



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 getting ready for our Annual Fundraising Dinner/Auction on October 1 at the Kerr McGee Center. We are collecting some wonderful items that will make this a fun event and a great chance to bid on something you just can't live without! Tickets are available in the museum gift shop or on-line at our e-store shop.maturango.org

Among the diverse group of auction items are seven 4' Shaman steel statues by Milt Burford depicting some of our local Coso Petroglyphs.

In the photo : four of the Shaman statues, an Aztec Soldier sculpture carved by Dr. Bill McEwan, (one of three items made by Bill that will be in the auction), an eclectic and beautiful group of Ikebana pottery and glassware, and a lovely maple magazine rack.

Also in the auction are some amazing pieces of artwork including a beautiful kinetic sculpture by our very own Jerry Bradley and works by other local artists. We have some great baskets coming together and some fun gifts!

If you would like to be a sponsor let me know.

You can still donate items for the Auction to the Museum until September 16 or contact me and we can arrange pick-up. debbie@maturango.org or 760-375-6900.

Tickets are available in the museum gift shop or online at the e-store.

Thank you for everything! I'm looking forward to seeing you at the Auction! I can't wait!



Welcome to Sherry Brubaker, Our New Natural History Curator

Debbie says, "I am so very pleased that Sherry has joined the staff at the Museum! She worked on a major project this last year with the herbarium group and I was hoping she would agree to come to work as a curator of our Natural History collection. She has so much local expertise and she is such a benefit to the Museum and has already worked hard and accomplished projects to put things in order!"

Sherry Brubaker's dream job was not teaching for 31 years. It was something in biological sciences. "So here I am, Curator of Natural History at the Maturango Museum, dream job or what. I've spent my first month in a steep learning curve but enjoying every minute. I have discovered many new things and learned quite a bit with plans to learn a good deal more. One thing learned is that there is much more to curation than putting items on display, you have to take care of them as well and that is more than just putting items on a shelf. So now I embark on a new career. Come in and see the "Eyes" display in the Discovery Zone and also visit periodically to see what is new."

Field Trip to Little Lake Ranch

The museum will be conducting a field trip to Little Lake Ranch on Saturday, October 8. Little Lake Ranch is rich in archaeology and rock art, and we are privileged to go there by permission of the land owners. Details will be posted on the museum website as they become available.

Open Studio Tour 2016

Opening Reception for Artists' Exhibit on Friday, September 9, 7pm

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 opening reception on Friday, September 9, 7pm.

We have 29 artists participating in this year's tour. Art and crafts include ceramic sculpture, pottery, glass, paintings, woodworking, jewelry, and metalwork.

The \$10 tickets will be available September 1st in the museum gift shop.



Petroglyph Tour Dates Now Posted on Museum's Website

How long has it been since you visited the Coso Petroglyphs? The Fall Petroglyph Tour Season dates are now online at our website, www.maturango.org. Also, check out our gift store (or see our online store) for books and DVD's about this specific canyon. Coso petroglyphs are world-famous, and are held to be the best in the Western Hemisphere for quantity and quality. There is still a spiritual

feeling to Little Petroglyph Canyon that can excite and whisper directly to the modern subconscious across all those hundreds, even thousands of years since the designs were created. Words are superfluous; the feeling transcends time and language. Is there someone with whom you would like to share this cultural experience? Applications are now being accepted; these tours fill up quickly! Prices are \$45 for Museum members, \$55 for non-members.



Fieldtrip to Northern Owens Valley for Fall Colors with Janet Westbrook

October 8 – Owens Valley: Olancho to Bishop

Details at www.maturango.org/field-trips/ Tickets available in museum gift shop or online at our e-store.

\$25 members (\$40 for 2 members), \$30 non-members (\$50 for 2 people).

Families encouraged -- especially well-

behaved kids and dogs.

Anyone can drive from Ridgecrest to Bishop in 2.5 hrs, but do you know all the secret little places you're passing by and why they are what they are? Have you been out ON the lake? We'll be off Hwy 395 as much as possible! About 300 miles driving round trip.

Highlights include Olancho, Cartago and then go out onto the Lake, "Land Art Project", the Mt. Whitney Fish Hatchery, Tule Elk, visit either Black Rock Fish Hatchery or Fish Springs Hatchery, Bishop Creek, Aspendell and Lake Sabrina and South Lake. Just a lovely place to be in the fall!

We plan to be back in Bishop about 5 p.m., and it's a long way home from there - so you might want to consider having dinner somewhere on the way home.



Docent Doings

By Nora Nuckles

Save the date -- Tuesday, September 6, at 8:45 am in the Coso Room! Why? What's happening?
The Docent Welcome Brunch

Come join all the docents and new recruits! Docents represent the museum by presenting programs in the schools and to many different youth groups. They also lead museum-based tours. In our line of volunteering it takes a village -- a large group to fulfill the many requests we have for appearances! Some months we present to over a thousand people.

Some people see volunteering as giving back to the community; most docents see volunteering as giving back but also getting so much! Docents have multiple opportunities for enrichment -- meeting with very knowledgeable people, getting to know the inner workings of a museum, and enjoying the social aspects of a very fun, friendly group.

Our officers, Beverly Hill as President, Cam Alden as Vice-President, Sharon Oldfield as Secretary and Dan Burnett as Treasurer, together with me, are making plans for a busy, fun year! So we start with a "party" meeting with a little business on the side!

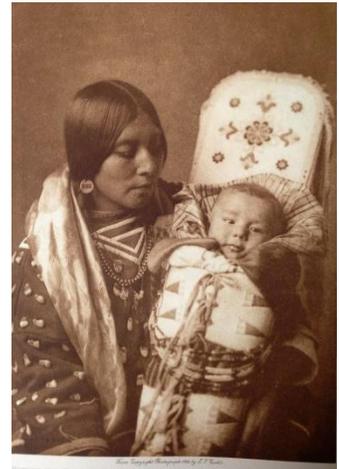
News flash! Our missing kangaroo rat specimen has magically appeared in the Bones collection. Now we are really ready to start our docent season!

Call me if you are interested in attending our first docent meeting or just come to our meeting on September 6!

Edward Curtis Photogravures in Argus Gallery

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.



Museum Acquires Model of Trona Monorail Track



Mr. Joe Powell of Las Vegas, NV, has very kindly donated a model of the Trona monorail track to the Maturango Museum. The monorail, sometimes called the "Epsom Salts Monorail", was constructed in 1922, linking the railroad near Trona with an Epsom salts mine in the Panamint Range. Although it was not a commercial success, it was the longest monorail ever constructed in the United States. Mr. Powell's model is 1/5 scale, and will be the centerpiece of a new exhibit on the monorail, which will also feature photographs and maps.



Archaeology Interns

Archaeology Interns a Great Success!

Seven interns spent six weeks working on cataloging archaeology collections at the museum this summer; all are college or university students majoring in anthropology. Four of the interns were paid stipends by the museum, while the others worked for academic credit.



The interns, Inda Alexander, Levi Bayer, Carol Blair, Kirsten Carroll, Kara Jones, Ashley Schmidt, and Daisy Zajicek, cataloged eight major collections, totaling nearly 13,000 artifacts. Each artifact was examined, classified by a standard taxonomy, placed in archival packaging with a tag, and entered into an electronic data base. This was a major accomplishment, especially since one of the collections, the Ron Henry collection, amounted to about 9,000 artifacts and had never been completely cataloged.

Stipends for the interns were funded by museum member contributions to a special fund established last spring. The internship program provides an educational experience to the interns, and also provides benefits to the museum. We extend our thanks to all who contributed to the fund.

Walgreens Pharmacy will be providing flu shots for a nominal fee
at the museum on 13 Sep, 1 – 3 pm.

Donations as of August

Donations

Dan Burnett
Alston Dotson
E. Norman and Suzanne George
Denny and Mary Jane Kline
Kristin Launder – in honor of
Jack Launder
Mr. and Mrs. Hector R. Leon –
In honor of Liz Babcock
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Building Fund

Robert Westbrook

Eagle Scout Project

Debbie and Dick Benson
Thom Boggs
Desert Garage Door

Student Anthropology Program

Anonymous
Tine Brouwer
Janet Westbrook

Parking Lot Repairs

John and Suzette Caufield
Marianne Kistler

Coso Room

Sherry Brubaker

New Members

Michael and Angelina Brown
Wayne E. and Elizabeth P. Essel
Josh and Melissa Johnson
Mastrogiovanni Family
Lonnie and Lorie Quiroga
Mary Simpson

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
Sherry Brubaker, Natural 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
Andrea Pelch, Newsletter Editor

Committee Chairpersons

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

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Sierra Sands Unified School District
SpringHill Suites by Marriott
The Swap Sheet
Tax Time Services
TJ Frisbee Bicycles, Inc.
TOSS
WACOM
Warren's Automotive



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

Docent Welcome Brunch : Tuesday, September 6, 8:45 am
"Open Studio Tour" Opening Reception for Artists' Exhibit : Friday, September 9, 7 pm
Flu shots : Tuesday, Sep13, 1-3 pm
Museum's Annual Dinner / Auction : Saturday, October 1
Little Lake Ranch field trip: Saturday, October 8
Northern Owens Valley field trip : Saturday, October 8



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