



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

July is hot. It brings back memories of fireworks and sparklers, food and fun, freshly cut grass and time spent with friends and family. Times have changed a bit and I no longer support a lawn either at home or at the Museum. It's much more interesting having a habitat for the desert iguana, the whiptail and the ever active antelope ground squirrels than worrying about the status of weeds and bugs and hungry rabbits. I do still have weeds, bugs and rabbits but they are not interfering with the integrity of those summer lawns. Clearing out any weeds is an opportunity for a friendly work party rather than the alternatives! Our June work party may have been the last big push before the heat makes it impossible through the rest of summer!

As the weather gets hotter, if you need a place to come, sit down, and cool off, put the Museum on your list. We are open 10-5 every day but the 4th of July! Please stay hydrated and don't overheat! We have been testing microfiber towels with just a bit of water and find that they do work remarkably well for rapid cooling. They are easy to purchase and we will be adding some to our First Aid kits!



We get many phone calls about our Petroglyph Tours during the Summer. We only give the tours in the Spring and Fall due to weather. This year by the first part of June there was already a heat concern. We hope to have our Fall dates posted on our website, www.maturango.org by the first part of August. In the meantime our website has information and our Gift Shop and online shop have a great deal of reading material about the petroglyphs and our local area.

We are starting the plans for our Fall Fundraising Dinner Auction! If you have something wonderful and marvelous to donate please let me know! We have such a good time putting together our auction items and have even more fun at the event itself!

Annual Fundraising Dinner / Auction

Get Ready – Planning Committee Volunteers Needed

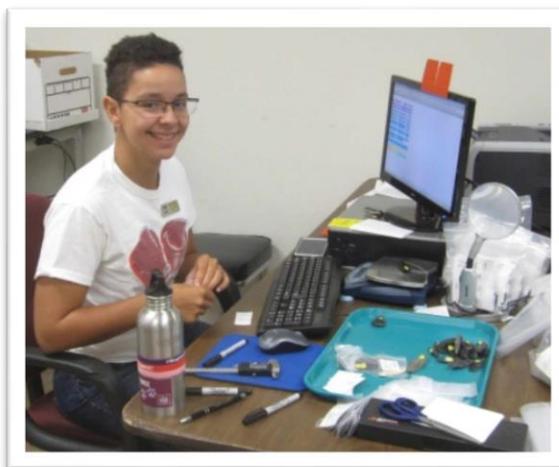
Get Set – Event Volunteers Needed

Bid! – Saturday, September 30, 2017

Contact Debbie at debbie@maturango.org

Summer Interns

Summer is here, and once again we are very fortunate to have college students working as interns at the museum. We are happy to have Cloe Medrano in Natural History and Museum studies, Katie McClain in History and seven Interns in Archaeology. They are working on cataloging our collections, which involves examining each collection artifact by artifact, classifying the artifact by a standard taxonomy, entering data into an electronic catalog, and placing the artifact in archival-quality packaging. This provides a valuable service for the Museum, and a learning experience for the interns. Of the seven archaeology interns, three are funded by the generous donations of museum members, two by the BLM, and two are volunteers. The History and Natural History interns were funded by generous donations.

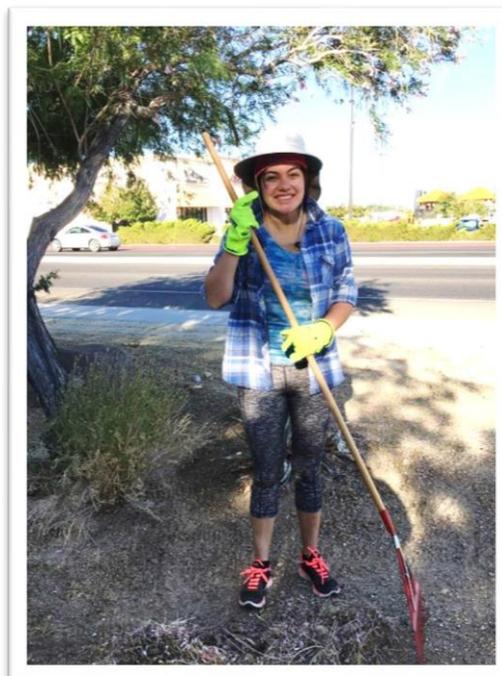


Kara Jones and Daisy Zajicek are working here for a third summer. Kara has graduated from Cerro Coso and has completed her junior year at California State University, Bakersfield, majoring in anthropology. She presented a poster at the Society for California Archaeology last March, on the

research potential of collections at the Maturango Museum. Kara is working on cataloging the Borden collection, which will support her senior thesis next year. Daisy will be graduating from Cerro Coso next spring, and also plans on majoring in anthropology at Bakersfield. Inda Alexander and Carol Blair are here for their second summer. Inda is a student at Cerro Coso and has worked as an



archaeology volunteer for the BLM; she plans on pursuing university studies following graduation. Carol will graduate from Cerro Coso next spring and plans to pursue a career in Egyptology. Daisy, Carol, and Inda are cataloging a major collection from the BLM in Bishop. Emma Dauplaise will be working with Kara on the Borden collection, and Levi Bayer will be working on the BLM collection. Kirsten Carroll will be doing a special analysis of bifaces from the "Ayer's Rock" collection, from southern Inyo County. Emma and Kirsten have completed their BA degrees in anthropology at UC Santa Cruz, while Levi still has a year to go at UC Irvine.



We welcome these enthusiastic interns to the museum. Please greet them when you see them around the museum campus!

Docent Doings

By Nora Nuckles, Education Coordinator



You probably noticed there was no Docent Doings in the last newsletter. Good news is that the docents are still going strong and were so busy that I never got the article written! May is our most requested month for tours to the Museum. It is frequently a bit too warm but it also reminds kids and parents that the Museum is a great place to go in the summer. With tours and other programs docents presented to about 1430 adults and children in May!

Some of the preschoolers and kindergarten students are particularly fun because their comments are hilarious. One of the young visitors told Bob, the tortoise guy, that she thought the baby tortoise was so cute she would like to marry it! I think she was just kidding Bob. A challenge for us is to answer the question,

“Are those real?” when it comes to viewing the specimens in the exhibit room. The answer is always, “Yes, they are real but no longer alive. They died accidentally somewhere. The Museum never kills animals to obtain specimens.” Those sentences may be repeated many, many times during a school outing to the Museum. We will offer a few more tours in June to children attending Moving on Up on the base. Then we take a hiatus for July and August.

Bob Parker presented “Tortoises” for the first of our Museum programs for Hi Desert Haven. We are supporting Babs O’Neal’s plan for Thursday afternoon programs for Hi Desert Haven. The docents will present on the first Thursday of each month. Call Babs if you have a short program to present. The seniors enjoyed the live tortoises, asked many questions, and shared their many experiences with desert tortoises.



Betty Spindler, Elaine Wiley, Penny LePome, Cloe (our new Natural History Curator intern) and I presented an art activity on using lines to the Ridgecrest Library for the summer reading program. We had our summer school classes from June 12-15 We did several activities on animal study including making cardboard backbones, clay birds, painting wooden snakes and lizards, and creating habitats. Mike and Paula Herr presented “Celestial Navigation” in the Beth Armogida Planetarium and Don and Shirley Crouse taught Orienteering outside on the Museum grounds. Registration was through the city of

Ridgecrest Parks and Recreation. The Docents put together some great programs. I knew everyone’s work paid off when one of the children let it be known that he had finally met “his people”. That was the best outcome!

As you can see many docents participate to make these activities happen. For a class of 32 children it is so wonderful to have at least 6 docents to lead groups. Then children can have conversations about what they see, ask questions, and often enlighten or delight us! It is a gift to be a docent. Please contact me at the Museum if you are interested in being a docent.

Jerry Bradley : “Forms From Within – Revisited”

Opening Reception : Friday, 7 July, 7 pm



Jerry’s presentation at the opening reception will revisit his 2007 exhibit “Forms from Within.” This new 2017 exhibit will build on his previous work with new technologies, and a broader variety of media. Since 2007 he has created over 300 new pieces of art. Each of those pieces has influenced his design and fabrication techniques and further skills. In addition they have further defined his style. “Hopefully, visitors to this exhibit will appreciate seeing how my art has evolved over the past ten years.”



“My work is usually one-of-a-kind sculptures, made from durable materials, constructed with precision, and finished with care. I use computer-based tools to assist in the design and rough shaping of each design, which is often assembled from several pieces of exotic hardwoods, stone, metal, or other materials such as Corian or glass. Most pieces are decorative bowls or vessels that tend to have flowing, almost fluid, shapes that imitate blown glass. I also create translucent photographic “light sculptures” called lithophanes, kinetic sculptures, and Coso rock art figures transformed from 2D to 3D. Recently, I have begun incorporating hand-worked and flame-painted copper into my pieces, ranging from subtle accents to pieces composed entirely of copper. I am also exploring and incorporating 3D printing and Lichtenberg figures burnt into wood surfaces with 12000 volts of electricity. As a contrast to my precisely designed and engineered objects, I am doing some freeform carving where the form of the object evolves as I cut away material by hand.”

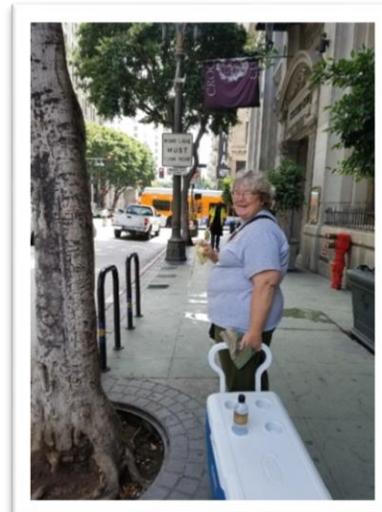
“Forms From Within – Revisited” will be in the Coso Room until August 30.



Natural History News

By Sherry Brubaker

With the help of adventuresome Nora Nuckles, I took four birds to a taxidermist. Downtown Los Angeles no less. The studio is in one of the old warehouses converted into office buildings. One does have to walk down the street with an ice chest, not quite a fit with those with shopping carts. It is a fourth floor office with a terrible view of another similar building with a work space not much bigger than our Coso Room. We left our four birds: Cormorant, Turkey Vulture, Bufflehead, and ruddy duck, in the capable hands of the taxidermist. Just a note, Miss Allis placed 3rd overall in a world taxidermy competition. We are looking forward to seeing our prepared birds returned later in the year. I have had a request from Miss Allis to find a roadrunner (in excellent shape) for a project she is working on.



I am now working on getting a number of snakes and lizards out of the freezer, these critters will go to another taxidermist. There are still a number of critters who need sponsors, a gopher snake arrived a bit ago, and there is a kit fox and a couple of jack rabbits plus more birds. Contact me at the museum for more information. If you are a person who has brought in specimens we do not need Cooper's hawks, vultures, or kangaroo rats. If you need said critters disposed of I will take care of that otherwise please return to the earth.

Donations and New Members as of July

Donations

Tine Brouwer
Robert and Alice Campbell
Dolores Di Pol
Jeffrey Ihnen
Linda and Richard Klabunde
Jenny McLaughlin
Gregg Oelker
Joe Pakulak – in memory of Jack M. Pakulak
Joni Pentony
Sandy & Fran Rogers – Book for Museum Library
Jim Wangemann

In Memory of Bev Atkins

Robert and Alice Campbell

In memory of Jim Gregory

Ron Atkins
Thom Boggs
Robert and Alice Campbell
Vicki Siegel

Portable Stage

Dennis Burge
Joe and Carol McKenzie

History Curator Fund

Nick Panzer

Art Gallery

Andrea Pelch – in honor of Mark Pahuta
Nick Panzer – Coso Room Gallery and Sylvia Winslow Gallery

Student Anthropology Program

Ron Atkins
Sarah King
Sandy and Fran Rogers
Sandy and Fran Rogers – 4 sets of metric dial calipers

Eagle Scout Projects

Kelly and Heather Borden
Ed and Fran Van Valkenburgh

New Members

Rosemary Bailey
Lincoln Gaceta
Heidi Hayes
Nick Panzer
Kerrie Patrick
Bridget Razo
Laurita Walters

Summer Field Trip with Naturalist Janet Westbrook Saturday, July 29

Summer in the Sierra, only an hour from Ridgecrest! The meadows on the Kern Plateau above Kennedy Meadows will be full of flowers, green trees, babbling creeks, birds and maybe even bears! \$30 per person or \$50 for 2 people. Maturango Museum members receive an additional \$5 off per member. Families are encouraged. There is a \$5 parking fee per car at the trail head.

At 8:00 a.m. meet at the Museum for check in; participants will be required to sign liability waiver. Car caravan will be organized and carpools encouraged. Up to 200 miles RT driving from Ridgecrest. Please make sure your vehicle is in good shape and you have a full tank of gas!

The Kern Plateau is unique in the Sierra, a relatively flat area with over 30 green meadows, most of which were never lakes; they formed as meadows in low lying areas. The rich soils make for tall grasses and an abundance of plants. This summer each meadow will have a running stream and maybe frogs!

We'll head up 9 Mile Canyon road to the Kennedy Meadows area and then go up another thousand feet to the higher meadows; exactly where depends upon where the best flowers are, (I'll scout just before this trip) but probably Troy, Powell, Granite Knob, Paloma, Bonita, maybe Osa. In doing so, we'll be passing the 2015 Chimney Peak Fire, the 2000 Manter fire area and the 2002 McNally fire area and can observe regeneration going on. We'll be able to learn maybe a dozen types of trees and bushes, and see hundreds of pretty flowers, catch frogs, and just enjoy being where it's cool. We'll wind up on Sherman Pass, 9200 ft. It's a different trip every year - that's the fun of it and this year has been exceptional!



Bring a picnic lunch and a folding chair. We'll find a pretty place for lunch, possibly at the Blackrock USFS Info station. Bring water and drinks and snacks for the day as there are no eating facilities once we pass the Kennedy Meadows General Store. Just in case, bring a rain jacket... We'll be back to Ridgecrest in time for dinner, or you can go "over the top" and down to Kernville for dinner. Sherman Pass is exactly $\frac{1}{2}$ way to Ridgecrest whichever way you want to go - 90 miles. You can go back the way we came, or down through Kernville.

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
Andrea Pelch, Newsletter Editor

Committee Chairpersons

Dan Burnett, Building
Fran Rogers, Concerts
Bev Hill, Docent League
Dan Burnett, Finance
Sandy Rogers, Lectures
Elaine Wiley, Publications
Bob Westbrook, Strategic Planning
Mike Brown, Webmaster

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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., everyone welcome
- California Turtle and Tortoise Club: 2nd Monday of each month, 7 pm
- Museum Board of Trustees : 3rd Monday of each month, 7 pm

Quick Check Calendar

Jerry Bradley "Forms From Within" Opening Reception : Friday 7 July, 7 pm

Janet Westbrook Summer Field Trip : Saturday 29 July, 8am all day

Pizza Factory Fundraiser : all day Thursday 27 July :
30% of your purchase is donated to the Maturango Museum.

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