

Maturango Museum

Open
Studio
Tour
2017



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

21 and 22 October

Death Valley Tourist Center Northern
Mojave Visitor Center

Museum Director's Notes

By Debbie Benson, Director

September was a month of interesting weather that reminded us that a day of beautiful blue clear skies can end in lightening, thunder, sudden downpours, hail and flash floods. This is beautiful and powerful to watch but has concerns as well. I know we are all concerned for, and aware of, those impacted by the storms throughout the world. It is a good reminder that we should all have a plan in place in the event that we have to leave our homes or cannot leave our workplace. This is something that we can all do on a personal level and can focus on. It does make sense to at least have a survival kit in the car or nearby.

October is full of the excitement of Fall and the many activities Ridgecrest has in store. For the Museum, the Open Studio Tour is one of my personal favorites. I look forward to seeing the talented artists and their work as well as seeing everyone on the Tour! It looks like another good year to go to the different locations and see some ART!

We are getting ready for our part in the Petroglyph Festival. Nora and the docents are an active part of the education component of the Petroglyph Education Foundation which will occur in October. All of the work that they do with Dr. King and her students from Cerro Coso is pretty amazing when you consider the number of 8th grade students throughout the valley who take part in it. They are an amazing group. The Petroglyph Festival will be the weekend of November 4 & 5. We will have Don McCauley as our featured artist in the Coso Room. There will be activities and the speaker's forum Saturday and Sunday at the Museum.

As always, I send a big thank you to each and every one of you who made our auction possible and for your support each and every day. You make a difference to the museum and to the quality of life in Ridgecrest!

Fiddlin' Pete and Neil Gelvin Concert : Friday, October 27, 2017 at 7 pm

As the opener for the 2017-2018 Maturango Museum's concert series, Fiddlin' Pete Watercott will be performing with his long-time friend and guitarist, Neil Gelvin. Tickets are available on-line or in the museum store : \$15 per adult, \$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 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.

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 2015 to a lively crowd. Please welcome them back!

Open Studio Tour 2017

Saturday and Sunday, 21 & 22 October, 10 am – 5 pm each day

The Open Studio Tour is a wonderful way to meet some of our local artists and see the amazing array of talent that we have in our community. Artists in Ridgecrest and Inyokern open their studios for the 2-day event so ticket holders can visit and purchase artwork. Now on sale in museum gift shop, the \$10 ticket includes a map of locations; you and your friends drive around at your convenience during the tour.

Keep checking the newspapers for artist interviews and photographs. We have five new artists on the tour this year; Katherayn Bodewig , Jim Stewart, Marcela Everitt, Loren Lilly and Lauren Zajicek.

The 23 participating artists this year include Sally Adams – mixed media jewelry; Beth Allen – classic western oil paintings; Laura Arns – glass torch-work; Dick Benson – pottery and drawings; Katherayn Bodewig – traditional oil paintings; Nancy Crawford – traditional watercolors; Wendi Ace Elkins! – wire-wrapped jewelry; Marcela Everitt – abstract modern oil and acrylic paintings; Kathy Fields – sculptural and functional ceramics; Birgit Gagliardi – sculptural and functional ceramics; Skip Gorman – metal yard art; Lois Hinman – functional and decorative pottery and oil paintings; Loren Lilly – polymer clay small containers and sculptures; Cheryl McDonald – local landscapes in watercolor, pencil and photography; Mike Mumford – forged steel sculptures; Debbie Newton – traditional pastel, oil and watercolor paintings; Larry Sawyer – glass etching and wood turning; Eileen Shibley – traditional watercolor paintings; Betty Spindler – still life in clay; Jim Stewart – wood scroll-saw décor and lawn ornaments; Julie vonSchlemmer – western country home décor including leather, wood, paints and photos; Donnie Woods – watercolor paintings and dyed silk scarves; and Lauren Zajicek – multiple styles of various objects in graphite, resin, watercolor digital and ceramic media.

Each artist also has their artwork displayed in the Open Studio Tour Artists' Exhibit at the Museum through 27 Oct.

A good way to see each artist's style and artwork to help plan your weekend adventure.

Don McCauley's Exhibit

Opening Reception : Friday 3 November : 7 pm

"An Art Making Process Applied to Public Paintings Inspired by Coso Petroglyphs"

Paintings in this exhibit are inspired by our nearby Paleo Native American Coso petroglyphs found in the Coso Mountains 30 miles north of Ridgecrest. Some petroglyphs are estimated to be 16,000 years old. Dr. Sandy Rogers, Archaeological Curator at the museum, estimates there could be one to two million petroglyphs in the Coso Range.



I am also inspired by desert adventures my children had ... such as Chuckwalla hunting. In the early 1970s we saw a young Native American boy swimming in Little Lake. He was grebe hunting by grabbing the critter by the feet and pulling it beneath the surface.

This exhibit will be at the Museum until 31 December.

Docent Doings

By Nora Nuckles, Education Coordinator

The Docent League of the Maturango Museum is now supporting a program at High Desert Haven called HDH TALKS. Babs O'Neill began this program as a fun and stimulating adventure every Thursday afternoon for the residents at the Haven. We, the docents, bring programs once a month. This summer, Bob and I presented a program on tortoises, and in September we brought our live snake ambassador, Rosie, a rosy boa. We brought other specimens of snakes and lizards from the docent collection as well. As an extra treat Bob Parker brought back the live tortoises, including a Russian tortoise, a leopard tortoise, and a sulcata.

The photo shows Marina Milner, a junior docent, who helped us present the reptile program to the residents. She knew just how to handle Rosie and show her to the residents!

The docents are now busy with programs requested for the Fall, including an 8th grade Petroglyph Education.

We always welcome new, interested people to join us at our monthly meetings on the first Tuesday of each month. Please call Nora Nuckles at the Museum if you would like to see what it is like to be a docent!



Free Saturday Program : 14 October : 11 am – 2 pm Gourd and Pumpkin Decorating

Let's try something different this year. Bring your own gourd or pumpkin and we'll provide a whole bunch of design ideas and supplies.

A few photos of last year's designs...



Children's Hour : Flex Friday, 20 October : 10:30 am Spiders; Spinners of Webs, Catchers of Bugs

Since 2009 enthusiastic docents have developed free monthly programs related to our desert environment and nearby mountains. The children have learned about coyotes, bats, bears, birds - eagles to hummers, reptiles, insects, rocks, wildflowers, nocturnal critters, and hibernation. Keeping the children engaged are stories, puppets, and action songs that get everyone moving and laughing, parents and grands included. On the Discovery Table there are hands-on exhibits of flowers to examine with magnifiers, mounted animals and tracks' models, along with other objects related to the themes. Crafts and coloring pictures allow the kids to participate and go home with their special creations.

Children's Hour is scheduled for the following flex Friday dates: October 20, November 17, and December 15. Information about each program's theme will be posted on the Museum's website; www.maturango.org

Petroglyph Lectures at the Museum

Once again, our archaeology curator Sandy Rogers, will be giving free monthly lectures at the museum during the fall petroglyph tour season. The lectures summarize the cultural and archaeological background of the Coso region, discuss the rock art itself and its interpretation, and resources available at the museum. The lectures are intended to provide background information for petroglyph tour participants, but anyone interested is welcome to attend. The lectures will be in the Coso Room at 7pm on 14 October, 11 November, and 2 December .

**Fall Field Trip : Owens Valley, Olancha to Bishop, with Janet Westbrook
Saturday, 7 October**

Anyone can drive from Ridgecrest to Bishop in 2.5 hours, but do you know all the secret little places you're passing by and why they are what they are? Have you been out ON the lake?

We'll drive a bit of the DWP ring road out on the Owens Lake bed. There are lots of wintering and migrating birds, if no wind the reflections in the shallow flooding ponds are wonderful, and it's a whole new way to look at the Owens Valley from out there! Then Lubkin Canyon Road and Tuttle Creek Road - lovely fall colors to lunch at Portagee Joe campground. Visit the Mt. Whitney Fish Hatchery. Check for Tule Elk. Visit either Black Rock Fish Hatchery or Fish Springs Hatchery. Then to the east side of the Valley, more colors, the Owens River, etc. We'll finish the day up Bishop Creek looking at wonderful gold and red leaves at Aspendell and Lake Sabrina and South Lake. Just a lovely place to be in the fall!! We'll be off Hwy 395 as much as possible.

Bring a picnic lunch and a folding chair; we'll eat at a cute little campground. We plan to be in Bishop about 5 p.m., and it's a long way home from there - so you might want to consider having dinner somewhere on the way home - lots of choices.

Please see our website www.maturango.org for times, costs and details.

**Brush 'n' Blush Fundraiser
Wednesday, 8 November, 2:30 - 5 pm**

Have a great afternoon full of painting, creativity, fun and drinks. You will be working on a featured painting with our amazing local artist Nancy Crawford. She has lived in Ridgecrest for 40 years and has taught a local watercolor class weekly for the last 10 years. Her background and degree in psychology helps to guide students to the art they most prefer. She studied basic art in college, and as many artists do and has studied with many individual professional artists over the last 50 years. Nancy paints many subjects, ranging from local flowers, to classical, to animals, whimsy and landscapes. You will be guided with a step-by-step system that can make an artist out of anyone. Create an original watercolor surrounded by your friends and other budding artists. Walk away with a feeling of accomplishment and maybe even a few new friends.



Reserve your seat at the Maturango Museum for \$50 per person. Your fee will include your supplies, completed "masterpiece" and the "blush wine" as an added incentive; other non-alcoholic beverages and finger food will also be available. Class size is limited to 20 people; join an adventurous group and be surprised by the hidden talent we all have.

Donations and New Members

Donations

Thom Boggs
Ron Atkins
Nancy Vetter
Dan and Brenda Burnett
Dick Johnson
Bob and Shelia Rockwell

Joanna Stauffer
Patricia Wharton
Jody Wilson

Docent Fund
Carol Burge

Student Anthropology Fund
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Lee Anne Zajicek

Building Fund
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Bob and Paula Westbrook

Art Gallery
Leroy and Julie Stayton

Eagle Scout Project
Karla Robert

Steven Green
Barbara Minor
Dawn Placencia
Joseph Shermer

In Memory of Ed Simmons
Doris H. Hammer

New Members
Marcela Everitt

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
Sandy Rogers, Lectures
Elaine Wiley, Publications
Bob Westbrook, Strategic Planning
Mike Brown, Webmaster

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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

Fall Field Trip : Owens Valley, Olancha to Bishop, with Janet Westbrook : Saturday 7 Oct
Free Saturday Program Gourd and Pumpkin Decorating : 14 October : 11 am – 2 pm
Children's Hour : Spiders; Spinners of Webs, Catchers of Bugs : Flex Friday 20 October : 10:30 am
Open Studio Tour Weekend : 21 & 22 October : 10 am – 5 pm each day
Fiddlin' Pete and Neil Gelvin Concert : Friday 27 October : 7 pm
Don McCauley Exhibit "Inspired by Petroglyphs" Opening Reception : Friday 3 November : 7 pm
Brush 'n' Blush Fundraiser : Wednesday, 8 November, 2:15 - 5 pm



Fall Petroglyph Tour dates are posted on our website; www.maturango.org
Petroglyph Tour dates during the Petroglyph Festival 4-5 November posted on
www.Maturango.org/rpfestival

Pizza Factory Fundraiser : all day
Thursday 26 October :
30% of your purchase is donated to the Maturango
Museum.



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