

Maturango News

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

Open 10 am – 5 pm Monday – Saturday, Noon – 4pm Sunday 760.375.6900 www.maturango.org
Death Valley Tourist Center Northern Mojave Visitor Center

Museum Director's Notes

Debbie Benson, Museum Director

February, while still making us shiver with the cold winds, brings our first signs of the Spring to come. The green grass growing up through the sands and pavements creates an opportunity for happiness and involvement in the precepts of nature. At the Museum it is good to see the work done to keep our gardens ready for the coming changes in seasons and the possible readiness for growth after our rains.

This month we are also facing changes in which we are not alone. We all, as individuals, are facing higher costs to maintain our home operations. For the Museum it is no different, just on a larger scale. Meeting the needs of our mission and the activities of the Museum means making some changes that are sustainable in the long term. Careful consideration is going into each decision as we are concerned for our long-term goals. I know some changes may not be positive to some, and for that I am apologizing. That this newsletter is the last being sent through bulk mail was not an easy choice. The fact that many readers have adapted to electronic news means an addition to the bottom line with the goal of maintaining a viable budget as well as the environmental impact of these mailings

March 12 at 4p.m. will be Maturango Museum's Annual Meeting. We will be meeting in person at the Museum. After the years of Zoom this is exciting to us all. Next month we will publish more information about this event.

Thank you for your help and support for these many years and your belief in the importance in what we do and contribute to our community. You make all the difference. We hope you will have a chance to take part in some of our activities!

My best to you all.



Make an Old-fashioned Valentine Card Workshop for Adults

Sunday February 12, noon – 3pm

Ahh, remember the good 'ole days when you made your own Valentine cards to give to your friends... think doilies and ribbons and lace. And glue.

We may also try needle felting and pop-ups. All materials will be provided. Of course you can bring your own materials, too.

\$5 suggested donation. Need more info? Write to galleries@maturango.org

Docent Doings

By Nora Nuckles, Education Coordinator

The Docent League of the Maturango Museum will hold its next meeting on Feb. 7 at 10am. We will sign up for Free Saturday programs and other program requests that teachers have given us.

Decorating Mardi Gras masks has been a favorite Free Saturday activity for the last several years. The docents will again provide the materials and masks for this activity on February 11, 11am – 2pm.

Feb 24: Children's Hour 10:30 am: Nocturnal animals, sign up by calling the museum gift shop 760-375-6900. Please give me a call at the Museum if you are interested in the docent program or becoming a member of the Docents of the Maturango Museum!

Are You Interested in Leading a Field Trip??? **Field Trip Guide Meeting**
Friday Feb 3, noon – 3pm

This is a “cold call” for anyone interested in leading a field trip to fun places for the Maturango Museum. Meet in the Winslow Gallery at noon. We’ll talk about how to lead a field trip and what to prepare for the museum’s information and paperwork. We’ll discuss potential places to go and interesting subjects for participants. Possible ideas are Kern River Preserve, Rosemond Cat House, Antelope Valley Indian Museum and Park, Laws Museum (steam train in March!!), Eastern California Museum, Manzanar, Owens Lake...

We can set up tentative dates for Spring field trips.

Also, we’ll cover basic first aid and what the museum’s first aid kits contain.

Field Trip to Manzanar
Friday March 17, 8am

Join Maturango Museum for a day long field trip to Manzanar National Historic Site in Independence CA. Our trip will include a visit to the Park Visitor Center with interpretive exhibits on the WWII internment of Japanese Americans at the Manzanar confinement camp, picnic lunch at the re-created mess hall, followed by an afternoon site tour of Manzanar archeological work by nationally recognized NPS Archeologist Jeff Burton.



Limit 30 participants, all mobility accessible, tour walking options up to 3 miles. Vehicular loop road gives closer access to sites on grounds for those with limited mobility. Cost \$40; includes a donation to Friends of Manzanar. Purchase tickets online at the Maturango website shop.maturango.org/events-trips/ or call the gift shop at 760-375-6900.

Natural History News

By Sherry Brubaker, Natural History Curator

A number of people have asked how to keep the snow geese off their lawn. Well, the short answer is “good luck” - the real answer is “don’t bother”. The geese are here just during the winter months, about November to March. They feed on the grasses, your lawn and any other grassy area, to fatten up for their flight up to the arctic to breed and raise their chicks.

Yes, these birds are messy and sometimes take over roadways. But think of them as providing you with organic fertilizer, the kind you pay \$\$\$ for at Home Depot. Keeping the birds off your lawn is more work than anyone probably wants to undertake. Every time they show up you have to chase them off - every time. They will learn to the point that if you don’t appear to run them off they will stay. I have heard of golf courses using dogs to encourage the geese to leave. The birds do leave especially when they see the dogs. However, when the dogs leave, like at night, the geese come back. Having dogs chase geese here in town is not a good idea since most lawns and grassy areas are near roadways, that alone is hazardous to the geese and the dog.



So in the long run put up with the visitors. Use a broom to sweep the fertilizer onto your plants (using water to wash sidewalks is wasteful). Slow down when the birds are in the roadway – they will move. If you cause the flock to take flight you may have to wash your vehicle after.

Images of the Trona Pinnacles – Photos by Hernan Godoy Argus Gallery through March 6, 2023



Hernan's passion resides in photographing nature and landscapes. Hernan's primary focus is the California Sierra, where he has captured numerous images over two decades. He is constantly seeking the perfect combination of light, color and subject matter to compose a striking image.

He is a self-taught and award-winning photographer. Hernan leads fun and educational photographic workshops in the Eastern Sierra including the great Mojave Desert, and one of his favorite areas, the dramatic Trona Pinnacles. He often provides lectures, serves as a guest speaker and judges photo contests in local photo clubs in the greater southern California area. www.hernangodoyphotography.com

Donations in November 2022

Donations

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Anonymous
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Ken and Leilani Banks
Joanne Barbee
Jim and Linda Bego
Kay Blachly
Peggy Breeden
David and Jo Burdick
Byron and Amy Butler
Dan and Brenda Burnett
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Shelley Crabtree
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Barbara Miras
Sam Mudie
Nadenia Newkirk and
James Allen
Naomi Norris
Nora and Richard Nuckles
Mark Pahuta
Nick Panzer
Joanna Rindt
Donna Rosenthal
Carolyn Roseth

Larry Sawyer
Carolyn and James Shepherd
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Pat Sorensen
Gary Staab
Joan and Ed Steiner
Marjorie Vargus
Libby Vincent
Janet Westbrook
Patricia Wharton
Ken Whetzel
Gretchen Whisenand

In Honor of Pat and Terry Rogers, Nora Nuckles and Susan Hueber

Patricia Brown

In Memory of Frank Buffum

Linda Miller
Betty Spindler and family
Lynne and Barry Thompson

In Memory of Don A. Braithwaite

Michael S. Vincent

Art Gallery

Susan Hueber
Nick Panzer

Building Fund

Patricia Brown
Robert Westbrook

Children's Programs

Terry Mitchell
Roger Peck

Curation Projects

Russell Kalderberg

Curation Building Pathway

Pamela Barnes
William Burns

Eastern Sierra Custom
Picture Framing
Gary Hewer and Jane
McEwan-Hewer
Troy and Donna Ingle
Ed and Carol Jeter
Bill and Kathy Martin
Robert and Tiana McGowan
Ken and Debbie Newton
Dave Palmer
Gale and Carole Poppen
Francina van der Hoek
Mr. and Mrs. A. K. Rogers
Donna Rosenthal

Displays

Anonymous

Docent Programs

Patricia Brown

Curation Building Pathway

Terri and Wally Wright

Energy Efficiency

Susan and Robert Parker

Gladys Merrick Garden

Arthur, Barbara and Judy
Spiegel

Tusk Case Display

Dave Kurdeka

New Members

Yvonda Harbin
Sharon Juarez
Nic Othart
William Underwood

New Premium Members

Misha and Keith Hash
Scott Salazar

New Lifetime Members

Paul Krylof

Volunteer to Help the Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee

The raven management season has just begun, and we need all the help we can get for raven monitoring. This should be a fun and educational volunteering opportunity to help find raven and hawk nests to protect the desert tortoise. We lots of help from novice and expert birders this season because the heavy rains may subsidize larger populations of ravens than we expected.

Contact Liam Connolly, Preserve Manager & Conservation Coordinator, Office-Phone: (442) 294-4258
www.tortoise-tracks.org

In My Backyard” – Photographs by Michael Walsten

The animals photographed in Michael Walsten’s yard are now on exhibit in the Argus Room for you to view. The animals include the Antelope ground squirrel, California quail, local and migratory birds, insects and reptiles. Information about the different animals are posted next to the high quality, detailed close-up photographs by Michael Walsten.



The house finch, one of the species in the exhibit, is a common bird in this area that has an interesting history. This colorful finch is native to the southwest United States. But in 1940, pet shop owners in New York, who illegally owned house finches, released them to avoid prosecution. These adaptable birds survived and began to colonize the New York suburbs. By 1990, the finches advanced halfway across the continent to meet their western kin. Today, these birds are seen in cities, suburbs and farms as well as their original southwestern habitat of desert, chaparral, oak savanna, riparian areas and open coniferous forests.

This exhibit showcases many detailed views of animals such as the dragonfly, iguana lizard, and hummingbirds. Reprints of these photographs are available to order in the museum’s gift shop.

Valley Night Skies – Twilight to Twilight in the Sylvia Winslow Gallery

The uplifting, colorful and mesmerizing photographs of sunsets, sunrises and night views are currently on display in the Sylvia Winslow Gallery. The room lights are low to give the effect of twilight; so come sit for a spell in the Sylvia Winslow Gallery and absorb the beauty of the photos.

These photographs, taken by Bruce Heydlauff, are accompanied by Skip Gorman’s metal animal silhouettes that add a touch of whimsy to the exhibit. Reprints of these photographs are available in multiple sizes; order in the gift shop.



Pizza Factory and Beanster’s Espresso Fundraiser

All day Wednesday February 8.

20% of your purchase is donated to the Maturango Museum

You must mention this fundraiser when ordering.

BEANSTER'S
ESPRESSO

Maturango Museum of the IWV

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

Open every day (except major holidays)

10 am – 5 pm

Staff

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Maureen Goff, Store Manager/Buyer
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Curator
Elaine Wiley, History Curator
Sherry Brubaker, Natural History Curator
Julie Stephens, Finance Manager
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The Table
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Warren's Automotive



How do you like our new electronic sign?

Want to post a brief appropriate message for an event or personal endearment?
Come in to the museum store for details. We suggest a donation to support our programs.

Upcoming Events

- Feb 3: Field Trip Guide Meeting: noon – 3pm
- Feb 11: Free Saturday, 11am – 2pm: Decorate your own Mardi Gras mask.
- Feb 12: Adult Workshop Valentine Cards: Noon – 3pm
- Feb 24: Children's Hour 10:30 am: Nocturnal animals, sign up by calling the museum gift shop 760-375-6900
- March 12: Museum Annual Meeting, 4pm.
- March 17: Manzanar Field Trip

This is the last paper newsletter that we'll be mailing unless you specifically request a paper version and pay \$10/year for current members or \$25/year for renewals and new members.

Environmental concerns and cost saving measures have prompted us to implement this new policy.

Please sign up for e-mail delivery by sending your name and e-mail address to gallery@maturango.org

Please send your specific request for paper mail and comments about this new policy to info@maturango.org

Please read



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