



# 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*

We are celebrating July and all of its excitement and that sense of eternal heat that is a part of our desert life. We get up in the morning to greet the day with the beauty of a desert sunrise and sit out at night to enjoy that special peach time as the sun sinks behind the Sierras. During the day we seek that cool spot while the sky is bleached to a pale blue during the heat of the day. The Museum is one of those cool places to be during these hot summer days. After a walk through the garden it is nice to come in and enjoy the gift shop or spend some time sitting in one of the galleries enjoying the displays.

I am enjoying getting to know some of our new faces with the Archaeology and History interns and some of our new faces in the Gift Shop. They are a nice addition to our wonderful and very valued staff and volunteers. They make every day positive and it makes the summer pretty great!

Are you downsizing or just ready to pass on some of your treasures?

We have two events that will help you out and help support the Museum. We are accepting donations for our Fundraising Dinner/Auction that will be held on Oct 1. This is a great opportunity to donate your wonderful treasures.

Our other event is for your gently used, fun and useful items as they seek their Final Frontier and are ready become a part of the Maturango Museum Mirage Sale, on August 26 & 27. This will be a rummage sale where your interesting and useful stuff disappears from your life and becomes someone else's treasure! You can bring your items in to the Museum or contact me and we can arrange pick-up.

[debbie@maturango.org](mailto:debbie@maturango.org) or 760-375-6900.



Thank you for everything you do and make sure you have plenty of water!

## Fieldtrip to Sierra Meadows with Janet Westbrook

Tired of being HOT? On July 9 we'll go up into the local mountains to explore Sierra Meadows -- starting at Kennedy Meadows and going on up to the Kern Plateau at 7000+ feet !

***Aaaah, feel the green...***

We will visit Troy Meadows, Smith and Paloma Meadows, Granite Knob Meadow, Bonita and Paloma Meadows, and wind up on top of Sherman Pass, 9200 ft. with outstanding views of the Kern Plateau, Olancho Peak, and Mt. Whitney!! A day of little streams and green surroundings inhabited by frogs, lots of flowers, and nice trees. Guaranteed to be cool, green, and lovely!

More info at [www.maturango.org/field-trips/](http://www.maturango.org/field-trips/)



## Museum Members' Artistic Interpretations of Curators' Chosen Items

Opening Reception : Friday July 8 @ 7 pm

Our museum curators have each chosen artifacts (items) from collection storage. Each curator's item was assigned to 3 of our museum member artists. The artists were challenged to artistically interpret their assigned item and make an "art object".

For example, Sandy Rogers, our Archaeology Curator, might choose a basket. The 3 artists assigned that object would then create a piece of art of their own design – one artist might see the basket's weave texture and make a woven metal sculpture; another may envision the person that made the basket and paint a picture of that scene; the third artist might write a poem about the feeling of weaving. The idea is to have fun and get very creative.



Water "jar" basket

Since each artifact will have 3 artistic interpretations, you will get a wide range of perspectives and creative endeavors.

### Name the Tortoise Contest

...open to kids 12 and younger...

We have two male and two female tortoises in the Desert Tortoise Habitat that need names.

Entry forms are in the Gift Shop along with all the details.



### Open Studio Tour Call to Artists

The Maturango Museum is now accepting applications (due by August 10) from local artists for the **Maturango Museum's Open Studio Tour 2016**. Artists open their studios for the 2-day event so ticket holders can visit and purchase artwork. The tour will be Saturday and Sunday, October 15 & 16, 10 am – 5 pm each day.

Each artist will also have their artwork displayed in the Open Studio Tour Exhibit at the Museum and be a part of the Artists Reception on Friday, September 9.

For information and applications please go to the museum (open 10 – 5 every day) or download the paperwork from [maturango.org/open-studio-tour/](http://maturango.org/open-studio-tour/) Application fee is \$35 for museum members and \$50 for non-members.

Questions ? Contact Andrea Pelch (760-793-2857) at the Maturango Museum (760-375-6900) or [matmus5@maturango.org](mailto:matmus5@maturango.org)

## Docent Doings

By Nora Nuckles

We docents excel in presenting programs and giving a party! We presented 51 programs in May to approximately 1,080 people. **Wow !**

Programs included art, Children's Hour, 9 tours, SEEP for Las Flores 4<sup>th</sup> graders, and many on various desert animals.

On June 7 we held our annual end of the year party-an ice cream social in the Coso Room. Most of the docents, family members, and Maturango Museum staff came and enjoyed the treats! We thanked Paula Herr for her many years serving as our Docent League president. We also thanked Mike and Paula for their dedication to giving presentations in the Armogida Planetarium. It's always best to celebrate together!

Oh, but our teaching year is not quite over! In June we had several museum tours for the "Moving on Up" groups from the base. We also presented two 4-day summer school classes. Then the rest of the summer will be our vacation.

In the Critters class the children dissected owl pellets, made bird feeders and bird callers, painted wooden snakes and created wonderful shoe box habitats for their snakes. The children measured the prepared snake specimens in the docent collection. They compared the different types of desert snakes. They researched several different animals and made riddles about them. The children also visited the new tortoise enclosure (INSIDE-A Special Privilege) and handled our pet rosy boa, Rosy. As an added treat, Reese brought Flicker, his pet kingsnake, for all of us to see.



In the next newsletter I will report on the Kitchen Chemistry class and the planetarium programs for the Kern County libraries.

Docents have great fun while volunteering and interacting with children and adults. If you would like to join us, just give me a call at the Museum.

## New Exhibit In Argus Gallery : Edward Curtis Photogravures

Starting June 27<sup>th</sup>, an exhibit of part of the museum's collection of Edward Sheriff Curtis photogravures of Native Americans will be on display. Curtis, born in 1868, was a prominent photographer in Seattle, Washington. He became interested in Native Americans and their culture after attending one of the last performances of the "Sun Dance" ceremony practiced by the Sioux and other Plains Indians. Curtis wanted to document Indian tribes and their diversity of culture before it was too late.

Between 1900 and 1930, Curtis traveled from Mexico to the Arctic and from the Rockies to the Pacific Ocean photographing and recording more than 80 tribes. Three decades of travel and research amounted to over 40,000 photos, 20 volumes of ethnographic text, and several books of Indian stories. He died in 1952 virtually unknown and it wasn't until the 1970's that his work resurfaced and became appreciated. This exhibit will be on display through September 2016.



## Archaeology Interns

Once again we are very fortunate to have college students working as archaeology interns at the museum. Four are on board at present, with two more anticipated later in July. The interns are working on cataloging our archaeology collections. This involves examining each collection artifact by artifact, classifying the artifact by a standard taxonomy, entering data into an electronic catalog, and placing the artifact in archival-quality packaging. This provides a valuable service for the museum and a learning experience for the interns. The interns are funded by the generous donations of museum members.



Kara Jones and Daisy Zajicek are working here for a second summer. Kara has graduated from Cerro Coso and will be attending California State University, Bakersfield in the fall, to study anthropology. Daisy will be graduating from Cerro Coso next spring, and also plans on majoring in anthropology. Inda Alexander and Carol Blair are here for their first summer. Inda is a student at Cerro Coso and has worked as an archaeology volunteer for the BLM; she plans on pursuing university studies following graduation. Carol will graduate from Cerro Coso next

spring and plans to pursue a career in Egyptology.

We welcome these enthusiastic interns to the museum. Please greet them when you see them around the museum campus.

## Donations

### Donations

Sally and Gary Fry –  
Carroll Evans handyman fund  
William and Florence Eichenberg –  
in memory of Lloyd Brubaker  
Susan Moore – in memory of Lloyd Brubaker  
Robert Westbrook  
Peter Woodman – in memory of Lloyd  
Brubaker

### Building Fund

Susan Hueber – in memory of Jean Bennett

### Student Anthropology Program

Billie and Shirley Raglin  
Richard and Rose Stone  
Elaine Wiley

### Parking Lot Repairs

Anonymous  
Judy and Gene Breitenstein  
Jay and Peggy Chun  
Maureen Goff  
Marian E. Hills  
Susan Hueber  
Therese Moore

### In-Kind Donations

Nora Nuckles  
Fran Rogers

### New Members

Jim Allabashi



## Maturango Museum of the IWV

100 E. Las Flores Ave., Ridgecrest, CA 93555

Open every day (except major holidays)

10 am - 5 pm

### Staff

Debbie Benson, Museum Director  
Maureen Goff, Store Manager/Buyer  
Sandy Rogers, Archaeology Curator  
Elaine Wiley, History Curator  
Julie Stephens, Finance Manager  
Fran Van Valkenburgh, Membership  
Andrea Pelch, Art Gallery Coordinator  
Joann Barbee, Assistant Bookkeeper  
Nora Nuckles, Education Coordinator  
Linda Saholt, Petroglyph Tour Coord.  
Rachel Avery, Museum Assistant  
Sue Gilbert, Museum Assistant  
Nora Nuckles, Museum Assistant  
Nick Rogers, Museum Assistant  
Finn Martinez, Museum Assistant  
Andrea Pelch, Newsletter Editor

### Committee Chairpersons

Dan Burnett, Building  
Fran Rogers, Concerts  
Paula Herr, Docent League  
Dan Burnett, Finance  
Sandy Rogers, Lectures  
Elaine Wiley, Publications  
Bob Westbrook, Strategic Planning  
Mike Brown, Webmaster

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The Swap Sheet  
Tax Time Services  
TJ Frisbee Bicycles, Inc.  
TOSS  
Union Bank  
WACOM  
Warren's Automotive



## Regularly Scheduled Meetings

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

## Calendar of Events

Argus Gallery : Edward Curtis Photogravures : June 27 – Sept 30

ARTifacts Exhibit Opening Reception : Friday July 8 @ 7 pm

Fieldtrip to Sierra Meadows with Janet Westbrook : July 9

Pizza Factory Fundraiser : July 14 and August 11



Iguana admiring shaman statue.... how cool is that ?

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Maturango Museum of the IVV  
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