Message from the Executive Director
By: Harris Brokke

Our annual meeting will be held on March 2nd at the Historic USO Building and it is not too late to get your tickets for dinner. Tickets are $30 per person and are available in the museum store. Members are welcome to attend even if they don’t want dinner. In that case there is no charge for attending. I hope to see many of you at that meeting. The annual report for 2011 is dedicated to Carroll Evans. We will miss Carroll very much but he will forever be in our hearts!

The museum held two fundraisers in the first half of February with proceeds to be used to help pay operating expenses. On February 10th and 11th there were presentations of Loves Wild Desire. Special thanks to Dan Spurgeon, General Manager of SpringHill Suites by Marriott, for hosting the event, to Mariel McEwan for directing the program and to the many great performers that made the event so successful.

On February 15th the Platters provided great entertainment for us singing many of the Platters hits from the 1950’s and 1960’s. They were very impressed with the people of Ridgecrest commenting on how friendly everyone was and how great the accommodations were at the Carriage Inn. They’d like to come back again. Stayed tuned for that!

On March 14th Nancy Crawford will present a Brush ‘n Blush program as a fundraiser for the museum at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are $50 each with a limit of 20 participants. Join Nancy and learn the techniques for painting using water colors.

On March 31st Janet Westbrook will lead a car caravan on a trip to Death Valley to see the mating pup-fish, charcoal kilns, and many other interesting sites as well as the wildflowers. Other events in March include a lecture by Sarah King on March 13th and HearthWind in concert on March 16th. I hope you will be able to join us for many of these events. Tickets are available for each of these events in the museum store.

Maturango Museum is a member agency of the 2011-2012 United Way campaign and the Combined Federal Campaign. The Maturango Museum agency number is 64337. Your support will be appreciated.
The 2011-2012 Maturango Museum’s concert series continues with the HearthWind on Friday and Saturday, March 16 & 17, 2012. The concert is performed in the Sylvia Winslow Exhibit Gallery at 7:30 p.m. Seats are limited to 60 each performance, so avoid disappointment, get your tickets now in the museum store. The price is $10 per adult and $5 per child 12 and younger.

The HearthWind’s program is a sampling of traditional folksong music from Scotland, Ireland, Wales, England and the United States including Fivie-o, Knot of Blue and Grey and Ballad of the Tea Party. HearthWind is a duo consisting of Linda Hartzell, guitar and voice and Barbara Herriman, recorder and voice. Barbara Herriman and Linda Hartzell met at Cal State Hayward. While studying for their music degrees, they discovered a mutual interest in the folk genre. This shared love of folk music has continued through 37 years of friendship. Ms Hartzell has recently retired from the Sierra Sands School District where she taught choir at the middle schools for many years.

All the ticket sales for this concert will be donated to the Maturango Museum’s Building Fund, as HearthWind has generously donated their portion. Attend the concert, enjoy the music and be donating to the Building fund!

The Wildflowers Are Coming -- For Sure To The Museum!
by Charlotte Goodson

Does this seem like a rash promise? With so little rain thus far this spring, can we really hope for nature to blanket the ground with color? We are not to despair. At the time of this writing there are nine weeks to go before our annual Spring Wildflower Exhibit. That is a lot of time for the weather to cooperate and for seeds to be seriously germinating. Actually, as often has happened in the past, with warm spells there already are some wildflowers coming on.

Our longtime desert denizens know that the Maturango Museum's Gallery will be filled with beautiful wildflowers this April 13 - 15, as it is every year. In this, the second year of the Ridgecrest Desert Wildflower Festival, newcomers also can assuredly anticipate a wonderful exhibit. This is a claim confidently made because of the experienced teams knowing where to best collect in their assigned mountain and valley areas. What a grand opportunity to view wildflowers up close in all their varieties and intricacies! "Inquiring minds" can find further satisfaction in the identification of each flower by both common and scientific names. Of special interest to all will be a presentation of beautiful photographs of our local region's wildflowers on Sunday, April 15 at 2:30 p.m.

The Maturango Museum Spring Wildflower Exhibit will take place Friday, April 13, Saturday, April 14, and Sunday, April 15. Friday and Saturday will have extended hours 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Sunday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. To accommodate out of town visitors to the Festival the wildflowers will continue to be displayed on Monday morning, April 16, 2012, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. See flyer on page 6.

Donations
Delores Charles  Tom and Barbara Frisbee  Sue and Greg Gilbert
Dorothy Saitz  Willard Simpson

Donations to Building Fund
Joy Young  John Ward

Donations for Slat Wall
Bob Westbrook  Gretchen Whisenand

Donations in Memory of Harold Hockett
Thom Boggs

Holiday Appeal
Norman and Suzanne George  Anthony and Dori Magliari  Ron Spees
Joanna M. Stauffer  John Van Guider

New Members
Ann and Greg Lenz  Kerry Powell  Tom Queirola
Pat Quest  David and Kathy Truesdale  Sylvia Sotomayor
In Memory of Carroll Evans
By Liz Babcock, History Curator

The Maturango Museum lost its quintessential volunteer when Carroll L. Evans Jr. died on Jan. 24, 2012, at the age of 82. A celebration of his life at the Desert Empire Fairgrounds brought out a huge crowd of his family and friends, many of whom shared stories of Carroll's amazing behind-the-scenes efforts on behalf of numerous organizations, not just in our valley but also in such places as Mammoth and Tehachapi.

What a useful life he led and how many people's lives he touched!

Here at the Museum, I think we all believed he belonged to us, since he was always here when we needed him. We appreciate Carroll for his quiet behind-the-scenes work on countless projects — shelves and cases built to accommodate specific needs, light bulbs changed at a moment’s notice, models and pegboard panels constructed for exhibits, recordings of lectures, countless trips up and down the scaffolding to aim lights at hundreds of works of art — the list goes on and on.

Carroll joined the Maturango Museum in 1964 and since that time served more times than he could remember on the board, often as president or treasurer. He was an active member of the Building Committee, the Accessions Committee — in fact, just about all of the committees we have.

He was an active participant in bringing beautiful concerts to the Sylvia Winslow Exhibit Gallery, and, along with Dr. Jean Bennett, another much-mourned volunteer, he designed and installed "Kitty," our saber-tooth tiger exhibit. He and Jean were also responsible for the electronic sign in front of our building.

Perhaps you remember that when Carroll turned 80 in 2009, we wanted to get him a gift he would like and (rather like Tom Sawyer with the fence that needed whitewashing) decided that he would like nothing better than a fund he could use for projects around the Museum. Hence, the Carroll L. Evans Handyman Fund, which he was indeed proud of and which he used to make many improvements in our existing building.

What better memorial to him than to continue the good work of that fund, both in the current building and in the addition that will soon adjoin it? If you would like to honor Carroll with a memorial donation to the fund, just send us a check with "Carroll Evans Handyman Fund" in the memo line.

March Lecture at the Maturango Museum: Iron Age England

The Maturango Museum will present a lecture on the archaeology of warfare and violence in Iron Age England on Tuesday, March 13, 2012, at 7:30 PM. The lecturer is Dr. Sarah King, an instructor at Cerro Coso Community College.

Iron Age England (ninth century B.C. to mid-first-century A.D.) is a bridge between prehistory and history, making it a unique period in which to examine the social dimensions of warfare and violence. Debates regarding violence in this period have covered a diverse range of sources such as material remains, written accounts and architecture, but until recently have neglected the importance of human remains. By linking the patterns of traumatic injuries with mortuary practice, the close relationship between violence and ritual becomes evident. In many cases, individuals with perimortem (around the time of death) injuries are found in special deposits such as pits, ditches and domestic areas. This placement hints at their use in ritual processes distinguishing them from the rest of the population.

Dr. King is originally from Northern California and completed her BA in Anthropology at the University of California Santa Cruz and her MA in Anthropology at the University of New Mexico. She then transferred to the University of Bradford in the United Kingdom to complete her PhD titled What Makes War?: Assessing Iron Age warfare through mortuary behaviour and osteological patterns of violence. She has participated in excavations in California, England, France and Spain. She currently teaches Anthropology/Sociology at Cerro Coso Community College in Ridgecrest, CA. The lecture is based on her PhD research. This lecture is free and open to the public.
Many of you by now know the saga of our mountain lion. We received the carcass of a road kill mountain lion in the fall of 2008. Proposition 117, called the California Wildlife Protection Act of 1990 is an initiative establishing that “the mountain lion is a specially protected mammal under the laws of this state, and makes it unlawful to take, injure, possess, transport, import, or sell any mountain lion or any part or product thereof”. Because of the way the initiative was written, we were unable to get permission from the CA Dept of Fish and Game to have the mountain lion taxidermied and put on display. It became a permanent resident of our large freezer while its legal limbo was being sorted out.

Senator Jean Fuller’s office became aware of this issue last year and through talks with the CA Department of Fish and Game, decided that new legislation was needed to clarify exceptions to the old law. Through the efforts of Senator Jean Fuller, legislation amending the California Wildlife Protection Act of 1990 was written, and the bill SB 769 was introduced to the legislature. A summary of the bill reads as follows, “This bill would establish an exemption for the possession of a mountain lion carcass or any part or product of a mountain lion carcass, if the carcass or carcass part or product is prepared or being prepared for display, exhibition, or storage, for a bona fide scientific or educational purpose, at a nonprofit museum or government-owned facility generally open to the public or at an educational institution, if the mountain lion was taken in California consistent with the requirements of the act and any other applicable law and the department has authorized the possession. The bill would find and declare that the amendments made by the bill are consistent with, and further the purposes of, the act.

This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.” It passed both houses of the California legislature without a single dissenting vote and was signed by the governor on September 30, 2011. The governor then guaranteed the law would be in the news by adding a signing comment on the legislation as follows “This presumably important bill earned overwhelming support by both Republicans and Democrats. If only that same energetic bipartisan spirit could be applied to creating clean energy jobs and ending tax laws that send jobs out of state;”.

After the bill was signed into law, we then received permission from the CA Department of Fish and Game to get the mountain lion mounted.

Currently, the lion is being prepared by Mike Dorner of Oak Creek Taxidermy, the taxidermist the museum uses. The museum is preparing to have a new exhibit featuring this mountain lion ready sometime this fall. I would like to ask anyone interested in helping out with the expenses of putting together this new exhibit to donate funds to the museum. We would really appreciate your contributions for the new mountain lion display!

Saturday, March 3rd - Reception for Andy Cominos’ Exhibit at 12:00 Noon

Please join us for Andy’s reception of his photographs of local petroglyphs and Death Valley on March 3rd at 12:00 Noon. The exhibit will run from Saturday March 3 through April 24.
Docent Doings
By Nora Nuckles, Education Coordinator

The docents will host a special event on Sunday, April 1, from 2:00-3:00 PM. Betsy Le Platt will read the book, *Mosquito*. Ms. LePlatt is the illustrator of this picture book for children. She will explain how she starts with a realistic picture of some critter and then changes it to be something funny to charm the readers. An easel, a pad of paper, and some felt pens will be her tools for this demo. Ms. LePlatt will sign books at the end of the session. The museum has *Mosquito* in the store now and will have copies available on April 1. The docents plan to include *Mosquito* at the March 30 Children’s Hour where the theme is Insects.

We will keep very busy throughout March with SEEP in the classroom presentations as well as giving our other programs. Luckily, our numbers are growing so we have more docents to help present all our wonderful programs. We continue to receive training by experts such as Judy Breitenstein and Susan Moore. Dan Burnett promises a fun field trip to study birds.

Last month I promised a special interview with Ruth Amster. Ruth is retiring from active status as a docent but will continue to serve as our special adviser. Ruth is well-known in the community for her works of art. She is an accomplished painter and sculptor. Ruth is a supporter of the many art and music activities in the valley. However, few people realize that Ruth is the founder of the Docent League of the Maturango Museum. Ruth moved here from Washington, D.C. where she trained with the Smithsonian as an art docent. Ruth was brought to a museum board meeting where Jim Baird expressed a need for a docent program. He could see that Ruth had the training, ability, and know-how to get a docent program started. Ruth did just that! Many of the original docent members are still active with the Maturango Museum. Ruth had a vision of the training and structure needed to develop a docent program that would share the natural history of our area with students. She deemed it equally important to share the cultural history and the arts.

I was fortunate to share a cup of tea with Ruth and some very special conversation. Ruth and her husband, Dolph, enjoyed exploring the Sierras, Death Valley, and all the delightful aspects of the desert. What a different place it was from her native New York! Ruth delights in seeing children motivated to learn, to do art, to explore, to find something special for themselves! She is passionate about helping to provide opportunities for children to explore creativity and develop self-confidence. Ruth has worked with art docents to develop some lessons where children can explore while learning about the elements of art. This has been one of her newest accomplishments! Ruth is a very special lady who continues to inspire the docents. Her positive approach to each day makes us all realize how fortunate we are to be docents who have the opportunity to teach students about the natural and cultural history of the IWV and our desert.

**Brush ‘n Blush Fundraiser**

Come and have a great afternoon full of painting, creativity, fun and drinks. The Maturango Museum will be sponsoring a Brush ‘n Blush fundraiser on March 14th.

You will be working on a featured painting with our amazing local artist Nancy Crawford. She has lived in Ridgecrest for 40 years and has taught a local watercolor class weekly for the last 5 years. Her background and degree in psychology helps to guide students to the art they most prefer. She studied basic art in college, and as many artists do and has studied with many individual professional artists over the last 50 years. Nancy paints many subjects, ranging from local flowers, to classical, to animals, whimsy and landscapes. You will be guided with a step-by-step system that can make an artist out of anyone. Create an original watercolor surrounded by your friends and other budding artists. Walk away with a feeling of accomplishment and maybe even a few new friends.

The Brush n Blush will be offered on March 14th from 2:30 p.m. – 5 p.m. You can reserve a seat in either class at the Maturango Museum for $50 a class, per person. Your fee will include your supplies, completed "masterpiece" and the "blush wine" as an added incentive; other non-alcoholic beverages will also be available. Class size will be limited to 20 people so reserve your space soon. Join an adventurous group and be surprised by the hidden talent we all have inside us.
Annual Wildflower Show
at the
Maturango Museum
Friday April 13 to Monday April 16

Come see an extensive display of wildflowers collected locally by trained volunteers and identified by botanists.

The Maturango Museum
100 E. Las Flores Ave
Ridgecrest, CA 93555
(760) 375-6900
www.maturango.org

Open 10-5 Daily with Extended Hours for the Ridgecrest Desert Wildflower Festival 9-7 on both Friday and Saturday, 9-5 on Sunday and 10-noon on Monday.

- Exhibits
- Museum Store
- Xeriscape Demonstration Garden
- Petroglyph Tour Information
- Labyrinth and Human Sundial
- Death Valley Tourist Center
- Northern Mojave Visitor Center
Businesses and Organizations
Supporters • Contributors • Sponsors

Please support the businesses and organizations that support the Maturango Museum

ACE Cogeneration Company
Mercury Transfer & Warehouse/Allied Van Lines
Albertsons - North
Mojave Desert Bank
Albertsons - South
Motel 6
AltaOne Federal Credit Union
New Directions Technologies, Inc.
Altrusa
News Review
American Association of University Women
Oasis Garden Club
Ashley Furniture Homestore
Optimist Club
Best Western China Lake Inn
Owens Peak Group, Sierra Club
BevLen Haus Bed & Breakfast
PG&E
Boulder Creek RV Resort
PackWrap Business Center
Carriage Inn
The Pizza Factory
Center Pharmacy
R.B. Sweeping Service
Coldwell Banker Best Really Comfort Inn
Ridgecrest Area Convention and Visitors Bureau
DART
Ridgecrest Automotive
Desert Area Teachers Association
Ridgecrest Chamber of Commerce
Desert Artist League
Ridgecrest Moving & Storage/Atlas Van Lines
Earth Industries, Inc.
Ridgecrest Regional Hospital
EconoLodge of Ridgecrest Ridgecrest Septic Service
Elsk, B.P.O.E. Lodge 1913 Roadrunner Trading Post
Epsilon Systems Solutions, Inc.
Rotary Club of China Lake
Exchange Club of Ridgecrest St. Ann Catholic School
The Flower Shoppe Sand Canyon Environmental
Friends of Jawbone Education Program
Furnace Creek Inn & Ranch Resorts Santa’s Art Shop
Goeppinger Cellular – AT&T SASS
Got Clean Air? Rainbow Vacuum Sears Valley Minerals
Hampton Inn & Suites Sears Hometown Store
Heritage Inn & Suites ServiceMaster of the IWV
Inland Adventurer Sierra Odyssey Custom Tours
IWV Water District Sierra Sands Unified School District
Jacobs Naval System Group, Inc. SOI Motorhome Club
J.P. Gorman Welding Southern Sierra Medical Clinic
Kiwanis Club SpringHill Suites by Marriott
KPartners Hospitality Group State Farm Insurance – Gary Charlon
Kristy’s Restaurant Studio Eight
KZIQ/KWDJ - Sunset Media The Swap Sheet
Law Offices of Phyllis M. Hix Tax Time Services - Barbara Agerton
The Library Press, Dr. Lorraine Blair TJ Frisbee Bicycles, Inc.
Liberty Self Storage TMS Matting and Framing
Lockheed Martin Tokyo House
Lugo’s Grill TOSS
Maddy’s Cottage Union Bank
McDonald’s Vagabond Inn
Mediacom The Vintage Vault

Committee Chairpersons
Terry Ratcliff, Docent League
Sandy Rogers, Lectures
Fran Rogers, Concerts
Liz Babcock, Publications
Steve Benson, Museum Assistant
Joan Barbee, Bookkeeping Assistant
Nora Nuckles, Museum Assistant
Sandy Rogers, Archaeology
Nora Nuckles, Museum Assistant
Elizabeth Babcock, Curator, History
Duane Rice, Museum Assistant
Camille Anderson, Curator, Natural History
Jessica Waid, Museum Assistant
Julie Stephens, Bookkeeper
Andrea Pelch, Newsletter Editor
Terry Ratcliff, Operational Fundraising
Fran Van Valkenburgh, Membership, Petroglyphs
Kathy La Shure, Dan Burnett, Garden Committee

Board of Trustees
Steven F. Boster, President
Joleigh S. Rafalski, Vice President
Ronald L. Atkins, Secretary
Debbie Benson
Mike Brown
Sherry L. Brubaker
Leslie T. Layfield
Bob Westbrook

Staff
Harris Brokke, Executive Director
Mary Lattig, Store Manager/Buyer
Sandy Rogers, Curator, Archaeology
Elizabeth Babcock, Curator, History
Camille Anderson, Curator, Natural History
Julie Stephens, Bookkeeper
Fran Van Valkenburgh, Membership, Petroglyphs
Andrea Pelch, Gallery Coordinator
Joann Barbee, Bookkeeping Assistant
Nora Nuckles, Education Coordinator
Steve Benson, Museum Assistant
Barbara Ingles, Museum Assistant
Nora Nuckles, Museum Assistant
Duane Rice, Museum Assistant
Nora Nuckles, Education Coordinator
Steve Benson, Museum Assistant
Duane Rice, Museum Assistant
Jessica Waid, Museum Assistant
Andrea Pelch, Newsletter Editor

This newsletter is published monthly by
Maturango Museum of the IWV
100 E. Las Flores Ave., Ridgecrest, CA 93555
The Museum is open every day (except major holidays) from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Calendar of Events

March 2012
Fri, Mar. 2 – Annual membership meeting.
Sat, Mar. 3 – Andy Cominos Gallery reception - noon
Sat, Mar 3 – Trip to Bowers Museum
Tues. Mar. 6 – Docent meeting – 8:45 am
Sat, Mar. 10 – FREE day at the Museum
Tues. Mar. 13 – Lecture by Sarah King
Wed. Mar. 14 – Brush & Blush fundraiser – 2:30 pm
Fri, Mar. 16 & 17 – HearthWind concert – 7:30 pm
Mon. Mar. 19 – Board of Trustees meeting – 7 pm
Fri, Mar. 30 – Children’s hour – 10:30 am

April 2012
Sun. April 1 – Book reading & signing – Mosquitoes by Betsy LePlatt - 2:30 pm
Tues, April 3 – Docent meeting – 8:45 am
Sat, April 7 – Trip to Exotic Breeding Compound in Rosemond & Poppy Preserve in Lancaster
Sat, April 14 – FREE day at the Museum
Tues, April 17 – Lecture by Janet Westbrook
Fri, & Sat, April 20 & 21 – “We Friends” concert
Fri, April 27 – Reception for Greg Gilbert’s exhibit
Sat, April 28 – Tour of the Kern River Valley area

Petroglyph Tours and other Museum events
Petroglyph tour information and an application as well as a slide show on the Petroglyph tours are available on our website at www.maturango.org. The spring Petroglyph tour schedule is Mar. 3, 4, 10, 11, 24, 25; April 7, 21, 22, 28, 29; May 5, 6, 19, 20, 26, 27; June 2, 3;
• China Lake Astronomical Society meetings generally 7:30 pm on 1st Monday
• China Lake Photographic Society meetings generally 7 pm on 1st Thursday
• Owens Peak Group of the Sierra Club meetings generally 7:30 pm on 4th Monday
• Kerncrest Audubon Society meetings generally 7 pm on 3rd Thursdays bi-monthly [will meet in January]
• California Native Plant Society, Creosote Ring Subchapter of Bristlecone Chapter, on 1st Wednesday
• Docent League presentations - brochure of topics available.

Scan this QR code to go directly to our website at www.maturango.org

Return Service Requested

Maturango Museum of the IWV
100 E. Las Flores Ave.
Ridgecrest, CA 93555-3654