



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

It's hard to believe that we are entering the not quite halcyon days of March. The weather has a tendency to give us a last burst of winter while showing us a bit of what summer has in store. It's always interesting and often unexpected.

On March 4 at 8 am, we will be having a Petroglyph Escort Training and Refresher class at the Maturango Museum in the Coso Room. Space is limited so please contact us at petro@maturango.org or give us a call at 760-375-6900 to be in the class and get more information. For new escorts this is an all-day event so be prepared for a great experience.

We are looking forward to the Wildflower Exhibit that should be spectacular this year. It will be on March 31, April 1 & 2. We have our permit in hand from the BLM and are hoping for some beautiful days. Janet's tours are always popular but depend on an agreement with Mother Nature. We are all in negotiations on that! I am always amazed by this exhibit and how many people come to see our local wildflowers! Make sure to stop and appreciate the greening of our desert.

Thank you to all who responded to our year-end fundraising appeal letter. We raised \$12,000, with \$9,000 going to operating expenses and the balance to various special funds, including Taxidermy and the Point of Sale upgrade.

Thank you for everything you do!

Wildflower Exhibit 2017 : Colors and Scents Galore

Friday March 31 through Sunday April 2

Joy England's presentation April 2 at 2:30 pm.

We are all hopeful that the recent rains and non-freezing temperatures will provide us with beautifully flowering canyons and hillsides. Even though it is illegal to pick wildflowers, a special permit is given to collectors to pick wildflowers specifically for the Wildflower Exhibit. After collection, these wildflowers are identified and displayed at the museum. Most years, over 200 species are displayed representing approximately 45 families. The Wildflower Exhibit allows you to see all the unique and colorful flowers up close.

Each year during the Wildflower Exhibit, we have a special speaker presentation **April 2 at 2:30 pm**. This year, we are excited to have Joy England, a curatorial assistant and field botanist at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden in Claremont, California. She is also a student finishing her master's degree in botany at Claremont Graduate University; her thesis project is a floristic study of Rock Creek Canyon in the eastern Sierra Nevada. Her presentation is titled "Ain't No Mountain High Enough: Flora of the Upper Rock Creek Watershed". Hopefully you can take advantage of this information during a visit to Rock Creek Canyon later in the year after the snow has melted!

**Larry Blackwood –
“Synthesizing Icons: Composite Photographs from the Animal World”**

Artist’s Opening Reception : Friday 3 March : 7 pm



Larry combines various parts of photographs of animals, landscapes, textures and graphics to create mandalas, mazes, and painterly scenes. He personally does all the photography, computer work, printing, and framing of images. The finished artwork is surface mounted to wood panels so that there is not glass between the viewer and the image. This creates a clean, modern look to the images.

Larry says, “I have been involved in photography since my teens. By combining creativity with mechanical and technical skills, photography meets the needs of both the left and right sides of my brain. With my composite images I am able to move past the traditional boundaries of the medium of photography, opening new paths for expressing my creative thoughts. The animal world (particularly crows, ravens, and magpies), symbology, and references to literary, cultural, and mythological icons form the basis of my creations.

I use symbols and abstract shapes to move the images beyond mere documentation of the subjects. For backgrounds, I draw on a photographic library of textures and colors patterns that I have acquired over the years. Recently, I have begun to incorporate elements from classic paintings in the compositions as well. In all cases the goal is to create a story or concept in the viewer’s mind that takes them far beyond the constraints of representational photographs.”



Concert : “We Friends”

By Fran Rogers

“We Friends” will present the fifth concert in the 2016-2017 Maturango Museum’s concert series in the Coso Gallery on Friday, March 17 at 7 pm.

“We Friends” concerts have been a welcome mainstay in the Maturango Museum series for a number of years. The instrumental make-up of the group changes year to year with the remaining constant member being Catherine Douglas, piano. This year’s friends also include Lynnette Wilson (flute) and Gary Fry (clarinet).

“We Friends” will perform musical selections by composers Archangelo Corelli, Georg Philipp Telemann, Claude Debussy, and Eric Ewazen.

Tickets are available now, in the museum store or the on-line store, shop.maturango.org. The ticket price is \$12 per adult and \$5 per child 12 and younger.

Catherine Douglas, Lynnette Wilson and Gary Fry



Children’s Hour : Friday 24 March : 10:30 am : “Reptiles – Lizards, Snakes and Tortoises”
Speedy, Slithery and Just-Walking-Along !



Splendors of Egypt Travelogue Presentation

Sunday 12 March, 2 pm

Andrea Pelch will present a travelogue-type talk on her trip to Egypt with Archaeological Tours in November 2016. Andrea is the museum's art gallery coordinator – be prepared for a few “artistic” photos.



Carol Blair will enhance the presentation with details of specific sites. Carol is one of our archaeological interns and a promising Egyptologist.

“Out and About Indian Wells Valley” Photography

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. 15 animal photographs, 12 wildflower photographs, 9 storm photographs, 7 cloud photographs and 4 sunset photographs.



Docent Doings

By Nora Nuckles

8,346 hours donated in 2016! Impressive! Docents amassed a huge number of hours while they carried out their mission to educate the community in the sciences and in art. This is 1410 hours more than we recorded in 2015. We are proud of our achievement!

Teachers and students from Murray Middle School enjoyed the activities we provided when they visited the Museum. Some wanted the orienteering station to be more difficult but most agreed it was challenging already! Mike Herr's Celestial Navigation presentation was enlightening to all; the students suggested they would love a way to be actively involved in using celestial navigation. Mike is working on some ideas. Perhaps we will purchase a sextant! The students enjoyed the activity with contour mapping and topography maps. Most had never seen a topography map before so looking at the Owens Peak topo map was really fun!

I never wanted to be the Pied Piper with creatures following me but walking through the labyrinth with 12 Kindergarten students following you is quite fun! We stop to see the ant hills (homes) and are careful not to step on them. We look out to the surrounding garden to discover cottontail rabbits or antelope ground squirrels and soon it will be lizards! Some children with keen eyes observed the pumpkin that was for animals to eat! How could anyone not love 5 year-olds begging to take your hand as we walk through the labyrinth and looking up with adoring eyes and saying “I love you!”



These are just a few of the joys of working with students! We also will help with a bus tour of adults next month. We answer questions about the flora, fauna, Ridgecrest, etc. With all this activity the docents would like to add to their numbers! We NEED MORE PEOPLE to donate a few hours a month to help us to deliver our programs and enrich the lives of our IWV children!

If you are interested in checking out the docents join us at our March 7 meeting at the Museum at 8:45 AM or give me a call.

Donations and New Members as of February

General Donations

Anonymous
Thom Boggs
Jack and Judy Bradshaw
Jerry and Sandy Bradley
D. V. Charles – Carroll Evans fund
Donald and Shirley Crouse
Irene Ekkens
William and Anna Fitzgerald
Goro Ike Fujiwara
Barbara Gorringer – in memory of Gary Preston
B. J. Holden
Bob Joy
Kathy LaShure – in memory of Gustav L. Kvapil
Elaine Miller
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Sewell
Dr. and Mrs. Cornelis Vanderhoek
Robert Westbrook
John and Janice Zenor

In memory of Bev Atkins

Linda and Jim Bego
Dennis Burge
William and Linda Duncan
Daryl and Ellen Hinman
From the Estate of
 Ronald A. and Mary Ann H. Henry
Christopher Moore
Joseph and Pat Oliver
Thomas and Charlotte Wee

William S. Wilson – garden fund
Dick and Jerry Wisdom – gallery fund

Student Anthropology Program

Jim and Elaine Janson

Taxidermy Fund

Dianne Dilley

Curator Printer

Nick Panzer

Point of Sale Upgrade

Henry Blecha – in memory of Lloyd Brubaker

Building Fund

Ward and Ann Fanning
Janet Westbrook – in memory of
 Wally and Ruth Herhart

New Members

Steven P. Bayer
Michael Bonbells
Leslie L. Collier
Chris Mendez
Catherine Shaughnessy
Robert Sunstrom
Jerry Twohig
Junny Valle

Spring Field Trips with Janet Westbrook - “weather permitting”

We’ve had nice rains at the right times, now we need some sun and warm weather to trigger all those hidden seeds! This is shaping up to be a great spring for flowers and flower field trips. It’s still hard to make guesses in February about field trips into May -- here’s what I’m proposing...

Death Valley trips - the middle of DV hasn’t gotten all that much water - like less than ½”, but the higher elevations and the southern end have had more and green things are starting. I’m planning 3 trips to DV; each will be different because the blooms will be different. The Pupfish will be at Salt Creek - we’ll go watch them on all the trips.

(Meet at the Museum parking lot at 8 a.m. \$25 for members, (\$40 for 2 members), \$30 for non-members (\$50 for 2 non-members). Be sure when you sign up to give phone number and e-mail so I can contact you.)

Friday March 17 (the day before the Blue Angles show) : probably to Daylight Pass, maybe up to Ubehebe Crater area.

Saturday March 25 : possibly to Ashford Mill area.

During Museum’s Annual Wildflower Show Should have lots of flowers by then!

FREE field trips to local “hot spots”. Graded dirt roads, OK for any vehicle with clearance; each day we’ll visit different places around the Indian Wells Valley area.

10:15 a.m. both Saturday April 1 and Sunday April 2. Back to town by around 1 p.m. Bring water, cameras, snacks, and appropriate clothing / shoes.

Check website for more trips.

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
Mike Brown, Webmaster

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The Swap Sheet
Tax Time Services
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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., everyone welcome
- California Turtle and Tortoise Club: 2nd Monday of each month, 7 pm

Quick Check Calendar

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Concert : "We Friends" : Friday 17 March, 7:30 pm

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March 25 : possibly to Ashford Mill area.

Children's Hour : Friday 24 March : 10:30 am : "Reptiles – Lizards, Snakes and Tortoises"

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Joy England's wildflower presentation April 2 at 2:30 pm.

FREE field trips to local wildflower "hot spots" : Saturday April 1, Sunday April 2 : 10:15 am.

Sign up NOW for Spring Petroglyph Tours

The wildflowers should be out at 5,000 feet soon — a perfect time to visit Little Petroglyph Canyon. How long has it been since you were up there? Check out the tour dates still open on maturango.org/petroglyph-tours Remember, they fill up very quickly !

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

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