

Maturango Museum 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

By Debbie Benson, Director

**“In early June the world of leaf and blade and flowers explodes,
and every sunset is different.” John Steinbeck**

The Maturango Museum is a busy place with our activities and visitors. It is beginning to be the season where travel is what everyone is planning for a day or even longer. It is always fun to meet the people coming our way and our lizards seem ready to greet our guests, with only an occasional scream! Enjoy watching them but please let them go about their business as inhabitants of our garden.

This month we are beginning our 2nd Annual Matching Funds fundraiser. We have some amazing donors so please match their funds as you can! Double the Impact!

This month we are setting up a “buy a brick fundraiser” as well. We will let you know the details as soon as we have the complete information on the laser engraved bricks. We will use them to be a part of the new pathways through the Gladys Merrick Garden.

Enjoy seeing the desert and remember to hydrate and listen for the birds! If out and about, use care and enjoy the coolness of the evening as the sun sinks in the west.

Be well.

Summer Solstice – June 20, 2024, 1- 3 pm

The Summer Solstice for the Ridgecrest area will be on Thursday, June 20, 2024, at 1:51 pm. To celebrate the Summer Solstice, we will be making pressed flower bookmarks. Free event.

The Summer Solstice in the Northern Hemisphere marks the beginning of summer and is the longest day and shortest night of the year. On this day, the number of hours of daylight is at its maximum, while the number of hours of night is at its minimum. In the Southern Hemisphere, June 20 marks the shortest day of the year and the longest night. It's important to note that the Summer Solstice is not just a day but an exact moment in time that falls upon that day. This moment occurs when whichever hemisphere you're in is most tilted toward the Sun. For us, that moment will be at 1:51 pm on June 20th.

The Earth rotates on its axis once each day, producing the cycle of day and night. And over a year, the Earth travels around the Sun. However, the axis of rotation of the Earth is not aligned with the axis of motion around the Sun. Instead, the Earth is tilted slightly at 23.44 degrees. This tilt means that during one half of the year, the Northern Hemisphere is tilted slightly towards the Sun and the Southern Hemisphere is tilted away. For the other half of the year, the reverse is true.

At the exact moment that the Northern Hemisphere is most tilted toward the Sun, the Northern Hemisphere experiences its summer solstice. It is the Earth's tilt that causes winter and summer.



Docent Doings

By Nora Nuckles, Education Coordinator

In April, docents gave programs to over 550 children and adults! Some weeks we were out nearly every day! We helped with the vernal equinox event and the eclipse event. A few docents took our specimens to Burroughs for the Walk for Autism event. The art docents presented several programs including one on line and shape for a 5th grade class from South Fork Elementary.

We have continued to be busy this month! Just as promised, we presented the Beth Armogida Planetarium at a Richmond School Parent Night and at the Museum for our Free Second Saturday. Terry McGuire designed a solar system craft for our free second Saturday event. Another craft we made available in the Discovery Area was to make a Columbian mammoth picture using a drawing and adding yarn and googly eyes. This craft was to compliment the new Paleo exhibit with the mammoth tusk and foreleg that had been stored in our curation area.



Five of us were given the opportunity to present a Reptile program to the Webcore employees working on the base. See our picture with hardhats, safety vests and goggles!

Our Children's Hour team presented its last program of this season on May 24, Friday at 10:30 with a program on reptiles and a garden adventure!

We want to thank Karen and John of the Breakfast Burritos for bringing the burros to visit on Saturday, May 18. We will invite them back in the fall when it is cooler.

Docents will give a few tours for students from the base preschool as well as for the Moving on Up group. We also plan to return to High Desert Haven for a program on lizards and snakes. Bob Parker will bring tortoises in July for Tortoise Therapy!

You are invited to join a 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. Our next meeting is on June 4 at 10am in the Coso Room. Please join us if you wish to volunteer and have great adventures with us!

Free Second Saturday June 8 from 11am – 2pm: Desert Tortoises!

Zoe Stephens will present a program on the Desert Tortoise and we will have live tortoises and a tortoise craft.

Breakfast Burritos Burros Visit Saturday June 15, 8am - noon

Field Trip Ideas, Places, Planning, Tour Leader Opportunities.....

We are very fortunate to live in such a wonderful place as the Indian Wells Valley in the Mojave Desert! There are year-round opportunities for exploration and adventure right out our back door that most Americans can only access on vacation. The Maturango Museum's mission is, in part, to help its members and guests enjoy and develop an appreciation for this place we call home. Our tours are an important part of what we do to help in that regard. The Museum can't do it alone - we need your help! Please email us at trips@maturango.org if:

- You have ideas for how we might improve our tours
- Places you'd like to explore on a Museum tour
- You would be interested in helping plan future tours
- You would attend an informational meeting for potential tour leaders or co-leaders
- You would consider being a tour leader or co-leader
- You have any other suggestions!

The 2nd Annual Matching Donation Drive - 2024

From June 1 to August 1, your donation to the Maturango Museum can have twice the impact! Generous benefactors have pledged to match donations up to \$25,000. Your contribution can help the museum reach its goal of raising \$50,000, enabling the museum to keep its doors open and provide quality education and events to the community.

The Maturango Museum is a non-profit organization that has provided education and enrichment opportunities to the community since 1962. The museum is not funded by any city, county, state, or federal government and relies solely on donations from people like you. Let's work together to keep the museum running and thriving. Please make a special donation now to help the Maturango Museum maintain its status as an important educational and tourism asset for our community.



Let's make it grow!

Levels of donation:

___ Desert Dandelion	\$100 - \$249
___ Monkey Flower	\$250 - \$499
___ Charlotte's Phacelia	\$500 - \$749
___ Goldfield	\$750 - \$1000
___ Other	\$ _____

What the museum offers you and your family:

- Unique gift store
- Monthly Free Second Saturday activities
- Exhibit of local animals, paleontology, minerals, and Native American items
- Multiple exhibit rooms featuring local and out-of-town 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 & craft workshops
- Lectures and presentations
- Video nights
- Musical performances
- Room rentals
- Annual Wildflower Exhibit in April
- Docent programs at schools
- Local organizations information such as the Tortoise Club, China Lake Astronomy Club
- 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
- Planet Walk

Scan code with your phone's camera to get to the website link.

New barcode June 7



Recent Donations

Donations

Elizabeth Barbee
Judy Bradshaw
Dan and Brenda Burnett
William Burns
Bob and Alice Campbell
Don and Shirley Crouse
Ward Fanning
Michael Flanigon
Esther Hart
Jeffrey Ihnen
Richard Jackman Jr.
Ann Kurotori
Howard and Wanda Laire
Kara McDonald
Dave Palmer
Georgette Theotig
Patricia Wharton
Ken Whetzel

For Maturango's Membership in American Alliance of Museums

Barbara Bane

In Memory of Carol and Clay Panlaqui

Susan Hueber
Pat and Terry Rogers

Building Fund Robert Westbrook

Docents and Children's Programs

Homeschooling Tour
Jean Lagarde
South Fork Parent Teachers
Club
John and Mary Thurston

Endowment Susan Hueber

New Members

Stephanie Bradley
Byron and Amy Butler
Charles and Lori Casperson
Nancy Crawford
Joan and Denis Desmond
Jan Jackett
Jessica Novak and Kyle
Girven
Mike and Bessie Reeves
Ursula Robb
John A. Veasey
Tom and Charlotte Wee

New Business Members

Sinclair Legal Counsel
Sinclair Tax Service

New Premium Members

Brenda Hubbard
Marilyn Kincaid

"Re - Art"



An Eclectic Array
of Pre-owned Artwork
For Sale

"Re - Art" June 15 - August 11

Over the years, we have received many beautiful and diverse items of artwork as donations. Usually we wait until the "Annual Dinner and Auction" to present these items for sale. Currently we have enough for an entire exhibit -- so we'll have an exhibit! All items are for sale at shockingly low prices. This is a great way to decorate your space. Also a fantastic opportunity for artists to buy used frames, spiff them up and add their own artwork.



New donations are welcome.

Bring your items to the museum: we're open Monday - Saturday 10am - 5pm and Sunday Noon - 4pm, or call the museum 760-375-6900 to arrange a pick up at your place for oversized items.



Mirage Sale

Our semi-annual yard sale will be Friday July 12 - Saturday July 13, 8am - 12 noon.

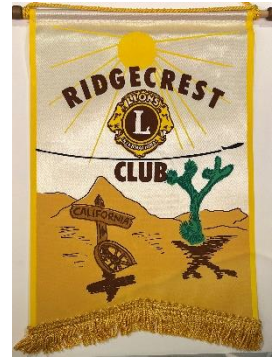


Ridgecrest Lions Club – 75 years of Community Service Exhibit runs from May – October 2024



This exhibit tells the history of the Ridgecrest Lions Club and highlights the many community service projects supported by this club over the past 75 years.

In 2023, the Ridgecrest Lions Club celebrated 75 years of community service in the Indian Wells Valley. In the early 1940s, only two Lions Clubs were in the eastern California desert-mountain area – the Victorville Lions Club and the Lone Pine Lions Club. Paul Yelton of the Victorville Lions Club and Roy Driggers of the Bakersfield Lions Club instigated and supported the forming of the Desert Lions Club in Randsburg in 1941. The Desert Lions Club then supported the forming of the Indian Wells Valley Lions Club in 1948. This new club was the first service club in the Indian Wells Valley. In 1974, the Indian Wells Valley Lions Club changed its name to the Ridgecrest Lions Club due to confusion with the Indian Wells Lions Club near Palm Springs.



Michael Spahn and Micah Lewis have brought historical items related to the Ridgecrest Lions Club for display in the "Ridgecrest Lions Club – 75 Years of Community Service" exhibit. Both Michael and Micah are active club members. They also brought boxes for unused eyeglasses and pop tops for the Ronald McDonald House.



The club's motto is "We Serve." Over the past 75 years, the Ridgecrest Lions Club has served the community through programs including sight, hearing, and speech conservation, diabetes awareness, youth outreach, international relations, environmental issues, and many other programs. The exhibit showcases the history of the Ridgecrest Lions Club and highlights the various community service projects supported by the club over the past 75 years.

Revisiting the July 2019 Earthquake Presentation Sunday June 30, 2 pm

Remember the Earthquake five years (!) ago?

Susan Hough, US Geological Survey, hough@usgs.gov will present an update on the sequence, current thoughts about hazard, and lessons learned. The aftershock sequence alone bears mention: the most recent forecast still gives about 50-50 odds of another aftershock > magnitude 4 over the next year, for example.

Plenty of time for Q&A, also.

**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
Molly Dickinson, Curation Technician
Elaine Wiley, History Curator
Sherry Brubaker, Natural History Curator
Andrea Pelch, Art Gallery Coordinator,
Newsletter Editor
Nora Nuckles, Education Coordinator
Linda Saholt, Membership, Donations
Leslie Layfield, Accounting Bookkeeper
Nora Nuckles, Museum Assistant
Nick Rogers, Museum Assistant
Barbara Ingle, Museum Assistant

Committee Chairpersons

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Bob Westbrook, Strategic Planning
Bev Hill, Gardens

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TJ Frisbee Bicycles, Inc
T&T Alignment, Inc.
Vaughn Realty
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Upcoming and Ongoing Exhibits and Events

- Annual Matching Funds Donation Drive: June 1 – August 1
- Pizza Factory and Beanster's Espresso Fundraiser: All day, Wednesday, June 12
- Free Saturday June 8 from 11am – 2pm: Desert Tortoises!
- Kern River Valley Art Association Gallery Exhibit: April 13 – June 11
- Burros Visit: Saturday June 15, 8am - noon
- Summer Solstice – June 20, 2024, 1- 3 pm
- Ridgecrest Lions Club Exhibit: May – October 2024
- "Re – Art": June 15 – August 11
- Earthquake Presentation: Sunday June 30, 2pm
- Museum Annual Dinner and Auction: September 28



Pizza Factory and Beanster's Espresso Fundraiser

All day, Wednesday, June 12.

20% of your purchase is donated to the Maturango Museum

You must mention this fundraiser when ordering.

**BEANSTER'S
ESPRESSO**

Maturango Museum

100 E Las Flores
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

June 2024 Newsletter

(updated June 7)

June is a boon to all things
coming soon...

*Maturango
Museum*

*Ridgecrest,
California*

