



MATURANGO NEWS

Death Valley Tourist Center • Northern Mojave Visitor Center

100 E. Las Flores Ave. • Ridgecrest, CA 93555

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www.maturango.org

Museum Director's Notes

By Debbie Benson, Director

I am so very grateful for the fun and profitable fundraising dinner auction. We had about 125 people attending. Everyone worked so hard to get it done and it was worth it all. Many thanks to all! We had a great time with Steve Morgan as our auctioneer, Ted Lemon and Soundwaves. Farris' delicious catering with special appetizers by Chef Bill Goff, lovely floral arrangements by the Oasis Garden Club and our Docents, Volunteers and Staff who all made it happen. Our biggest thanks go to Milt and all of the people who donated the items for the auction and all of the bidders who made it all such a great fundraiser for the Museum.

Fran Rogers and Milt Burford looking very pleased.



A huge, grand, and very big **Thank You** to all who donated and bid on items in the auction.

We raised over \$ 25,000 !!!

We had a successful Open Studio Tour opening reception in the Coso Room. Though there is still work to be done, it was great to see the room being used. For both the auction and the reception we had many complements on the quality of food that we serve. It helps! People were very receptive to the artwork and the new acoustic wall panels and lighting. We also had the pleasure of a little more elbow room with a crowd.

We have turned in a packet to the city for Milt Burford's "Cat and Kittens" Petroglyph Median Art. The committee approved it and we did get a certain amount of publicity for being the first project to complete the Caltrans packet and put it forward for review. This is a part of the "branding" of Ridgecrest and reflects on many of the educational efforts that the Museum promotes.

Nora Nuckles, Bev Hill and Dr. Sarah King are working on the education program for many local 8th grade students that will be held October 30 and should reach 400 students. There are many people who will donate their time and energy to make this a positive source of information for students.

The Museum is a busy place and we always welcome new members and friends!

2015 Petroglyph Festival Nov. 6 - 8

Little Petroglyph Canyon Tour -- Native American rock art dating back 10,000 years

Inter-Tribal Pow Wow

Balsam Street Fair

An educational lecture series

Gem and Mineral Show at the Fairgrounds

www.rpfestival.com

Little Petroglyph Canyon Tour

Canyon tour tickets for the festival weekend can only be purchased through shop.maturango.org

Docent Doings

By Nora Nuckles, Education Coordinator

The Museum extends a huge thank you to Judy Breitenstein for her excellent presentations she gave to 100 9th graders from Oakwood High School. Linda Saholt arranged for Petroglyph tours for all the students. Half went each day. Those who stayed behind heard an Ethnobotany presentation by Judy. The presentation focused on Native Americans' uses of plants. Judy was complimented by the school for her impressive knowledge and delivery of the information. Many 9th graders followed up with some intriguing questions. Sandy Rogers later took those same students to Ayers Rock where they learned to throw atlatls.

In September we gave a total of 19 programs to about 520 people. Charlotte Goodson and the Children's Hour crew presented "Insects," at the September Children's Hour and "Bats" at the October Children's Hour. Check on our website for the next exciting Children's Hour! We have been busy in October with our Bat presentations. The docents were joined on Free Saturday by Linda Saholt, our Petroglyph tour coordinator, and MacKenzie Spoons, one of our Junior docents. Shirley Crouse and Bev Hill, two master docents, brought out all our bat specimens. What a wonderful way to dispel the myths about bats!

Dr. King, Bev Hill and I are quite busy planning the instruction for the 8th graders for the Petroglyph education day on October 30. 400 Sierra Sands 8th graders will attend at various sites around Ridgecrest. It's "all hands on deck" for that Friday morning from 10-12.

Our field trip this month was to the curation facility on base. Mike Baskerville, archaeologist for the base, showed us many items in the collection and helped us to understand the catalog procedures as well as the many special archaeological areas there are on base. Next month Hector Villalobos, former Ridgecrest office BLM director, will take us on a local geology tour.

We always welcome people to our docent meetings on the first Tuesday of each month. Join us on Nov. 2 at 8:45 am for snacks, 9:00 am for the meeting. Please call me if you have any questions!



Mark your calendars for the
Annual Volunteer Appreciation Lunch

All volunteers are welcome to join us.

Staff members provide the lunch and we all get to visit.

Monday, December 7 11:30 am

Atlatl Exhibit in El Paso Gallery



The archaeology exhibit in the El Paso gallery (the old "North Gallery") has been changed to present a museum-quality replica of an atlatl and its dart. The atlatl replicates the "Nicholarson Cave" atlatl from western Nevada; the original was recovered from below a stratum dated to 7,960 BP. The dart is an authentic replica of a local design, with an obsidian Elko point, wood foreshaft, cane mainshaft, and feather fletching. The atlatl works very well – our summer interns (and Sandy) used it to throw darts great distances! Next time you're in the museum, stop by and look at these ancient hunting tools donated by Sandy and Fran Rogers.

Sandy watching Kirsten throw a dart with the atlatl. Note how the dart is actually bending from the force of the momentum.



Museum Interns Rock !

During the summer of 2015 the Museum was fortunate to have five outstanding interns working on the archaeological collections. Kirsten Carroll and Emma Dauplaise graduated in June from Cerro Coso, and are now at the University of California, Santa Cruz, majoring in anthropology. Kara Jones also graduated from Cerro Coso in June, and will be attending the California State University, Humboldt, in the winter quarter, to major in physical anthropology. Daisy Zajicek still has a year to go at Cerro Coso, and hopes to attend Santa Cruz next fall in anthropology. Sarah Izzi is a graduate student at the California State University, Chico, majoring in anthropology with a museum studies focus. The internships were funded by a contract from the Bureau of Land Management.

During the spring we had determined that 78 of the collections needed to be re-cataloged, since they were old and had not been cataloged to modern standards and nomenclature. The interns took on this task. Each artifact was removed from its prior packaging, examined, evaluated by modern standards, compared to the classification taxonomy, entered into the data base, and placed in an archival polyethylene bag along with a tag giving collection number, accession number, and catalog number. Completed collections were grouped in archival packaging, labeled with archaeological collection number and accession number, and stored in labeled boxes whose locations are indexed in the data base.



Their efforts were a great success. By the end of the summer they had reanalyzed and cataloged a total of 63 collections, encompassing some 11,241 artifacts. We still have 15 collections to go, but the bulk of the work is done. In addition, the interns learned a lot about archaeological artifacts and about managing collections. We thank them for their hard work, and will miss their happy voices and enthusiasm.

Interns on a field trip to Fossil Falls. Left to right: Kara Jones, Emma Dauplaise, Daisy Zajicek, Kirsten Carroll, Sarah Izzi

Concert Series

by Fran Rogers

As the opener for the 2015-2016 Maturango Museum's concert series, Fiddlin' Pete Watercott will perform a concert in the new Coso Gallery on Friday, November 20, 2015 at 7:30 pm. Seats are abundant, but it is still best to purchase tickets early. Tickets are available on line or in the museum store. The price is \$12 per adult and \$5 per child 12 and younger.

Fiddlin' Pete has been playing his own brand of high energy, traditionally based, Western Folk music for over thirty years. Picking the mandolin or guitar, singing original compositions or traditional favorites, and of course, sawing the fiddle, Fiddlin' Pete has performed in concerts in communities all across America.

It was Pete's love of the West and the people living here that led him to settle on the western rim of the Great Basin. Fiddlin' Pete has become a popular entertainer through-out California and Nevada, playing at festivals, county fairs, schools, churches, dance halls, ranch gatherings, and for the outfitters who pack stock into and around the Sierra Nevada wilderness.



Pete will be performing with his long time friend and guitarist, Neil Gelvin. The show will feature original songs, traditional folk songs and western classics, with some hot fiddle tunes thrown in to spice things up. Pete and Neil performed in the concert series in September 2013 to a lively crowd. Please welcome them back!

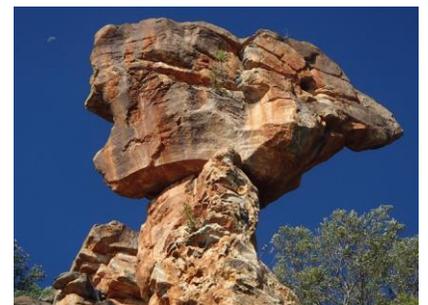
Australia's Ultimate Outback – “The Kimberley” Lecture by Janet Westbrook

Sunday, November 15, 3 p.m.

The rugged NW section of the island of Australia is known as The Kimberley region. It's an ancient craton that has been mostly undisturbed during all the continental drifts, so layers in most places are still horizontal. It's very dry -- few rivers and one man-made lake. There are few roads, but it can be explored more easily by air and by sea. There are lots of iron-stained red sandstone rocks, Boab trees (same as Africa's Baobab), huge cattle stations (ranches), Aboriginal people and their pictograph 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 in the mangrove swamps, more crocodiles, amazing rock formations, diamond mines, many Osprey, shy Rock wallabies, rare dugongs, and



more crocodiles Enjoy the Kimberley from Darwin to Broome, Australia with National Geographic/Lindblad Expeditions ship *Orion* trip in July with Janet Westbrook.



Recent Donations

Sheila and Bob Rockwell in memory of Betty Ming

Donations

Barbara Auld – Auction donation in memory of Howard Auld

D. V. Charles – Carroll Evans Handyman Fund
Mrs. John Cox

Dr. Don Buchanan – in honor of Sandy and Hector for their presentations

Jean Lagarde

Anthony and Dorilee Magliari – Art Gallery in memory of Pat Miller

Mr. and Mrs. James Manion

Teresa Pastor

Barbara Porter

Craig and Carol Porter

Ed and Tina Rockdale

Ed Royce

Building Fund

Bea and Lloyd Smith

Robert Westbrook

New Members

Gregg and Dana Bingham

Michael Gilbert

Alice Jordan

David “Milo” Milam

Diana Pearson

Lori Powell

Open Studio Tour Artists' Exhibit



Each artist has a few pieces of their artwork on display and for sale. The exhibit's last day is 8 November (note that this is a new date from previously advertised). 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.

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.



Elvira Dayel -- "Drawing"

Reception: Saturday, December 5, 2015 at 3 p.m.

Exhibit: Saturday Dec 5 -- January 26, 2016

"A Ukrainian native, I am currently based in San Francisco Bay Area. I work in series of large abstract works of drawings done in soft/dry pastel on paper. My work may be described as conceptually surreal influenced by modern architecture / spacial organization, design & thought of what occupied spaces should be and how they ought to function. In my work I reference the 20th century Russian avant-garde, the Constructivism and Suprematism, as well as such early modernists as Matisse, specifically his "cut-outs". I'd like to think of my work as having its own original XXI century voice.

Trained as an artist & an architect, I also work in new media including digital rendering (surface & space visualization) and 3d-printing. My work is interwoven and interconnected between and within the media I use. Using strong, carefully considered color and bold geometric form, I frequently incorporate depictions of the female archetype. The female figure is often placed alone in an invented landscape; color and line announce her presence. Her voice, her presence, are loud, vivid, red.

I see myself as a minimalist using only as much as needed to convey an idea. The color I use carries its own vision. Invented landscapes are new realities, they are constructs. They provide a vision for an abstracted notion of a place and space. In my work the landscape is deconstructed and re-imagined as a new notion. My work is my metaphor for searching, and my landscapes & invented places implicate the presence of the unknown. Creating sculpture begins in the same way as my drawings, as a conceptual idea evolves, I begin the process of the sculpture either in a 3D program or by hand sketching. There is a deeper relationship between the works of pastel on paper and sculpture that is intriguing to me. Both are rooted in the same thinking and begin as powder: the powder compressed as chalk for the works on paper, and the powder in the 3D printing process assembled into a new material and shape."

Artist website: www.elvira-artist.com



Open Studio Tour Weekend

Another successful and fun tour – weekend sales totaled more than \$13,000.



Betty Spindler



DeeDee Reese



Mike Mumford

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

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Fran Rogers, Concerts
Paula Herr, Docent League
Dan Burnett, Finance
Sandy Rogers, Lectures
Liz Babcock, Publications
Bob Westbrook, Strategic Planning
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Tax Time Services
TJ Frisbee Bicycles, Inc.
TOSS
Union Bank
WACOM
Warren's Automotive



Regularly Scheduled Meetings

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

Calendar of Events

Ridgecrest Petroglyph Festival : Nov 6 – 8 (see article on first page)

Open Studio Tour Artists' Exhibit : through Sunday 8 November

Children's Hour : Friday Nov 13 : 10:30 am

Free Saturday : Nov 14

Australia's Ultimate Outback – “The Kimberley” Lecture by Janet Westbrook : Sunday Nov 15, 3 pm

Fiddlin' Pete Concert : Friday Nov 20, 7:30 pm

Art Galley Opening Reception : Elvira Dayel “Drawings” : Sat Dec 5, 3 pm

For daily updates on available Petroglyph Tour dates see

www.maturango.org/petroglyph-tours/



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