



Maturango News

Death Valley Tourist Center • Northern Mojave Visitor Center
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www.maturango.org

Museum Director's Notes

By Debbie Benson, Interim Director

This time of year is exciting to me. A little touch of coolness in the air and the Indian Wells Valley is busy!

I would like to give a big thanks to all who made the Fundraising Dinner Auction such a success and a fun evening. Our sponsors, volunteers, employees, the docents, those who made donations and our amazing friends and guests who bid on our items; you are the ones who made it a success. I would like to offer my personal thanks to Farris' for their catering, SoundWaves for our music, the Oasis Garden Club for their perfect floral table arrangements and, most especially, James Bell for being such a great auctioneer. Our community and the Museum benefit from everything that you do.

I am looking forward to our Open Studio Tour on October 25 & 26. I love seeing what our local artists are doing. I can't wait to see everyone going around to the studios!

I'm signed up for a Petroglyph Tour this Fall. I am always inspired by the experience. If this is something you haven't done, think about it. It does take some planning and the paperwork has to be filled out in advance, but it is worth it. We are guiding the Tours for the Petroglyph Festival also. All of the information is on our website. www.maturango.org. More information about the festival can be found on www.rpfestival.com or by visiting the RACVB on China Lake Blvd.

This is also a time when work can be done on the Museum and the Museum grounds. It's not quite so hot and more can be done in a day. If you are willing and able and would like to be a part of the work we do on the grounds, let us know. Not only do we love volunteers, we need you!

Hope to see you all out and enjoying this beautiful time of year!

The Annual Dinner / Auction this past Saturday was a successful event. The auction items that sold grossed \$25,000. We'll give you more details in the next newsletter. Our Museum staff and volunteers and all the donators and sponsors and buyers were the reason that the event was so successful. The Museum is for "all of us".

Join Our
eMail List

Get Your Newsletter E-Mailed To You

Go to www.maturango.org. Complete the requested information and you're on the list. Our email list is used exclusively for the Maturango Museum and is never shared with other organizations.

Having your newsletter e-mailed instead of regular mailed would save the Museum substantial funds. And... you get to see the all the photos in color !



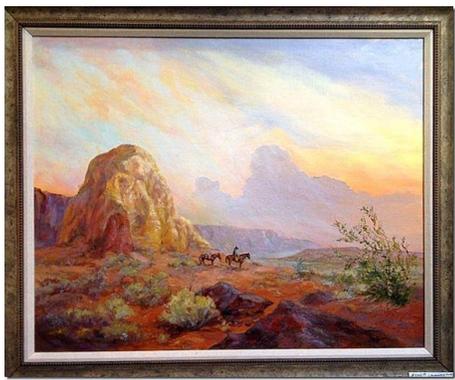
Open Studio Tour 2014

This will be our 11th year. The artists will be waiting for you to visit their studios and see their creations on the weekend of October 25 & 26. Studios will be open 10 am to 5 pm each day.

Your ticket is the poster with a map on the back of studio locations.

The \$10 tickets are available in the Museum gift shop or online at shop.maturango.org

Here are a few of the creations that will be a part of the tour.



Beth Allen's oil painting.



Laura Arn's and her glass chandelier.



Jerry Bradley's wood sculpture.

Open Studio Tour 2014 Artists

Janice Allen : Paintings
Joan Welsh : Oil Paintings
Mike Mumford : Steel Sculptures
Lois Hinman : Pottery, Oil Paintings
Donnie Woods : Oil Paintings, Silk Scarves
Charles Woods : Kinetic Sculptures, Violins
Betty Spindler : Ceramic Sculptures
Larry Sawyer : Wood, Stained Glass
Debbie Benson : Ceramics
Dick Benson : Ceramics, Paintings
Jodi Ostrom : Jewelry
Eileen Shibley : Watercolor Paintings
Jerry Bradley : Wood, Corian
Nancy Crawford : Watercolor Paintings
Paula Caudill : Pottery, Ceramic Sculpture

Sally Adams : Steel Art
Kathy Fields : Ceramics
Greg Gilbert : Multi-media Paintings
Julie von Schlemmer : Western Home Decor
Beth Allen : Oil Paintings
Helen Baker : Watercolor Paintings
Laura Arns : Lampworked Glass
Skip Gorman : Metal Artwork :Saturday only
Jael Hoffman : Steel Sculptures
Marcy Holbrook : Ceramics
DART: Artists on the Edge : Varied Mediums
Su Tipton : Jewelry

Dome News



The concrete has been poured and all is ready to add two domes to the astronomical area at the Museum. The Navy is donating the domes to the Museum. One of them is the Star dome that Carroll Evans operated for years on the base to help record tests being conducted there. Working closely together, the Astronomical Society and the Museum's Building Committee are nearing completion of this project. We do need donations to pay for the material (we need \$1,050 to pay for the

costs we have incurred) – the time and sweat has been donated by a great group of volunteers including Shane Arns, Debbie Benson, Thom Boggs, Dan Burnett, Jay Chun, Robert Parker, Keith Weisz, and Peter Wiley.

Southwestern Desert Bats Class

Patricia Brown-Berry, Ph.D. will offer a class on Southwestern Desert Bats sponsored by the Maturango Museum to be held at the Desert Studies Center (DSC) at Soda Springs (Zzyzx) south of Baker, California from the evening of October 10 until 2 PM on October 12.

She has taught this class (or variations) at the DSC for the past 30 years. Dr. Brown-Berry has conducted research on bats for the past 46 years, is a retired Research Associate at UCLA, and former Director of the Maturango Museum (1982-92). She currently consults with state and

federal agencies on bat surveys and conservation issues, in particular with regard to abandoned mine closures.



Bats are important components of the desert ecosystem, yet because of their nocturnal nature they are usually difficult to observe. This course will introduce the participants to the world of bats and to some of the techniques used by scientists to study these amazing mammals. Nightly field work will allow participants to use ultrasonic bat detectors and night vision equipment and to observe the mist-netting of wild bats (unless it's windy). Diurnal lectures and videos will supplement the field experiences.

Cost: \$235/person includes instruction, two nights' lodging at the Center, a snack Friday evening and five meals beginning with breakfast on Saturday. Information and tickets for this event are available through our online store at <http://shop.maturango.org/southwestern-desert-bats-class-october-2014/>

Enrollment is limited to 25 students.

Death Valley Field Trip

Join Naturalist Janet Westbrook to go explore Death Valley in the lovely fall weather, Saturday October 18, 2014. The Park is very uncrowded and the temperatures are reasonable.

We'll go through Panamint Valley and over Townes Pass. (Wildrose is still washed out). We may visit the Charcoal Kilns if the roads are OK, or we may visit Mosaic Canyon. We will go to the Visitor Center for the displays and DVNHA bookstore, and visit the Borax museum which has the stage coaches and wagons that were actually used in Death Valley. Harmony Borax Works has one of the original sets of wagons used by the 20 Mule Teams which left from there to go to Mojave. Then we'll head north to Scotty's Castle. If you would like to tour the house or the Underground tour, make a reservation for the 3 p.m. tour at www.recreation.gov to be sure you'll have a ticket -- only 19 people per tour. Afternoon light on Ubehebe Crater is amazing. And we'll be back at the sand dunes for low sunset light and wonderful photos.

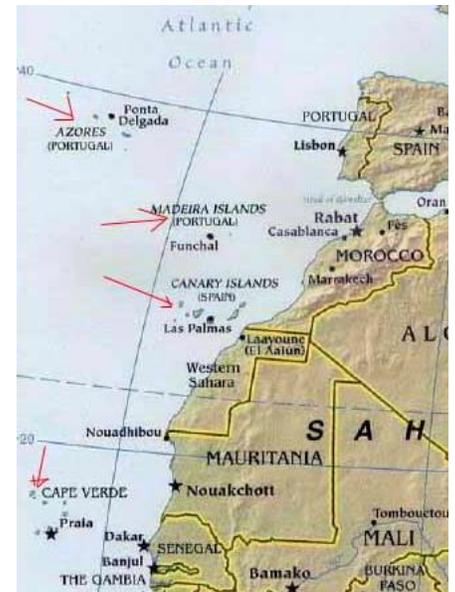
See further details under What's Happening, Ongoing Events, Field Trips on the web page and download Field Trip information. Bring your Golden Age Pass. Lots more Death Valley information at <http://maturango.org/janetmuseumpages/deathvalley/DeathValley.html>

Island Odyssey – to Macronesia – the Azores, Madiera, Canary Islands, and Cape Verde Islands Lecture Wednesday October 22, 2014 by Janet Westbrook

These are all volcanic islands off the coast of Africa on the trade wind routes to everywhere south – Columbus sailed from here to the New World, the Portuguese sailed around Africa from here, it was the center of the slave trade/sugar cane/rum triangle; Darwin and Sir Francis Drake were there. Today they all depend on tourism – “Europe's Hawaii” – always lovely climate, white or black sand beaches, duty-free shopping, and off shore banking.

While the Portuguese and Spanish sailors worked these islands in the 15th century, the Romans had been there before. Some of these islands still have native vegetation, but most have been cultivated. All have volcanoes, some quite active. People have cooked food using the heat for centuries. Madeira people discovered Madiera wine which is actually heated in the processes. The Ukelele is from Cape Verde.

This presentation will show you each of these island groups and a bit of the history and present culture, the Natural History and even whales.



Check Out the Museum's Really, Really Nice New Website

www.maturango.org

Thank You Mike Brown for your excellent webmastering skills.

When you're viewing our website, click on the Maturango Museum Logo to go "back" to the "home" page.



Docent Doings

By Nora Nuckles, Education Coordinator

We're back! We're on the road again. Yes, the docents are back at work in the museum and in the community! We took just a little break this summer and then geared up for another exciting, busy year! All of our animal specimens get a turn in the cool, refreshing freezer just to make sure they don't harbor any little insects they might have acquired while "on the road." Many docents also looked for cool places to go this summer.

Four new docents attended our introductory training session this summer. We welcome Deanna Stewart, Sharon Robesky Oldfield, and Heather Spurlock to our Docent League. Linda Uhlir-Tsang actually joined us last spring but attended training this summer. Our new docents are already participating in programs.

What's happening? Well, September programs included requests for 5 Art-Line presentations, planetarium showings for Montessori grade 1-3, the Earth science classes at Burroughs and at the Cerro Coso Star Party. We also gave the following presentations: Desert Alive, Weather, Canines/Felines,, and Rocks and Geology. We are happy to know that Charlotte Goodson will continue to lead the Children's Hour group which presented Coyotes on Sept. 26. A team of docents presented Bats for our free second Saturday in September.

In October we will bring the Beth Armogida Planetarium to Las Flores School and Richmond School for Parent Nights. We usually have about 100 people through the planetarium on a Parent Night. We will also host a showing in the planetarium for a visiting Boy Scout group and their parents. We will include an exhibit and garden tour for this group since it will be large. There are many requests for programs from teachers so we will be busy!

In November watch for the free Saturday on Nov. 8. We will present showings in the planetarium from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM. We fit about 20 people in the planetarium for a 20 minute showing. The show is the same each session. We will pass out place holder tickets so you know what time you can go into the planetarium. Come early so you don't miss your chance!

Remember to check the Maturango Museum website for information on docent programs and Children's Hour. If you would like to become a member of our illustrious Docent League call me here at the museum.



Sharon Oldfield and Bev Hill with the critters in the docents' room.

Recent Donations

Donations

Dan Burnett
Marilyn Kincaid
William McBride
Bob McDiarmid
Steve and Dorene Morgan
Daryl Nees
Mrs. Jane Van Aken

In Memory of John Di Pol

Susan Hueber

In Memory of Annaliese Odenchantz

Louise Feist

Building Fund

Robert Westbrook

New Members

Jeff, Patricia and Nicholas Calkins
Beverly Hill
Maureen Lehman
Virginia Meyer
Steve and Sharon Oldfield
Ed Rouce
Mark and Deb Storch
The Wolfersteig Family

Carroll Evans Star Dome

Dan Burnett

Desert Garage Door Donation

A special thank you to Desert Garage Door from the Museum volunteers and staff. They recently donated their time and skills for some maintenance and repair work that needed to be done. "I can't tell you how much I appreciate your donation" says Dan Burnett, building committee chairman. "The Museum is always scraping for funds. We like to use local contractors and pay them for their good work. But donations are always very much appreciated."

"ARTifacts"

"Museum Members' Artistic Interpretations of Curators' Chosen Artifacts"

We've got something new this year. The curators usually have an exhibit of their own and the museum members usually have a show of their own – this time we're combining the exhibits. Each of our curator's has chosen 3 artifacts from collection storage. Each item has 3 artists assigned to it. The challenge for the artists is to create a piece of artwork that "interprets" the artifact. Think "texture, form, color, symbolism, the original maker of the artifact, ..."

All of the curators' artifacts and the artists' items will be displayed November 1 – December 2. The artists' items will be for sale.

Please join us for the opening reception, Saturday, 1 November. Doors open at 7 p.m.

Maturango Museum of the IWW

100 E. Las Flores Ave., Ridgecrest, CA 93555
Open every day (except major holidays)
from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Staff

Debbie Benson, Interim Director
Mary Lattig, Store Manager/Buyer
Sandy Rogers, Archaeology Curator
Elizabeth Babcock, History Curator
Maria Getusky, Natural History Curator
Julie Stephens, Bookkeeper
Fran Van Valkenburgh, Membership
Andrea Pelch, Art Gallery Coordinator
Joann Barbee, Assistant Bookkeeper
Nora Nuckles, Education Coordinator
Linda Saholt, Petroglyph Tour Coord.
Maureen Goff, Store Supervisor
Sue Gilbert, Museum Assistant
Nora Nuckles, Museum Assistant
Duane Rice, Museum Assistant
Nick Rogers, Museum Assistant
Andrea Pelch, Newsletter Editor

Committee Chairpersons

Dan Burnett, Building
Fran Rogers, Concerts
Paula Herr, Docent League
Dan Burnett, Finance
Dan Burnett, Garden
Sandy Rogers, Lectures
Liz Babcock, Publications
Bob Westbrook, Strategic Planning
Mike Brown and Janet Westbrook,
Webmasters

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The Swap Sheet
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TJ Frisbee Bicycles, Inc.
TOSS
Union Bank
WACOM
Warren's Automotive

Regularly Scheduled Meetings

- China Lake Astronomical Society: 7 pm on 1st Monday of every month
- China Lake Photographic Society: 7 pm on 1st Thursday.
- Owens Peak Group of the Sierra Club: 7:30 pm on 4th Monday of every month
- Kerncrest Audubon Society: 7 pm on 3rd Thursday bi-monthly [January, March, May, September, November] Not July
- Docent League presentations – brochure of topics is available.

Calendar of Events

Sat Oct 11 – FREE Day at the Museum
Sat Oct 18 – Field Trip to Death Valley
Thurs Oct 23 - Pizza Factory Fundraiser
Fri Oct 24 – Children’s Hour “Owls and Bats”
Oct 25 & 26 - Open Studio Tour Weekend

Sat Nov 1 – Art Gallery Reception
Sat Nov 8 – FREE Day at the Museum
Nov 14 to 16 – Ridgecrest Petroglyph & Heritage Festival



Petroglyph Tours

Petroglyph tour information and a slide show at www.maturango.org.

Click on this photo to get to the petroglyph tours page. Current information on available dates is on the website.



Scan this QR code to go directly to the Museum website www.maturango.org

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