

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



Wow Spring Weather!!!

Museum Director's Notes

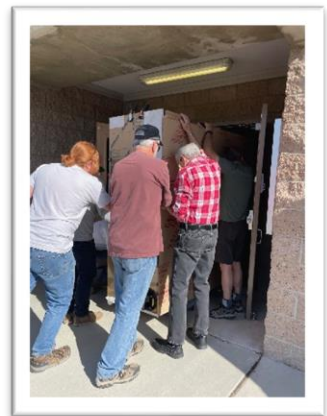
By Debbie Benson, Director

"May offers the genesis of our creative rebirth, unfurling the tapestry of genius with each step we take..." — Dr. Tracey Bond

One of the aspects of the Museum environment that involves decisions made in the past and our entering the future, are our permanent displays. We changed our flow pattern when we went through our expansion over ten years ago and rethought some of what we understood to be important. Our process continues. This last Friday we had an outstanding event that included Museum staff, volunteers, friends and family as the acrylic case was installed around the Paleontology Display. Along with a group of

our volunteers who have worked for some time on this project, we had the pleasure of working with some of the workers from Sidewinder Solar as a 300-pound acrylic case was negotiated from the back of a transport trailer, through an entryway, through exhibits and into location for installation. While it did have a test install and a few redoes, it was hung and set in place in a matter of hours. It is a beautiful display and provides information about the extinct Pleistocene

giants in our valley. Please come see it in person if possible! Sherry, our Natural History curator, who led this project, and the people who devoted time, energy and thought have much to be proud of. We are all thankful and proud of what came together. I'm sure more information will come in the future but we all wanted to share a bit now!



The flowers are still coming into bloom and there is much to enjoy! There are desert inhabitants out as well; use your eyes, ears and camera to share their habitat, but please let them be. Our best to you All!

Maturango Sunday Speakers Presents Sean Scruggs
Sunday May 19, 2pm



As **Tribal Historic Preservation Officer** (THPO) for Fort Independence Indian Reservation since 2018, Sean advocates the protection and care of ancestral homelands in Payahuunadü through Government-to-Government discussions, sharing cultural perspectives through education, and relationship building. He believes it's critical that Tribes and individual "Original People" understand, know, tell, and share their own stories and history as they deem appropriate, not only to correct history but to be seen, heard, and understood in their communities and around the world.

Sean Scruggs is Northern Paiute, Chuk-ke-shuv-ve-wé-tah or Oak Creek People, and lived on the Fort Independence Indian Reservation from age 6 to 16. An Air Force veteran with service in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Nevada Tonopah Test Range, he retired as Captain in 2009, and reconnected with his culture in 2014. He holds a Master's Degree in Organizational Management.

This lecture is free and open to the public.

Docent Doings

By Nora Nuckles, Education Coordinator

Thank you to Melanie Branson, who teaches biology and zoology at Burroughs High School, for organizing our April 13 Second Saturday early Earth Day celebration. What a special day it was. Thank you also to all the organizations and clubs that contributed their time to come to the Museum to share so much knowledge and fun. Over 100 visitors enjoyed this!



Docents did several programs in March and also helped with the Wildflower Exhibit, the Solstice celebration, and the eclipse viewing day. We presented programs to over 500 people in March!

Tortoises are now venturing out of their burrows in the Museum tortoise enclosure and many students on field trips have been able to see all three. All the Museum visitors enjoy observing the tortoises as well as strolling through our wonderful garden where the lizards and bunnies are racing around and the penstemon are showing their beautiful color. How fortunate we are that the garden is tended by our wonderful volunteers headed by Beverly Hill.



The docents will present programs in the Beth Armogida Planetarium for a Parent Night at Richmond Elementary. With Sherry Brubaker as our lead, we also hope to present programs in the planetarium at the Museum on May 11, free second Saturday, the day before Mother's Day. How special that day will be!

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 May 7, 10am in the Coso Room. Please join us if you wish to volunteer and have great adventures.

Free Saturday: Planetarium May 11, 11am – 2pm



Children's Hour: Reptiles and the Garden
Friday May 24, 10:30 - 11:30 am.



"Chasing Spring on the Pacific Crest Trail" by Bob Steele
Wednesday May 15, 7pm



In 2016 Bob and Susan Steele thru-hiked the 2,650 mile-long Pacific Crest Trail with a different goal than anyone else - counting all the birds. Their trek passed through magnificent scenery, diverse habitats, and afforded the chance to see birds moving northbound, from spring migration to summer breeding.

With stunning photography and storytelling, this evening presentation with guest speaker Bob Steele will take you along the mountainous spine of the West Coast, winding from Mexico to Canada with a keen eye toward natural history, flowers and birds. Share in the joy and challenge

of backpacking 140 days on one of the most famous trails in the Western Hemisphere, and glimpse some of the 200 species of birds and many flowers found along the way.

Folias Duo Concert
Thursday, May 16, 7 pm

Join us for a concert with Folias Duo, the celebrated musical pairing of flutist Carmen Maret and guitarist Andrew Bergeron, who redefines classical music with a dynamic blend of jazz, world music, and improvisation. With two decades of collaboration, their compelling compositions and mesmerizing performances have earned them recognition as pioneers in the contemporary flute and guitar ensemble scene. They will grace the stage with their original compositions, drawing inspiration from their life on the road and the profound impressions evoked by the natural world, all showcased from their latest album, "Heartdance."



Website: www.foliasduo.com

Promo Video: youtu.be/2_-73my8C0g?si=8PlmStYW5TqBwHLP

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!

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Paleolithic Display
Dorie Cornell

In Honor of Wildflower
Volunteers
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Honoria for Visiting Botanists
for Wildflower Exhibit
Kathryn LaShure

Wildflower Exhibit
Nora and Richard Nuckles
Peter and Elaine Wiley

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Craig Bansmer
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Bev Estis
Elliott Keeter

New Lifetime Members
Daniel and Mary Kus



Pizza Factory and Beanster's Espresso Fundraiser

All day, Wednesday, May 8.

20% of your purchase is donated to the Maturango Museum

You must mention this fundraiser when ordering.

BEANSTER'S
ESPRESSO



**Call to Maturango Museum Member Artists:
Apply for ARTifacts Exhibit**

**Museum Members'
Artistic Interpretations of
Curated Objects**

Our museum curators will choose 3 objects each from collection storage and our museum members will artistically interpret one item and make an “art object”. All the objects will be on display and the members’ art items will be for sale. The commission is 40%. Artists’ items must be able to fit in a space the size of a 24” cube. There is no fee to participate but you must be a museum member. www.maturango.org for museum membership information.

For example, Barb Bane, our Archaeology Curator, would choose a basket. The 3 artists assigned that object would then create a piece of art of their own design – one artist might see the basket’s weave texture and make a woven metal sculpture; another may envision the person that made the basket and paint a picture of that scene; the third artist might write a poem about the feeling of weaving. The idea is to have fun and get very creative.

Since there is space for only 30 artists’ work, we will accept applications from museum members on a first come, first serve basis. You will need to walk in and fill out an application or send an e-mail to Andrea at gallery@maturango.org

Your e-mail must have “ARTifacts” as the subject line and then in the body provide your name, e-mail address, phone number and medium that you normally work in (you are not limited to this medium for this exhibit).

The beginning time to start applying is 10am Wednesday May 1. We will accept applications until we have 30 people.

On Saturday May 18 at 12 noon we will have the objects on display and artists will be assigned their object. The artists will receive a description of their object and may take photographs. The objects cannot be taken away.

The actual exhibit is scheduled to open in mid-August and be on display until the end of October. Questions ??? Call Andrea at the museum 760-375-6900 or cell 760-793-2857.

**Kern River Valley Art Association Art Gallery Exhibit
Saturday April 13 – Wednesday June 12, 2024**



The Kern River Valley Art Association (KRVA) goes on the road! The KRVA, located in the beautiful Kern River Valley, was founded in 1962 as an all-volunteer, non-profit organization to provide artistic venues and opportunities for artists in the valley and beyond. Early on, the KRVA mainly organized two art festivals per year, on Memorial and Labor Day. COVID

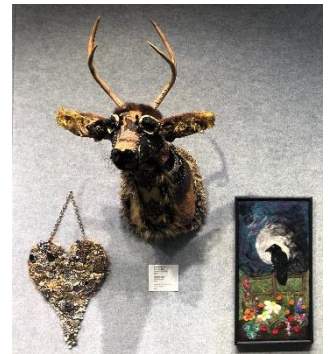


brought the creation of the *Arm Chair Gallery* where monthly exhibitions were held online via ZOOM. Art works were shown and the artists discussed the works with the audience. The *Arm Chair Gallery* was very popular and helped to sustain and grow the KRVA during that difficult time.



Today, the KRVA operates several buildings in Wofford Heights: The *Art Gallery*, where monthly themed group shows as well as solo exhibitions by local artists and middle school students are shown.

The gallery also holds classes in drawing and painting, crafts, jewelry making and more. Industrial arts classes such as blacksmithing, metal work, stained glass making and more are offered at a nearby Industrial Arts Complex that houses music classes and monthly music events as well as workshops in improvisational theater and comedy. A coffee shop in the same complex is currently under development.



The KRVA wishes to thank the Maturango Museum for the opportunity to showcase the work of the many talented artists that reside in the Kern River Valley and beyond. The artists included in the show represent the incredibly broad range of talent we are lucky to support. Thank you!

**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.

The Ridgecrest Lions Club programs include sight, hearing and speech conservation, diabetes awareness, youth outreach, international relations, environmental issues, and many other programs.



**Maturango Museum
of the IWW**

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
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Molly Dickinson, Curation Technician
Elaine Wiley, History Curator
Sherry Brubaker, Natural History Curator
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Nora Nuckles, Education Coordinator
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Leslie Layfield, Accounting Bookkeeper
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WACOM
Warren's Automotive

Upcoming and Ongoing Exhibits and Events

- Pizza Factory and Beanster's Espresso Fundraiser: All day, Wednesday, May 8
- Free Saturday May 11 Planetarium: 11am – 2pm
- "Chasing Spring on the Pacific Crest Trail" by Bob Steele Wednesday May 15, 7pm
- Folias Duo Concert: Thursday, May 16, 7 pm
- Sean Scruggs Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Presentation: Sunday May 19, 2pm
- ARTifacts meeting: Saturday May 18, 12 noon
- Children's Hour: Reptiles and the Garden: Friday May 24, 10:30 – 11:30am
- Kern River Valley Art Association Gallery Exhibit: April 13 – June 11
- Ridgecrest Lions Club Exhibit: May – October 2024

Maturango Museum

100 E Las Flores
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

May 2024 Newsletter

It's May! it's May!
Get out there and play...

