



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

2017 has started in a busy and not entirely expected manner. We have had windy and rainy weather that tested our new roof, windows and door on the Annex. The good news is that the repairs are working well! Our sidewalk and pad extension pours have been completed and a plan for lighting is in the works. The exterior of the Annex is a work in progress and we are all optimistic at the outcome. The docents are working in classrooms and at the Museum. The Gift Shop is busy and changing with the seasons. Our Galleries have some beautiful photography to share with our visitors. We have a steady stream of visitors on their way to Death Valley, even when the weather is not perfect. We try to send everyone on their way with a good word and some safe directions and hope for the best.

Our unexpected event in January was the sudden burning of the oldest of our astronomy domes which had been donated to the Museum in 2002. This was a sad moment for us all and the members of the China Lake Astronomical Society. We are so very grateful for our Education Partnership Agreement with NAWCWD and the installation of two Askania domes last year. Our hope is to get one up and running in the not too distant future after the weather and the dust settle a bit.

To our Membership! Please join us: February 25, 2017 for our Annual Meeting right here at the Maturango Museum. Meeting agenda sample : silent auction, museum tours, snacks, call to order, "thank yous", board member election, and then the presentation as described in the following article.

I hope to see you there! Thank you for everything you do!

Museum's Annual Meeting : Saturday February 25, 2017 at 6 pm
at the Maturango Museum.

Presentation by Mike Prather at Annual Meeting : **Owens Lake's Returning Wildlife – Hemispheric Importance**



Hundreds of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl are once again returning to Owens Lake each spring and fall. After the lake's destruction when the Los Angeles Aqueduct was completed in 1913, who would have expected such good news? The Owens Valley had choked on dust from the mid 1920's until water was again released onto the lake in 2001 for a massive effort to control her hazardous dust. That dust control water covered dozens of square miles and immediately attracted shorebirds and waterfowl; water, primitive algae mats, brine flies and the 'table was set'. A stopover to rest and forage for energy replenishment helps the feathered current of birds moving thousands of miles during north and south migration.

“But this is a dust project, not a wildlife project,” Audubon was told for many years. However, persistence and the building of a multi-stakeholder voice for the birds has led to what is hoped will be lasting protection for large tracks of historical habitat. This collaboration has taken years of building trust and is often referred to in Salton Seas talks as a model for success.

This program by Mike Prather from the Eastern Sierra Audubon chapter will take you on a fieldtrip of Owens Lake’s natural and human history.

Mike has lived in Inyo County since 1972, both in Death Valley and Lone Pine. He has worked tirelessly on desert issues such as wildlife, water, wilderness and parks. He is past chair of the Toiyabe Chapter of the Sierra Club, Eastern Sierra Audubon, Owens Valley Committee and currently is chair of the Inyo County Water Commission and a board member of Friends of the Inyo. Mike and his wife Nancy are retired public school teachers and have two grown daughters Robin and Phoebe. They also have two grandchildren Kestrel and Wren. Mike lives in the Alabama Hills above Lone Pine.

Wildflower Exhibit 2017

Wildflower season is almost upon us! This year's Wildflower Exhibit will be Friday March 31 through Sunday April 2. As always, the dedicated collectors know where to find the wildflowers so that the public can enjoy the uniqueness and variety of the desert blossoms by just visiting the Maturango Museum.

Concert : “Children in Art and Music”

By Fran Rogers

The Maturango Museum’s 2016-2017 concert series continues on Friday, February 17 with Sergio Ramirez and Catherine Douglas. The concert will be performed in the Coso Gallery at 7:30 p.m.

Sergio Ramirez and Catherine Douglas return with their very popular lecture-concerts linking art and music to a period or theme. In the concert, “Children in Art and Music”, Sergio will introduce paintings of children and Catherine will play music composed by and for children. The composers include Couperin, Mozart, Schubert, Schumann, Mendelssohn, Debussy, Tchaikovsky, Grieg, Kabalevski, Villa-Lobos, Prokofieff, and Chopin. The painters features in this concert-lecture include Holbein, Gainsborough, Largillière, Chardin, Renoir, Manet, Greuze, Chase, Lawrence, Steen, Copley, Picasso, Sargent, Cassatt, Degas, Evergood, and Homer.

Sergio Ramirez was born and raised in Mexico City. He received a BS in Business Administration from Universidad Iberoamericana in Mexico City, a BA in Photography at Brooks Institute in Santa Barbara, California, and both Teaching Credentials and MA in Art History at California State University, Los Angeles. He is a second grade teacher at Inyokern Elementary School and has given art and photography classes at Cerro Coso Community College.

Catherine Douglas was raised in Circleville, Ohio. She received a BM from the Conservatory of Music at Capital University in Columbus, Ohio and a MM from Florida State University in Tallahassee. She has been a soloist with the Capital University, Kings County (CA) Symphonies, the Cerro Coso Community Band, the Desert Community Orchestra, and at the four Music Teachers' Association of California State Conventions. She performs locally as a solo pianist, accompanist, member of the “We Friends” ensemble, and organist. Catherine is a retired private music teacher.



Tickets are available now in the museum store or online at shop.maturango.org. The tickets prices are \$12 general admission and \$5 for children 12 years and younger.

John Aydelotte's Photography – “Bristlecone: A Living History”

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.

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



“Out and About Indian Wells Valley”

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.

Children's Hour : Friday 10 February : 10:30 am : “All About Bears – Pretend and Real Stories”

Docent Doings

By Nora Nuckles

The docents are proud to announce that one of our own, Bob Parker, will be honored at a Desert Tortoise Council Annual Symposium on Feb. 25 in Las Vegas. He will receive a Glenn Stewart Service Award (Glenn was a biologist teaching at Cal State San Luis Obispo). Bob has been recognized for his continuing commitment to the goals of the Tortoise Council and his service with distinction. Bob has worked with the desert tortoise, is president of our local tortoise chapter, taught many people about tortoises, and oversees our desert tortoise enclosure at the Museum. Bob says he sees the award as an award for our local club and its members. Congratulations to Bob Parker. Incidentally, the club meets at the Museum every second Monday evening at 7:30 pm.

We are excited about the January to June stretch with program requests from our schools, Second Saturday special programs, Children's Hour, and the Sand Canyon Environmental Education programs for all 4th graders. On January 19 we will host 60 6th-7th graders from Murray School. Don Crouse has created a special activity on orienteering using compasses and following instructions to find designated spots on our Museum grounds. Beverly Crouse and Dan Burnett have a special activity using contour mapping and then working with topo maps of the Owens Peak Wilderness. Mike Herr has developed a new program for the Planetarium on Celestial Navigation. The students will rotate in groups to all 3 activities. We are excited to present these newly created activities and test how they are received.

An exciting thing about being a Maturango Museum docent is the opportunity to work with others to develop exciting learning activities and learn at the same time. It is fun to envision how a child might grow from any new learning activity!

If you are interested in checking out the docents, join us at our Feb. 7 meeting at the Museum at 8:45 AM or give me a call. Museum 760-375-6900

Donations and New Members as of January

Donations

Camille and Ian Anderson
Matthew E. Anderson
(2) Anonymous
Beth and Frank Armogida
David and Judy Attaway
Ken Atwood
Dick and Debbie Benson – in honor of the Staff and Volunteers at the Museum
Thom Boggs – parking lighting and outdoor exhibit
Jack and Judy Bradshaw
Eugene and Julia Breitenstein
Coldwell Banker Best Realty
Leroy Corlett
Mrs. John Cox
Sharon D. Davis – in memory of Edward Winnemore and in honor of Eleanor Winnemore Daughters of ^{the} American Revolution (Panamint Springs Chapter) – Walker Ice Truck Restoration
Dick Dickson
Dolores Di Pol
The Rev. and Mrs. Kirk Fowler – in memory of Anna Stump
E. Norman and Suzanne George
Bob and Rhodan Glen
Donald and Charlotte Goodson
Noel Gravelle
Gary and Carol Hewer – children programs and exhibits
Bev and Bryan Hill
Elvy R. Hopkins
Linda Klabunde
Mary Lise
Arlyne and Phil Lopez
Harry Mallory
Bill and Kathy Martin
Randy Mathews
Betty Sue McKenzie
Joan and Don McKerman
Dwight Morgan
Robert and Frances Nichols
Richard and Nora Nuckles
Richard and Nora Nuckles – in honor of Brenda and Dan Burnett
Bruno Pannuto

Susan Parker
Donna Rosenthal
Bertha Ryan
Searles Valley Minerals
George and Pat Silberberg
Ed and Colleen Simmons
Bea and Lloyd Smith
Phillip and Lynda Smith
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John S. and Judith P. Ward
Fred and Donna Weals
Robert Westbrook
Eleanor Winnemore
Cassie Witham
Gretchen Whisenand
Wayne and Ingrid Zellmer

In memory of Bev Atkins

Anonymous
Camille and Ian Anderson
Ron Atkins – art gallery sponsorship
Thom Boggs
Harris and Pat Brokke
Patricia Brown-Berry
Frank and Debby Buffum
Milt and Jane Burford
Brenda Burnett
Jay and Peggy Chun
Monte and Tina Frisbee
Joan and Michael King – Art Gallery
Peter and Renee Lesniak
Judy and Don McCauley – horticulture program
Andrew and Terry Mitchell
Patricia A. Moore
Mike and Jerry Mumford
Nora Nuckles
Charlotte Ostermann
Robert and Sheila Rockwell
Edward and Jeanne Scullin

Piano Fund

Sandy and Fran Rogers

Docent Fund

Dr. Kristin H. Berry – in memory of John Di Pol
Patricia Brown-Berry

Taxidermy Fund

Dick and Debbie Benson – in honor of Kathy LaShure
Sherry Brubaker
Libby Vincent

Garden Fund

Dick and Debbie Benson – in memory of Bev Atkins

Curator Printer

Nick Panzer

Point of Sale Upgrade

Anonymous
Debbie and Dick Benson – in memory of Mary Lattig
Joan and Don McKerman

Building Fund

Wayne and Pat Doucette
Donald and Charlotte Goodson
Noel Gravelle
Ed and Carol Jeter
Joan and Don McKerman
John S. and Judith P. Ward
Robert Westbrook

Art Gallery Fund

Dick and Debbie Benson – in memory of Chantal Andrews and Paula Caudill
Roy B. Johanboeke
Nora Nuckles – in honor of Andrea Pelch

New Members

Nancy L. Bernard
William and Katherine Ferguson
Saxon Johnson
Jonas Kidd
Suzanne Lam
Andrea Leonard
Kathi Peverini
Ada Schlanta

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

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

Children's Hour : Friday 10 February : 10:30 am : "All About Bears – Pretend and Real Stories
Concert : "Children in Art and Music : Friday 17 February, 7:30 pm
Museum's Annual Meeting : Saturday, February 25 : 6 pm

Petroglyph Tour Dates go online Feb 1 – don't hesitate to apply –maturango.org/petroglyph-tours

Pizza Factory Fundraiser : all day Thursday 23 February : 30% of your purchase is donated to the Maturango Museum.



Gift Shop News

These are the last of Kathy LaShure's soaps since she is moving on to other adventures away from Ridgecrest. The wonderful scents and luxurious texture are a true "Green Blessing" as Kathy would say.

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