



Detail from "Celebrating Petroglyph Park"  
By Don McCauley

# 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*

I find so much pleasure in just walking around the museum grounds on the crisp and beautiful days of November. I do find the occasional treasure but most of my time is spent looking at the mountains and picking up debris. It is wonderful when I do find something that I view as a treasure amid the blowing trash. Broken dishware was my latest find. Last year's rain and the winds had cleared the surfaces enough to be visible. There was a "Maker's Mark" on the pottery that led me to East Liverpool, Ohio and their history of pottery; the source of this heavy and thick restaurant ware. This reminded me that one of the great resources the Museum and the Historical Society provides is information about our local history. The investigation is half the fun! Just look around our part of the world and you will find a rich resource for seeking history!

Do I say thank you enough for everything that is done to support the Museum? Just in case I don't I'm going to say it again! Thank you!

Our fundraising dinner auction was a great time for 140 people to get together and support the Museum. We made \$25K to operate the Museum from items that were donated by the community and our members. We had a great time seeing some very dear friends and were so glad to meet some new ones.



None of this would happen without the time and energy that was donated by the staff, the docents and our volunteers. I would also like to thank our sponsors for the evening; Ridgecrest Regional Hospital, Anthony and Cynthia Damiano, Marilyn Lemieux, Searles Valley Minerals, Sam Schoenhals, Entron Systems, Desert Valleys FCU, the 4D Art Group and our auctioneer Steve Morgan. The Desert Oasis Garden Club donated their handmade fanciful table centerpieces. You all make a difference.

Thank you to everyone that participates. We have many more events planned for the holidays Hope to see You all then.



We had great fun painting pumpkins with local families.



**Children's Hour : Flex Friday,  
17 November : 10:30 am**

**“The Gingerbread Cowboy - A Desert Fairytale with a Desert Twist.”**

The next date is 15 December. Information about each program's theme will be posted on the Museum's website; [www.maturango.org](http://www.maturango.org)

We also have been working with the Petroglyph Festival for the education component and the Festival weekend.

The Ridgecrest Petroglyph Festival ([www.rpfestival.com](http://www.rpfestival.com)) is the weekend of 3 – 5 Nov. We will be open until 7 pm on Saturday. We are also the location for the Speaker's Forum and will be hosting a flintknapper.

**Don McCauley's Exhibit : “Coso Rock Art Expressions”  
Opening Reception : Friday 3 November : 7 pm**

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.



“Bighorn Sheepdog Training”

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.

Don's exhibit will be at the Museum until 2 January 2018.



## Museums Make Our Communities Better

When you make a purchase in a museum store, you directly support that museum's ability to enrich the culture of your community. The Museum Store Association is proud to bring you **Museum Store Sunday**, an international event inviting holiday shoppers to "Be a Patron" on November 26, 2017. Join us.

"Double Dip Sundays" Members receive a 20% discount on purchases (except blankets) every Sunday in November.

## Would you like to make a donation to a Special Project?

We have two projects in the planning process with completion in sight! Our sidewalk Lighting project and the CLAS domes both need just a little more money to complete. If you would like to donate to either fund just let us know or designate on the donation form which fund you would like to support : Thank You in advance.

## Docent Doings

*By Nora Nuckles, Education Coordinator*

Members of the Docent League held their first two meetings of the school year on Sept. 11 and Oct. 3. We were happy to visit, catch up on summer activities, and sign up for new programs for the fall. We've already had several requests for September and October. Mike Herr presented programs in the Beth Armogida Planetarium at the Museum for the Inspire Charter School group, in Bishop for the Owens Valley Career Development Center, and at the Cerro Coso Star Party. Paula Herr and Susan Prazak assisted for all programs while Bob and Sue Parker, Judy Martin, and I assisted at the Star Party.

Children's Hour, led by Charlotte Goodson, presented the first story and craft time on Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup>. This preschool event is always well attended and lots of fun! The October Children's Hour, "Spiders-Spinners of Webs and Catchers of Bugs" focused on spider stories, songs, and crafts. The November Children's Hour on Nov. 17, at 10:30 AM is titled "The Gingerbread Cowboy - A Desert Fairytale with a Desert Twist." All ages are invited to participate in the fun.

In September, docents presented programs to nearly 450 people. Among the popularly requested programs are art presentations on line, shape, and color. Cam Alden and Carol Dezellem keep these presentations well-organized. Be sure to check out the children's art work in the El Paso Exhibit Room (main exhibit room) of the Museum. Young artists due amazing things!

Maturango Museum docents have also presented programs to the residents of High Desert Haven. Babs O'Neill began a program every Thursday called "High Desert Haven Presents..." in which members of the community are invited to give programs. We have presented programs on tortoises, desert reptiles, birds, and bats. In November we plan to present a program on Native Americans.

Docents voted to purchase molds of a Mojave and a sidewinder rattlesnake. Both of our present specimens are well-used and look a little worse for wear. In particular, the sidewinder is splitting and has no rattles or horns. These specimens have been used with children for at least 10 years. We also approved paying for the preparation of a beautiful dragonfly that was brought in this summer. Sherry Brubaker, our Museum Natural History curator, found a taxidermist who can prepare these specimens for us. By the way, a few of the beautiful bird specimens on display in the Argus gallery belong to the docents.

We are happy to be busy again! The students are always welcoming when the Maturango docents come to the school with carts full of specimens, weather investigations including a Galileo thermometer, or "tons" of rocks and fossils. It is always fun to be about town and have a child greet you with "I know you; you're from the Museum!" Come join us at our next meeting on Nov. 7 at 8:45 AM for snacks and meeting at 9:00 AM. We are fun, interesting people who love to share!

## Petroglyph Lectures at the Museum

Sandy Rogers, our archaeology curator, will be giving free 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 11 November and 2 December.

### 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

Ron Atkins  
Glenda Blackshaw  
Thom Boggs  
John and Suzette Caufield  
Robert and Alice Campbell  
Mark Decker  
Pat Kleinschmidt – in memory of  
    Marc Moulton  
Mr. and Mrs. James Manion  
Ulla M. Miller  
Barbara Porter  
Bea and Lloyd Smith

Nancy Vetter

### Building Fund

Bob and Paula Westbrook

### New Members

Amy and John Alden  
Alice Benton  
Hollie Espinoza  
Richard D. Johnson  
Michael Walker  
Melissa Wallace

## Natural History

*By Sherry Brubaker, Natural History Coordinator*

Eight reptiles were sent off with the taxidermist a few weeks ago. Olivia, the taxidermist, came up to visit our museum as well as pick up the reptiles and lizards to be processed. Olivia is a model maker so the critters we get back will be reproductions and thus last much longer than real specimens. Plans are in the works for revitalizing the current creosotes in the center display.

In the Discovery area, the new display depicts where we are in relation to the rest of the world. Come in to visit and see the maps, a photo, and some explanations.

There is also a small display of moths from the local area.

## 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

### Board of Trustees

Jerry Bradley – President  
Bev Hill – Vice President  
Camille Anderson – Treasurer  
Dianne Dilley – Secretary  
Ron Atkins  
Sue Parker  
Libby Vincent  
Thom Boggs

## Businesses and Organizations Supporters • Contributors • Sponsors

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that support the Maturango Museum

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WACOM  
Warren's Automotive



## Regularly Scheduled Meetings

- China Lake Astronomical Society: 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month, 7 pm
- China Lake Photographic Society: 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month, 7 pm
- Kerncrest Audubon Society: 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday bi-monthly [Jan, Mar, May, Sep, Nov, not July], 7 pm
- Docent League: 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month, 8:45 a.m., everyone welcome
- California Turtle and Tortoise Club: 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month, 7 pm
- Museum Board of Trustees: 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month, 7 pm

**Quick Check Calendar**

Free Saturday Program : : 11 am – 2 pm

Children's Hour : "The Gingerbread Cowboy - A Desert Fairytale with a Desert Twist.": Flex Friday 17 November : 10:30 am

Don McCauley's Exhibit "Coso Rock Art Expressions" 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](http://www.maturango.org)  
Petroglyph Tour dates during the Petroglyph Festival 4-5 November posted on  
[www.Maturango.org/rpfestival](http://www.Maturango.org/rpfestival)

Pizza Factory Fundraiser : all day Thursday 16 November :  
30% of your purchase is donated to the Maturango Museum.



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