

# 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](http://www.maturango.org)

Death Valley Tourist Center    Northern Mojave Visitor Center



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## Museum Director's Notes

*Debbie Benson*

*"The clear light that belongs to October was making the landscape radiant." Florence Bone*

October, with its cooler mornings and shorter days, gives us all a sense of excitement as we gather more and participate in the Autumnal activities. It's the time when gardens can give their last bloom without shriveling from excessive heat and sweaters can come out of the closet. I think we are ready.

It's exciting to get ready for the Open Studio Tour. I admire each of the artists and their willingness to share with our community of art lovers. I hope to go to each studio and to see many of you there!

A fun aspect of the cooling weather is the opportunity to get out and hike a bit or take a pleasant drive. It's a perfect time to spend with those you enjoy out in nature. The rains in August made some changes in the landscape and there are many plants blooming as if in a hurry to take advantage of the moisture and create seeds. We have a selection of the local BLM information and maps in our Gift Shop as well as other traveling information.

We have had so many great events this last month and are looking forward to more. We are grateful and so very happy for the chance to see so many of you and hope to continue on! Thank you all of for your support and friendship!

Our best to you all. We are better together.

## Open Studio Tour 2023

### Artists' Gallery Exhibit August 26 – Oct 31



The Open Studio Tour is a wonderful way to meet many of our local artists and see the amazing array of talent that we have in our community. The exhibit will be in the Coso Room with examples of artwork from each of the 23 participating artists. Come in to see the variety of items and get a heads-up on what to expect at the various open studios during the tour weekend.

### Tour Weekend Saturday October 21 & Sunday 22

Twenty Two artists and craftspeople and the Cerro Coso Community College Art Department in Ridgecrest and Inyokern open their studios, or set up their displays in different venues so visitors can meet the artists, see their studios and purchase artwork.

During the tour weekend of October 21 and 22, the studios and venues will be open 10am – 4pm each day. The free map for the studio locations will be available in early October at the museum or e-mail

[gallery@maturango.org](mailto:gallery@maturango.org) requesting the map and to get more information. The museum is open daily 10am - 5 pm and Sunday Noon – 4pm.



Nichole Larson



Eileen Shibley



Greg Gilbert



Cory Moorehead



Howard Laire



Brian Sandoval



Lois Hinman



Tanya Harrington



Brad Bruna



Jerry Bradley

# Open Studio Tour October 21 & 22 2023



**Artists'  
Gallery Exhibit  
Aug 26 - Oct 29  
Coso Room  
Maturango Museum**

**Maturango Museum**

100 E. Las Flores Ridgcrest CA 93555  
760-375-6900 [www.maturango.org](http://www.maturango.org)



Janice Allen



Cerro Coso Community College



Jacques Canot



Debra Newton



Julie Cornett



Kathleen Murray



Xandi Harris



Sally Adams



Andrea Pelch



Nancy Crawford



Cheryl McDonald



Skip Gorman



Aubrey Phillips



## Docent Doings

By Nora Nuckles, Education Coordinator

A great time to visit the tortoises is when they are being fed; Thursday and Saturday at 9am.

Docents are receiving several requests for tours and programs. We are seeking help and would love to add members to our illustrious league! We can offer training and wonderful experiences! You don't need to be an expert! You just need to be willing to work with a phenomenal group of people who love to share the wonders of our desert with adults and children! Please call me, Nora, at the Maturango Museum if you would like to work with the Docent League. You can also attend our October meeting on Tuesday Oct. 3, 10am in the Coso Room at the Museum.

### Make Your Own Cereal Box Eclipse Viewer Saturday October 7 from noon to 2 pm

Bring your cereal box; we will provide instructions and additional materials as needed.



### Solar Eclipse - October 14 from 8:10 am to 10:54 am

On Saturday October 14 join us to view a partial annular solar eclipse at the Maturango Museum. The eclipse runs from 8:10 am to 10:54 am. We will have \$1 eclipse glasses for sale and solar eclipse projector boxes available for viewing the Sun. Members from the China Lake Astronomical Society will be present with their solar telescopes.

An annular solar eclipse happens when the Moon passes between the Sun and Earth. Since the Moon's path is elliptical, the distance between the Earth and the Moon varies between a *minimum of 221,000 miles to a maximum of 252,000 miles*. An annular solar eclipse occurs when the Moon is near its maximum distance from Earth. Therefore, the Moon appears smaller than the Sun and the Moon doesn't completely block the Sun. During annularity, the Moon appears as a dark disc on top of a larger bright disc creating what looks like a ring of fire around the Moon.

Since Ridgecrest is not in the path of this annular solar eclipse, we will view a partial solar eclipse. The Moon will cover 76.5% of the Sun at the peak of the eclipse. The solar eclipse starts at 8:10 with the Moon just starting to cover an edge of the Sun. The maximum coverage of 76.5% of the Sun occurs at 9:28 am. The Moon continues to travel across the face of the Sun until 10:54 am when the Moon is no longer blocking the Sun's rays.

**Never look directly at the Sun** unless you have proper eye protection for solar viewing. Sunglasses DO NOT work. Viewing any part of the bright Sun through a camera lens, binoculars, or a telescope without a special-purpose solar filter secured over the front of the optics will instantly cause severe eye injury. Do not take a selfie of you and the Sun. The Sun can burn the retinas in the eyes leading to permanent damage or blindness. This can occur even if your eyes are exposed to direct sunlight for just a few seconds. Safe solar viewers such as eclipse glasses are thousands of times darker and must comply with the ISO 12312-2 international standard.



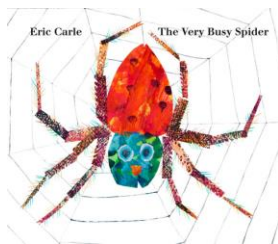
### Fish Hatcheries Field Trip October 28, 2023

Tentative plan... Leave Maturango Museum in the morning, visit Fish Springs Fish Hatchery, Caltrans Rest Area, Black Rock Fish Hatchery, Mt Whitney Fish Hatchery (questionable due to flood damage, currently closed) or Dehy Park in Independence – Nice park and historically clean restrooms, nice playground and creek. Then tour participants can head back to Ridgecrest and home.

Final schedule and details will be available soon.

**Jose Cazares to speak on Landscape Design  
Saturday October 14, 1 pm.**

Jose Cazares grew up in Ridgecrest before moving to San Diego to pursue a Bachelor of Architecture from New School of Architecture & Design. After receiving his degree in 2009, Jose worked as a landscape contractor to get first-hand experience. He has a strong understanding of all facets of design and construction processes. His experiences include K-12 educational campuses, university campuses, multi-family communities, commercial properties, bio-tech campuses, edible gardens, estate residential and major league stadiums (notably Gallagher Square at Petco Park). For the past 10 years, he has worked for GroundLevel Landscape Architecture in San Diego as an Associate.



**Children's Hour Friday October 13 10:30 – 11:30 am  
The Wonderful World of Spiders**

Through the featured story, “and other stories, the children’s interest is sure to be aroused in these mostly tiny creatures that share our world. Spidery action songs, a special craft, and exhibits at the Discovery Table will add to a grand time. The children might find themselves imagining walking on eight legs and weaving many kinds of webs – some beautiful and some messy looking. What would it be like to spin a silk line to ‘balloon’ through the air from one place to another?? And, how about a diet of tasty bugs!

The Fall Schedule of the free monthly programs will be available to take home, as well as on line at [www.maturango.org](http://www.maturango.org) . Children’s Hour is a free monthly volunteer program following the school year calendar. It is generally held on Flex Fridays. The upcoming fall program dates are October 13, November 10, and Dec. 8.

**“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.



## 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

## **Eastern Kern County Resource Conservation District Fall Plant Sale Is on the Way!**

Go to <https://www.ekcrd.org/fall-plant-sale-is-on-the-way> to access the plant species list with photos and the order form. Orders are requested to be returned by Monday October 2.

The EKCRCD annual drought tolerant plant sale is scheduled for Saturday, October 28, at the Desert Empire Fairgrounds. The location is the same as in years past; enter at the south (livestock) entrance and turn into Gate D. Plant pick-up will start at 9:30am and run until 1:00pm. Extra plants will be on sale from 1-2pm.

## **Recent Donations**

### Donations

Linda Anderson  
Dan and Brenda Burnett  
Katie and Chuck Christman  
Carol and Ed Jeter  
Don and Judy McCauley  
Bonni Smith  
Jim and Deanna Stewart  
Robert Westbrook  
Patricia Wharton  
Ken Whetzel

### In Honor of Peter and Elaine Wiley

Pete and Renee Lesniak

### In Memory of Rosemary Hoffer

Sheila Rockwell

### In Memory of Jon Wunderlich

Elaine Janson

### Building Fund

Robert Westbrook

### Docent Art Fund

Desert Artists League

### Matching Fund

Rod and Judy Ditzler  
Dave Palmer  
Robert Westbrook

### In Memory of James Janson

Elaine Janson

### New Members

John Adams  
James Carl Blom  
Susan Brown  
Charlie and Cindy Bruce  
Dennis Calabi  
Chris Calabi  
Daniel Clough  
Bill and Linda Duncan  
Wesley Elmore  
Ann Gregonis  
Charles McGinn  
Kathleen Murray  
Jeanne Strayer

### New Premium Members

Debbie Eck-Stonebarger  
Bonni Smith

### New Lifetime Member

Dana Lyons

## **Maturango Museum of the IWV**

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

Open Mon - Sat

10 am – 5 pm,

Sunday noon – 4pm

(except major holidays)

### **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  
Cheryl McDonald, Webmistress  
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**

Robert McGowan – President  
Dan Burnett – Vice-president  
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Jann Philpott - Treasurer  
Peggy Chun  
David Kurdeka  
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Dorie Cornell

## **Businesses and Organizations Supporters • Contributors • Sponsors**

Please support the businesses and organizations  
that support the Maturango Museum

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Earth Landscaping  
Eastern Sierra Custom Framing  
Epsilon Systems Solutions, Inc.  
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Mojave Desert  
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The Car Wash  
The Pizza Factory  
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Red Rock Books  
Ridgecrest Area Convention  
and Visitors Bureau  
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TJ Frisbee Bicycles, Inc  
T&T Alignment, Inc.  
WACOM  
Warren's Automotive





## Pizza Factory and Beanster's Espresso Fundraiser

All day, Wednesday, October 11.

20% of your purchase is donated to the Maturango Museum

You must mention this fundraiser when ordering.

**BEANSTER'S  
ESPRESSO**

## Upcoming and Ongoing Exhibits and Events

- "Sidewinder" Video: Wednesday, Sep 13, 6:30pm.
- Jose Cazares to speak on Landscape Design: Saturday October 14, 1 pm.
- Free Saturday: Oct 14, 8 – 11am. "The Solar Eclipse...!"
- Children" Hour: Friday, Oct 13, 10:30 – 11:30. "Spiders...!"
- Archaeology Video: Oct 19, 6:30 pm.
- Open Studio Tour Weekend: Oct 21 & 22, 10am – 4pm each day.
- Fish Hatcheries Field Trip October 28, 2023
- "Out of the Past" exhibit; ongoing through Oct 31.
- "Artistic Water-Wise Landscape" Exhibit ongoing through Oct 31.

Presented by the  
**Colorado Desert  
Archaeology Society**

**9:00 am – 4:00 pm**

**Saturday, Nov 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Anza-Borrego Desert  
State Park Visitor  
Center**

*\*SCA Archaeology Month Theme*



ALL DAY

SPECIAL EVENTS

### Activities for the whole family!

- Eva Salazar, Kuymeyaay Basketweaver, basket sales
  - Traditional Games and Plant Medicines by 'ataxum Pomkwaan
  - Paddle-anvil pottery making and rock painting activities for kids
  - Demonstration of native plants and their uses
  - Exhibits by Kumeyaay-Ipai Interpretative Center, Imperial Valley Desert Museum, San Diego Archaeological Center and others
- 
- 11:00 am Eva Salazar Juncas basket weaving demonstration
  - 1:00 pm Ami Admire, Payomkawichum, Storytelling
  - 2:00 pm Kris Reinicke, 'Drone Use in Archaeology' presentation
  - Hourly beginning 9:15am - 3:15pm: Guided tours of the Begole Archaeology Research Lab and Library; Videos of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park archaeology sites
  - In-person field trips Saturday & Sunday to Mine Wash, pictograph and petroglyph sites.
- Pre-registration required at <https://theabf.org> after Oct 9.

More info at <https://www.anzaborregoarchaeo.org/arch-day-2023/>

## In the Gift Shop: "Double Dip Sundaes" for Museum Members

Members can treat themselves to **double** the regular 10% discount on Sundays throughout November. The Double Dipping begins November 5 and goes till November 26<sup>th</sup>.

If you're not a member call, come in, or go online to [Maturango.org](https://maturango.org) to purchase your membership.

Almost everything in the store qualifies with a few exceptions: books, playing cards, blankets, and DVDs.





Maturango Museum  
100 E Las Flores  
Ridgecrest CA 93555



## October 2023 Newsletter

What's going on



at the Maturango Museum...