



# 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*

This is our annual passage from one year into the next. As we adjust to writing 2017 we also transition our thoughts to the changes that each New Year brings. As a child I can remember writing my New Year's resolutions on scraps of paper with my older sisters reminding me not to tell what they were or they may not come true. We would toss them into the fire and our hopes would rise like the smoke. I can honestly say that as a child I understood nothing about what it meant to have a resolution. I did not know that when you resolve to be a better person or to make a change it takes more than a wish and some words on paper. It takes work and tenacity and a belief in what you want for the future. I have found that each New Year does not give us more resolve; it just gives us a tangible date to focus on what we want to do and to look back on what we have done in the last year.

Here at the Maturango Museum, there have been so many things done and accomplished by the people who work here and donate so much of their time, support and energy to the Museum and to our community that my initial resolve is to say a most sincere Thank You! You make a difference. Thank you for everything you do and a Happy New Year to you ALL !

Saturday February 25, 2017 will be our Annual Meeting here at the Maturango Museum.

## Natural History Curator News

*By Sherry Brubaker*

Shouting out a **big 'Thank You'** to the folks who have already sponsored a critter. There are many more who need a sponsor. This whiptail lizard is looking for a sponsor. Contact me at the museum for more information: [Sherry@maturango.org](mailto:Sherry@maturango.org)



'Tis the season we share with others good will and fellowship but don't forget our wild friends too. Now is a good time to make sure that water sources are ice free, and bird feeders are full. You might even take the time to give the feeders a good scrubbing. If you put out orange slices or peanut butter, throw them away after a day or two because they go sour.

Happy New Year to all!

Beverly Atkins, 75, of Ridgecrest, California passed away on November 19<sup>th</sup> in Ridgecrest, CA. She is survived by her husband of 51 years, Ronald Atkins, son Tom Atkins, daughter Andrea Atkins, two grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Beverly was active in WACOM, the Page Turners book club, and was a long time member and supporter of the Maturango Museum. She, together with Ron, led museum tours to the Petroglyphs and was active in the garden committee, building committee, and museum board.

Beverly had a gift for art, and her talents were showcased on canvas, in sewing, in her meticulously decorated home interior, and in the landscape design around the family acreage. She loved gourmet food and wine and could effortlessly plan and host a celebratory event with perfection and grace.

Beverly was a loving, loyal wife and mother. She was a classy and special lady, gentle and warm, upbeat, vivacious, and vibrant. A gracious and beautiful woman, she brought smiles, laughter and happiness to all.

Donations may be given to the Maturango Museum in honor of Beverly Atkins.



### **John Aydelotte's Photography – "Bristlecone: A Living History" Opening Reception : Friday 6 January 2017, 7 pm**

An exploration of the ancients of the Bristlecone Pines and their environment in black and white photography and color images (abstracts) of the wood and colored fungus. All images will be of archival prints on aluminum. Printing on metal is a new art medium that preserves photos by infusing dyes directly into specially coated aluminum sheets. The images seem to glow with luminescence.



Referring to the subject matter, John says, "I was inspired at first sight of the Bristlecone Pine forest. The trees were magnificent and I was hooked in total awe of the forest and individual trees. I imaged with the final image in mind each time working and looking forward to the next image. I knew that the black and white seemed to fit the larger images but I also knew the abstracts needed to be in color. Two trips were made and the processing took weeks. Some images were processed several times to get the look and feel of my original visualization."

"I am a self-taught imager but along the way attended an adult school of photography. I made my living for over 35 years shooting commercial photography and retired in late 2014. I was a member of the Professional Photographers of America and attended many seminars and classes as well as participated as lecturer and participated in many print competitions. I love imaging and feel very at ease with the camera as my artistic tool to record light. I enjoy the whole process including composition and exploration of a subject and digital processing for the finishing."

This exhibit will be at the Maturango Museum until 27 February 2017.

## Julianne Black Art Exhibit : “Color & Vibration”

A multi-media exhibit of paintings on a variety of media, created to celebrate the original design elements of the petroglyphs with a modern twist of bright color and pop. Large items have been marked down in price. New items added. Lots of artwork still available. This exhibit runs until Jan 3, 2017.



## “Out and About Indian Wells Valley”

**Opening and Reception Saturday, January 21<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 7pm**

Local wildlife, wildflowers and dramatic weather and sunset scenes will be featured in the Sylvia Winslow Gallery. Six local photographers, John Burmeister, Irene and West Katzenstein, Raymond Kelso, Dave Kurdeka, and Nick Panzer have pulled together some of their



best photographs for this exhibit. The photographs are grouped into 5 different categories. The largest group consists of 15 animal photographs, followed by 12 wildflower photographs, 9 storm photographs, 7 cloud photographs and 4 sunset photographs. All are unique and capture the beauty of the Indian Wells Valley’s natural environment through the lens of these photographers.

Childrens’ Hour : Friday 13 January : 10:30 am : “Winter – What is going on in the desert”

## Docent Doings

*By Nora Nuckles*

“Where is Mr. Bob?” asked a disappointed student at one of the art presentations, Mr. Bob is Bob Parker who can be spotted at 95% of our presentations in a month! Needless to say, he is quite popular with the students. Bob is knowledgeable about most of our docent programs, talented in art, and lots of fun. Bob is a wonderful asset to the Docent League. I enjoy presenting programs with Bob because he contributes lots of knowledge in a relaxed manner and has a great sense of humor. An added bonus is that Bob is married to Sue who is also an excellent docent, willing to participate in all areas of the docent program. She is a key player in Children’s Hour. I am so lucky that Bob and Sue Parker are such devoted docents who bail me out very often when I need help with programs.

The docents presented 7 art programs in November and 6 in December. Carol Dezellem and Cam Alden keep the art presentations going and hang the students’ art work in the Museum near the Discovery Area. Don’t miss viewing the creative work from the students.

We presented about 20 other programs in November to approximately 500 people. These programs included tours in the Museum and special atlatl lessons provided by Don Crouse and Bob Parker. Our requests for December are fewer so we get a slight breather before 2017 brings us many requests for programs.

We recently hosted a tour for 20 adults and children from the Owens Valley Career Development Center. They sang a Paiute song for us and we exchanged information about the Local Native American presentation the docents use. What a fun time! One of the women shared that she had tasted the Pandora moth larvae that were cooked. She said they tasted like nuts to her.

At our December meeting, docents voted to purchase two freeze-dried specimens that our Natural History Curator, Sherry Brubaker, offered us. We now have a mourning dove and a small red racer to add to the docent collection. Recent donations to the docent fund made it possible for us to purchase these. We thank everyone for their support!

If you are interested in checking out the docents, join us at our Jan. 10 meeting at the Museum at 8:45 am or contact me at [matmus7@maturango.org](mailto:matmus7@maturango.org)

## Hidden Musical Treasures : “The Teachers Perform”

The High Desert Music Teachers Association (HDMTA) will present their annual concert in the Coso Gallery on Friday, January 27th, 2017 at 7:00 pm.

HDMTA is an organization of private music teachers in the Indian Wells Valley that sponsor, for their students, concerts and recitals, both solo and ensemble, throughout the year.

The concert, entitled “*Hidden Musical Treasures*,” will be in honor of long-time HDMTA member Doris Bullock. Doris was one of the founding members of the association and acting president of the group several times over the years. She was known by her friends and the community to be a kind, generous, lovely person, who contributed greatly to the music scene and community as a whole.

The performing musicians will include Jordan Covert (guitar), Cathy Douglas (piano), Gary Fry (clarinet), Clare Hatter (violin), David Hodgson (baritone), Melanie McDonald (piano), Anna Schaad Montgomery (violin), Joanne Newton (flute), Lee Alan Nolan (piano), Laura Olinger (cello), Mary Lee Thomas (soprano), and Debra Veit (flute).

The music will be sure to delight listeners with an eclectic mix of classic and contemporary composers, drawing upon the talents and creativity of this very special group of music teachers we are blessed to have in the Ridgecrest community. It will be a delightful evening and we encourage you to attend!

Tickets are available and can be purchased now in the museum store or through the museum’s on-line store. [shop.maturango.org](http://shop.maturango.org) Ticket prices are \$12 general admission and \$5 for children 12 years and younger.



Photo: some of the participating members of HDMTA  
L-R: Cathy Douglas, Debra Veit, Anna Schaad Montgomery, Joanne Newton, Melanie McDonald, Jordan Covert, Gary Fry

## Donations and New Members as of December

### Donations

Beth and Frank Armogida  
Howard and Barbara Auld Family  
Emily Casabian  
Leroy Corlett  
Fred and Irene Dodson  
Wesley Elmore  
E. Norman and Suzanne George  
Dorothy Saitz

### Taxidermy Fund

Philip Archibald  
Tine Brouwer  
Nora Nuckles – in honor of Sherry Brubaker

### Point of Sale Upgrade

Kathy Berkeley  
Thomas Boggs

### Art Gallery Fund

Dick and Gerry Wisdom

### Building Fun

Casey Stoner  
Robert Westbrook

### New Members

Eva Bien  
Zanya and Joe Biviano  
Maria Morris Burke  
Emily Casabian  
Kevin and Ann M. Clark  
Tom and Michelle Duncan  
Rolf Orin Gilbertson  
Arold Green  
Jeff and Linda Grossman  
Kristy McLaughlin  
Klaus and Vera Shadow  
Virginia Soldatis  
Michael Thompson  
Vic and Missy Walkling

## 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.  
Sam Stephens, Museum Assistant  
Deanna Stewart, 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

### Board of Trustees

Jerry Bradley, President  
Bev Hill, Vice President  
Camille Anderson, Secretary  
Dan Burnett, Treasurer  
Thom Boggs  
Dianne Dilley  
Leslie Layfield  
Sue Parker  
Libby Vincent

## Businesses and Organizations Supporters • Contributors • Sponsors

Please support the businesses and organizations  
that support the Maturango Museum

AltaOne Federal Credit Union  
American Association of University Women  
Ashley Furniture HomeStore  
Beanster's Espresso  
Best Western China Lake Inn  
Boulder Creek RV Resort  
Coldwell Banker Best Realty  
DART  
Daily Independent  
Econo Lodge  
Epsilon Systems Solutions, Inc.  
Friends of Jawbone  
Furnace Creek Inn  
Gary Charlton State Farm  
Hampton Inn & Suites  
Heritage Inn & Suites  
High Desert Haven  
Historical Society of the Upper Mojave Desert  
Jacobs Naval System Group  
KPartners Hospitality Group  
Kristy's Family Restaurant  
Law Offices of Phyllis M. Hix  
Lugo's

McDonald's Restaurant  
New Directions Technologies, Inc.  
News Review  
Oasis Garden Club  
PackWrap Business Center  
The Pizza Factory  
Ridgecrest Area Convention and Visitors Bureau  
Ridgecrest Automotive  
Ridgecrest Regional Hospital  
Ridgecrest Moving & Storage/Atlas Van Lines  
St. Ann Catholic School  
Searles Valley Minerals  
ServiceMaster of the IWV  
Sierra Club, Owens Peak Group  
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: 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

## Major Maturango Mojo



Bob Westbrook and Peter Wiley installing one of the new windows in the annex.

Dan Burnett joins them to put in the new door in the annex.



Mary Ellen Ogren and Deane Campbell enjoying the festivities during the Volunteer Appreciation Lunch.



Pizza Factory Fundraiser : all day Thursday 19 January : 30% of your purchase is donated to the Maturango Museum.

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Ridgecrest, CA  
Permit #26

**Return Service Requested**

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