



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

April was a busy time here at the Maturango Museum. With wildflowers, floor finishing, tours and travelers, there was not much time to just sit and be reflective. It has been great! As we move into May, which promises to be just as busy, I would like to thank each and every person who has been so supportive of our efforts to be good stewards of the Museum. Our membership has raised the funds to do our parking lot and fund some of our summer interns. Thank you also for your wonderful and positive notes, we do read and appreciate them.

On May 23rd we will begin the parking lot resurfacing. This means that we cannot use the lot for two weeks. We will have ramps to the dirt overflow lot and we will have the entry on China Lake Blvd marked with parking at the back of the Museum. Yes, it may be inconvenient but it will be pretty wonderful when done! We are making sure that your donations are spent as YOU intended! Thank you again and keep checking on our progress.

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



Field Trips with Janet Westbrook

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

Saturday, May 7: Southern Owens Valley

Meet at the museum 8 am. So many things to see between Ridgecrest and Lone Pine and Independence that you always drive right past! We can do aqueduct things, Alabama Hills scenery, go around Owens Lake and discover the interesting mining history, etc. Wagon roads, water wars, Indians and Army, Cowboys and cattle and sheep, Boats on Owens Lake, the flowing Owens River, Dolomite, Salt, Cement, gold, silver, lead, just so many wonderful things and history and lovely scenery and maybe even flower shows! See PDF file on our web page and I'll update it as time gets closer - will depend on road conditions, flower exhibits, etc. Some dirt roads. I do this one yearly, but it's different every time.

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.



Friday, June 3 : Trail of 100 Giants (before LA schools get out) (if USFS has finished their work)

Charlotte Goodson and Kathy LaShure



Bill Ferguson, on mule-back, collecting in Grapevine Cyn. Photo taken by Kitty Ferguson, on mule-back, following him. Note the mailing tube in his day pack that they used for safely transporting the flowers.

The 2016 Wildflower Exhibit Is a Wrap !

by Charlotte Goodson

Another Annual Wildflower Exhibit at the Maturango Museum has been put to bed or "in the can", as the old movie lingo goes. It was a beauty! Our surrounding mountain collecting areas came through with an amazing array of wildflowers and plants. 237 species from 45 plant families were collected from 16 locations. Among those places, five produced the biggest yields: Grapevine Cyn, Rademacher Hills, Indian Wells Cyn, El Paso Mtns, and 9-Mile Cyn. As commented by Kathy LaShure, "What a whirlwind of a week! Lots of teamwork from lots of dedicated volunteers. Considering that we received no rain in February, I think these are terrific results!" A sentiment echoed by everyone.

Visitors this year expressed amazement and delight over the exhibit's variety of flowers. As in years past, they came from all over. Signing the guest book were visitors from Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Arizona, Virginia, and Australia! Northern and Southern California areas were well represented, and always so much appreciated were the many Ridgecresters. For the Saturday special presentation by Kathy LaShure of "Day Tripping with California Wildflowers" our still-new Coso Room was packed with visitors. Many congratulations to her for the wonderful program!

There are so many volunteers, as well as Museum staff, who made the success of the exhibit possible. In hopes of not overlooking anyone's contributions this year, the well-deserved thanks to each will be given in the June newsletter. In the meantime, all can rest assured that theirs was a job well done!



30 March

Keep checking the "giant asparagus" Century Plant spike in our garden. It grows about 4 inches per day.



13 April

Docent Doings

By Nora Nuckles

Free Saturday on May 14 should be full of shaking and fun ! The docents are teaming up with the Maturango Museum concert group to host Martin Espino for a workshop on Saturday, May 14, 11am – 1pm. Martin Espino will lead a rattle making activity for children. The Saturday workshop is free. It is not necessary to stay the entire two hours.



Martin will perform in concert on Friday evening in a program entitled “Sounds of Ancient Mexico.” See the concert article for more information. He brings a large collection of native instruments and sings in native languages including Maya, Nahuatl, and Tepehuano. Martin Espino is of Yaqui (Sonora) and Tepehuano (Durango) heritage.

Rosy, our rosy boa, has come back to my house to be available for outings to schools and for tours at the Museum. Rosy greeted many students for our classroom presentations for the Sand Canyon Environmental Education Program. I kept it from one classroom visit because it decided it was time to hunker down and prepare to shed. So about 7 days later I looked to see that Rosy was about half out of her old skin. The next day she finished shedding; I saved the entire old skin and brought Rosy out of the terrarium to get some exercise. One of Rosy's favorite places to exercise is on the rungs of my dining room chair! Rosy is now beautifully sleek and shiny!

Bob Parker and the local tortoise club has provided female tortoises for the new tortoise enclosure. Be sure to walk north of the garden to observe the tortoises in their new enclosure built by Zack Burns as an Eagle Scout project. The tortoises go in and out of their burrows numerous times during the day. Bob has placed a male tortoise in the other half of the enclosure. The Department of Fish and Wildlife requires tortoise owners to keep males and females separate. There are plenty of captive tortoises offered for adoption so it is not good to breed more captive tortoises at the present time.

Mike and Paula Herr have a full schedule of Armogida Planetarium programs from now through June. They will visit Murray Middle School and Faller Elementary School with multiple days to include all the students. They will be in Lone Pine on Saturday, April 16. In May they will also present planetarium programs for 3 third-grade classes from Las Flores at the Museum. To wrap up the season they will present planetarium programs for three libraries: Ridgecrest Library on June 11; Beale Library in Bakersfield on June 21; Cal City Library on June 23. What a busy year Mike and Paula have had!

Our art experience and science programs continue to be frequently requested also! In March docents presented 35 programs to 1200 people (this includes the planetarium programs and the Sand Canyon classroom presentations as well as our very popular Children's Hour).

May will be a busy month with several tours to the Museum and Sand Canyon Environmental Education programs in the classroom! It takes many docents for us to provide all these programs! Come join us at our May meeting on May 3 at 8:45 am at the Museum. We can always use enthusiastic volunteers.



Treat Mom with something sparkly for Mother's Day.
Enjoy a 20% savings on all jewelry May 1st through 8th.

Donations

Donations

Mary Adler
Anonymous – in memory of
 Agnes Winter
Bev Estis
Larry and April Garcia
Janis Lindgren
Robert Westbrook

In Memory of Anna Pringle

Mary Adler
Alan and Joan Woodman

In Memory of Lloyd Brubaker

Mrs. Jane Aken
Howard & Margaret Anderson
 & Family
Henry Blecha – parking lot
repairs
Rod and Judy Ditzler
Ann and Joe Dorgan
Doris Hammer
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Martha M. Rodgers
Sierra Amateur Radio Club
Alan and Deborah Tsubota

Student Anthropology Program

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Thom Boggs
Naomi Norris
Harry and Julie Stephens

Parking Lot Repairs

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 Carol and Harold Hockett
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 Mike Cash – tour guide
Paul Mouriski
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Robert Westbrook

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Patricia McCain
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Wayne Rowley
Crystal St. Louis
The Rosas Family
Ed Waterman
Maria Zavala-Waterman

**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"

Martin Espino : "Sounds of Ancient Mexico"

Friday, May 13, 7 pm

By Fran Rogers

The Maturango Museum concert series continues with a concert by Martin Espino on indigenous Mexican music on Friday May 13, 7 pm. Seats are limited so avoid disappointment and buy your tickets now in the museum store or online. The price is \$12 per adult and \$5 per child 12 and younger.

Martin Espino's concert, entitled "Sounds of Ancient Mexico", is an interactive program in which he motivates the audience of all ages to become a huge ancient orchestra playing his large collection of native instruments and singing in native languages, including Maya, Nahuatl and Tepehuano.

Martin Espino is of Yaqui (Sonora) and Tepehuano (Durango) Mexican heritage and has been working in Indigenous Mexican Music studies for over 40 years. He has a Bachelors of Music degree, with honors, in Performance from Immaculate Heart College. With 49 years of on-stage professional experience, he is both a performing artist and teaching artist. He brings a virtual museum of exciting, exotic sounding and unusual native instruments to his concerts and educational workshops and lectures for all ages. In addition to his stage performances, he has music in commercials, motion pictures, videos and on the radio. One of his latest movies, "Water & Power", opened May 2014.



Martin Espino
photo by Krystal Mora

The next day, on Free **Admission** Saturday, May 14, 11 am – 1 pm, Martin will lead a rattle-making activity for children (of all ages). See docent article for more information.

Please join us for this outstanding concert and be prepared to learn to make music!

Cuba Travelogue Lecture by Jerry Bradley and Nancy Crawford

Wednesday May 4, 7 pm

Jerry --

“Sandy and I were on a one week cruise aboard the Celestyal Crystal. (Yup, that’s the way they spell Celestial.) We were part of a People to People program which provided on-board lecturers from the University of Havana. They discussed Cuban history, culture, food, music and art. Our cruise left Montego Bay, Jamaica, then went to Santiago De Cuba, Havana (2 days), Maria La Gorda, and Cienfuegos, sailing around the entire island. Each day ashore involved guided bus or walking tours of the cities. We slept and ate most meals on the ship. Although the ship was owned by a Greek company, many of the crew were Cuban and meals usually contained one or more Cuban dishes.”



Nancy --

We flew from Las Vegas to Miami; then all of us on charter from Miami to Cuba.

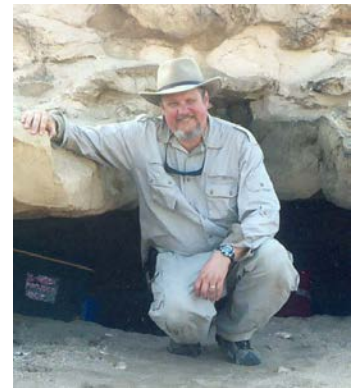
While our tour was similar, it differed in that we stayed in Cuba and visited sights from Havana to Trinidad (the city in Cuba, not the other one) and back. We stayed in 3 hotels and ate our meals in restaurants disguised as homes. The flights into and out of Cuba were on a charter plane. Many of the plans were changed as we traveled including the flights.

Lecture: “Owl Cave Mammoth Kill Site”

presented by Dr. Robert Yohe, professor of Anthropology at California State Univ., Bakersfield

Sunday, May 15, begins 3 pm

Owl Cave is part of the Wasden Site complex in eastern Idaho, and was first excavated during the 1970s. It has long been considered an important site containing evidence of the mass exploitation of bison during the early Holocene, ca. 9000 years ago. At a depth of five meters beneath fallen rock the excavators found a stratum containing Pleistocene fauna, most notably a single Columbian mammoth associated with fluted Folsom-like projectile points. Unfortunately, their results were never published. In 2007, Dr. Yohe and Dr. Suzann Henrikson, an archaeologist with the Bureau of Land Management, took on the task of resurrecting the data and putting together the puzzle and publishing the results. The results of this fascinating research project will be discussed in the presentation.



Dr. Robert Yohe



Lecture on the Coso Petroglyphs

May 14: begins 7 pm

As an added benefit for petroglyph tour participants and well, anybody that’s interested, our archaeology curator, Alexander (Sandy) Rogers will talk about Coso Rock Art and Cultures. The lectures are always free and open to the public.

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

Various Field Trips with Janet Westbrook : see article or website
Cuba Travelogue Lecture : Wednesday May 4, 7 pm
Michael Maas Opening Reception : May 6, 7pm
Martin Espino Concert : May 13, 7pm
Free Day : May 14 : 11am – 1pm. : make rattles with Martin Espino
Lecture : “Owl Cave Mammoth Kill Site” : Sunday May 15, 3 pm
Petroglyph Lecture by Sandy Rogers : Saturday May 14, 7 pm
Pizza Factory Fundraiser : May 19
Children’s Hour Storytime : Friday May 20, 10:30 am

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