Volume 51, No. 9 **October 2015**

# Maturango News

Death Valley Tourist Center • Northern Mojave Visitor Center
100 E. Las Flores Ave. • Ridgecrest, CA 93555
760.375.6900 www.maturango.org

## Museum Director's Notes

By Debbie Benson, Director

The word of today is symbiosis, or the pleasure of a symbiotic relationship that works for the best of everyone. This is what makes it possible for us all to enjoy the benefits of being a part of our community. This is the energy that makes our fundraising work and makes events such as our Annual Dinner Auction such a success. It is a community event in every sense of the word, with everyone working together. It is amazing to see it all in action and I thank everyone for everything they do for the Museum.

This ability to work together for the greater good is what I see every day in the Maturango Museum. Each visitor who comes in for tourist information is treated with respect and a welcome. The staff and volunteers give directions and the time to go through the directions and see if the travel plans are going to work. People seeking that perfect gift are also given help and direction! It is a great process to watch and something I learn from! The Education Coordinator of the Museum and the Museum Docents work every day for and with everyone in our community. Even when they are not in the classroom they are working on the programs to support the teachers and students. It takes a great deal of collaborative effort on everyone's part.

Another event that depends on the ability to be a part of the bigger picture is the local Open Studio Tour. It is fun and inspiring to work with, and be a part of, the local Art community. Our valley has some wonderful creative energy and the Museum has been proud to be a part of the promotion of local artists. Hope to see you all out on the Tour as well as supporting the events of the Historic USO's 70th Anniversary. It is all about taking part in our Indian Wells Valley Community!

25 artists in 20 studios will be participating in this year's Open Studio Tour. This 2-day event allows ticket holders to visit the open studios at their leisure and purchase artwork. Artwork includes wood, copper and Corian bowls and sculptures, decorative and functional pottery, jewelry, wood-burning, steel sculptures, torch-worked glass, oil and watercolor paintings, ceramic sculptures, photography, found object wind-chimes, and printmaking.

Saturday, October 17
Sunday, October 18
10 am – 5 pm each day

Open Studio Tour Artists' Exhibit
Opening Reception
7 pm Friday, October 2

Participating artists : Beth Allen, Betty Spindler, Birgit Gagliardi, Cheryl McDonald, Art of Autumn and Dave, Debbie Benson, Dick Benson, DeeDee Reese, Donnie Woods, Helen Baker, Janice Allen, Jerry Bradley, Joan Welsh, Jodi Ostrom, Julie VonSchlemmer, Kathy Fields, Kim Winchester, Larry Sawyer, Laura Arns, Lois Hinman, Maria Coit, Mike Mumford, Mike Riley, Nancy Crawford, Patricia McCain, Sally Adams, and Skip Gorman.

The tour is a wonderful way for artists to share their talents, studios, and creativity. Some artists share space at the various studios. We are planning to have some scheduled demonstrations of art-in-progress at a few of the studios.

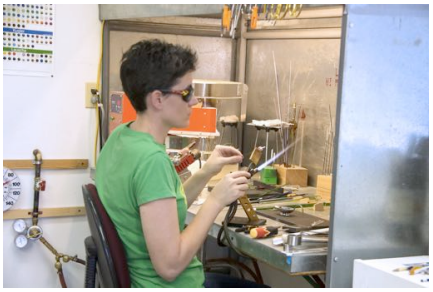
Buy your $10 ticket / poster / map on-line at shop.maturango.org now and then pick up in museum gift shop beginning 1 October. The tickets can also be purchased in the museum gift shop (open 10 – 5 every day) beginning 1 October and also available on the tour weekend.

The Maturango Museum will also be hosting the Open Studio Tour Artists' Exhibit. Each artist will have a few pieces of their artwork on display and for sale during the 2-month exhibit. This is a great time to meet the artists, get acquainted with their artwork and enjoy some wine and hors d'oeuvres. Receptions are always free and open to the public.

A few photos during last year's tour…

Jerry Bradley in his studio.

Lois Hinman's studio.


Laura Arns torchworking glass.

## Docent Doings

By Nora Nuckles, Education Coordinator

Just like the rest of the staff and volunteers here, I was so happy that the dreaded "black bugs" were gone! A good thing about the bugs -- they served as inspiration for the theme of our first Children's Hour -- Insects! Over 60 people (counting all the adults and children) enjoyed Children's Hour on Friday, September 11.

Come enjoy the next Children's Hour on Oct. 9, Friday, at 10:30 am to learn about bats! I wish they would adopt a "black bug" diet! In October we look forward to presenting lots of bat programs. October provides a good opportunity for children and adults to learn the truth and dispel the myths about bats. Do you know how many species of bats visit the Indian Wells Valley? Join us on our Free Saturday on Oct. 10 from 10-2 to learn the basics of bats.

Mike Herr wrote a new presentation, "The Moons of our Solar System," for the Armogida Planetarium. He presented this program on our Free Saturday on Sept. 12. It was great! Viewers saw the far side of our moon and also witnessed a lunar eclipse. Mike is a very talented and knowledgeable guy. One of our Junior Docents, Isen Koontz, helped us with the Planetarium shows. We were grateful for his help.

We are scheduling many other presentations, tours, and special programs for school Family Nights. Docents have planned Desert Alive and Weather programs as well as several art-line programs. You can seize the opportunity to work with us. Interested in visiting or joining the awesome Maturango Museum docents?? Call Nora at the Museum at 375-6900 or email matmus7@maturango.org. Please join us at our next meeting on Oct. 6, Tuesday, at 8:45 am, in the Museum gallery. We always have goodies to eat and the most enjoyable people to meet.

## Anthropology Research Associates Established

The museum has now established a program of Anthropology Research Associates. The purpose is to create mutually-beneficial relationships between the museum and faculty members of colleges, universities, and other research institutions. The museum benefits from the special expertise which can be provided by faculty, and the faculty benefit from access to our collections and library. Further, the combination of museum and faculty provides opportunities for outreach to enhance educational programs and to improve public understanding of anthropology. No financial commitment is made on either side. The arrangement is voluntary, and may be cancelled at any time by either party.

The first two research associates are Dr. Robert Yohe of California State University, Bakersfield, and Dr. Sarah King of Cerro Coso Community College in Ridgecrest.

## Recent Donations and New Members

Donations
Mary L. Adler – in memory of Pat Miller
Jane Van Aken
Bev and Bryan Hill
Peggy Howes
Joe and Ruby Kokosenski – in honor of Phyllis Williams
Sandy and Fran Rogers
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In Memory of Gary Babcock
Jennifer T. Frasca
Kathleen M. Hayne – docent fund
Naomi Norris

Carroll Evans Handyman Fund
Daryl and Ellen Hinman

Building Fund
Robert Westbrook
Tine Brouwer - in memory of Barbara Rooney

New Members
Louise Farmer
Jaque and Art Hickman
Brenda McQuiston
Mae Perry
Cory and Nicole Perucca

## Australia's Ultimate Outback – "The Kimberley"
## Lecture by Janet Westbrook

Sunday, November 15, 3 p.m.

The rugged NW section of the island of Australia is known as "The Kimberley Region" - there are few roads, but it can be explored by air and by sea. Not much water, lots of red sandstone rocks, boab trees (same as Africa's Baobab), huge cattle ranches, Aboriginal people and their rock art, and fascinating critters in this arid region. From a ship one can go by zodiac into the river mouths and see salt water crocodiles, mud skippers, kites (the birds), black fruit bats, more crocodiles, amazing rock formations, Osprey, Rock wallabies, dugongs, and more crocodiles ….

Enjoy Janet Westbrook's July visit to the Kimberley from Darwin to Broome, Australia with National Geographic/Lindblad Expeditions.

## Calendar of Events

Open Studio Tour Artists' Opening Reception : Friday Oct 2 : doors open at 7 pm
Children's Hour : Friday Oct. 9 : 10:30 am Program on bats.
Free Saturday : Oct. 10 : 10-2 to learn the basics of bats.
Open Studio Tour weekend : Sat Oct 17 and Sunday Oct 18 : 10 am – 5 pm each day

For daily updates on available Petroglyph Tour dates see
www.maturango.org/petroglyph-tours/

## Maturango Museum of the IWV

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

**Staff**

Debbie Benson, Museum Director
Maureen Goff, Store Manager/Buyer
Sandy Rogers, Archaeology Curator
Elizabeth Babcock, History Curator
Maria Getusky, 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.
Sue Gilbert, Museum Assistant
Nora Nuckles, 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
Sandy Rogers, Lectures
Liz Babcock, Publications
Bob Westbrook, Strategic Planning
Mike Brown and Janet Westbrook, Webmasters
Mike Brown, Operational Fundraising

**Board of Trustees**

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The Swap Sheet
Tax Time Services
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TOSS
Union Bank
WACOM
Warren's Automotive

RIDGECREST
Chamber of Commerce

## Regularly Scheduled Meetings

- China Lake Astronomical Society: 1st Monday of every month, 7 pm
- China Lake Photographic Society: 1st Thursday of every month, 7 pm
- Kerncrest Audubon Society: 3rd Thursday bi-monthly [Jan, Mar, May, Sep, Nov, not July], 7 pm
- Docent League: 1st Tuesday of every month, 8:45 a.m., anyone welcome to attend