



Maturango Museum

Annual Report for the Year 2016





"The mission of the Maturango museum is to preserve, interpret and develop an appreciation for the natural and cultural history of the Northern Mojave Desert through research and education in the natural and physical sciences and to promote the arts"

(Adopted by the board of Trustees, December 17, 2012)

Board of Trustees

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

Museum Staff

Administration

Executive Director	Deborah Benson
Gift Shop Manager	Maureen Goff
Finance Manager	Julie Stephens
Finance Clerk	Joann Barbee
Education	Nora Nuckles
Gallery and Newsletter	Andrea Pelch
Petroglyph Tours and Press	Linda Saholt
Membership	Fran Van Valkenburgh

Curators

Natural History	Sherry Brubaker
Archaeology	Alexander (Sandy) Rogers
History	Elaine Wiley

Museum Assistants

Sue Gilbert	Linda Saholt
Nora Nuckles	Sam Stephens
Nick Rogers	Deanna Stewart

Front Cover: Painting the lines on the parking lot
Dan Burnett, Peter Wiley (spraying paint), and Doug Cole
Photo by DebB

Table of Contents

Board President's Message Jerry Bradley

Executive Director's Report Deborah Benson

Treasurer's Report Dan Burnett

Calendar Year 2016 Financial Statements

Statement of Financial Position
Income Statement (all funds combined)
Income Statement (by asset type)

Curator's Reports

Archaeology Alexander (Sandy) Rogers
History Elaine Wiley
Natural History Sherry Brubaker

Museum Staff Reports

Gift Shop Maureen Goff
Art Gallery Andrea Pelch
Petroglyph Tours Linda Saholt
Education Nora Nuckles
Volunteer Fran Van Valkenburgh
Membership Fran Van Valkenburgh

Committees and Events

Concert Series Fran Rogers
Web Presence Mike Brown
Wildflower Exhibit Charlotte Goodson & Judy Breitenstein
Facilities Dan Burnett
Fundraising Dan Burnett

Patrons and Founders

Business and Organization Members and Sponsors

President's Observations

By Jerry Bradley

AMAZING --- If I were only allowed a single word to describe my assessment of the Maturango Museum, its programs, staff and volunteers it would be AMAZING. However, Debbie said I could take up to a page, so I will elaborate a bit on my single word description.

Since becoming a board member, I have witnessed the operations of our Museum at all levels. Some activities, such as the Petroglyph tours, are well publicized. However many activities with significant impact just happen in the background with little or no fanfare. It is amazing how much happens to benefit the community so seamlessly. It is amazing how our members have generously donated additional funds when a special need arose such as resurfacing our parking lot. It is amazing how the staff, directors, and volunteers just roll up their sleeves and tackle jobs such as weeding the grounds and painting the office building. Similarly, I am amazed at the number and quality of our cultural and educational programs.

Although these and other museum activities are amazing, it is no secret why all of these amazing things happen. The driving force behind all of the amazement is commitment. These amazing things would not happen without committed members, directors, museum staff and volunteers each doing their part to make the Maturango Museum the amazing community resource that it has become. My only wish is to continue to be amazed as we go forward.

Executive Director's Report by Debbie Benson

2016 has been a year of many activities and the completion of some of our endeavors.

The Median Art Project, *The Cat and Kittens*, designed and fabricated by Milt Burford and sponsored by the Museum was finally installed on China Lake Boulevard by CalTrans, Cordell Construction, and most especially, Bob Westbrook and Peter Wiley.

Our Tortoise Habitat opened in February and in March, after it warmed up, the tortoises were moved in. They are a positive attraction throughout the warm months. Our tortoise naming contest was popular with the visiting children. The winning names were Shlow-mo and Dash for the males and Starful and Peaches for the females.

In April, under the leadership of Thom Boggs, the team from Stellar Surfaces came and polished our floors in the Argus and the Coso Rooms. Even with a bit of panic at the start, they were done in three days, with the help and support from Wendell Roberts and Peter Wiley. These floors are easy to care for and to use. In May we had the parking lot resurfaced. Environmental Concepts, Dan Burnett, Peter Wiley, Finn Martinez and some hard working volunteers all worked to make sure this happened. This was a big undertaking that was funded completely by the donations of our membership and the hard work of our Facilities Committee and friends. We are all benefitting from the improved surface.

Susan Heuber had a great idea for sign work in the Museum, and with the skillful work done by Jerry Bradley, we now have "wayfinding" signs in the gift shop and throughout the Museum. It is very helpful and looks great!

This year included a fun and entertaining fundraising Dinner/Auction where many people left with some great treasures and memories! The food by Farris' and wine by Leslie and friends was fantastic along with the wonderful cakes made by Rainbow's End Pastries and music by Ted Lemon. We scheduled a rummage sale or "Mirage Sale", to help things disappear! It was fun and we plan on doing it again once or twice a year. We may have been our own best customers! The Museum survived the second annual Holiday Light Show with Ed Czajka. Once again we were overwhelmed by the visitors to the Museum for this event. Without our wonderful staff and our Santa it could not have happened.

Each visitor who comes in to the Museum for tourist information is treated with respect and a welcome. Maureen and the Gift Store staff and our very wonderful volunteers give directions and take the time to see if the travel plans make sense and make sure our guests know some of the great travel options available. People seeking that perfect gift are also given help and direction! It is a true service to our visitors!

Making sure that the Museum is viable and economically sound is just a part of the job that Julie does. We all, including myself, count on her knowledge and her tech skills! She and Joann keep us all financially current. Keeping track of the volunteers, memberships and donations is something that Fran Van Valkenburgh does such an excellent job with. I am always more than happy to sign each letter of thanks that she puts together and places on my desk because I know it is going to someone who cares about us and what we do.

Sandy always has some great input to make the Museum a better place. This year he worked on a new book with Russell Kaldenberg on the Coso Petroglyphs and has been giving lectures during the Petroglyph Tour season that have been very well attended and a bonus for some of the tourists and our community. Elaine has found much to fill her time with book editing and preparing our latest publications. She has also been working on our History collection and exhibits in the museum. We

had a full house during the summer with our Archaeology and History interns that worked under the supervision of Sandy with some extra input from Dr. Sarah King and Elaine Wiley. We all missed them when they went back to school. We were all happy and relieved when Sherry joined our staff as the Natural History Curator. She has had to jump in at the deep end and make sure we are all current on licenses and making sure our collection is being cared. Nora has been a great help to her.

We are all very happy that this has been a good year for petroglyph tours although there were six cancelled tours by the base in the Fall Season. Linda also continues to write press releases for the Daily Independent and other local media. She does a great job interviewing and providing photos to tell the best story possible about what is interesting at the Museum.

The Museum has had some wonderful events this year. We have had a variety of lectures. For our concerts, we've had local and guest performances arranged by Fran Rogers. Andrea and the Gallery Committee put together a very successful and enjoyable year for Art shows and gallery show opening receptions. Two of the art events that I enjoyed so very much were the Artifacts show and the thirteenth annual Open Studio Tour. It is inspiring to work with, and be a part of, the local Art community. In April, we had a very successful Wildflower Exhibit under the coordinating team of Charlotte Goodson, Judy Breitenstein, Kathy LaShure, Elaine Wiley, Al and Joan Woodman, Nora Nuckles, and Bev Hill. This was a wonderful year for wildflowers collected by our many adventurous volunteers.

Along with all of the other programs throughout the year by the docents under the leadership of Nora, our Education Coordinator, this summer the Docents held classes for 9-12 year olds through the City of Ridgecrest Parks and Recreation Department. This was fun for all to take part in some science adventures.

The Museum worked with the Petroglyph Education Foundation on this year's Petroglyph Festival. We were a central part of the events and it was positive for the Museum. The Museum hosted the 400 students that were a part of the Petroglyph Education component of the Petroglyph Festival. Nora Nuckles and Bev Hill collaborated with Dr. Sarah King from Cerro Coso Community College to develop the lesson plans for all 400 students. Being the single location for the 8th grade education portion of the events was a logistical feat that the Docents somehow negotiated and they made it all work. The Petroglyph tours all left from the Museum and we were able to work with the new NAWS PAO, Margo Allen, which was positive for us all. The Wine Tour and the Speakers Forum were also held in the Museum along with Mike Thompson, our flintknapping friend. It was a busy and full weekend!

We were all so very happy to hold our volunteer luncheon in the Coso Room with many of the volunteers, food and a good time! Many thanks to such a great group of volunteers!

I thank Jerry as President and the entire Board of Trustees and all of the committee members for their time and energy and their involvement in the Museum. A special thanks to Bob, Peter, Dan, Thom, Bryan and everyone else who comes out to help on our projects for continuing to keep us moving forward. Our membership inspires us to make sure it is a Museum we can all enjoy and be proud of. Thank you.

Treasurer's Statement **By Dan Burnett, Treasurer**

Someone walking into the Maturango Museum and into the museum store might conclude that proceeds from store sales pay for the museum operations. That is far from the fact.

In 2016, net income from the store amounted to around \$15,000. Our operating expenses, excluding the store, were about \$200,000. Besides the basics like utilities, insurance and maintenance, we have expenses for managing the collections and operations, advertising, supplies, financial audits etc. All of this is what helps us to continue to offer the level of services to our community and the many visitors that come through our area.

Where did the difference come from? It mostly came from you, the museum members and donors.

Donations and fundraisers provided a bit over \$60,000 last year and memberships provided just over \$40,000. About \$62,000 came from tours, art show sales and fees for services we provide. We also receive around \$24,000 from the administration of agreements between the Department of the Interior (DOI) and Patricia Brown-Berry. That left us a shortfall of over \$15,000.

Special projects at the museum are well supported. When donations are made for specific purpose they are placed in "restricted" funds - they can only be used for the purpose specified by the donor. The day to day operations of the museum are not so well supported.

Payroll costs will continue to increase, per California law, and the DOI agreements are expiring and will not be renewed (becoming too complex for smaller organizations).

The museum Board of Trustees is committed to putting the museum on firmer financial footing in the future. We are developing a business plan with goals and actions needed to insure the viability of the museum. That plan is based upon your continued and expanded financial support. You are the ones who make the museum possible. Without your support the museum would not be able to maintain our current level of service.

Please continue your financial support of the museum by:

Considering the museum in any estate planning you may be doing.
Thinking of us at tax time.
Responding to our solicitations.

You are the museum. Thank you for being there in support of the Museum.

Maturango Museum
Statement of Financial Position
in dollars

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>\$ Change</u>
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash on Hand	38,108	38,100	8
Savings	141,963	144,537	(2,574)
Investments	198,101	182,242	15,859
Total Cash and in Banks	<u>378,172</u>	<u>364,879</u>	<u>13,293</u>
Receivables	1,213	568	646
Inventory	54,042	66,646	(12,604)
Prepaid Expenses	9,629	11,491	(1,862)
Total Other Current Assets	<u>64,884</u>	<u>78,705</u>	<u>(13,820)</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>443,057</u>	<u>443,584</u>	<u>(527)</u>
Fixed Assets			
Building	1,195,723	1,195,723	-
Building Improvements	263,041	221,120	41,921
Equipment and Displays	406,051	406,051	(0)
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(718,818)	(648,780)	(70,038)
Total	<u>1,145,997</u>	<u>1,174,114</u>	<u>(28,117)</u>
Work In Process	11,458	-	11,458
Total Net Fixed Assets	<u>1,157,455</u>	<u>1,174,114</u>	<u>(16,660)</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>1,600,512</u>	<u>1,617,698</u>	<u>(17,187)</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY			
Liabilities			
Accounts Payable	15,292	16,043	(751)
Payroll	11,298	6,685	4,612
Sales Taxes	2,107	6,499	(4,392)
Other Liabilities	13,049	10,470	2,579
Deferred Revenue	2,399	1,440	959
Total Current Liabilities	<u>44,145</u>	<u>41,138</u>	<u>3,007</u>
Equity			
Unrestricted	1,255,583	1,287,447	(31,864)
Temp Restricted - Building	40,773	52,806	(12,034)
Temp Restricted - Other	48,916	41,174	7,742
Endowment	211,095	195,133	15,962
Total Equity	<u>1,556,367</u>	<u>1,576,561</u>	<u>(20,193)</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>1,600,512</u>	<u>1,617,698</u>	<u>(17,186)</u>

The above data is summarized for ease of reporting. Details are available for review in the Museum offices.

Maturango Museum
Income Statement (all funds combined)
in dollars

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>\$ Change</u>
Income			
Store Sales	166,486	176,908	(10,421)
Less: Cost of Sales	(84,803)	(89,397)	4,594
Store Sales NET	<u>81,683</u>	<u>87,510</u>	<u>(5,827)</u>
Gallery Sales	18,536	24,627	(6,091)
Less: Cost of Sales	(14,083)	(19,064)	4,981
Gallery Sales NET	<u>4,453</u>	<u>5,563</u>	<u>(1,110)</u>
Fundraising	88,901	67,293	21,608
Less: Cost of Sales	(9,719)	(8,779)	(939)
Fundraising NET	<u>79,182</u>	<u>58,514</u>	<u>20,668</u>
Events	32,875	37,548	(4,673)
Less: Cost of Sales	(1,994)	(6,192)	4,198
Events NET	<u>30,881</u>	<u>31,356</u>	<u>(474)</u>
Admissions	9,524	8,301	1,223
Contributions	55,413	85,854	(30,441)
Memberships	40,745	41,995	(1,250)
Other Income	34,909	7,337	27,572
In Kind Donations	348	5,631	(5,283)
Grant Income	263,891	303,826	(39,935)
Total Income	<u>601,029</u>	<u>635,887</u>	<u>(34,858)</u>
Expenses			
Advertising & Promotion	14,480	14,577	(97)
Bank Fees	10,134	13,541	(3,407)
Facilities	38,032	37,101	931
Insurance	7,271	8,627	(1,356)
Newsletter-Printing & Postage	6,159	5,464	695
Payroll Expenses	177,368	160,550	16,818
Professional Services	257,491	280,536	(23,045)
Rent	2,602	3,134	(533)
Supplies & Equipment	29,387	34,852	(5,464)
Travel	2,333	3,307	(974)
Other Expenses	5,926	6,507	(580)
Total Expense	<u>551,184</u>	<u>568,196</u>	<u>(17,012)</u>
Net Operating Income	49,845	67,691	(17,846)
Depreciation	(70,038)	(64,082)	(5,957)
Total Net Income	<u>(20,194)</u>	<u>3,609</u>	<u>(23,803)</u>

The above data is summarized for ease of reporting. Details are available for review in the Museum offices.

Maturango Museum
2016 Income Statement (by Asset Type)
in dollars

	Unrestricted	Temp Restricted - Building	Temp Restricted - Other	Endowment	Total
Income					
Store Sales	166,486				166,486
Less: Cost of Sales	(84,803)				(84,803)
Gallery Sales	18,536				18,536
Less: Cost of Sales	(14,083)				(14,083)
Fundraising	53,621	26,981	8,298		88,901
Less: Cost of Sales	(9,495)	(224)			(9,719)
Events	32,875				32,875
Less: Cost of Sales	(1,994)				(1,994)
Admissions	9,524				9,524
Contributions	17,203	11,075	27,035	100	55,413
Memberships	40,745				40,745
Other Income	16,971		2,078	15,859	34,909
Grant Income	23,990		239,901		263,891
In Kind Donations	348				348
Total Income	269,925	37,832	277,313	15,959	601,029
Expenses					
Advertising & Promotion	14,462		17		14,480
Bank Fees	10,129	5			10,134
Facilities	33,080	4,273	679		38,032
Insurance	7,271				7,271
Newsletter-Printing & Postage	6,159				6,159
Payroll Expenses	167,182		10,187		177,368
Professional Services	16,557	347	240,587		257,491
Rent (Storage)	2,602				2,602
Supplies & Equipment	17,432	3,318	8,637		29,387
Travel	2,333				2,333
Other Expenses	5,870		57		5,926
Total Expense	283,077	7,944	260,163	-	551,184
Total Operating Profit / (Loss)	(13,152)	29,888	17,149	15,959	49,845
Depreciation	(70,038)				(70,038)
Assets released from Restrictions	51,329	(41,922)	(9,408)	-	-
Total Net Income	(31,862)	(12,033)	7,742	15,959	(20,194)

The above data is summarized for ease of reporting. Details are available for review in the Museum offices.

Archaeology Curator by Alexander (Sandy) Rogers, RPA

Collections

During the course of 2016 we received five archaeological collections for accessioning. The largest is an anonymous collection (Acc. No. 2014.01), made by a local collector, now deceased, and donated by a friend. Two other collections are from the Downs Substation project, made by Epsilon on behalf of SCE (Acc. No. 2014.03) and a small collection made at Mammoth Lakes by Rincon Consultants as part of a construction project (Acc. No. 2014.07). The final two collections are an obsidian biface fragment from Little Lake Ranch, found by Daisy Zajicek, and a collection of color slides from Big Petroglyph Canyon and Steam Wells (Acc. No. 2014.02).

We had six archaeology interns this summer: three are students at Cerro Coso (Daisy Zajicek, Carol Blair, and Inda Alexander), two at Cal State Bakersfield (Ashley Schmidt and Kara Jones), and one at UC Irvine (Levi Bayer). We provided a stipend for four of them, while the other two received academic credit. The task was cataloging collections, and they cataloged approximately 15,000 artifacts in all. Each artifact was examined, classified by our museum taxonomy, labeled, placed in archival packaging, and entered into an electronic database. Funding for stipends was provided by donations by museum members. We thank them for this generosity, which helps get museum work done and provides a great learning experience for the students.

In addition, Kirsten Carroll worked as a volunteer intern this summer, focusing on the collection from "Ayers Rock" in southern Inyo County. Two summers ago she cataloged the entire collection, and this summer she updated the catalog to our newer classification taxonomy.

On May 4 I met with three archaeologists from Ft. Irwin. They are contract staff hired to straighten out a major mess in the curation facility there. We spent two hours looking at our collection storage, discussing cataloging and storage procedures, and discussing data base software.

I attended a class at the BLM office in Salt Lake City during June 13-17. It is conducted annually by the Department of the Interior, on managing museum collections. I am not sure how I got accepted for the class, since it is very hard to get into, but I think it was thanks to Dr. Stephanie Damadio, the BLM collections lead for California. (She also provided funding for us to buy a fireproof 4-drawer filing cabinet for our accessions paperwork). The class was outstanding, and I have subsequently received all the lecture materials on a flash drive.

Ms. Dorie Cornell is working as a volunteer on the archaeology collection. She is scanning the old catalog cards so we have them in digital format, as pdfs, to make them easier to access.

I met with Ms. Tracy Buday, the new curator for the NAWS Curation Facility. The purpose was to deliver a number of artifacts we had been curating which originated on Navy lands. We had deaccessioned the artifacts earlier in the year, but I was waiting until Tracy was on board to deliver them.

Finally, I have been working with Dr. Sarah King of Cerro Coso College to define archaeological data requirements for an accessions/catalog data base system for the museum and implement them in FileMaker Pro. The goal is to have it implemented and populated before next summer.

Exhibits

The exhibit on the north wall of the El Paso room has been restructured to tell the story of obsidian quarrying, tool production, and trade at Coso. It shows and describes the sequence for manufacturing bifacial stone tools, and shows examples from two biface caches curated at the museum, the Little Lake cache (700 years old) and the Hay Ranch cache (2500 years old). Raw

materials on display include black obsidian nodules from West Sugarloaf and Sugarloaf Mountain at Coso, and mahogany-colored obsidian from Montgomery Pass in the Inyo Mountains.

Mr. Joe Powell of Las Vegas built a 1/5 scale model of the Epsom Salts Monorail track structure, and donated it to the museum. It is currently in the old vestibule, as the centerpiece for a new exhibit.

In addition, archaeological artifacts were provided to Andrea for the "ART-ifacts" exhibit in November, as part of the petroglyph festival.

Research

Research in rock art, obsidian hydration, and in the archaeology of the high desert and Great Basin is continuing. In October I gave a lecture on the Coso petroglyphs and local native cultures to Dr. Sarah King's archaeology class at Cerro Coso College. The following weekend I led a field trip to Little Lake Ranch in southern Inyo County.

I co-authored a paper with Dr. Chris Stevenson of Virginia Commonwealth University which has been published by the *Journal of Archaeological Science: Reports* (Stevenson, Christopher M., and Alexander K. Rogers, 2016 "Calibrations for the determination of water species in bulk and hydrated obsidian by infrared photoacoustic spectroscopy", *Journal of Archaeological Science Reports*, 6:109-114.) We are also collaborating on research leading to a new calibration curve relating obsidian density to intrinsic water concentration, and its effects on hydration rates.

I presented a paper at the Society for California Archaeology annual meeting in March. The topic was "Two Unusually Large Crescentics from Eastern California". Sarah Izzi, graduate student at CSU Chico, and one of our interns in 2014 and 2015, was co-author.

I published two short papers in the *Bulletin of the International Association for Obsidian Studies*. In a paper which appeared last summer I presented a case study of site formation effects on obsidian hydration dating, with Dr. Robert Yohe as co-author. In the other, published in the winter 2016 issue, I published a simulation-based study of error correlations and their effects on accuracy in induced hydration experiments.

We have received word that Ms. Kara Jones, who worked here as an intern for two summers, is doing exceptionally well in the archaeology program at CSU Bakersfield. Also, she and I will be co-authors on a poster at the next meeting of the Society for California Archaeology in March, 2017.

Ms. Sarah Izzi, one of our former interns and a graduate student at CSU Chico, has completed her thesis and defended it. She sent us a copy for the library, and will be receiving her MA "with distinction".

For the past two years I have been working with Russell Kaldenberg, former NAWS Command Archaeologist, on a new book on the Coso petroglyphs. It describes the discovery of the petroglyphs by Euro-Americans, from 1860 to 1968. The book has now been published and is for sale in the museum store.

Outreach

We had three really outstanding lectures. Dr. Sarah King of Cerro Coso College spoke on her dissertation research into skeletal evidence for violence in Iron Age Britain. Dr. Robert Yohe of CSU Bakersfield spoke on his research on the Owl Cave bison kill site in Idaho. Dr. Alan Garfinkel of Ultrasystems Inc. presented a new interpretation of the Newberry Cave site near Barstow.

My own outreach efforts have also been largely lectures. I gave lectures on the Epsom salts monorail to the Kern County Historical Society and the Searles Valley Historical Society. I also gave

lectures on our new book, on the discovery of the Coso petroglyphs, to the Southern Nevada Rock Art Association and twice for the Ridgecrest petroglyph festival. I gave a standard lecture on the cultures and rock art of the Coso range six times (three in the spring and three in the fall) for participants in the Coso petroglyph tours, and a similar lecture to archaeology classes at CSU Bakersfield and Cerro Coso College. On April 8 I gave a special lecture on Coso archaeology and rock art to the anthropology club of Antelope Valley College, and then accompanied them on a trip to the petroglyphs. It was cold and rainy at the canyon, but the kids seemed to enjoy it. I also took the atlatl and dart so they could try it out. Some of them were really good! When we returned I gave them a quick tour of archaeological collection storage and the lab.

On May 3 I assisted in briefing and giving a tour to local hotel personnel brought here by Debby Corlett of the RACVB. The objective was to acquaint them with the museum facilities and programs, so they can inform visitors to Ridgecrest. About seven local hotels were represented.

I was contacted by a young man, Alex Gavilan, who is majoring in anthropology at CSU Northridge. He was doing a research project on the history of research the Coso petroglyphs and related archaeological sites, and contacted us asking to study documents in our library. He visited us on December 3 and spent the day here, and was very grateful for our assistance.

Over the years I have been researching the Epsom salts monorail I have collaborated with Mr. Adrian Garner, an Englishman who has written several books on monorails. I finally got to meet him when he visited here last summer.

Natural History Curator

By Sherry Brubaker

Well it has been an interesting six months since I started this position. During that time the inventory of specimens in Ornithology, Mammology, and Geology were checked over. Tags had to be replaced or put back on some of the birds mounts. Some of the mineral specimens don't have numbers, so some forensic paper work has been done to find out if numbers were assigned at the time of accession. A number of items have come up as missing; the hope is that they are just misplaced.

All permits required by the Fish and Wildlife Service, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, have been renewed, and updated. All required name changes because I learned that these permits are issued to an individual not an institution, even though the museum is the repository of the salvaged and mounted items.

Thirteen small critters from the freezer went to the taxidermist in Watsonville to be freeze dried. These critters came back and are ready to be accessioned. The Docents purchased the mourning dove and one of the red racers. Several of the other critters have been sponsored. As soon as they have been accessioned the remaining eleven will be out on display with the name of their sponsor. Sponsorships are still available. The search is on going to find a taxidermist who will do birds and larger mammals.

The Discovery Area had two display changes. One was a previous display on migration, the other brand new on sleep and hibernation. New ideas are in the works.

2016 has been a time of learning and cooperative work within the Museum. When needed, I have also helped with Docent tours and presentations. During the Petroglyph Festival all hands helped with the 8th grade students when they came to the Museum, including myself. As a Petroglyph Escort, the weekend of the Festival found me in Little Petroglyph Canyon for both days as a Canyon Dweller to guide the vans of tourists as they arrived.

History Curator by Elaine Wiley

Overview

As of January 2016, I replaced Liz Babcock as History Curator for the Maturango Museum. Liz prepared me very well so as to make the transition as easy as possible for me. Liz also continues to be available to answer any of my questions as needed. Throughout this year, I have worked on exhibits, publication of two books, reprints of books, research and accessions.

Exhibits

Utilizing the Argus Room and changing exhibits in the Sylvia Winslow Gallery and the Vestibule area (old front door entrance on south side of museum) was a major goal of mine for 2016.

Sylvia Winslow Gallery

Andrea Pelch and I started out the year by putting a variety of Mary Adler's paintings in the Sylvia Winslow Gallery. Andrea showed me how to hang the paintings and arrange them in the space as well as helped me with the "Mary Adler Retrospective" that opened in January. In May 2016, I took down most Mary Adler's paintings and hung Sylvia Winslow paintings. In November 2016 right before the Petroglyph Festival, I took down the last of Mary Adler's paintings and hung the exquisite "Petroglyph" quilts made by members of the Hi Desert Quilt Guild. The quilts were a perfect addition to the museum for the Petroglyph Festival weekend. In December, I worked with Nick Panzer on selecting and printing photos for the January exhibit, "Out and About Indian Wells Valley".

Argus Room

In March, panels like the ones in the Coso Room were ordered and installed creating a continuity and flow going from the Argus Room to the Coso Room. The first exhibit in the Argus Room installed in March, consisted of photographs of wildflowers on the west side and paintings that dealt with desert wildflowers from the museum's collection on the east side. After the Wildflower Exhibit, the Matthew Armstrong Memorial Soccer Tournament Exhibit went up in the Argus Room. 2016 marked the 20th anniversary for the tournament and the last. In June, the Matthew Armstrong Memorial Soccer Tournament Exhibit came down and was replaced with Edward Curtis photographs owned by the museum. History intern for the summer, Katie McClain, headed up this transition by selecting the prints, creating small boards of information about the print as necessary and arranging the photographs in the Argus Room. This exhibit is still in the Argus Room and is very popular. This exhibit was a partial showing of the Edward Curtis photographs that the museum acquired in 2010.

Vestibule (old front door entrance on south side of museum)

Katie McClain, after finishing the Edward Curtis Exhibit, started researching the Indian Wells Valley Search and Rescue (IWVSAR) for a display on the west side of the vestibule. Together, we interviewed Bill Moen, Nicki Johnson and Dave Sanders to get a better idea of the activities of the IWVSAR. Bill Moen has donated many items and photographs to the museum many of which we used for this display. Katie created the write-ups for the boards, I reviewed and printed the information, and Katie designed the layout of the exhibit in the vestibule. This exhibit replaced the aqueduct display in early September and is still up.

Dorie Cornell, a volunteer for both Sandy Rogers and I, designed a new exhibit for the east side of the vestibule featuring the new monorail model donated by Joe Powell of Las Vegas, Nevada. I reviewed the write up, created the boards and helped with assembling the boards in the vestibule. This display went up in November 2016 and is still up.

Publications

This year I edited, formatted and proofed two books to be printed. The first book, by John Stegall from the Buena Vista Museum in Bakersfield, is titled, "Fossil Birds of the Mojave Desert & Environs". The second book, by Sandy Rogers and Russell Kaldenberg, is titled "The Euro-American "Discovery" of the Coso Petroglyphs, Inyo County, California, 1860 – 1968". Besides these two books, I made minor changes to "Rock Drawings of the Coso Range", added a bar code to "Archaeology and Rock Art of the Eastern Sierra and Great Basin Frontier", before sending the manuscripts to the printer for reprints. I also made minor changes to the "Coso Petroglyph" flyer.

Research

The museum acquired an ice truck enclosure that sat on top of a truck bed and was used to haul ice made by the Walker Ice Plant located in Ridgecrest in the 1940's. In order to gather more information and acquire photos of the Ice Plant, Lee Anne Zajicek, a history intern, spent many hours with Elizabeth and Sally Walker going through the digitized photos that the Walker sisters gave to the museum to get information about the photos. That task was completed in November 2016. I also researched information in the history database, computerized files, and history library for others wanting specific details for their research.

Accessions

We had one accession meeting in May in which we accessioned items from 2015. I have been logging information about items for the next accession meeting.

Curation Workspace

Peter Wiley, Bob Westbrook, Dan Burnett and I worked on the old kitchen area now called the Curation Workspace. A new smaller sink and a cabinet replaced the older cabinets and sink on the west side. The room was painted and the herbarium cabinet moved into this space. I organized items in the cabinets on the east side.

Farm equipment

Thom Boggs and I looked at the museum's farm equipment at the fairgrounds. We took photos and measurements of the farm equipment to better know what kind of space will be needed to house these items at the museum.

Non-curatorial Work

I helped with the Mirage Sale, the Petroglyph Festival, the Wildflower Exhibit, and participated in some docent programs.

Newspaper Clippings

Liz Babcock continues to work on her collection of newspaper clippings for the museum.

Gift Shop by Maureen Goff

Another exciting year is in the books. The beginning of a new year in retail always means replenish. The floor looks bare and stock is low. The popular items: coasters, wind chimes, Prickly Pear goodies and stuffed animals as well, were reordered. Most of January is spent recovering from the Christmas frenzy. This time of year is generally much slower so that gives us the time to spruce things up.

Early spring is the start of the trade shows. This was the first time I attended the lecture sessions that they offer. The focus was mainly on social media and how to make it work for retailers. The shows are also, of course, the best way to find new items and meet vendors face to face.

With the amount of rain we had had, there were plenty of visitors looking for information on Death Valley and the Super Bloom. In order to accommodate such an influx of people, we made up individual packets of the maps and flower info. This worked out very well.

Most of the flowers were already gone by the time of our Wildflower Exhibit rolled around but Janet Westbrook and Kathy LaShure, with their knowledge of the area, were able to point people in the right direction to still find flowers. The exhibit was very well attended. Our gift shop volunteers were much appreciated by the Wildflower team and our volunteers really enjoyed themselves.

What is that loud unending noise? Oh, that must be the floors in the Coso Room and Argus Gallery being ground down to make them all shiny and smooth. They look great.

Sandy obliged the Gift Shop volunteers with our very own lecture one morning before we opened. It's an interesting lecture and helps us to answer question about the petroglyphs.

During the summer, we had a lot going on. First, there was the repaving of the parking lot. Having the lot closed for a few days really made an impact on the store. But eventually people got the gist of where to park and were happily shopping again. Name the Tortoise and Pokémon Go! were both big hits for the Museum. The games brought people by that might not have come in otherwise.

The Yard Sale was also very fun. I think everyone enjoyed themselves. The Museum received a lot of wonderful donated treasures and customers got great deals. Everyone pitched in and helped out. It was great.

The last week of September saw an increase in Death Valley visitors. The weather is finally cooling down and people are taking advantage of it. We've gotten some really nice reviews lately from people stopping in for information. On Trip Advisor, the Museum was ranked as Number 1 in the "Things to Do" category.

The Petroglyph Festival; Assuming it was going to be busy, I had three designated cashiers and then three volunteers to work the floor; answer questions, point the way to the lectures and just basically mingle. It worked out very well. Having the Flintknapper right inside the front doors was perfect. People would stop to chat as they came in. The energy that flowed through the Museum those two days was extraordinary. Approximately 400 people came through the doors on Saturday alone.

December is an exciting time in retail. The shelves are full of merchandise, there's lots of foot traffic and the cash registers are ringing! I bought a log-type display fixture for the Huckleberry People goodies. I think it really encouraged people to buy. Instead of purchasing one jar of jelly, they would grab a bag of licorice and maybe some syrup to go with it.

Lois Hinman's pottery and Solmate Socks were the other big sellers. We could hardly keep them in stock. But the biggest and best seller, by far, were the reusable bags by LOQI. These are a very thin yet sturdy bag that folds into a small bag that fits in a purse or pocket. People were on the lookout for such bags since the fee for grocery bags went into effect. People were purchasing 6, 9, and 10 at a time! They made the perfect stocking stuffer.

We closed at 3pm on both Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve so the staff could spend time with families. All in all it was a good year.

Art Gallery by Andrea Pelch

The Maturango Museum's Art Gallery Exhibits are now displayed in the Coso Room. The Art Gallery Exhibits provide a synergistic role in the mission of the Maturango Museum by providing professional exhibit spaces, including an audio-visual projection system and correct lighting for visually pleasing art exhibits by local, visiting, and traveling artists to be experienced by our local community and all visitors. The gallery spaces are also used for informative workshops for children and adults, concerts, lectures, docent activities including storytelling and art programs, meeting space and curator exhibits including the Wildflower Show.

The Coso Room is equipped with track lights, acoustic panels, a rail/track hanging system, new chairs, and audio/visual equipment. The Sylvia Winslow Gallery is also available for art exhibits.

The Museum receives a percentage of the sales from art gallery shows, which provide funds for the specific needs of the gallery committee and for museum operations. We also sponsor an annual Open Studio Tour in which local artists open up their studios for patrons to view their artistic process and resulting works. Total sales for 2016 were \$7,665 and \$10,870 respectively.

We also receive sponsorships from individuals and organizations. Full year sponsors for 2016 were Judy Fair-Spaulding, Johanboeke Family, Cynthia and Anthony Damiano, Bev and Ron Atkins, and the Heritage Inn. The Heritage Inn "comps" rooms for visiting artists.

The gallery exhibits also provide incentives for memberships by providing members a 10% discount on gallery sales during the opening receptions and discounted fees to participate in various art-related activities, such as "member's only" exhibits and open studio.

Coso Room Art Exhibits



Tamar Assaf "Fragile" Exhibit

"Fragile" is a multi-media exhibit of paintings, sculpture, and video that explores the human influence on our world.

Assaf's artwork is a subtle commentary addressing human influence on nature and the understanding that entire ecosystems function as a delicate balance of species interacting in a woven tapestry of interdependencies.

Michael Maas : "Development of Themes ; The Evolution of an Artist's Work from Realistic Botanicals to Patterned Abstraction."

He is best known for his illusionistic, patterned-abstract "Alhambra Series" paintings. This exhibit showed how his work evolved from straight-ahead realistic botanicals, using examples from the mid-1990s to 2016.



"ARTifacts"

ARTifacts group show. Our three museum curators each chose 3 objects from collection storage which were then used as the inspiration for the artists to artistically interpret one item and make an "art object".

Open Studio Tour Artists' Exhibit

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





Julianne DiBlasi Black: “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.

Sylvia Winslow Gallery Art Exhibits

Mary Adler Retrospective Art Exhibit

Mary graciously agreed to let us exhibit some of her artwork. Mary has quite an extensive “body of work” including paintings and “cold-metal” wall art.



A “Major Maturango Mojo” Thank You to our volunteers

Debbie Benson for being a get-it-done guru -- always in the happiest way; all while making the museum a wonderful place as Museum Director.

Lois Hinman, Pat Rogers, Ruth Amster, and Dianne Dilley for giving great advice.

Melissa Parkinson, Leslie Layfield, Rachel Layfield, Sue Gilbert, Evelyn Roth, and Kristen Parkinson for coordinating and preparing the refreshments at the receptions.

Shane Arns for “doing the lights and letters” and for being super funny; and showing up with that uncanny way of his just as I need him.

Mike Brown for bugging me enough to get all the necessary photos and words for the museum website; and doing a spectacular job making the website functional.

Mark Pahuta for his patient expertise being our videographer for the artist’s interviews.

Peter Wiley, Bob Westbrook and Dan Burnett for doing all the craftsmanship to keep the Coso Room up and running.

Ed Czakja for setting up the new audio/visual system and operating the equipment at events.

Thank You all for attending receptions, buying artwork, and donating money and time.

Words from an artist... *“as an artist, I thank those curators, directors, boards, museum staff and volunteers who make it possible for us to be visible outside of our studio and art friends. We thank those who fund museums, university shows, galleries, non-profits, and art centers. In short, those of the art community who make art exhibits possible and worthwhile. We artists thank you for all that you do. Thank YOU.”*

Painting, carving, music, dance, drama, ritual – all these activities help people explain the world and magnify extraordinary experiences.

Petroglyph Tour Coordinator by Linda Saholt

Last Spring Tour Season, ZERO tours were cancelled, hurrah! During the Fall Tour Season, 6 tours were cancelled—a total of 3 weekends. Cancellation can be weather related or due to base scheduling conflicts or security issues. All participants who were scheduled on those weekends have been rescheduled, carried over for spring 2017, or refunded.

At the Navy's Public Affairs Office, Margo Allen is now in charge, replacing Peggy Shoaf, who retired in March 2016. Margo has been very easy to work with, and is getting up to speed. She has gone out of her way to assist when needed, and is intensely interested in the work. We have planned our annual Thank-You party for escorts for January 20th, and Margo will be the guest of honor.

A total of 546 people got to enjoy the canyon through our office, which included a group of 83 high school students and 26 carry-overs from previous seasons. A total of 48 participants are being carried over into 2017. We also acted as administrators of the tours for the 3rd annual Petroglyph Festival. An additional 140 people were able to visit Little Petroglyph Canyon on that weekend.

Since doing all possible communications with escorts, visitors and inquirers via e-mail, I believe I have saved the museum a significant amount in postage, envelopes, and time. For those who do not utilize e-mail, I use U.S. mail; this is now down to a small fraction of the folks with whom I communicate.

For example, the last time the specially-printed petroglyph envelopes were ordered was in, I believe, 2014. I still have enough to get me through at least the spring tour season, if not the fall as well.

Our escorts have been absolute angels. We now have the volunteer services of Mike Cash, who has not only tremendous enthusiasm for leading tours, but also has a way of "getting things done." He signed up to lead the make-up tour on December 10th, which had only 3 people signed up. The week before, Mike attended the ceremony for the incoming commander of the base, Capt. Paul Dale, and had the great good sense to invite Capt. Dale and his wife to go on the tour. We quickly set this up through Margo, and got both of them on the tour. Mike pitched the importance of the tours, and their continuation, plus the multi-level value of the petroglyphs themselves. Capt. and Mrs. Dale came back quite excited! It was a wonderful move on Mike's part, starting us off on excellent terms with the new commanding officer. I appreciated that, and told him so!

The 2016 training session netted us a fine new crop of escorts, and I have high hopes this year will, too. Of course, we lost some, due to life events, illness or injury, but we still have an excellent core of escorts willing to pitch in whenever asked on short notice. It's been fun being able to accommodate escorts who want to go with someone specific, such as couples wanting to escort together, one sister/brother duo, and newbies wanting to learn from the experts. Our next escort training session is set for March 4, 2017. I already have a folder of requests from people who want to attend and be a part of this ongoing program.

The process for the annual Petroglyph Festival has become smoother, and bypasses me completely. Debbie and Julie have handled ticket sales and forms returns for the visitors who partake of those shorter tours. This has made my job much easier during November.

Sandy Rogers began doing a series of 3 lectures during each tour season, for the benefit of both those taking the tours and members of the public. These went over very well indeed, and I noticed those tours on or near his lecture dates filled up quickly. I hope he can continue these lectures this year—those who attended the lecture spoke up about how much it added to their enjoyment of the petroglyphs.

Looking forward to 2017--with a great crew of escorts and support people, this job is a delight for me!

Education Coordinator by Nora Nuckles

The Docent League amassed 8,346 volunteer hours for 2016. Docents report hours for the time spent in the classroom, the time spent with others planning and preparing programs and the time packing and unpacking vehicles with our wonderful specimens. In the fall of 2016 Judy Martin, Rosemary Galvin and Jinny Valle, Glenn Harris, and Mike Cash joined the Docent League. We still need new docents because some of our docents are experiencing illness and also need more time for family members.

Currently, the Docent League officers are:

Bev Hill – president
Cam Alden - Vice President

Sharon Oldfield - Secretary
Dan Burnett - Treasurer

Dan Burnett is also chair of the Money Delegations Committee and the Computer Librarian. Nora Nuckles heads the Animal Acquisitions Committee and Beverly Hill heads the Script Committee. Sue Parker keeps our library in order. I asked Charlotte Goodson to remain as chair of the Children's Hour and Carol Dezelle to remain as chair for our art programs. Paula and Mike Herr chair the Beth Armogida Planetarium. Mike writes new programs for the computer and usually gives the programs. Paula keeps it all organized.

The Beth Armogida Planetarium remains in huge demand. Mike and Paula Herr with Sue Prazak continue to be the “drivers” behind all the showings in the planetarium. A few of us lend support at most of the showings. We are in need of someone to step up and serve as a replacement for Mike Herr when he is not available or needs assistance on a long day at a school. Fortunately, Mike has found a few excellent astronomy films made for the dome, which relieves some of the burden.

In 2016, the Docent League presented 348 programs to more than 9,140 people. This is approximately 200 fewer people and about 50 fewer programs than we presented in 2015. We presented 80 programs in the museum to about 2,525 people, about 100 more than 2015. We presented 268 Outreach programs to about 6,615 people. 77 percent of our programs presented were Outreach (offsite) programs. This is the same percentage as last year. Docents helped with several adult tours at the Museum as well as conducting student tours regularly. Docents took most of the programs to the schools and other groups.

The docents presented programs for the following schools: elementary and secondary schools in Sierra Sands Unified School District, Immanuel Christian, St. Ann's, Ridgecrest Charter, Trona, Lone Pine, California City, Mojave and the home schools. We presented programs to the following preschools: Heritage Montessori, Shine Montessori, Oasis, the state preschool at Pierce and the base preschool. We gave presentations for several Girl and Boy Scout troops, Moving on Up on the base, other after-school groups, and the High Desert Haven.

Moving specimens and equipment became much easier because we could drive up to the door near our new room on the north side of the building and pack right from there. We move carloads of specimens and equipment since we have many programs that are “hands-on” only.

We love our new storage space and are very happy that we had the shelving system modified to allow us a staging area in the room. I organized much of it this summer but I still need to label shelves, etc. Sue Parker and I have been culling books from the library that are way too old or duplicates. The Panamint Room does not always have room for us to stage our items for programs. We do, however, use the Panamint Room for committee meetings and it was great for our summer classes!

In November, the Docent League received an honor from the Ridgecrest Chamber of Commerce for our service to the community.

Each month of the school year, docents present a Children's Hour with stories, songs, activities, and crafts. Usually 50-60 people (parents and children) attend these story times. In addition, docents host activities on Free Second Saturdays. Some of the topics have been flintknapping, Native Americans, bats, birds, pelts and bones and the Armogida Planetarium. It is difficult to find enough docents to support every Free Second Saturday (understandably they like the weekends off).

Charlotte Goodson, Judy Breitenstein, Kate Goodson, Elaine Wiley, Bev Hill, and I as well as Kathy LaShure and others (non-docents) gave countless hours for the Wildflower Exhibit in the spring. Many docents help in the collection and/or preparing of the plants for exhibition.

As in the past, the docents worked with the Bureau of Land Management and Sierra Sands Unified School District on the Sand Canyon Environmental Education program. This spring program delivers Desert Alive Programs to approximately 230 fourth grade students. Docents are at each school for nearly a full day, where we give a PowerPoint presentation to each group of 30 and then present Mammals, Reptiles, and Insects, where each group rotates through all 3 stations. Bob Parker and Dan Burnett give the Audubon session at each school. Some of the docents support the field trip activities in Sand Canyon, usually on the day following our classroom activities.

In June of 2016 we presented summer classes that were advertised through the Ridgecrest City Parks and Recreation Summer Program Catalog. We received 80% of the fees paid to the city for each child. We determined the fees, the number of students in the class, and the length and scope of the class. We offered Kitchen Chemistry (4 days); and Critters, Inside and Out, Part 2, (4 days). The classes were very successful so we hope to do them again this year. Bev Hill and I planned the Kitchen Chemistry and Shirley Crouse and I planned the Critters class. It took a crew of about 10 docents to run these classes. I was impressed with those docents who continued to volunteer into our usual "break" time.

In the summer, Paula and Mike Herr and Nora Nuckles brought the Beth Armogida Planetarium to libraries in Ridgecrest, California City and Bakersfield (the Beale Library, Kern County's Central Library) for the Summer reading programs.

In October, 15 docents participated in Petroglyph education for eighth graders, held at the Museum; we had 152 eighth graders from Monroe and 200 from Murray, on different days of course. Luckily we had the additional help of Andrea Pelch, Debbie Benson, Sherry Brubaker and several of the summer interns! Richard Nuckles spent many hours designing a garden scavenger hunt, Don Crouse made atlats and darts, and we all spent hours in planning for this event. We presented the same Petroglyph program at the Museum for Immanuel Christian and St. Ann School. We took the program to Ridgecrest Charter School. Bev Hill, Sarah King and I planned the program.

Docents are appreciative of our \$700 operational account budget. We also receive generous donations in support of programs and services. Due to the continued development and growth of our outreach art program docents spent part of this money on art supplies. Fortunately, the Desert Art League just recently donated \$500 for the art programs. We were able to purchase the mountain lion bones that came from Cammie, our more recent mountain lion on display. We voted to purchase a dove and a small red racer specimen from Sherry's newer freeze-dried collection. We voted to purchase three birds from Mike Dorner that had been taken to him when Camille Anderson was still the Natural History Curator. We buy supplies for the Children's Hour crafts and for the summer classes. We purchased new computers in June of 2016. Some of the supplies for our summer classes were donated by those of us teaching the classes. Other docents occasionally buy and donate items to the docent room.

Our script committee, with Bev Hill as our chairperson, works to rewrite and develop new scripts. Scripts are subject matter guides that help to ensure uniformity and conformance to educational standards of our program materials. She and I worked on the SEEP PowerPoint presentation. We

aim to address the Next Generation Standards which emphasize critical thinking skills. To this goal we developed a food chain activity so that students are more involved. Dave Kurdeka is revising the endangered species presentations and providing animal sounds for the Desert Alive program. Bev Hill is revamping the geology and rocks presentations. We have purchased more hand lenses and are making classroom sets of individual bags of rocks, each containing igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic rocks. Carol Dezelle and Cam Alden with the help of many art docents continue to create new art lessons that focus on the elements of line, shape, form, color, texture, and soon composition. At our request, we have a bulletin board in the El Paso exhibit room to display the student art. Peter and Elaine Wiley enlarged the bulletin board area for us. When art is collected from students, the children are given free family passes to the museum so they can show off their art!

The docents are grateful for the support shown to the Docent League. We appreciate the continued support of individuals and community organizations through generous donations. Many more items are needed to enhance our old and new programs. 2016 was a very productive, successful, and exciting year for the docents!

Volunteer Activities by Fran Van Valkenburgh

Volunteers make things happen at the Museum by assisting in many areas such as:

- petroglyph tour escorts who donate many hours of their time and talent
- docents who educate the citizens and children of our community
- dependable folks who keep the store open
- Wildflower Show Committee
- Gallery Committee
- Garden and building maintenance

There is no end to the volunteer accomplishments.

A special thank you to the building maintenance group consisting of Bob Westbrook, Peter Wiley and Dan Burnett and the Garden Committee consisting of Dianne Dilley, Bev and Bryan Hill, Dan Burnett, Libby Vincent, Elaine and Peter Wiley, Sherry Brubaker and Debbie Benson for helping to keep the Gladys Merrick Garden, surrounding property and buildings looking nice for visitors.

Often staff members volunteer talent and time beyond their job descriptions!

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!

Volunteer Hours 2016	
Docents	8346
Museum Gift Shop	1813
Gallery	307
Field Trips	178
Petroglyph	1315
Fund Raising	265
Curatorial	706
Administrative	582
At-Home	18
Board	655
Publications	25
Technology Support	260
Web Site & Internet	245
Lectures	153
Wildflower Show	<u>701</u>
TOTAL	15,569

Memberships and Visitor Information

By Fran Van Valkenburgh

Membership statistics

746 Current memberships
 638 Individual or Family
 43 Business
 37 Lifetime
 28 Complimentary

612 are local and 134 are out of the area

215 subscribe to the newsletter via email

GO GREEN! Help us save on printing and postage by signing up for email delivery of the newsletter. The pictures look so much nicer in color!

To make the change, notify Fran at fran@maturango.org

Visitor statistics

Museum Use	
2016	23,229
2015	20,040
2014	19,101
2013	18,342
2012	17,031

	2016
VISITORS	15,667
MEETINGS/RECEPTIONS	
Art Show Receptions	269
Board Meetings	212
Lectures	446
Audubon Society	121
Astronomy Club	182
Photographic Society	197
Docent Meetings	216
Gallery Meetings	18
Sierra Amateur Radio Club	44
MISCELLANEOUS	
Docent Programs	2,525
Concerts	461
Childrens hour	339
Petro. Tours	686
Escort Classes	70
Tours/Field Trips/Buses	79
Annual Meeting	60
Wildflower Show	250
Fundraisers	290
Misc Events	1,097
Total	23,229

Concert Series by Fran Rogers

The museum concert series had seven concerts, only one given more than once, during the 2016 year. Three of the concerts were sold out, but the others were reasonably full. All concerts were performed in the Coso Gallery. Below are listed the concerts and the attendance.

January 23	HDMTA <i>Musical Memories</i> - sold out (92)
February 26	Amber Petersen & Melanie McDonald <i>Faith, Hope, and Love</i> - sold out (92)
April 17	"We Friends" - 2/3 full (49)
May 13	Martin Espino - Mexico's Native instruments - 1/2 full (26)
June 24	Folias Flute and Guitar Duo - 1/2 full (36)
October 29	Alexandra Calvert, harp, <i>Images</i> - sold out (80)
November 17 & 18	Erica MacArthur, violin and Helen Smoot, piano, <i>Belle Danse</i> - 88 total

Martin Espino also provided a hands on instrument making session for children on May 14.

Erica MacArthur's upright piano is on long term loan to museum for community use (at the museum only). Erica MacArthur's first night concert was competing with another popular vocal concert. All other concerts were very well attended and appreciated.

Web Presence Report by Mike Brown

The museum's website continued its pattern of drawing more visitors in 2016 than the previous year. MailChimp mass emailing campaigns, used to promote museum events, are becoming more frequent. Facebook and Twitter (Social Media) are used by the staff to promote events and store merchandise.

Web Site Statistics

21,852 Visitors ¹ (↑8.03% over last year)	37,207 Sessions ² (↑ 4.81% over last year)
---	--

The **Top 10** most popular pages visited were:

Homepage	Death Valley
Petroglyph Tours	Current Gallery Exhibit
Newsletter	Ridgecrest Petroglyph Festival
Field Trips	Weather
Hours & Location	About Us

About **5%** of visitors to our website were from outside of the United States with Brazil and the UK leading the list. **30.4%** of our visitors were from Ridgecrest; **13.85%** were from Los Angeles; **2.88%** were from Sacramento; **2.80%** were from San Diego; **2.78%** were from San Francisco; and **2.46%** were from Bakersfield.

Online Store: The online store is secured through a GeoTrust 256 bit encrypted Secure SLL Certificate. The online store is managed completely by the museum staff. I continue to provide configuration and troubleshooting support as needed.

Museum Archive Video: Twenty-four museum videos that Carroll Evans transferred from VHS to DVD were digitized and uploaded to the museum's YouTube channel this year.

MailChimp eMail Campaigns: The response to our mass email campaigns has been tremendous. 2016 saw a **50%** increase (from 934 to 1,401) of subscribers to our mass emailings list. Mass email campaigns are sent to members who choose to receive the monthly newsletter via email rather than through the USPS, along with visitors to our web site and store who request to join our mass email list. In addition to the monthly newsletter, mass emails are sent for the Children's Hour, Artist Receptions, Concerts, Lectures, Fundraising activities and other events.

Thank You: Thank you to Mark Pahuta who continues to provide Featured Artist Interviews, as well as videos of lectures. These interviews are available on our web site on the museum's YouTube and Vimeo channels.

1 - A visitor is Google Analytic's best-guess of an anonymous person. A visitor has had at least one session within the selected date range. This includes both new and returning visitors.

2- A session is a collection of hits from the same visitor, grouped together. Most analytics tools use a 30 minute time period of inactivity to separate sessions. Therefore, according to Google a "session is the period of time a visitor is actively engaged with your website."

Summary: A visitor navigates to our web site once on a particular day. That registers as 1 visitor + 1 session. If later that same day the visitor comes back to our web site this registers as 1 visitor + 2 sessions, and so on.

Wildflower Exhibit
April 8 - 10, 2016
by Charlotte Goodson and Judy Breitenstein

Bringing the Wildflower Exhibit to fruition this spring was a labor of love by 67 volunteers who contributed a total of 701 volunteer hours. The planning was begun long in advance by the expanded coordinating team of Kathy LaShure, Charlotte Goodson, Judy Breitenstein, Elaine Wiley, Nora Nuckles, Bev Hill, and Al and Joan Woodman.

Preparation started with setting up the Coso Gallery and Panamint Room on the Monday and Tuesday before the Exhibit. Next, seventeen teams of volunteers armed with BLM Plant Collecting Permits fanned out to assigned areas within the Indian Wells Valley and surrounding mountains to the ridge-lines. Upon returning to the Museum with ice chests full, their plants were processed by additional teams of flower bottlers. Final preparatory steps were the identifying and labeling of all specimens and exhibiting them within their plant families. By the weekend more volunteers stepped up to serve as hosts in answering questions and making visitors feel welcome during the exhibit itself! **The final number of species identified totaled 237 representing 46 plant families.**

Our own Kathy LaShure presented a special program, "Day Tripping with California Wildflowers," on Saturday, April 9th. As both a highly talented photographer and informative presenter, Kathy entertained an audience that packed the Museum's new Coso Gallery. Her contributions to the Wildflower Exhibit and Herbarium, to name just a few, were many and greatly appreciated.

For ten years we have been fortunate to have the expert assistance of Dr. Naomi Fraga from the Rancho Santa Anna Botanical Garden in identification of the wildflowers. Our region has continued to be a focus of her botanical studies ever since she worked on her Masters Degree in the Owens Peak drainage. Each year Naomi has been a wonderful teacher and added immensely to our store of knowledge. Accompanying her to provide additional help was Joy England, also from the Garden. We were delighted to have this enthusiastic newcomer join our botanizing team and are looking forward to her return in 2017.

We were also fortunate once again to receive the help of the Ridgecrest United Methodist Church Girl Scouts in keeping the plants watered and looking their best. Much needed extra tables, also from the church, were provided by Boy Scout Troop 35.

Ten members of the Desert Artists' League participated during the exhibit by creating sketches and watercolors while visitors observed. Everyone enjoyed the resulting display of their works and was appreciative of this lovely enhancement to the Exhibit.

Without the enthusiastic assistance of the Museum Staff the entire week, there could not have been so successful a Wildflower Exhibit. A special thanks goes to Director Debbie Benson, Store Manager Maureen Goff, History Curator Elaine Wiley, and Art Gallery Coordinator Andrea Pelch. Additional indispensable help by Dan Burnett and Peter Wiley was gratefully received.

The Building and Facilities Committee by Dan Burnett

Construction of the new wing was finally completed this year when the floors in the new galleries were stained and finished. This marked the successful completion of a project where planning started about ten years ago.

Thanks to many generous donations from museum members we raised funds to resurface the main parking lot. The old paving was in such bad shape it probably would not have survived our recent rains.

A storage unit was acquired and installed at the northeast corner of the new wing. The unit will be used to store tables, chairs, the stage, and other furnishings used frequently in the museum. Storing the furnishings in the unit will free space in the Panamint Room for other events and activities.

At the end of the year sidewalks were poured at the overflow parking lot to improve access and safety. A sidewalk was also poured leading to the northeast storage unit.

The temporary office building that we know as the "Museum Annex" is undergoing a minor restoration. The building leaked during rains. To fix the problem the roof needed new flashing, sealing, and the addition of fascia boards around the eaves. We also replaced the remaining original windows with new thermal paned ones. The main entry door was also replaced. The exterior siding has been chipped, scraped, power washed and sealed with a product called "Peal Stop". After these improvements no leaks were reported. The next step is painting the exterior.

We had three (3) Eagle Scout projects this year. Zach Burns finished the Tortoise Habitat. Nick Vance took on the installation of 400 feet of fencing along the north side of the museum property. Josh Hill and his crew installed a walkway to the tortoise habitat enclosure. Thanks to these young men for the projects they have done for the museum.

Here are the projects the committee will be working on in the future:

- Lighting for the overflow parking area and for the walks along the main parking area (Engineers are now doing the design work for the building permits for this job)
- Installation of pathways and walkways
- Perimeter fencing
- Fenced storage and display of farm, mining, and other large items
- Construction of a storage/exhibit building for large items
- Remodeling or current indoor exhibits areas

Fundraising Committee

By Dan Burnett

The fundraising committee works to raise money for the Maturango Museum. The committee prioritizes funding needs, whether it be for operations or special projects, and plans fundraising programs and events.

The committee drafts appeal letters the museum sends to members. Three appeal letters were sent last year. They generated about \$26,000 for the parking lot, \$21,500 for operating expenses and \$7,000 to various funds and programs at the museum.

Museum staff and other volunteers work hard to hold the annual auction that is the museum's largest fundraising event.

This year we held a "Mirage Sale" which was popular and worth the time! The committee is planning to have another one in 2017 and plans to hold several smaller fundraising events for the museum throughout the year.

Many thanks to the active members during 2016: Jerry Bradley, Camille Anderson, Debbie Benson, Thom Boggs, Bev Hill, Nora Nuckles, Sue Parker Julie Stephens, and Dan Burnett.

The Committee is open to everyone.

PATRONS

Ron and Bev Atkins
Dr. Hal and Dorothy Bennett
Dr. Jean Bennett
Thom and Toni Boggs
Bob and Patricia Brown-Berry
Burkey, Cox, Evans & Manning Accountancy
Carroll Evans
Charlotte Gould
Hockett's Builders Supplies

James Irvine Foundation
Neil Krenzel
Mary Lee and William McBride
North American Chemical Company
Carol and Clay Panlaqui
Pat and Terry Rogers
Sierra Sirocco Construction
Don Witcher

FOUNDERS

Joe and Mary Adler
Advanced Appraisal System
Gary and Natalie Bailey
James W. Baird
Ballet Arts Theater, Inc.
Dr. and Mrs. Jesse Bell
Dr. Kristin Berry
Charles Blenman, Jr.
Brown Road Land and Farming Co
Daniel and Brenda Burnett
Mr. and Mrs. Doug Butler
Robert and Alice Campbell
Dr. Frank and Miriam Cartwright
Al Christman
M. Marlin Clark, M.D.
Robert and Mary Cornelius
Mrs. John Cox
Jack Crawford
Chet Creider, Jr.
Mel and Karen Creusere
Lou and Lena Czerwonka
Bettye Jane Davey
Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee, Inc.
Digital Equipment Corp.
John and Dolores DiPol
Cal Falgatter
Dave and Karen Fiddament
Robert Fowler
John Wally Gerhart
Barbara Gonder
Dr. And Mrs. H.W. Green
Doug Haden
Richard and Esther Hart
Mrs. Mary Ann Henry
Alice and Wally Hirsch
Ron Hise
Elaine Hoge
Dennis L. Holdaway
Mary Sue Hough
Terri Jacks and Family
Dorothy Johnson
Dr. Robert C.W. Jones, Jr.
Kay Joseph
Bud and Margaret Jungclas
Jean and Michael King
Frank Knemeyer
Steven and Frances Lapata
Harold Manning
John S. Mays

McBrides Welding
Rod McClung
J.M. and Davisia McInvale
Mrs. W.B. McLean
Robert C. Meade
Barbara Meggers
Elaine Miller
Ray and Minnie Miller
George Moncsko
Don and Pat Moore
Terrie and Connie Hall Moore
Helen Morrin
John, Barbara and Jason Moss
Robert F. Nelson, Jr.
Peter Nicol
Lena Norman
Bill and Naomi Norris
R.E. and Dorothy Nyswander
Florence Pinto
Mrs. Felice Plain
Mary E. Plauson
Mr. and Mrs. Lou Pracchia
Al and Kathleen Pratt
Fritz and Barbara Pritchett
Gene Schneider
Dr. J. Schrader
Hank Schuette
Dr. and Mrs. V.N. Shull
George Silberberg
Anna and Warren Stump
Lynn and Adam Summers
Dan and Carole Tobias
Jane Van Aken
Ronald and Nancy Vetter
John and Roberta Ward
William and Mary Ward
W. K. Webster
Dr. and Mrs. D. P. Welcome
Bruce Wertenberger
Janet Westbrook
Robert Westbrook
John Whitson
Clarence E. Willey
Edward and Eleanor Winnemore
Russell and Phyllis Wise
Don and Mary Witcher
Al and Joan Woodman
Venita A. Wright
Elva Younkin

Businesses and Organizations Members • 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
Beansters Espresso
Best Western China Lake Inn
Boulder Creek RV Resort
Center Professional Pharmacy
Coldwell Banker Best Realty
DART
Daily Independent
Desert Area Teachers Association
Econo Lodge
Epsilon Systems Solutions, Inc.
Friends of Jawbone
Furnace Creek Inn
Gary Charlon State Farm
Grape Leaf Restaurant
Hampton Inn & Suites
Heritage Inn & Suites
High Desert Haven
Historical Society of the Upper Mojave
Desert
Hockett's Builders Supply
Jacobs Naval System Group
KPartners Hospitality Group
Kristy's Family Restaurant
Law Offices of Phyllis M. Hix

Lugo's Grill
McDonald's Restaurant
Mercury Transfer & Warehouse Inc./
Allied Van Lines
New Directions Technologies, Inc.
News Review
Oasis Garden Club
PackWrap Business Center
The Pizza Factory
Ridgecrest Area Convention and Visitors
Bureau
Ridgecrest Automotive
Ridgecrest Moving & Storage/Atlas Van
Lines
Ridgecrest Regional Hospital
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
Union Bank
WACOM
Warren's Automotive