who. The cast of characters includes lots of cardinal and hooded oriole couples, hummingbirds, grosbeaks, varied bunting, rufous-sided towhee, curved bill thrasher, western tanager, Gambel's quail, mourning dove, roadrunner, and a chorus of little brown birds. Given the dry times, we've had lots of wildlife visitors around the buildings this year. Alicia had a mountain lion drop by for a drink!





## 80TH SEASON TRANSITIONS

The Miller family began guest ranch operations here in Arizona 80 years ago in the fall of 1945, a few decades after launching Elkhorn Ranch in Montana in 1922. Our family's ranching heritage spanning four generations was recognized by the University of Arizona this spring. They requested a family photo. Gathering everyone in mid-March alongside Grace and Ernest and Jan and Bob, was no small feat. At the time, we did not know that this would be the last time we would all be together with Linda's partner Dick Harvey who died May 31, 2025 after a brief period of hospice care. Linda is fully retired from management of the Elkhorn Ranch in Montana and Tucson is now her home base year round.



Tom and Anne Miller retired at the conclusion of the guest season. They celebrated with a trip to San Diego, one of their favorite destinations. They have a home in Tucson and look forward to traveling. Tom has passed the margarita torch to Alicia and Alvaro will lead management of the ranch physical plant.

A very bright spot for this year was the Christmas day engagement of Clara and Alvaro. The wedding will take place August 16th in Tubac with local friends and family.

Charley and Mary are proud of our amazing daughters Clara and Alicia and so happy that Alvaro is part of our family! We are so very fortunate that they are here to push the ranch towards its centennial.



The Miller Family, March 2025





Mary and Charley Miller accepting the Heritage Family Award



Clara and Alvaro



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA  
College of Agriculture,  
Life & Environmental  
Sciences

## HERITAGE FAMILY AWARD

### THE MILLER FAMILY

MAY 3, 2025

The Elkhorn Ranch, a conservation-minded working guest ranch, was established in 1945 by Grace and Ernest Miller and remains under family ownership to this day. In 1961, Bob and Jan Miller took over full ownership, raising their four children Linda, Don, Charley and Tom on the ranch. Today Charley manages the ranch alongside his wife Mary, brother Tom and his wife Anne, daughters Clara and Alicia, and Clara's fiancé Alvaro Campos.

The Miller family has successfully integrated ecotourism with modern ranching practices. Clara, Linda and Charley Miller, as well as Alvaro Campos are proud alumni of the University of Arizona, and the family's partnership with the university continues to thrive. Since the 1960s, they have been involved in research and management projects focusing on brush management, cross fencing, water development, watershed management, rangeland ecosystem restoration, and grassland enhancement. Their local leadership includes cofounding the Altar Valley Conservation Alliance and developing the flagship Elkhorn Las Delicias Watershed Demonstration Project with neighbors and partners.

In recognition of their leadership in research and conservation and their dedication to preserving the unique Elkhorn experience for future generations, the College of Agriculture, Life & Environment Sciences is proud to present the Miller Family with the Heritage Family Award.



## ALTAR VALLEY NEWS



This fall Altar Valley Conservation Alliance celebrates 30 years of promoting conservation for future generations. Mary serves on the Board of Directors and Charley on the Science Advisory Board. Talented professional staff manage several large scale watershed enhancement projects and collaboration with the University of Arizona and many partner agencies. Executive Director Sarah King frequently speaks at events to spread the word about collaborative conservation and encourage replication of this positive work elsewhere in the West. We are grateful to all the Elkhorn guests who contribute to the Altar Valley Conservation Alliance!

Visit [www.altarvalleyconservation.org](http://www.altarvalleyconservation.org) to learn more!



## RANCH NEWS

The clouds are beginning to gather for the summer monsoon and we trust the rains will follow. Clara is running colt kindergarten with a class of five. Alicia and Charley have been working on the mesquite clearing maintenance. Shanon's been knocking out summer projects and hiking in her free time. You'll likely talk with Margaret if you email or call to make your reservation. Sean has traded hiking boots for work boots and is helping Alvaro with maintenance projects. TJ will join us this month to help with horse work and ranch projects.

**WE ARE GRATEFUL TO BEN OLSON FOR HIS MANY YEARS OF GUIDING AND YEAR-ROUND WORK! THIS SUMMER HE TOOK A CAMP COWBOY POSITION AT THE SANTA MARGARITA RANCH. WE HOPE YOU WILL JOIN US IN WISHING HIM WELL AT HIS NEW JOB.**



Clara with the kindergarten colts







Wrangler Ben Olson. Photo taken during the 2022 Digital Photography workshop





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EXPERIENCE CREATIVE CAMARADERIE DURING A  
WORKSHOP WEEK - MUSIC, PHOTOGRAPHY, ART,  
ARCHAEOLOGY, HORSEMANSHIP



## RANCH OFFICE NEWS

JULY 2025

**80TH SEASON ~ NOVEMBER 16, 2025 THROUGH APRIL 26, 2026**

Summer is busy in the ranch office as we get to reach out to everyone to make plans for next season! We hope to see you! If we are holding space for you or if your reservation is confirmed, you received an email or nail mail note checking your dates and plans. If you don't have an Elkhorn visit on your calendar, there's still time! **Give us a call or email** and we will help you find the best time for a visit! We wish you a happy summer and hope to see you next season!

With love,

*~ the Miller Family and Elkhorn Ranch Crew*

