

# MATURANGO MUSEUM

## ANNUAL REPORT 2023



**Maturango Museum VOLUNTEERS!**  
**Making Dreams a REALITY!**





“The mission of the Maturango museum is to preserve, interpret and develop an appreciation for the natural and cultural history of the Northern Mojave Desert through research and education in the natural and physical sciences and to promote the arts”

(Adopted by the board of Trustees, December 17, 2012)

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Julie Stephens Financial  
Elaine Wiley, Curator, History

### Annual Meeting 2023 Cover

The Paleontology Display Volunteers  
The old blue canvas mammoth painting came down.  
The Sylvia Winslow mural was installed.

In 2024 the display will be completed and the Mammoth tusk will be on display!

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Website	Cheryl McDonald

**President's Observations 2023**  
**Robert McGowan – Board President**

2023 has been a very busy and productive year at the Maturango Museum. I am excited to report that many projects have been completed and several new projects have commenced with expected completion dates in 2024. Our fantastic docents have given educational presentations to hundreds of children and adults this year. New displays are being created and older displays are being refreshed with new and updated material. Our amazing Gift Store staff and volunteers have helped guide area visitors to many nearby recreational activities and helped to warn them about road and traveling conditions following inclement weather.

Thanks to a generous gift from Lloyd and Bea Smith, the Museum has begun a solar energy project that will include battery storage along with a 30KW solar array. As part of our energy conservation efforts, volunteers replaced antiquated and inefficient heating/air conditioning units in the Annex Building. The new highly efficient heat pump systems let each office use only as much heating and air conditioning as necessary without having to heat and cool the entire building.

Sadly, the museum has experienced some theft and vandalism of outside artifacts in the last couple of years. New security cameras were installed on the grounds in 2023 to help discourage criminal activity. This was phase 1 of a multi-phased security upgrade needed to protect the museum's outside artifacts as well as our members, guests, and employees.

Construction on our new Curation Storage Building is finally underway. By the time this report is published, the contractor will have started the foundation work. We expect this project to be completed in 2024.

The museum's Fundraising Committee has been hard at work in 2023 raising funds to keep our lights on and our doors open. This is a very important activity because the Museum gets no government funding and approximately half of our operating budget comes directly from our member's donations. This is why we strive to lower operating costs and increase efficiencies wherever possible.

While 2023 has been a successful year for the museum, we are excited for 2024 and all of the activities that are being planned for the new year. We look forward to you, our members, joining our staff and volunteers as we continue to make the Maturango Museum the best it can be.

Sincerely,

Robert (Bob) McGowan

# **Maturango Museum**

## **2023 Annual Report**

We have completed another year for the Maturango Museum. We could not have done so without all who volunteer their time and skills. We are trying to prepare the museum for the future with projects that will reduce our costs, and continue to provide our community with lectures, field trips, concerts, children's events, historical and current videos of our desert. We have been involved with strategic planning that will also help us now and in the future.

We ended 2023 with a net income of \$136,324.00. Contributions increased for the Museum during 2023 that have allowed us to prepare for the future. Funding was set aside for the completion of the curation building and the preparation and completion of the solar field. The curation building was purchased a few years ago and we are ready to have it completed in 2024. We are very grateful for those who have provided the funding for these projects.

We know we are accountable to the membership for money spent and want to make sure we spend your money wisely. We ask that you continue your financial support and consider us when you do any estate planning throughout the year. Thank you all for your gracious support.

Jann Philpott  
Treasurer  
Board of Trustees

**Maturango Museum**  
**2023 Statement of Financial Position**  
in dollars

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>\$ Change</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash on Hand	101,547	44,636	56,910
Savings	170,483	265,753	(95,269)
Investments	521,373	324,681	196,692
<b>Total Cash and in Banks</b>	<u>793,403</u>	<u>635,070</u>	<u>158,333</u>
Receivables	624	3,115	(2,490)
Inventory	64,260	67,326	(3,066)
Prepaid Expenses	18,961	13,969	4,992
<b>Total Other Current Assets</b>	<u>83,846</u>	<u>84,410</u>	<u>(565)</u>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<u>877,249</u>	<u>719,480</u>	<u>157,769</u>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>			
Building	1,195,723	1,195,723	-
Building Improvements	389,969	358,190	31,779
Equipment and Displays	404,239	404,239	-
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(1,079,409)	(1,020,422)	(58,988)
<b>Total</b>	<u>910,522</u>	<u>937,731</u>	<u>(27,209)</u>
Work In Process	54,770	45,000	9,770
<b>Total Net Fixed Assets</b>	<u>965,292</u>	<u>982,731</u>	<u>(17,440)</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u><b>1,842,540</b></u>	<u><b>1,702,211</b></u>	<u><b>140,329</b></u>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>			
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Accounts Payable	14,968	12,143	2,824
Payroll	14,687	13,659	1,028
Sales Taxes	1,604	1,641	(37)
Other Liabilities	5,897	5,706	191
Deferred Revenue	-	-	-
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<u>37,156</u>	<u>33,150</u>	<u>4,006</u>
<b>Equity</b>			
Unrestricted	1,082,648	1,083,352	(704)
Temp Restricted - Building	184,480	183,876	604
Temp Restricted - Other	72,452	72,351	101
Endowment	329,481	329,481	-
<b>Total Equity</b>	<u>1,669,061</u>	<u>1,669,060</u>	<u>1</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<u><b>1,706,217</b></u>	<u><b>1,702,210</b></u>	<u><b>4,007</b></u>

The above data is summarized for ease of reporting. Details are available for review in the Museum offices.

**Maturango Museum**  
**2023 Income Statement (all funds combined) Comparison**  
**in dollars**

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>\$ Change</u>
<b>Income</b>			
<b>Store Sales</b>	120,726	124,387	(3,662)
<b>Less: Cost of Sales</b>	(54,833)	(58,283)	3,451
<b>Store Sales NET</b>	<u>65,893</u>	<u>66,104</u>	<u>(211)</u>
<b>Gallery Sales</b>	22,992	22,586	406
<b>Less: Cost of Sales</b>	(16,767)	(16,668)	(99)
<b>Gallery Sales NET</b>	<u>6,225</u>	<u>5,918</u>	<u>307</u>
<b>Fundraising</b>	111,648	66,953	44,695
<b>Less: Cost of Sales</b>	(10,819)	(10,412)	(408)
<b>Fundraising NET</b>	<u>100,829</u>	<u>56,541</u>	<u>44,287</u>
<b>Events</b>	17,074	11,235	5,839
<b>Less: Cost of Sales</b>	(9,672)	(6,388)	(3,284)
<b>Events NET</b>	<u>7,402</u>	<u>4,847</u>	<u>2,555</u>
<b>Admissions</b>	11,791	11,222	569
<b>Contributions</b>	184,251	48,592	135,660
<b>Memberships</b>	41,695	36,340	5,355
<b>Other Income</b>	71,459	(20,328)	91,787
<b>In Kind Donations</b>	1,748	258	1,490
<b>Total Income</b>	<u><b>491,292</b></u>	<u><b>209,493</b></u>	<u><b>281,799</b></u>
<b>Expenses</b>			
<b>Advertising &amp; Promotion</b>	14,610	17,806	(3,195)
<b>Merchant Fees</b>	10,228	8,464	1,764
<b>Facilities</b>	44,258	38,100	6,158
<b>Insurance</b>	9,761	8,409	1,352
<b>Newsletter-Printing &amp; Postage</b>	592	5,595	(5,003)
<b>Payroll Expenses</b>	170,606	181,393	(10,786)
<b>Professional Services</b>	13,053	9,682	3,371
<b>Rent</b>	4,086	3,067	1,020
<b>Supplies &amp; Equipment</b>	21,175	18,743	2,432
<b>Travel</b>	2,200	4,424	(2,223)
<b>Other Expenses</b>	5,409	4,676	734
<b>Total Expense</b>	<u><b>295,980</b></u>	<u><b>300,357</b></u>	<u><b>(4,377)</b></u>
<b>Net Income / (Loss)</b>	<b>195,312</b>	<b>(90,864)</b>	286,176
<b>Depreciation</b>	(58,988)	(50,930)	(8,058)
<b>Total Net Income / (Loss)</b>	<u><b>136,324</b></u>	<u><b>(141,794)</b></u>	<u><b>278,118</b></u>

The above data is summarized for ease of reporting. Details are available for review in the Museum offices.

## Maturango Museum 2023 Income Statement (by Asset Type)

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Temp Restricted - Building</u>	<u>Temp Restricted - Other</u>	<u>Endowment</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>Income</b>					
Store Sales	120,726				120,726
Less: Cost of Sales	(54,833)				(54,833)
Gallery Sales	22,992				22,992
Less: Cost of Sales	(16,767)				(16,767)
Fundraising	110,258	660	730		111,648
Less: Cost of Sales	(10,819)				(10,819)
Events	17,074				17,074
Less: Cost of Sales	(9,672)				(9,672)
Admissions	11,791				11,791
Contributions	33,278	143,379	7,594		184,251
Memberships	41,695				41,695
Other Income	11,336	5,793	2,060	52,270	71,459
In Kind Donations	1,748				1,748
<b>Total Income</b>	<b><u>278,805</u></b>	<b><u>149,832</u></b>	<b><u>10,384</u></b>	<b><u>52,270</u></b>	<b><u>491,292</u></b>
<b>Expenses</b>					
Advertising & Promotion	14,610				14,610
Merchant Fees	10,213		15		10,228
Facilities	42,043	1,942	273		44,258
Insurance	9,761				9,761
Newsletter-Printing & Postage	592				592
Payroll Expenses	168,212		2,394		170,606
Professional Services	9,765	2,288	1,000		13,053
Rent (Storage)	4,086				4,086
Supplies & Equipment	12,690	1,047	7,439		21,175
Travel	2,200				2,200
Other Expenses	4,974	435			5,409
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b><u>279,147</u></b>	<b><u>5,712</u></b>	<b><u>11,121</u></b>	<b><u>-</u></b>	<b><u>295,980</u></b>
<b>Total Profit / (Loss)</b>	<b>(342)</b>	<b>144,120</b>	<b>(736)</b>	<b>52,270</b>	<b>195,312</b>
Depreciation	(58,988)				(58,988)
Assets released from Restrictions	47,903	(41,549)	(6,354)	-	-
<b>Total Net Income / (Loss)</b>	<b><u>(11,427)</u></b>	<b><u>102,571</u></b>	<b><u>(7,090)</u></b>	<b><u>52,270</u></b>	<b><u>136,324</u></b>

The above data is summarized for ease of reporting. Details are available for review in the Museum offices.



**Director's Report 2023**  
**Deborah Benson Museum Director**

January 2023 began in the quandary of Financial Stability in the dynamics of our post Covid environment and the financial situation of the endowment funds losing value and with the wage rate increase impacting small businesses and non-profits. Added to this was the sharp increase in the monthly cost of utilities. We needed to negotiate our way through this storm of factors that were impacting our finances and had to look into many aspects of our activities. We tried a few different plans but ended with being open a few hours less on Sunday. We have found that this gives us the flexibility to be open for our visitors and still have events. We also deliver our newsletter primarily through email and the website. This was not an easy decision, but it was essential. Along with energy-saving replacements of some HVAC units and thermostats there has been a savings which has helped us with the cost of energy.

After many conversations and adjusting plans with Abby Vines, we were pleased to host the Death Valley National Park Management Team on January 25. We all enjoyed getting to know each other and they were happy to tour the Museum. This is a relationship that helps us all with our mutual missions and we are all benefiting from it.

We were invited to the 50th anniversary of the Desert Tortoise Research Area and old friendships were renewed. This is also a group that shares a part of our mission and we can support and help each other as we can. We share many members and a concern for the desert wildlife.

Ultimately, the Director's Report for this year is not so much about the events we have planned and taken part in throughout 2023. One could peruse the report on Events to see we had an active year. This report focuses on the commitment and willingness of the Museum Staff, the Board of Trustees and the Museum volunteers to work together, see and identify problems and seek solutions with the ultimate goal being the long-term viability of the Museum. Some solutions involved people taking active roles in committees and often finding innovative ways to solve some problems that are now a part of doing business.

Having active fundraising and needs committees has made a difference in how we see ideas and opportunities. Kudos to all. The success of their work is shown in the events and meetings that continue to fill our calendar. In the planning and execution, it helps to share the load. The many meetings were made up of a diverse group including Board members, Staff and interested volunteers. The effects expanded to the creation of smaller groups who worked on different events and needs. The Annual Fundraising Dinner Auction was more fun and more profitable for the Museum as we tried out some new ideas. The membership drive created new members and some true friendships. The matching funds drive was a great success and was a reminder of just what can happen when we encourage others to participate. The Solar committee had put together a package with a local contractor to put us on the list for the SCE Net Energy Metering 2.0 rate schedule which would give us 3 years to fundraise for a possible Solar array with the NEM 2.0 rates. We were all pleased and delighted by the encouragement and donation by Bea and Lloyd Smith to put us on the path to a solar field within the next year. This is the kind of support that makes us all more determined to show good stewardship and sustain our work as a Museum for the Indian Wells Valley.

For a year that felt a bit rough at the beginning, with all of the work, the gathering of information, the help and encouragement, we have ended the year on a different note. This is due to our membership, our community, our Board and the Staff of the Museum. Each individual gave their time and energy to make a difference. We had projects both inside the Museum and outside and the amazing help of everyone made it all possible. We have ended the year in a better position but still with many things to do. Much is needed on a regular basis to maintain what we have and still make improvements. We all appreciate everything that is done to support and maintain our museum.

Throughout all of this work, there has been a staff member who has stood strongly for the Museum these last 14 years and been a resource and support for us all. That she stepped down from her position does not stop our care for her or her care for us all and the Museum. Our CFO Julie Stephens resigned in October but continues to be available when needed and provides support to Judie, our new CFO, and to us all when needed. We wish her the best and thank her for everything she has done to make the Museum successful.

Many thanks to all.

Be well!



# Archeology Curator Report 2023

## **Collections**

We received three new paid collections in 2023, approximately 30 cubic feet. These are accessioned with cataloging in process. The largest of these new collections, the BLM PCT collection (approximately 22 boxes), contracted by CA State BLM for Maturango curation, finally arrived at the museum in October 2023 after a two-year delay caused by legal issues with CSU Bakersfield. As part of this contract, Bakersfield BLM also delivered a small collection from the S. Kern River Valley, the Canebrake. We accepted one other small collection from Cal State Los Angeles, from Rose Valley.

## **Curation Agreements**

We signed seven curation agreements in 2023. Agreements are slowly picking up as archeological fieldwork resumes again after Covid pause. These agreements for curation in a federally recognized facility are required before archeological contractors can get federal ARPA permitting for their work. Most of these agreements do not ultimately result in curation at the museum: the projects were cancelled or delayed, contractors found another curation facility, a contractor bids on a project in a region but does not get selected.

## **Cataloging status**

The archeological collection includes over 166,000 curated artifacts in 231 accessioned collections; ten of those collections have not yet been delivered by the contractor. Three collections were deaccessioned in 2023. The museum assigns accession numbers several years before collections are actually delivered by contractors and cataloged by the museum. This is due to the long lag time – years - between archeological project start time and final artifact analysis/reporting. Very large or staged projects may take years to fully analyze and complete for final curation. Total cubic footage on our curation shelving is around 290 cubic feet, plus approximately 90 exhibit artifacts. With the exception of large groundstone and large historic artifacts, all cataloged artifacts in our facility are in archival packaging.

## **Native American Graves and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA)**

The BLM made no forward progress in 2023 on Maturango collections due for repatriation: Hunter Canyon, Ayers Rock, Last Chance Canyon, PCT, Cane Brake. BLM is the lead agency for these actions and the museum is limited by law for outreach to Tribes in cases where collections came from federal lands. I will continue to push for forward action on these matters with the BLM.

## **Interns/Curations Technicians**

Our long-time Curation Tech, Jacque Ahlin, left us in July, but we were lucky to acquire a new young archeologist with good computer skills as well as field/ artifact identification experience in the Great Basin, Molly Dickinson. Molly will focus on cataloging and packaging the BLM PCT collection.

## **Archeology Month**

October is always National Archeology Month across the U.S. Maturango celebrated with an archeological film night and a Sunday lecture by Robert Gomez, Chair of the Tubatulabal Tribe from the Kern River area.



*Rocky Hill rock art field trip (Bane photo 2023).*

## **Museum Outreach/Field Trips**

I conducted three paying field trips for Maturango members and community participants: sister institution Eastern California Museum in Independence, Manzanar National Historic Site, and Rocky Hill Archeological Preserve in Exeter CA. Total participation for these trips was over 50 people.

Death Valley National Park Cultural Resources hosted the three Maturango curators for a tour of their curation facility in February 2023; a valuable networking opportunity with our sister Federal Curators nearby.

Barbara Bane, M.A., RPA  
Archeological Curator

**Annual Report for 2023 – History Curation**  
**Elaine Wiley, History Curator**

**Curation**

Volunteers Dorie Cornell, Renee Lesniak, Deanna Stewart, and I worked on a backlog of various historic donations that have been given to the Maturango Museum during previous years. We reviewed, documented, boxed, and labeled the donations for easy access in the future. We also prepared certain historical items to be accessioned into the museum’s permanent collection. In August 2023, a meeting was held to determine whether the selected items would be accessioned into the museum’s permanent collection.

Volunteer Mark Pahuta scanned negatives and photos of Sylvia Winslow from Vicky Kirby Larson, Sylvia’s step-daughter, for the history collection.

Donations of books with historical value were put into the museum’s library and the library inventory spreadsheet was updated to reflect these additions.



**Volunteers Dorie Cornell, Deanna Stewart,  
and Renee Lesniak**

**Requested research**

In 2023, I received eight requests for information and/or photographs. Each petition involves checking the history database for the requested information and looking for the specific item(s) of interest in the curated history collection. Topics of information requested included Owens Lake, Rush Creek Hydroelectric Dam, Panamint City, museum fieldtrips to Copper Canyon, and specific individuals.

**Donations for the historical curation collection**

Each year, the Maturango Museum receives donated items for potential inclusion into the museum’s permanent collection. This year, we received 12 donations. The items include: historic bottles, digital maps, books, newspapers, mining equipment, and local historical information.



## Annual Report for 2023, History Curation; continued page 2 of 2

### Publications

The Maturango Museum has 31 publications. The museum reordered copies of three of these publications: "Before the Navy," "High Desert Double Exposures," and "Rock Drawings of the Coso Range."

### In-house printing and mounting of photographs

With the Epson SureColor P900 printer purchased in December 2021, I continue to print photographs and information boards in-house for the various exhibits in the Sylvia Winslow Gallery and the Argus Room. For the exhibits, the images are mounted onto foam board. With help from Nick Panzer and Peter Wiley, I mounted and hung over 40 boards for exhibits. For some of the exhibits, individuals could purchase printed copies. These copies were also printed in-house.

### Additional Activities

In addition to my History Curator duties, I gave a wildflower presentation to WACOM, set up a wildflower display at the Ridgecrest Branch Library in May, and prepared an image of one of Sylvia Winslow's paintings to be used as a backdrop mural for the new Paleontology Exhibit in the El Paso Room. I chaired the Wildflower Exhibit Committee, participated with the Matching Donation Fund and Membership Committee, and organized equinox, solstice and eclipse events.



**2023 Annual Report Natural History  
Submitted by Sherry Brubaker, Curator**

The Discovery Area has had several boards changed this year. *Earthquakes* changed to *Tracks*, and *Atoms* went to *Spiders*. The boxes have been replaced with tote bins. The pine cones get a bit thrashed but are replaceable.

Items came back from the taxidermist and are on display in the case that can be moved around. The work this lady does is amazing! Another batch of items are in her studio now.

The big project started is the removal and replacement of the paleontology wall. The mammoth painting was removed, the fossils that were in the display were removed to temporary storage and cleaned. The painting was replaced with a mural of a painting that Sylvia Winslow did for a paleo display in the original museum on Base. There was worry about texture and shading but the mural came out perfect. One early morning, after a weekend of prep work, a group of volunteers gathered and hung the three sections. Big thank you to; BJ, Peter, Bob W., Bob M, Elaine, Debbie, and Gary. This new display will have the original fossils plus some new pieces that have been in storage.



rough draft of layout



hanging panel #1

## **Annual Board Report 2023**

**Maureen Poole-Goff  
Store Buyer/Manager**

The beginning of the year saw the staff meetings slowly evolve away from Zoom. Since restrictions had been lifted, it was time to move back to in-person meetings. While it was a good tool that allowed meetings to take place, there's nothing like a face-to-face meeting.

There were a lot of improvements made, especially in the first few months of the year.

A new, better printer was acquired for the store. It's an Eco-Tank, so there are no cartridges to deal with. It's been a year and only the black has had to be replenished.

A privacy panel was put up in the men's room. It was always awkward when the door to the restroom would open and there was a clear shot of the urinal. That's changed.

New phones for everyone. The new system is great because we can use our personal phones without giving up our privacy. The calls look like they originate from the Museum number. Also, each staff member has their own voicemail. No more handwritten notes.

There was on average a Coso Room rental a month. Some months were busier than others. Some groups come back each year. People always say it's a great venue.

The online store has had growing pains for a long time now. We had a person that was supposed to be helping with the glitches that it was experiencing but that didn't work out. Toward the end of the year, Cheryl McDonald came to the rescue and has been fantastic working with parties involved with the online store. Things are looking good now.

There were quite a few people who turned in applications to volunteer. Some fit right in and stayed a while. Others didn't work out at all. But by the end of the year, we are now fully staffed with volunteers five days a week.

I was happy I was able to attend the usual trade shows. These are the best places for new items.

The Night at the Museum was an event where the curators each brought out rarely seen artifacts and talked about them. It was an educational and fun evening. There are plans to do it again.

A few of the big sellers this year were:

Shashibo and Cubendi magnetic shape-shifting toys. People love them.

Lifelight Lizard flashlight. The tail is a carabiner and there's a lever at the neck that opens the mouth and activates the light. Over 100 pieces were sold from August through December.

Kiwanis Blankets continue to sell well even with a sizable price increase.

Eclipse glasses. I ordered 500 pieces and every last one was sold. Approximately 100 sold in the days leading up to the eclipse. On the day before we sold the 400 or so that were left. Complete sell out.

In December, Milt Burford brought in over 300 of his petroglyph cards. We had not had these in stock for a couple of years. It is great to have them again.





Privacy Panel

Figure 3 Privacy Panel



Figure 2 Lifelight Lizards



Figure 1 Night at the Musuem

## **Annual Report For 2023**

**Submitted by Nora Nuckles, Education Coordinator**

The Docent League of the Maturango Museum delivered an amazing number of programs to an amazing number of people in 2023. Just as in 2022 most of our presentations were given at the Museum where we also hosted several tours. The docents gave a total of 48 programs and tours in the Museum. The docents did 31 programs as outreach. The docents, therefore, reached about 3050 people with 2,239 in the Museum and in 811 outreach programs. We offered Free Saturday activities every month. We offered Children's Hour programs once per month September through May. The Free Saturdays usually involve at least 5 hours of prep time by many docents. The Children's Hour team meets several times in a month to prepare. Both activities usually include crafts. We supported the activities for the eclipse, solstice, and equinox. This year we offered programs for the Heartland Charter School at the cost of \$10 a student. The students, ranging from pre-K through high school, come to the Museum. Usually we do two programs to accommodate the various ages. We have a pre-K through 4<sup>th</sup> grade group and a 5th-high school group. Docents reported about 1,275 volunteer hours but many did not always submit the monthly volunteer forms. I estimate that docents donated nearly 2000 hours in 2023. This year we need to be more diligent about reporting volunteer time (especially me).

In 2023 we began with the Docent League officers as: President-Bev Hill; Vice-President-Cam Alden; Secretary-Sharon Oldfield. In the fall of 2022 we accepted new officers who are: President-Shirley Crouse; Vice-President-Cam Alden; Secretary-Ingrid Carroll. We have no Treasurer or Computer Librarian. Terry McGuire has become super active as a docent this year. Fran Kelty and Renee Sloan have joined the Docents of the Maturango Museum this year. I have worked with Sherry Brubaker as the Animal Acquisitions Committee. The Script Committee has been inactive this year. Sue Parker has kept our docent library in order. Charlotte Goodson has done a remarkable job as our Children's Hour Chairperson. Sue Parker has donated countless hours to help Charlotte organize her materials, CD's, and thumb drives. It is our hope that Charlotte will entrust her materials to the Museum and move them into my office. Cam Alden and Carol Dezellem continued as coordinators for the docent art programs. Mike and Paula Herr had resigned as our planetarium coordinators and presenters in 2022. Mike provided training in 2023 and continues to give support to those who volunteer to operate the planetarium. We have just taken the Beth Armogida Planetarium out of "mothballs" after shuttering it since Covid. Sherry Brubaker has taken responsibility to present programs in the planetarium. Susan Prazak has returned to help guide the set-up of the planetarium. Terry McGuire and Fran Kelty are also training to give planetarium programs.

We did several tours for school classes in April and May. School tours near the end of the year are always popular. During June, July and August we hosted 9 additional tours.

In November we did not support the Petroglyph Festival in our usual manner. I did meet with April Moore, SSUSD superintendent, to discuss our petroglyph education program but she never got back to me about doing that education this year. We did teach a small group of homeschoolers to use the atlatl and presented a few of the docent hands-on petroglyph education materials. The Museum chose not to participate in the usual way. Don Crouse and Bob Parker marked off an area for atlatl practice. Many people participated. I arranged for Mike Thompson, the flintknapper, to set up in the Museum. Also, I arranged with the Arts Council of Kern to have Gene Albitri, a Native American, to present on the tools that Native Americans used. Lori Meyers also came to teach and assist visitors in making jewelry. Later in the year Alan Salazar, another Native American came to present his story and beautiful children's books he has authored.

Unfortunately, again in 2023 the docents were unable to present the Sand Canyon program to the 4<sup>th</sup> grade students. The road to Sand Canyon was not accessible due to the large amount of rain that occurred in 2023.

Peter Wiley and Debbie Benson constructed new shelves in the Panamint Room to hold Children's Hour materials and the docent art program materials. Cam and Carol removed all the docent art materials from long-term storage and cupboards in the Panamint Room. The Children's Hour team also moved their materials.

I see that in last year's annual report, Sherry Brubaker and I discussed the acquisition of a jackrabbit, roadrunner, kit fox, a new coyote, rabbit and kit fox pelts, a coot, blue heron, nighthawk, bluebird and spotted towhee. The antelope ground squirrel was not salvageable. We have received the kit fox, the coyote, and the pelts. The new roadrunners were mounted together on a very heavy board with a very heavy rock so we are waiting for the second roadrunner to be returned. When our taxidermist visited she agreed to repair some of the docent "damaged" birds for free. I need to check with Sherry to see if we got them all back. I am still confused about how we are paying for the taxidermy for the docents. Is it from a taxidermy fund in general or from the docent accounts? I need to spend time with Judie Faust and Sherry Brubaker to understand this.

This spring with the new NAGPRA ruling I need to meet with Barbara Bane to determine what items we can keep for our Native American presentation. I will also work with Sean Scrubbs from TIPO (Tribal Historic Preservation Officer) to revamp our program. Sean will present at the docent April meeting.

The docents are grateful for the support shown to the Docent League. We appreciate the continued support of individuals and community organizations through generous donations. 2023 was an exciting and productive year. The docents and I are glad that we are returning to "life" and look forward to a very busy 2024 with programs for the young children, students and community members.

## Art Gallery 2023 Annual Report

### Submitted by Andrea Pelch Art Gallery Coordinator and Newsletter Editor

The Maturango Museum's Art Gallery Exhibits are displayed in the Coso Room. These exhibits provide a synergistic role in the mission of the Maturango Museum by providing a professional exhibit space; this includes an audio-visual projection system and lighting for visually pleasing exhibits by local, visiting and traveling artists to be experienced by our local community and visitors.

This gallery space is also used for informative workshops, lectures, concerts, docent activities including Children's Hour storytelling and art programs, room rental for meetings, parties, etc., and the annual wildflower show.

The art gallery provides funds for the specific needs of the gallery and overall for the museum from sales of art and sponsorship by individuals and organizations. Total sales in the gallery and Open Studio Tour were \$22992. The museum receives a 40% commission on art sales in the Gallery and 15% on studio sales during the Open Studio Tour.

Full year sponsors for 2023 were \$3000..

The gallery exhibits also provide incentives for memberships by giving a 10% discount on sales during opening receptions and discounted fees for members to participate in various art-related activities and the opportunity to join "member only" exhibits.

Thank You to all the people that helped set up exhibits including lights, wall signs and opening reception food.  
Also Thank You to all the people that purchased artwork.

Mark Pahuta's "**Then and Now**" photographs accompanied by artworks by Lois Hinman, Mike Mumford and Jerry Bradley.

**Cheryl McDonald's "Mystic Dreams of Transformation"** exhibit is in the Coso Room now through May 31. Cheryl's poetry accompanies each piece of artwork – a story to be told...

Mystic  
DREAMS  
OF  
TRANSFORMATION

Art &  
Poetry  
by  
Cheryl  
McDonald

Inspired pencil drawings  
and poetry that personify  
transformational, spiritual,  
and experiential dreams

Presented by  
Maturango  
Museum

March 11- May 31, 2023  
Opening Reception  
March 19th, 2023  
12-3pm

100 E. Las Flores Blvd.  
Ridgecrest, CA  
93555

Patrick Crabb's exhibit "Archaeoclay – Glyphs from the Earth" in the Coso Room June 1 – August 20.



The Desert Artists' League group show "Creativity" will be up until Jan 1, 2024. Also, in the Argus gallery, Elaine has displayed some relevant history of the Desert Artists' League.

**Open Studio Tour 2023**; 23 participants with 5 of them new to the tour this year. The artist's group exhibit is in the Coso Room August 26 - October 29. The Opening Reception is scheduled for September 23, 4-6pm. The tour weekend is scheduled for October 21, 22.

**Open Studio Tour**  
**October 21 & 22**  
**2023**

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

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

Artists listed in the grid: Nichole Larson, Eileen Shibley, Greg Gilbert, Cory Moorehead, Howard Laire, Brian Sandoval, Lois Hinman, Tanya Harrington, Brad Bruna, Jerry Bradley, Janice Allen, Cerro Coso Community College, Jacques Canot, Debra Newton, Julie Cornett, Kathleen Murray, Xandi Harris, Sally Adams, Andrea Peich, Nancy Crawford, Cheryl McDonald, Skip Gorman, Aubrey Phillips.

## Membership & Visitor Information

By Linda Saholt

### Volunteer Activities - 2023 (HOURS)

Docents	1370
Museum Store	1798
Gallery	258
Field Trips	240
Fund Raising	681
Curational	134
Administration	280
Board	256
Exhibits	2261
Gardens	237
Wildflower Show	917
Other	1966
Building & Facilities	4769
	<hr/> <hr/>
Total Hours	15167

### Membership Statistics

Individual or Family Renewals	338
Individual or Family New	84
Lifetime	87
Complimentary	9
Business	36
	<hr/> <hr/>
Membership Totals	554

### Museum Use - 2023 ATTENDANCE

Admissions	9922
Art Show Receptions	260
Lectures	261
Audubon	200
Astronomy	181
CTTC (Tortoise)	43
Docent Meetings	312
Gallery Meetings	40
CLMRG Meetings	328
Children's Hour	183
Field Trips	62
Docent Programs	1608
Concerts	140
Misc. Meetings	154
Annual Meeting	39
Wildflower Show	288
Fundraisers	220
Special Museum Events	422
	<hr/> <hr/>
Visitors	14663

### Fun Fact:

Our volunteer hours are often under reported but all are of great value to the Museum.

\*The in-kind value of our Volunteer hours are over \$242,000.

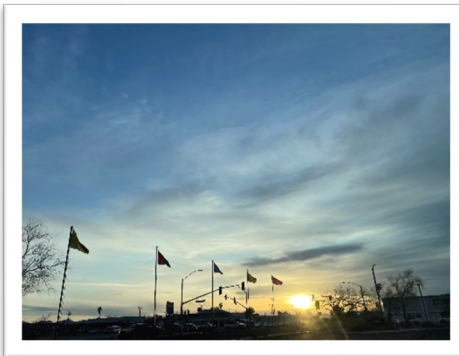
\*If the equation for Full Time Equivalency is used, the hours are that of over 7 Full Time workers.

\*Your time is of value and so are you! We couldn't provide what we do for our members, our community and our guests without you! Volunteers make it happen! Thank you!

## Volunteers... The work we do...

Volunteers make things happen at the Maturango Museum by assisting in many areas such as:

- ✚ Docents who educate the citizens and children of our community
- ✚ Dependable members who keep the store open and help the travelers who come our way.
- ✚ Wildflower Exhibit Committee
- ✚ Gallery and Reception Committee
- ✚ Gardening and Grounds beautification
- ✚ Building and Facilities



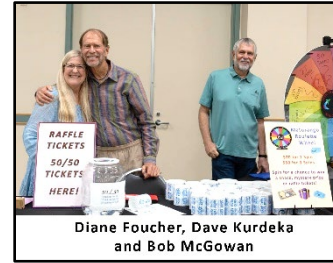




## Annual Report 2023 – Museum Events

### Annual Museum Events

- March 12 – Annual Meeting with speaker Barbara Bane: “What Happens Behind the White Door?”
- September 30 - Annual Auction Dinner. On top of a good dinner and auction, the museum organized fun games and activities for the guests.



### Art & Craft Workshops

- February 12 – Old-fashioned Valentine Card workshop for adults
- April 26 – Wine & Watercolor by Cheryl McDonald
- May 24 – Drawing class with Cheryl McDonald
- July 16 – Needle Felting Workshop by Andrea Pelch



### Astronomical Events – Equinox, Solstice & Eclipse

In 2023, the museum celebrated the following astronomical events with a craft, a sun & earth model, and when the sky was clear, the China Lake Astronomical Society brought their solar scopes for people to view the sun.

- March 19 – Spring Equinox
- June 21 – Summer Solstice
- September 23 – Fall Equinox
- October 14 – Annular Eclipse
- December 21 – Winter Solstice



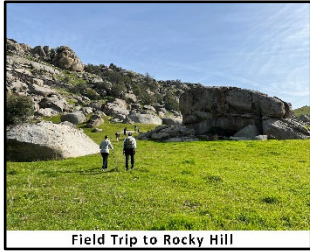
### Children’s Hour – Presented by the Docents

For the months of September thru May, the docents present an informative and crafty session for preschoolers. Each month the children explore a different nature related topic with stories, activities and crafts.

- January 24 – Wind, Clouds, Hi-Flying Birds
- February 24 – Nocturnal Animals
- March 17 – Early Spring – New Life
- April 14 – Desert Wildflowers
- May 12 – Garden Adventures
- September 25 – Coyotes!
- October 13 – The Wonderful World of Spiders
- November 10 – Our Mountain Animal Neighbors
- December 8 – The Snow Tree



## Field Trips



- February 4 –Rocky Hill pictographs in Exeter CA
- March 17 –Manzanar National Historic Site with an afternoon site tour of Manzanar archeological work by NPS archeologist Jeff Burton
- May 13 –Searles Valley Historical Society in Trona. The field trip included a visit to the Fire Museum, History House, Trona Railway Museum and Caboose, and the Old Guest House Museum
- June 9 - Eastern Sierra Museums: Eastern California Museum in Independence and the Museum of Western Film History in Lone Pine

## Free Saturdays Presented by the Docents

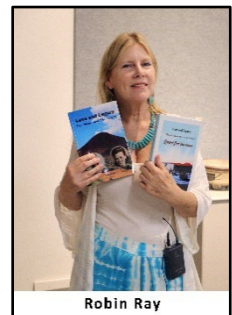
On the second Saturday of each month from 11 – 2pm, the docents provided information on specific topics and a craft activity. Below is a list of topics each month.

- February 11 – Mardi Gras masks
- March 11 – created colorfully painted flowers from recycled water bottles
- April 8 – Zoe Stephens, BLM Biological/Resource Intern presented “Mammals and Predators”
- May 13 – Reptiles and a craft
- June 9 – Rocks and Minerals
- July 8 – Live reptiles including Rosy the boa and tortoises
- Aug 12 – Bugs
- September 9 – Birds
- October 7 – Make Your Own Cereal Box Eclipse Viewer
- October 14 – Annular Eclipse
- November 11 – Beth Armogida Planetarium and solar scopes
- December 9 -Horns and antlers and Christmas crafts



## Lectures and Presentations

- April 1 - “A Vascular Flora of the Manter and Salmon Creek Watersheds in the Southern Sierra Nevada, Tulare County, CA” presented by Nina House. For her Master’s degree in botany, she studied a 51-square mile of the Kern Plateau including 25-square miles of the Domeland Wilderness.
- April 2 - “The Changing Floristic Landscape Through Time” presented by Glenn Harris, a retired Bureau of Land Management specialist. He discussed how plants have changed or migrated since the last ice age.
- August 5 – Author Robin Ray gave a presentation on her two books.
- October 14 - “Landscapes” by Jose Cazares. Jose discussed different landscaping projects and what is involved in creating a pleasing landscape.



**Lectures and Presentations (continued)**

- October 22 – Archeology Month: Tübatulabal Tribal Chair Robert Gomez spoke on Tübatulabal Tribe of Kern River: History, Language, and Culture.
- October 25 - Mojave Ground Squirrel talk
- November 9 - “Bodie – The Town, the People, and the Gold – History and Tall Tales from a California Ghost Town” by Gary Staab



Robert Gomez



Gary Staab

**Video Night at the Museum**

- May 20 – “The Hot Rod Years – Ridgecrest, Ca.” This video was made by Mark Pahuta and John Daly.
- June 15 – “The Story of the Sagebrush Short Line Railroad.” This video by Mark Pahuta tells the story of an ad hoc family of aficionados and volunteers who spent years creating a miniature, rideable railroad line on George and Linda Pruitt’s property.
- July 20 – “The Adventures of an Oral Historian in an Empty Land” by Dennis Casebier
- August 17 – “Synopsis of Four Visiting Artists” by Mark Pahuta. The four artists featured in this video were Hamil Ma, Betty Spindler, Tina Dille and John Aydelotte.
- October 19 – “Archeology Month” Three films by Mark Pahuta about historic archeological sites on NAWs China Lake, featuring homesteaders, Ft. Coso, and the Epsom Salts Monorail.
- December 7 – “Sidewinder, Simply the Best Heat-Seeking Missile Ever” presented by Bob Smith.



Hot Rod video night



“The Hot Rod Years”



Sagebrush Short Line Railroad video night

**Music**



Folias Duo  
May 24, 2023

- January 28 – High Desert Music Teachers Association concert
- May 24 - Folias Duo performed original compositions on the flute and guitar.

**Native American Events**

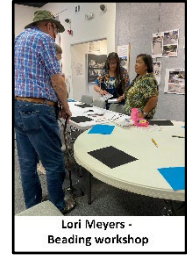
- July 8 – “Rawhide Creations” by Gene Albitre. Gene, a member of the Digueno tribe, talked about the various Native American items on display as well as the history and culture of the indigenous people.



Nora Nuckies trying on basket while Eugene Albitre looks on.

### Native American Events (continued)

- July 8 – Lori Myers, a member of the Tlingit tribe from Alaska, provided 40 jewelry kits for visitors to make a piece of jewelry.
- November 4 – Alan Salazar, a Chumash and Tataviam tribal elder told wonderful stories, and shared his books and video.
- November 4 – Lori Myers, a member of the Tlingit tribe from Alaska came back to teach visitors how to make earrings and bracelets.
- These events were sponsored by the Arts Council of Kern.



### Night at the Museum

On June 3<sup>rd</sup>, the museum had a “Night at the Museum” event in which the three curators showcased items that are not typically seen by visitors to the museum.



### Open Studio Tour

October 21 & 22 – the 2023 Open Studio Tour is a joint venture with local artists for a weekend in which the public can meet many local artists at different art studios in the Indian Wells Valley.



### Other Events

- November 5-7 – Mike Thompson, the flint napper, demonstrated how to create arrowheads from rock during the Petroglyph Festival.
- November 5-7 – J from Dawin showed visitors a variety of different rocks during the Petroglyph Festival.
- Multiple times during 2023, the Breakfast Burritos brought their burros to the museum for visitors to see and pet.

### Receptions

- June 5 – Opening reception for “Archaeoclay – Glyphs of the Earth” by Patrick Crabb
- June 14 – Opening reception for exhibit “Artistic Water-Wise Landscapes”
- August 6 – “Out of the Past” reception and book signing. Liz Babcock and Mark Pahuta spent the afternoon signing their collaborative book, “High Desert Double Exposures – A Photographic Retrospective of Ridgecrest and Its Neighbors.”
- September 17 – Membership Appreciation Reception Dr. David S. Whitley spoke on “45 Years in the Cosos, and Still Alive to Talk About It”.
- September 23 – Opening reception for “Open Studio”
- November 5 – Opening reception for Desert Artists’ League “Creativity” Gallery Exhibit



## Volunteer Appreciation Brunch

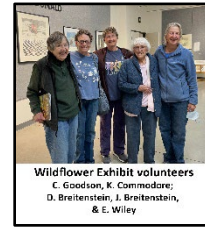
- December 12 – Staff celebrated volunteers by providing brunch type food.

## Wildflower Exhibit



Glenn Harris  
Wildflower Exhibit

This three-day event from March 31 – April 2 allows the public to see what wildflowers grow in this area all in one room! Collectors with the proper BLM permits collect in the Indian Wells Valley and the local canyons to bring to the public this variety of wildflowers.



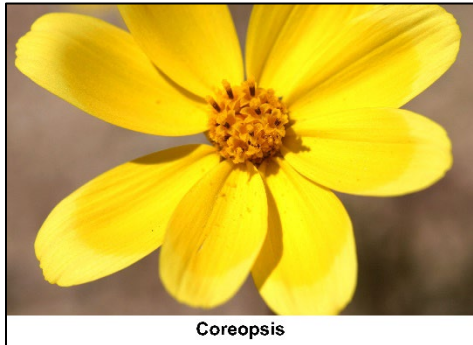
Wildflower Exhibit volunteers  
C. Goodson, K. Commodore;  
D. Breitenstein, J. Breitenstein,  
& E. Wiley



## Yard Sale

The museum's yard sale, called "The Mirage Sale" occurred on June 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. People bring in items for the museum to sell and the Coso and Panamint rooms are filled with yard sale items for people to purchase. This raised funds and was a great way to recycle many items!

**Annual Report 2023 - Wildflower Exhibit**  
**Elaine Wiley**



The success of the annual Wildflower Exhibit depends on the weather – the quantity and timing of precipitation and the temperatures in the months prior to the exhibit. All these factors determine what species are collected each year. Desert plants are opportunistic and take advantage of any moisture they can get to produce flowers and seeds. Each year is different and it's enjoyable to see the spring season unfold.

At the start of 2023, the valley received .25 inches on January 1 and the Ridgecrest area continued to receive rain or showers seven times in January, two times in February and four times in March (through March 21) for a total of 3.82 inches. This amount of precipitation contributed to a successful Wildflower Exhibit and a very pretty spring. The mountains received the largest amount of snow in decades and the surrounding mountains were snow-topped for weeks. As well as receiving a good amount of precipitation before the Wildflower Exhibit, the area also had cloudy, cool days with only seven days reaching above 70 degrees since January 1.

The first species of the season to bloom is typically *Erodium cicutarium* (Storksbill) which started blooming at the end of January. Another early spring flower is *Phacelia fremontii* (Yellow Throat), These purple flowers showed up on the south sides of creosotes and on south slopes of the hills the first week of February. Due to the 13 days of precipitation and cool temperatures, these plants continued to be showy up to the date of the Wildflower Exhibit and afterwards.



The temperatures warmed up enough to allow many annuals to spring forth and bloom the week before the Wildflower Exhibit. There were patches of yellow and purple wildflowers covering various areas of the desert. But not all annuals had started blooming, and the shrubs this year were late to start with only a few species starting to show leaves. The creosote bushes still looked brown and wintry at the end of March, Desert Senna had no leaves, and the Indigo Bush was just starting to leaf out.

Collecting wildflowers at the very beginning of spring limited what we collected, but the wildflowers were fresh and happy and looked and smelled good throughout the exhibit. We collected 194 species and 43 families for the Wildflower Exhibit.

As part of the Wildflower Exhibit, we provided two presentations. On Saturday, April 1, Nina House, a recent graduate from Claremont Graduate University, gave a presentation on "A Vascular Flora of the Manter and Salmon Creek Watersheds in the Southern Sierra Nevada, Tulare County, CA." On Sunday, April 2, Glenn Harris, a retired BLM employee and a current Maturango Museum docent, gave his presentation on "The Changing Floristic Landscape Through Time." For several years now, the Desert Artist League set up their



**Annual Report for 2023, Wildflower Exhibit; continued Page 2 of 2**

paints and pencils to draw specific plants during the Wildflower Exhibit. Watching the creation of the art by these talented artists is truly enjoyable.

Many volunteers are needed to organize, set up; collect, bottle specimens, identify specimens; host the event; give presentations; and clean-up following the exhibit. This year, we had 57 wonderful volunteers that made the whole process easy and enjoyable. The Maturango Museum thanks all the volunteers and appreciates their time and dedication to this event. We are grateful to all who worked so hard to make the Wildflower Exhibit a success.



**Lacy Phacelia**

As in past years, we had three botanists from the California Botanic Garden come here to identify the collected plants. They worked hard and kept busy identifying plants for two days as the plants were brought in by collectors. A special thank you to Joy England, Dr. Naomi Fraga, and Dr. Mare Nazaire. Naomi has been traveling to Ridgecrest to identify plants since 2008, making this her 15<sup>th</sup> year. This was Joy's 5<sup>th</sup> year and Mare's 3<sup>rd</sup> year. The museum also recognizes Kathy LaShure for her many years of financial support toward the Wildflower Exhibit which she organized for years before moving from the area.



**Pincushion**

## 2023 Facility Report

Museum volunteers completed some significant projects this past year. The first was the refinishing of the Panamint room floor. This floor has been in need of attention for a number of years and finally made the list of projects to be addressed. After a number of attempts at cleaning with ever stronger cleaning agents it was decided that a complete facelift was required. A 2-part epoxy coating was determined to be the most durable and cost-effective solution. Volunteers etched the concrete to roughen the surface then applied two coats of epoxy, first colored followed by a clear coat. The resulting floor is much easier to clean and is a great deal more attractive.



The second large undertaking was the replacement of the HVAC units on the Museum Annex. It was decided that high efficiency mini splits should be used to replace the original exterior wall mounted units. After receiving a bid from a local contractor, it was determined that a significant saving could be realized if volunteers could do the work. Two MRCOOL DIY mini splits were purchased through a local distributor. These units are designed to be installed by non-professionals and still retain the full warranty. The two units each support 3 zones so that each room in the annex can now be separately conditioned. This allows for the ability of not conditioning unoccupied space. This project took a larger number of volunteers contributing a significant number of hours.





Improving the safety of the west side emergency exits on the Coso room had been discussed for a number of years. Hand rails were added as the first step to accomplish this. Bob McGowan put his welding skills to use and fabricated the desired hand rails, others helped with digging holes and placement of the rails. In 2024 it is planned to add sloped paths to allow safe passage away from the building.

In order to make safe passage possible from the Coso room west side exit one of the 8-foot metal shamans needed to be moved. As this began to be planned it was decided that a number of the shamans from the west side should be moved so that they would enhance the walkway visitors use to enter the museum. A total of 7 metal shamans were removed and installed in new locations.



In order to facilitate better control over the museum HVAC systems all the thermostats in the museum were replaced with identical units. The prior thermostats were all different from each other and setting and programming them varied making it complicated to manage. The new units are connected to WIFI and can be programmed with a smart phone. This should make it easier to manage the settings.

In order to increase available storage space one of the restrooms in the old section of the museum was converted to a storage room. All of the plumbing was removed and capped along with the partitions and new storage shelves were installed. Storage shelves were also added to the west wall of the Panamint room to store docent children hour and art supplies.

Beginning the process to install solar. A Field trip to see the Smith's solar, meetings with Mark Ball from Sidewinder Solar and fencing and trenching done in preparation for future installation.



We had some leaks and repairs following an unexpected microburst with hail that happened on March 30.



We had some clean-up from Hilary with some leaks but it was not as bad as we were afraid it would be. Most of the previous repairs were effective. With every rain there are places to watch for leaks.

**Annual Report for 2023 – Argus Room  
Elaine Wiley**

Three different exhibits were showcased in the Argus Room in 2023.

- January to May – “Wildlife In My Backyard” by Michael Walsten
- May to October – “Out of the Past” by Mark Pahuta
- November – December – “Desert Artists’ League”

**Wildlife In My Backyard**

Continuing from December 2022 until May 1, 2023, the exhibit, “Wildlife In My Backyard,” a photographic study of animals seen in photographer Michael Walsten’s backyard, was displayed. The animals Michael photographed in his backyard included the Antelope Ground Squirrel, California Quail, local and migratory birds, insects, and reptiles. A close-up of a dragonfly’s multi-faceted eye and intricate wing pattern, a sharp close-up image of an iguana lizard’s face, and the fluorescent colors of the feathers of a hummingbird were captured with sharp detail. These photographs captivated the viewer with the intricate details of the animals.

Michael Walsten entered into an agreement with the museum to allow the photographs to be printed and sold.



Photo by Michael Walsten

**Out of the Past**

The months of May through October featured historical photographs of Ridgecrest and the Indian Wells Valley in the exhibit, “Out of the Past.” These framed black and white photos were taken predominately in the 1950s of different businesses and entertainment venues in Ridgecrest. One could look at a photo of the old theater and see what movies the newly-hired China Lake employees and their families might see while in town. The organizer of this exhibit, Mark Pahuta, has an interest in preserving old photographs of Ridgecrest and the surrounding area. Vintage items from the museum’s history collection and from volunteers were showcased to complement the period photographs.



**Annual Report for 2023, Argus Room; continued page 2 of 2**

**Desert Artists' League (DAL)**

During the months of November and December, the Desert Artists' League (DAL) exhibited their artwork in the Coso Room. To complement this exhibit, the Argus Room featured a brief history of DAL, the DAL's 2022 mural, and curated artwork from past and current DAL members. The curated artwork is part of the museum's permanent collection. The curated artwork consisted of paintings and pottery by Mary Adler, Ruth Amster, Maxine Booty, Martina Camphausen, Ida Svanhild Davis, Lois Hinman, Dolores Hoffman, Bill McEwan, Bill Ward, and Clarita Woodworth. Displaying items from the museum's archives provides a worthwhile and interesting exhibit.



These three exhibits were made possible by the efforts of the following volunteers: Dorie Cornell, Renee Lesniak, Mark Pahuta, Elaine Wiley and Peter Wiley.

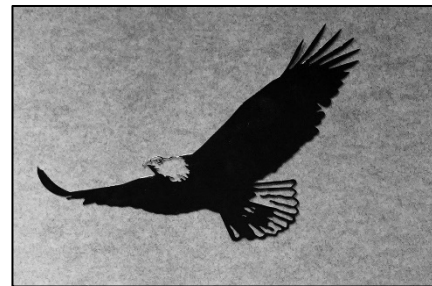
**Annual Report for 2023 – Sylvia Winslow Gallery  
Elaine Wiley**

During 2023, the Maturango Museum displayed four different exhibits in the Sylvia Winslow Gallery.

- January to April 19, “Valley Night Skies – Twilight to Twilight” by Bruce Heydlauff
- April 19 – May 20 – “Audubon Traveling Photographic Exhibit”
- May 21 – November 12 – “Artistic Water-Wise Landscapes”
- Nov. 13 – into 2024 – “Glimpses Thru Time”

**Valley Night Skies – Twilight to Twilight**

January 2023, featured the continuation of the exhibit, “Valley Night Skies – Twilight to Twilight” from 2022. Bruce Heydlauff often starts his day with a hike in the early morning darkness in the Rademacher Hills. At this exceptional time of the day, Bruce witnesses (and captures with his camera) many beautiful sunrises. One who sees beautiful sunrises, such as those Bruce sees regularly, can’t pass up beautiful sunsets as well. This exhibit was awe inspiring, beautiful and calming! Skip Gorman displayed metal silhouettes of animals creating a whimsical effect to the exhibit. Volunteer Nick Panzer instigated this exhibit. In support of the Maturango Museum, Bruce Heydlauff generously donated all the digital images in this exhibit and allowed the museum to print and sell the images. Skip Gorman generously donated his metal art.



**Audubon Traveling Photographic Exhibit**



Following the sunrise and sunset photographs of Bruce Heydlauff came the award-winning photographs from the 2022 Audubon Photography Contest. The top 11 photographs in the categories of Grand Prize, Professional, Amateur, Youth, Plants for Birds, Fisher Prize, Female Bird, and Honorable Mention traveled across the United States to be featured at different Audubon locations. Our local Kerncrest Audubon graciously supported the Audubon Photography Awards Traveling Exhibit, allowing this exhibit to be shown at the Maturango Museum. This traveling exhibit of 11 large

(30” x 40”), stunning, and larger-than-life photographs could be seen for a three-week period. At the close of the exhibit, the collection was packed up and shipped to its next Audubon destination.

## Annual Report for 2023, Sylvia Winslow Gallery; continued Page 2 of 2

### Artistic Water-Wise Landscapes

The third exhibit of the year, “Artistic Water-Wise Landscapes,” showcased photographs of artistic landscapes that use a minimum amount of water and have curbside appeal. The landscapes shown in this exhibit depict many different techniques to reduce water usage by avoiding the use of grass and creatively increasing the amount of “dryscape” (dryscape being yard surface area requiring no water). The techniques used to enhance the attractiveness of landscapes consist of variations in walkways, patios, driveways; the use of borders and retaining walls to define areas; using materials such as gravel, river rock, and decomposed granite as a ground cover; and adding raised planters, boulders, artwork, and features to add dimension to the landscape. Volunteer Nick Panzer instigated and supported this exhibit. This exhibit was also partly supported by a grant from the Arts Council of Kern.



### Glimpses Thru Time



The fourth exhibit, “Glimpses Thru Time” is a combination of previous historical exhibits by Liz Babcock. This exhibit starts with informational boards of the construction of the Los Angeles Aqueduct (1908-1913). The aqueduct construction attracted many workers to the eastern Sierras. Once the Nevada and California Railroad (now the Southern Pacific) lines were established, Brown (Railroad Siding #18) became a construction camp for the Los Angeles Aqueduct and grew in population to between 2,000 and 3,000 people. A post office was established in 1909, and the town of Brown attracted businesses and homesteaders. The aqueduct workers left the area in 1913 after the completion of the aqueduct and the population dwindled to 50 in 1920. Further north toward Little Lake, are the Coso Hot Springs. Long before people of European descent came to the Indian Wells Valley, local Shoshonean tribes used the bubbling mud and highly mineralized waters of Coso Hot Springs for therapeutic purposes. By the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, a health resort was flourishing there. In the 1920s, the water was bottled and billed as the “finest in the world for arthritis, rheumatism, sinus, stomach ulcers, asthma, acute gastritis, and all kidney and liver ailments.” Today, the Coso Operating Company leases the land from the Navy and produces about 145 net megawatts of power to Southern California Edison.

These four exhibits were made possible by the efforts of the following volunteers: Dorie Cornell, Renee Lesniak, Nick Panzer, Elaine Wiley and Peter Wiley.

**2023 Gardens and Grounds  
Submitted by Bev Hill**



It was a busy year for volunteers in the garden. The exceptional rain was beneficial to the plants but also the weeds. There were nine scheduled clean up days attended by museum, Navy, and community volunteers. There were also several small work groups that focused on specific projects like tree trimming and irrigation. Earth Day had the largest number of volunteers and included four families with children who came prepared with their own child-size gardening tools! Ninety-four volunteers contributed approximately 246 total hours during scheduled events. Individuals who worked on their own added an additional 150 hours of volunteer time.

The focus for the garden in 2023 was maintenance that centered on removing unhealthy plants and adding or rearranging irrigation as needed. The twenty new plantings from last year had a survival success rate of approximately seventy per cent. They also contributed much needed color and variety among established plants.

A highlight for the garden this year was the donation of a very large quartz rock by the Woodman family. This boulder size piece of quartz is a stunning example of one of the many types of rocks and minerals found in the mountains surrounding the valley. It was placed in the Low Desert planting area. Many thanks to the Woodman family for this generous addition to the garden.

Our volunteers consistently gave their time, energy and expertise to maintain and improve the gardens and grounds. Thank you so much for all you helped accomplish this year.

“The garden suggests there might be a place where we can meet nature halfway.”

-Michael Pollan



# Annual Report- 2023 from Cheryl McDonald-Web Mistress

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## September

- Started working for the museum September 11th.
  - Worked with board members to understand the scope and complexity of the website as well as discuss and creating special projects needed for fundraising.
  - I began working on updating the site and adding needed pages and removing or archiving old pages no longer need.
  - I began attending board meeting and try to be attentive to all staff and board needs for updates or changes in a timely manner.
- 

## October & November

- I kept busy updating events, exhibits, and galleries, and newsletter pages.
  - Created and posted events on Facebook museum page.
  - I created a business/ supporter members page with link to their businesses.
  - I helped develop the email letter for *Giving Tuesday* and built the landing page.
  - Working with Dave Kurdeka and Barb Bane to develop a new *Petroglyph page*.
  - I am working with Maureen with the online store, keeping the stock current, adding new items and building a strategy for getting more online sales.
  - I create ads for the Swap Sheet and send articles to both newspapers.
  - Doing a lot of troubleshooting and working with Kory when needed. Also adding new features to shop pages.
- 

## December

- I completed the new changes to the home page and updates to the petroglyph page. Updating information and adding a 40 image slide show of local petroglyphs. I added an *FAQ page and a further information about the Petroglyphs page* both of which were only downloadable pdfs. Now they can be read online or downloaded it is the viewers choice.
- Undated the Research and Collections Pages. Working with Barbara Banes to add information as it is created.
- Found a resource to be able to integrate the physical store POS system with the online store to allow a simpler process for inventory and sales and helping to consolidate databases. Waiting for guidance on this as it develops.
- Continuing to manage most of the advertising for events and the online store. Adding updates to the website as necessary.
- Volunteering time to help with special projects as necessary.



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Best,  
Debbie





*Maturango  
Museum*

*Ridgecrest,  
California*

