

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 Monday – Saturday 10 am – 5 pm, Sunday Noon – 4pm

760.375.6900 www.maturango.org

Death Valley Tourist Center Northern Mojave Visitor Center



Museum Director's Notes

Debbie Benson

In the heat of August many activities shift to the cooler hours of dawn and evening after the harsh rays of the sun have softened, even if just a bit. The breezes are cooler and the warmth loses its relentless pressure. The wildlife has shifted activities to these hours as well so watch for them when the sun has shifted to the horizon. At the Museum, our wildlife, most especially our reptiles, have cool places to hide in the gardens. We would like to remind our guests to the garden that these lizards and the occasional snake live in the garden and are not to be captured or caught. Just enjoy their presence without the need to disturb them. Please and Thank You!

Our summer appeal is still ongoing and we would like to thank each person and family that is making it possible and successful! You all are quite marvelous.

We have two upcoming events that we are looking forward to. Our Fundraising Dinner Auction will be on September 30 and the plans are underway for a good time to be had by all. We will have some games to play with prizes to win and a dessert auction and great friends! We have sponsorships available and donations are welcome!

Our plans for the Open Studio Tour are underway. This is such a great community event that includes artists throughout the IWW. Read more on the last page of this newsletter.

We are enjoying our monthly video events. They include historic bits of our community and are always free to the public. We hope you can come to see what we are doing at the Museum and be involved in some of our activities. Membership matters and we thank you for participating in the Maturango Museum and knowing that we are all better together!

Be Well!

Robin Ray's Presentation on Her Two Books

Saturday, August 5, 4pm

Robin Ray is the granddaughter of the characters in the books. She infuses imagination, research, documentaries, diaries, and family history to tell these epic tales.

The first book, "Love and Legacy, the Miner and the Beauty", is the true story of a US Cavalry soldier who became a miner and met a beautiful girl that loved to dance.

The second book, "The Bold Adventures of a Family's Quest for Success", based on a true story, is about real people and their experiences and adventures building a family and legacy in the California 'wild west'.

The books will be for sale in the gift store and Robin will sign them for you.

This event is free and open to the public.

New Membership Drive

Along with the Maturango Museum's fundraising pursuits, the museum is also encouraging new memberships. Membership is an important and vital component for the museum by providing financial support and volunteers to help with daily operations and special events. We ask you, as members, to reach out to others to join the Maturango Museum. Below is what the Maturango Museum offers you and your family.

Attractions at the Maturango Museum

- Unique gift store
- Monthly free Saturday activity
- Exhibit of local animals, paleontology, minerals and Native American items
- Multiple exhibit rooms featuring local and visiting artists, photography, and other exhibits of interest
- Local publications
- Docent led museum tours
- Field trips to local areas of interest
- Monthly Children's Hour for preschool children (during the school year)
- Art and craft workshops
- Lectures and presentations
- Video nights
- Musical performances
- Room rentals
- Annual Wildflower Exhibit
- Docent programs at schools
- Partnership with local organizations such as the California Turtle and Tortoise Club (CTTC) and the China Lake Astronomy Club (CLAS)
- Local attraction information and maps
- Death Valley tourist information and maps
- Gladys Merrick garden featuring plants from the high desert and low desert
- Picnic tables and shade structure
- Labyrinth
- Human sundial
- Solar system path
- Tortoise enclosure

Patrick Crabb's Art Exhibit "Archaeoclay - Glyphs From the Earth"

June 3 - August 19, 2023

The images on my ceramic plates are my reflections of rock art inspired by rock glyphs (pictographs and petroglyphs) and cultural influences from archaeological-anthropological experiences over 20+ years of international travel. The bowl images were inspired by the Mimbres Culture of the Southwest.

My life passion is working in clay. This material is the reason "I rise with the sun", working creatively for nearly 50 years. Clay is my material to express in countless ways, leading my hands/heart/mind thru life. Archaeology and

anthropology have been my guideposts. I look to ancient cultures and their histories to guide me in the present and onward into the future. Their mysteries have plagued my mind for decades. And now, I am attempting to make personal reflections from their influences. The images are not site specific. My technical approach is gestural in its imagery along with its construction.



www.patrickshiacrabb.com

“Synopsis of Four Visiting Artists” Video

Thursday August 17, 6:30 pm

This month’s video, produced by Mark Pahuta, will present four artists who have recently displayed their work in the Museum’s Coso gallery.

We will show the brief video that was made of each artist at the time of their gallery showing. In these interview-videos, the artist typically talks about their background, how they got into art, and a self-analysis of their art. Photos of the art are used to illustrate points that they make.

The four artists are: Hamil Ma (Watercolor, Pastels, Charcoal, Pencil. Exhibit: 2016); Betty Spindler (Pottery. Exhibit: 2020); Tina Dille (Watercolor on Yupo (a synthetic plastic-like paper). Exhibit: 2018) and John Aydelotte (Black and White and color photography on metal. Exhibit: 2017).

Andrea Pelch, Maturango Museum Art Gallery Coordinator, will add comments on the artists, their work, and the videos after the video show.

Total run time is about an hour. Admission, popcorn and sodas are free, seating is limited.

Docent Doings

By Nora Nuckles, Education Coordinator



Second Saturday on July 8 saw us hosting many folks for the free admission and great visiting displays and activities.

Bob and Sue Parker and Ingrid Carroll set up the docent reptiles at the front entrance where the black couches usually are. Bob and Sue brought several small tortoises and a larger one that decided he was the Museum mascot and preferred rather free range at the Museum. Visitors loved it! Ingrid brought Rosie, our rosy boa, to share. She expertly handled Rosie, helped visitors to touch or hold her, and provided much needed information about rosy boas. Penny

LePome came early to help us set up for the day. We also thank Nick Rogers for moving tables and helping us to set up.

The Kern Arts Council has obtained a grant to provide Native American artists to the Kern County communities including our IWWV community. Gene Albitre, a member of the Digueno tribe, presented the

rawhide creations he has made. Gene spent the whole day teaching about the various Native American items and the history and culture of the indigenous people.

Lori Myers, a member of the Tlingit tribe from Alaska, taught jewelry and brought about 40 kits for visitors to make jewelry with her. She was also here nearly all day!

All galleries were busy!

Young visitor wearing a bison hide backpack made by Gene Albitre.



Lori Myers stringing beads.



When children and adults visit the Museum and the garden we like to take the opportunity to teach the young people how to respect the wildlife in our garden. We always emphasize that the lizards, squirrels, birds, and rabbits make their homes in the Museum gardens. We teach them to watch the wildlife but not chase them or try to catch them. We also teach them to keep out of the rock-bordered plant areas and stay off the water feature, its rocks, and the rocks around the three big-horned sheep “petroglyphs.” Mr. Bob teaches them about the tortoises in the tortoise enclosure.

“Out of the Past” Exhibit

May 1 – October 31

The Argus Gallery is graced with beautiful black and white photographs from Ridgecrest’s past including businesses and scenes from 1911 to 1951 that showcase the early days when Ridgecrest was just a start-up community.

These photographs are a fun way to see what Ridgecrest was like when the town began to grow with new stores, restaurants and various entertainments for the newly hired China Lake employees and their families. The enjoyment of this exhibit is to see what movies were playing at the Ridgecrest Theater and figure out the make and model of cars in the photos, and possibly recognize the buildings that are still around today.

Mark Pahuta, a professional photographer who has a love for old photos, is the instigator behind this exhibit. Mark chose, printed, matted, and framed the photos in this exhibit.



“Out of the Past” Reception August 6, 2 – 4pm

Meet Liz Babcock and Mark Pahuta, the writers of the 29th Maturango Museum publication, *High Desert Double Exposures – A Photographic Retrospective of Ridgecrest and Its Neighbors*. This book documents the physical changes through photographs of the Ridgecrest community and surrounding area from 1939 through 2019.

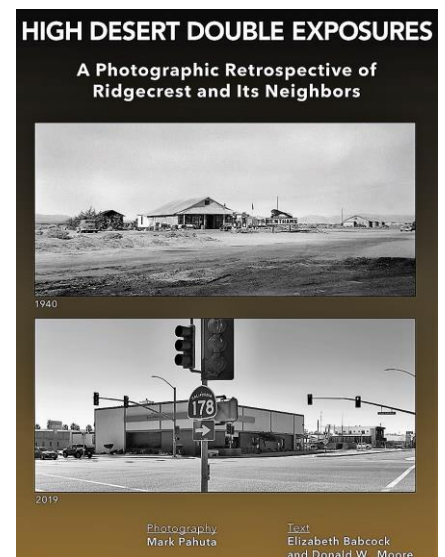
Cool off and enjoy a pleasant Sunday afternoon while Liz and Mark are available to sign their *High Desert Double Exposures* book.

In 1989, the Maturango Museum published *Ridgecrest California, A Photographic Retrospective*, by Mark Pahuta and Donald W. Moore. This book was a combination of “then and now” photographs of early Ridgecrest and Ridgecrest in the 1980s and historical text by Donald Moore. For this publication, Mark selected historical photographs and painstakingly searched for the same location that the original photographer stood to take the historical photograph. Mark then stood in that same location and retook the photograph to give the viewer a “then and now” look at specific buildings or areas in the Ridgecrest area. Donald carefully researched the story behind the photographs through the use of archival material and the memories of old timers.

Thirty years later, Mark and Liz embarked on an update to *Ridgecrest California, A Photographic Retrospective*. Over the years Ridgecrest continued to change and it was time to revisit previous sites as well as adding other local areas to the book. In addition to covering the changes in Ridgecrest, the 2020 version also covers Owens Lake, Kern River Valley, Garlock and El Paso Range and Poison Canyon. Again, Mark selected historical photographs, found the “spot” where the historical photograph was taken and retook the photograph to show the change from “then to now”. Liz, historian and author, researched and wrote the information for the photographs. The creative and informative historical information written by Don Moore for the original *Photographic Retrospective* are included in this updated version.

At the Maturango Museum, we are currently displaying early photographs of Ridgecrest and the surrounding area through a photographic exhibit, “Out of the Past” created by Mark Pahuta. This exhibit contains photographs that are in the book as well as other early photographs.

The museum appreciates Mark Pahuta’s and Liz Babcock’s hard work and dedication to preserving the history of Ridgecrest and the surrounding area. Come enjoy the exhibit and visit with these two very special people on Sunday, August 6, from 2 pm to 4 pm. This is a good time to look at the “Out of the Past” exhibit, visit with Mark and Liz, have your book signed, and enjoy some summer refreshments!



STONE TILE & STUCCO



“Artistic Water-Wise Landscape” Exhibit May 15 – October 31 in the Sylvia Winslow Gallery

Many Ridgecrest residents landscape their yards to minimize outdoor water use and increase the curb appeal of their home. Residents accomplish this by avoiding the use of grass and creatively increasing the amount of “dryscape” (dryscape being yard surface area requiring no water). This exhibit provides examples of landscapes in Ridgecrest that are both attractive and that significantly reduce water usage. Many different dryscape techniques can be incorporated to make an attractive landscaped yard. These techniques include the use of walkways, patios, driveways, raised planters, retaining walls, borders, yard art, rock, gravel, hardpack and accents. This exhibit is partially supported by the Arts Council of Kern.

Recent Donations

Donations

Linda M. Anderson
Dan and Brenda Burnett
Teresa and Bill
Orr de Schaniel
Robert Joy
Pete and Renee Lesniak
Laura Stockton
Patricia Wharton
Ken Whetzel

In Honor of Dan Burnett

Debbie Benson

In Honor of

Eleanor Winnemore

Sharon Davis

In Memory of Robert Berry

Patricia Brown

In Memory of

Edward Winnemore

Sharon Davis

Building Fund

Robert Westbrook

Gardens/Grounds

Marianne Kistler and
Richard Villegos

Matching Funds

Judith and Wayne Tanaka
Camille Alden
Ken and Alice Atwood
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Joann Barbee
Pamela and Charles Barnes
Jack and Linda Bates
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Debby Buffum
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The Kilikauskas Family
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Gregory and Ann Lenz
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Denise Moliterno and
Michael J. Ford

Kiyoshi and Bonnie

Nishakawa
Brian Norden
Mark Pahuta
Sue and Bob Parker
Aubrey Phillips
Gale and Carole Poppen
Lois E. Reed
Stella M. Renner
Joanna Rindt
Nancy Sexton
Andrew Sound
Michael Vincent
Bill and Patricia Walters

New Members

Fran Daugherty
Donald Dudley and Teresa
Dillinger
Chantelayne Hancock
Bruce McClung and
Jerry DeFilipps
Denise O'Connell
Alan and Jerri Stratton
Stuart and Susie Witt

New Premium Members

Peter and Renee Lesniak
Sarah Moylan

The next Free Saturday is August 12. The docents are making plans for an activity so check the website, sign, and Facebook for an announcement about what we will do. Many docents are on vacation right now.

Presently, we are feeding the tortoises on Thursday and Saturday at 9am. This is a great time to visit the tortoises!

The Docents of the Maturango Museum are always recruiting new docents. Don't miss the opportunity to join us. Call Nora at the Maturango Museum if you want to give some time and have a lot of fun!

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
Barbara Bane, M.A., RPA, Archaeology
Curator
Elaine Wiley, History Curator
Sherry Brubaker, Natural History Curator
Julie Stephens, Finance Manager
Andrea Pelch, Art Gallery Coordinator,
Newsletter Editor
Nora Nuckles, Education Coordinator
Linda Saholt, Petroglyph Tour Coord.,
Membership, Donations
Leslie Layfield, Accounting Bookkeeper
Kelly Goff, Museum Assistant
Deanna Stewart, Museum Assistant
Nora Nuckles, Museum Assistant
Nick Rogers, Museum Assistant

Committee Chairpersons

Elaine Wiley, Publications
Bob Westbrook, Strategic Planning

Board of Trustees

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Dan Burnett – Vice-president
Renee Lesniak - Secretary
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that support the Maturango Museum

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The Swap Sheet
TJ Frisbee Bicycles, Inc
T&T Alignment, Inc.
WACOM
Warren's Automotive
3R Woodworx



Pizza Factory and Beanster's Espresso Fundraiser

All day, Wednesday August 9.

20% of your purchase is donated to the Maturango Museum

You must mention this fundraiser when ordering.



Upcoming and Ongoing Exhibits and Events

- Robin Ray's Presentation on Her Two Books: Saturday, August 5, 4pm
- "Out of the Past" Reception August 6, 2 – 4pm
- Free Saturday August 12, 11am – 2pm.
- "Synopsis of Four Visiting Artists" Video: Thursday August 17, 6:30pm.
- "Out of the Past" exhibit; ongoing through Oct 31.
- "Artistic Water-Wise Landscape" Exhibit ongoing through Oct 31
- Patrick Crabb Ceramics "Glyphs from the Earth" Exhibit ongoing through August 19.

Our new electronic sign would like to share your message.

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.
Please contact Debbie (debbie@maturango.org) or Julie (julie@maturango.org)

Maturango Museum

Annual Auction and Dinner 2023

Saturday, September 30 -- Kerr-McGee Center -- Doors open at 5:00 p.m.

Make a difference...and have a great time doing it!

We are accepting donations of all kinds for the auction! Big or small, every donation helps! Smaller items (like gift cards) can be combined with other items to create a unique auction item. We make some pretty fantastic gift baskets!

Your donation is tax deductible!

Deadline for donations (so we can prepare the auction catalog) is Friday, *September 22*.

If you would like to donate something for the auction or you have any questions about becoming a sponsor or attending the 2023 Annual Auction and Dinner please contact Debbie Benson (debbie@maturango.org) or Julie Stephens (julie@maturango.org) 760-375-6900



Maturango Museum Open Studio Tour 2023

The Artists' Group Exhibit in the Coso Room will open the last few days of August and run through October 29. The Opening Reception is planned for Saturday September 23, 4 – 6pm.

The actual tour dates when the studios are open is the weekend of Saturday Oct 21 and Sunday October 22, 10am – 4pm each day.

The free maps to the studios will be available early October.

Maturango Museum
100 E Las Flores
Ridgecrest CA 93555

August 2023



What's going on



at the Maturango Museum...