



Maturango News

Maturango Museum: Preserve, interpret and develop an appreciation for the natural and cultural history of the Northern Mojave Desert.

100 E. Las Flores Ave. • Ridgecrest, CA 93555
760.375.6900 www.maturango.org

Death Valley Tourist Center Northern Mojave Visitor Center

Museum Director's Notes

By Debbie Benson, Director

This is our annual passage from one year into the next. As we adjust to writing 2017 we also transition our thoughts to the changes that each New Year brings. As a child I can remember writing my New Year's resolutions on scraps of paper with my older sisters reminding me not to tell what they were or they may not come true. We would toss them into the fire and our hopes would rise like the smoke. I can honestly say that as a child I understood nothing about what it meant to have a resolution. I did not know that when you resolve to be a better person or to make a change it takes more than a wish and some words on paper. It takes work and tenacity and a belief in what you want for the future. I have found that each New Year does not give us more resolve; it just gives us a tangible date to focus on what we want to do and to look back on what we have done in the last year.

Here at the Maturango Museum, there have been so many things done and accomplished by the people who work here and donate so much of their time, support and energy to the Museum and to our community that my initial resolve is to say a most sincere Thank You! You make a difference. Thank you for everything you do and a Happy New Year to you ALL !

Saturday February 25, 2017 will be our Annual Meeting here at the Maturango Museum.

Natural History Curator News

By Sherry Brubaker

Shouting out a **big 'Thank You'** to the folks who have already sponsored a critter. There are many more who need a sponsor. This whiptail lizard is looking for a sponsor. Contact me at the museum for more information: Sherry@maturango.org



'Tis the season we share with others good will and fellowship but don't forget our wild friends too. Now is a good time to make sure that water sources are ice free, and bird feeders are full. You might even take the time to give the feeders a good scrubbing. If you put out orange slices or peanut butter, throw them away after a day or two because they go sour.

Happy New Year to all!

Beverly Atkins, 75, of Ridgecrest, California passed away on November 19th in Ridgecrest, CA. She is survived by her husband of 51 years, Ronald Atkins, son Tom Atkins, daughter Andrea Atkins, two grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Beverly was active in WACOM, the Page Turners book club, and was a long time member and supporter of the Maturango Museum. She, together with Ron, led museum tours to the Petroglyphs and was active in the garden committee, building committee, and museum board.

Beverly had a gift for art, and her talents were showcased on canvas, in sewing, in her meticulously decorated home interior, and in the landscape design around the family acreage. She loved gourmet food and wine and could effortlessly plan and host a celebratory event with perfection and grace.

Beverly was a loving, loyal wife and mother. She was a classy and special lady, gentle and warm, upbeat, vivacious, and vibrant. A gracious and beautiful woman, she brought smiles, laughter and happiness to all.

Donations may be given to the Maturango Museum in honor of Beverly Atkins.



John Aydelotte's Photography – "Bristlecone: A Living History" Opening Reception : Friday 6 January 2017, 7 pm

An exploration of the ancients of the Bristlecone Pines and their environment in black and white photography and color images (abstracts) of the wood and colored fungus. All images will be of archival prints on aluminum. Printing on metal is a new art medium that preserves photos by infusing dyes directly into specially coated aluminum sheets. The images seem to glow with luminescence.



Referring to the subject matter, John says, "I was inspired at first sight of the Bristlecone Pine forest. The trees were magnificent and I was hooked in total awe of the forest and individual trees. I imaged with the final image in mind each time working and looking forward to the next image. I knew that the black and white seemed to fit the larger images but I also knew the abstracts needed to be in color. Two trips were made and the processing took weeks. Some images were processed several times to get the look and feel of my original visualization."

"I am a self-taught imager but along the way attended an adult school of photography. I made my living for over 35 years shooting commercial photography and retired in late 2014. I was a member of the Professional Photographers of America and attended many seminars and classes as well as participated as lecturer and participated in many print competitions. I love imaging and feel very at ease with the camera as my artistic tool to record light. I enjoy the whole process including composition and exploration of a subject and digital processing for the finishing."

This exhibit will be at the Maturango Museum until 27 February 2017.

Julianne Black Art Exhibit : “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. Large items have been marked down in price. New items added. Lots of artwork still available. This exhibit runs until Jan 3, 2017.



“Out and About Indian Wells Valley”

Opening and Reception Saturday, January 21th, 2017 at 7pm

Local wildlife, wildflowers and dramatic weather and sunset scenes will be featured in the Sylvia Winslow Gallery. Six local photographers, John Burmeister, Irene and West Katzenstein, Raymond Kelso, Dave Kurdeka, and Nick Panzer have pulled together some of their



best photographs for this exhibit. The photographs are grouped into 5 different categories. The largest group consists of 15 animal photographs, followed by 12 wildflower photographs, 9 storm photographs, 7 cloud photographs and 4 sunset photographs. All are unique and capture the beauty of the Indian Wells Valley’s natural environment through the lens of these photographers.

Childrens’ Hour : Friday 13 January : 10:30 am : “Winter – What is going on in the desert”

Docent Doings

By Nora Nuckles

“Where is Mr. Bob?” asked a disappointed student at one of the art presentations, Mr. Bob is Bob Parker who can be spotted at 95% of our presentations in a month! Needless to say, he is quite popular with the students. Bob is knowledgeable about most of our docent programs, talented in art, and lots of fun. Bob is a wonderful asset to the Docent League. I enjoy presenting programs with Bob because he contributes lots of knowledge in a relaxed manner and has a great sense of humor. An added bonus is that Bob is married to Sue who is also an excellent docent, willing to participate in all areas of the docent program. She is a key player in Children’s Hour. I am so lucky that Bob and Sue Parker are such devoted docents who bail me out very often when I need help with programs.

The docents presented 7 art programs in November and 6 in December. Carol Dezellem and Cam Alden keep the art presentations going and hang the students’ art work in the Museum near the Discovery Area. Don’t miss viewing the creative work from the students.

We presented about 20 other programs in November to approximately 500 people. These programs included tours in the Museum and special atlatl lessons provided by Don Crouse and Bob Parker. Our requests for December are fewer so we get a slight breather before 2017 brings us many requests for programs.

We recently hosted a tour for 20 adults and children from the Owens Valley Career Development Center. They sang a Paiute song for us and we exchanged information about the Local Native American presentation the docents use. What a fun time! One of the women shared that she had tasted the Pandora moth larvae that were cooked. She said they tasted like nuts to her.

At our December meeting, docents voted to purchase two freeze-dried specimens that our Natural History Curator, Sherry Brubaker, offered us. We now have a mourning dove and a small red racer to add to the docent collection. Recent donations to the docent fund made it possible for us to purchase these. We thank everyone for their support!

If you are interested in checking out the docents, join us at our Jan. 10 meeting at the Museum at 8:45 am or contact me at matmus7@maturango.org

Hidden Musical Treasures : “The Teachers Perform”

The High Desert Music Teachers Association (HDMTA) will present their annual concert in the Coso Gallery on Friday, January 27th, 2017 at 7:00 pm.

HDMTA is an organization of private music teachers in the Indian Wells Valley that sponsor, for their students, concerts and recitals, both solo and ensemble, throughout the year.

The concert, entitled “*Hidden Musical Treasures*,” will be in honor of long-time HDMTA member Doris Bullock. Doris was one of the founding members of the association and acting president of the group several times over the years. She was known by her friends and the community to be a kind, generous, lovely person, who contributed greatly to the music scene and community as a whole.

The performing musicians will include Jordan Covert (guitar), Cathy Douglas (piano), Gary Fry (clarinet), Clare Hatter (violin), David Hodgson (baritone), Melanie McDonald (piano), Anna Schaad Montgomery (violin), Joanne Newton (flute), Lee Alan Nolan (piano), Laura Olinger (cello), Mary Lee Thomas (soprano), and Debra Veit (flute).

The music will be sure to delight listeners with an eclectic mix of classic and contemporary composers, drawing upon the talents and creativity of this very special group of music teachers we are blessed to have in the Ridgecrest community. It will be a delightful evening and we encourage you to attend!

Tickets are available and can be purchased now in the museum store or through the museum’s on-line store. shop.maturango.org Ticket prices are \$12 general admission and \$5 for children 12 years and younger.



Photo: some of the participating members of HDMTA
L-R: Cathy Douglas, Debra Veit, Anna Schaad Montgomery, Joanne Newton, Melanie McDonald, Jordan Covert, Gary Fry

Donations and New Members as of December

Donations

Beth and Frank Armogida
Howard and Barbara Auld Family
Emily Casabian
Leroy Corlett
Fred and Irene Dodson
Wesley Elmore
E. Norman and Suzanne George
Dorothy Saitz

Taxidermy Fund

Philip Archibald
Tine Brouwer
Nora Nuckles – in honor of Sherry Brubaker

Point of Sale Upgrade

Kathy Berkeley
Thomas Boggs

Art Gallery Fund

Dick and Gerry Wisdom

Building Fun

Casey Stoner
Robert Westbrook

New Members

Eva Bien
Zanya and Joe Biviano
Maria Morris Burke
Emily Casabian
Kevin and Ann M. Clark
Tom and Michelle Duncan
Rolf Orin Gilbertson
Arold Green
Jeff and Linda Grossman
Kristy McLaughlin
Klaus and Vera Shadow
Virginia Soldatis
Michael Thompson
Vic and Missy Walkling

Maturango Museum of the IWV

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

Open every day (except major holidays)

10 am - 5 pm

Staff

Debbie Benson, Museum Director
Maureen Goff, Store Manager/Buyer
Sandy Rogers, Archaeology Curator
Elaine Wiley, History Curator
Sherry Brubaker, Natural History Curator
Julie Stephens, Finance Manager
Fran Van Valkenburgh, Membership
Andrea Pelch, Art Gallery Coordinator
Joann Barbee, Assistant Bookkeeper
Nora Nuckles, Education Coordinator
Linda Saholt, Petroglyph Tour Coord.
Sam Stephens, Museum Assistant
Deanna Stewart, Museum Assistant
Sue Gilbert, Museum Assistant
Nora Nuckles, Museum Assistant
Nick Rogers, Museum Assistant
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Fran Rogers, Concerts
Bev Hill, Docent League
Dan Burnett, Finance
Sandy Rogers, Lectures
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The Swap Sheet
Tax Time Services
TJ Frisbee Bicycles, Inc.
TOSS
WACOM
Warren's Automotive



Regularly Scheduled Meetings

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

Major Maturango Mojo



Bob Westbrook and Peter Wiley installing one of the new windows in the annex.

Dan Burnett joins them to put in the new door in the annex.



Mary Ellen Ogren and Deane Campbell enjoying the festivities during the Volunteer Appreciation Lunch.



Pizza Factory Fundraiser : all day Thursday 19 January : 30% of your purchase is donated to the Maturango Museum.

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