



Maturango News

Maturango Museum: Preserve, interpret and develop an appreciation for the natural and cultural history of the Northern Mojave Desert.

100 E. Las Flores Ave. • Ridgecrest, CA 93555
760.375.6900 www.maturango.org

Death Valley Tourist Center Northern Mojave Visitor Center

Museum Director's Notes

By Debbie Benson, Director

As the March winds roar through the valley, the storms are bringing touches of snow to the surrounding mountains and a bit of welcome cool. This is slowing our "early spring" just enough so that the flowers should be pretty wonderful for the Wildflower Exhibit on April 8, 9 & 10. I'm looking forward to



a wonderful showing of the miracle of the desert blooms. Put this on your calendar so you won't miss it! Just so you don't miss out on the fun, take a little time to just get out and see some of the plethora of flowers coming up this Spring, don't pick them but maybe take a picture and see if you can identify them! Have your own wildflower treasure hunt! I was able to stand in a "puddle of Goldfields" yesterday and felt fortunate just to be there.

It was great to have the class of 2016 go through Petroglyph Escort training with Peggy

Shoaf, from the NAWS PAO, and Mike Baskerville, the Command Archaeologist. The classes were full and the interest level was high! The reports back were of a pretty amazing day for the new escorts! The Petroglyph tour escorts are an amazing group of people who all volunteer their time and are also willing to make it a wonderful, fact filled day for the tourists. The focus on respect and preservation for sites in our area reminds me that we can all make a difference and these escorts do. Thank you all for making it possible to share the petroglyphs in a meaningful way! You are the best!!

Spring Petroglyph tour dates are now posted on our website www.maturango.org

Armogida Planetarium : Free Saturday April 2 10 am – 2:30 pm

Mike and Paula Herr, and the docents, will host a planetarium and movie viewing. Shows will be approximately every half hour with a break for lunch. Since the dome can only accommodate about 20 people at once, those wishing to view the movie will be given free colored tickets to indicate their viewing time. Would-be-viewers should come early to ensure a spot.

Gift Shop News

Our one-of-a-kind "Advice from a Petroglyph" T-shirts and sweatshirts will be 40% off through May 31.

T-shirts come in long and short sleeve. Sweatshirts are pullover hoodies. Sizes S-XXL

Field Trips with Janet Westbrook

Complete descriptions and prices at www.maturango.org/field-trips/

Saturday, April 2 : Death Valley National Park in search of flowers and pupfish! It's a banner year over there already. We'll be concentrating on flowers, not so much the "tourist stuff". Figure on at least 350 miles driving! Car pools encouraged. Meet at the Museum for check in by 7:45 am for departure by 8 am.

Free trips during the Wildflower exhibit - short excursions to the best flower places around our Indian Wells Valley - where depends on what's good - I'll go scout and find the best places. Probably dirt road driving, but any vehicle in good shape can do it. Meet at the Museum parking lot at 10:15 on Sat. April 9 and on Sunday April 10 - probably different places each day.

Saturday, April 23 : Wagons to Windmills, 2 centuries of history in our Kern County foothills - one of my favorite loops to do! We'll go over Walker Pass to Lake Isabella town, then up the stage road over the pass to Havilah, then over the Lion's grade road down to Caliente - the main stage road from LA and Bakersfield. Then we'll go to Keene and pick up the old road (before Hwy 58 freeway) to the Tehachapi railroad loop and hope for a nice long freight train. Then we'll go above Tehachapi over to the windmills and wind our way down Oak Creek Canyon past the new huge wind machines to Mojave where the Space planes are being built.

Saturday, April 30 : Behind the Scenes Twilight Tour Open House at Rosamond's "Cat House" - the Exotic Feline Breeding Compound Conservation Center. Twice a year the whole grounds are open for a Twilight Tour. The cats are more active than in the daytime, and they are given "toys" to play with - phone books and boxes to rip apart, balls, fish for the fishing cats, etc. It's a fun evening! There is food available, raffles, etc.

Only adults over 18 allowed, no pets of course, and the grounds behind the nice grass and paved pathways is sloped, dirt and gravel - bring a walking aid if you need that. We'll meet at the Museum at 3:15p.m. and caravan down to Rosamond, or you could go shopping in Lancaster and meet us at the parking lot before 5 p.m.

Saturday, May 7 : Southern Owens Valley trip - itinerary TBD - so many things to see between Ridgecrest and Lone Pine and Independence that you always drive right past!



Wildflower Exhibit 2016

Friday, April 8th through Sunday, April 10th

Our volunteers that gather the wildflowers will have a "bloomin' big" job this year after all the rain and warm temperatures. Spring brings that time of year when we all look forward to one of the great pleasures of living in the desert – wildflowers with all their delicate splendor. The Wildflower Exhibit will display flowers and grasses labeled with their names, and docents will be there for explanations.

Our own Kathy LaShure, an accomplished wildflower photographer, will present "Day Tripping with California Wildflowers" on Saturday at 2:30 pm. More than forty places within reach for a day's outing are featured, along with road types, any vehicle recommendations, and walking or hiking distances. Not only that, we can all be transported that very day by Kathy's wonderful pictures without even leaving our chairs

The Desert Artists' League will display wildflower-themed artwork and artists will be there with a mini workshop.

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Michael Maas : "Development of Themes ; The Evolution of an Artist's Work from Realistic Botanicals to Patterned Abstraction."

Opening Reception Friday, 6 May, 7 pm.

Michael Maas became a full-time artist in 1996 after having been, among other things, a bicycle racer in France, a meat-cutter in Illinois, and a life insurance salesman in Newport Beach, California. Primarily self-taught, his paintings are in collections in Australia, Canada, England, France, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, and throughout the United States. He shows regularly with galleries and museums throughout Southern California. He currently has a studio in Ridgecrest called the Art Project Space on Balsam Street, and another in Fallbrook, California, where he has had a home since 2007.

He is best known for his illusionistic, patterned-abstract "Alhambra Series" paintings. This exhibit will show how his work evolved from straight-ahead realistic botanicals, using examples from the mid 1990s up to 2016.

How does an artist get from this



to this ?



You can see more of his work by visiting his website at www.michaelmaas.com or by searching the web for "Michael Maas"+"Alhambra"

"We Friends" Concert : Sunday, April 17

"We Friends" will present the fourth concert in the 2015 - 2016 Maturango Museum's concert series in the Sylvia Winslow Exhibit Gallery on Sunday, April 17 at 3 p.m.

Seats are limited to 60, so avoid disappointment get your tickets now in the museum store or the on-line store. The ticket price is \$12 per adult and \$5 per child 12 and younger.

"We Friends" concerts have been a welcome mainstay in the Maturango Museum series for a number of years. The instrumental make up of the group changes year to year with the remaining constant member being Catherine Douglas, piano. This year's friends also include Lynnette Wilson (flute), Gary Fry (clarinet) and Robert Ferguson (cello).

"We Friends" will perform musical selections by composers Georg Philipp Telemann, Jacques Loeillet, Jules Massenet, Ludwig van Beethoven, and Claude Debussy.



Lecture on the "Bioarchaeology of Warfare and Violence in Iron Age England"

Sunday, April 3, at 3 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.

Dr. King's research focused on linking the patterns of traumatic injuries with mortuary and ritual practice.



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 Behavior And Osteological Patterns Of Violence". She has participated in excavations in California, England, France and Spain. She is currently professor of anthropology and sociology at Cerro Coso Community College in Ridgecrest.

Dr. Sarah King practicing her atlatl skills.

Special Lectures on the Coso Petroglyphs

As an added benefit for petroglyph tour participants, the museum will offer three lectures on Coso Rock Art and Cultures. The lectures will be presented by our archaeology curator, Alexander (Sandy) Rogers, and will enhance your experience in visiting the petroglyphs. The lectures will be presented on **April 2, April 23, and May 14**, so that both Saturday and Sunday tour participants can attend. The lectures are free and will begin at **7 pm** in the **Sylvia Winslow Gallery** at the Maturango Museum.



Sandy Rogers

Maturango Museum of the IWV

100 E. Las Flores Ave., Ridgecrest, CA 93555
Open every day (except major holidays)
10 am - 5 pm

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Regularly Scheduled Meetings

- China Lake Astronomical Society: 1st Monday of each month, 7 pm
- China Lake Photographic Society: 1st Thursday of each month, 7 pm
- Kerncrest Audubon Society: 3rd Thursday bi-monthly [Jan, Mar, May, Sep, Nov, not July], 7 pm
- Docent League: 1st Tuesday of each month, 8:45 a.m., anyone welcome to attend

Calendar of Events

Free Day : 10:30 am : Saturday 2 April
Dr. King Lecture : 3 pm 3 April
Wildflower Show : Friday 8 April – Sunday 10 April
"We Friends" Concert : Sunday, 17 April
Pizza Factory Fundraiser : Thurs 21 April
Various Field Trips with Janet Westbrook : see article or website
Petroglyph Lectures : 7 pm April 2 and April 23
Children's Hour "Pollinators of the Desert" : Friday April 22 : 10:30 am

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