

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

“Leaving any bookstore is hard, especially on a day in August, when the street outside burns and glares, and the books inside are cool and crisp to the touch.” – Jane Smiley

Once again, this has been a summer of extreme heat that has made itself felt in the dry leaves and grasses and the survival of all things growing. The growth all winter from the deep soaking we got from Hilary and the winter rains has increased the amount of crisp and dehydrated plants when exposed to the extremes heat of the desert. We all feel it and the need for water is ever present. Don't leave home without it!

Our gardens are looking good with the work being done and a few new plantings that are surviving with care. Our new walkway through the garden that leads to our curation building makes the garden accessible to our visitors. If you are interested in buying an engraved brick that will enhance the walkway the information is on our website and in the Museum Store.

We are putting together more plans for trips and tours. Some of us went on the July trip to Bodie and had the opportunity to go around the town and to the Stamp Mill. The tour was led by informative host Chris Spiller from the Bodie Foundation. We were glad to support the work they are doing to slow, or arrest, the decay of the remaining structures. It was a day of information and stories along with photogenic structures and historical items. It was a full tour that still included time to investigate on our own which was fun as the weather was beautiful. We hope to put together a tour to that area again next year if the weather allows, the roads are good and there is interest.

In reference to the opening quote, the Maturango Store has a great book section! If you come in and look at a few you too may find them an excellent respite from the heat! We have some fun books for the young readers as well. Too soon they will be going back to various school situations and may enjoy having a favorite read for these burning hot days!

Please stay hydrated! Our best to you all.

Annual Auction and Dinner

Saturday, September 28, 2024 Doors Open at 5pm Kerr-McGee Center
Games and prizes Dessert Auction Tickets are \$60 per person or 2 for \$100
Sponsorship opportunities include reserved table, raffle tickets and advertisement in program.

More info next page...

Auction donations are tax deductible

Items of all sizes and values are welcome. Smaller items and gift cards can be combined to make one our terrific gift baskets. Deadline for donations is Friday September 13.

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.

Questions about sponsorship or event details? Email debbie@maturango.org

Buy tickets (in museum store or on-line) and get more information on our website www.maturango.org

Docent Doings

By Nora Nuckles, Education Coordinator

Many people are calling to inquire about what to do with a bird if it is found. Below is a graphic provided by Caroline Wood from the Bureau of Land Management. Many people also inquire about desert tortoises that mysteriously appear in their yards. We can refer you to the local California Turtle and Tortoise Club for information.

Docents welcomed four K-3 groups from "Moving On Up" in July. Bob Parker brought tortoises and Susan Moore brought Rosy, our pet rosy boa ambassador snake. The children enjoyed the animals, toured the exhibit room, and had an opportunity to see the new Paleontology exhibit and the wonderful glider exhibit.

The docents and I are planning new lessons on these new exhibits. Elaine Wiley, the Museum's History Curator, wants us all to

sponsor a free Saturday for flying paper airplanes and other types of homemade airplanes and gliders.

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. You are sure to have fun, learning experiences!



Fundraising Bricks

Our campaign starts NOW! We are enthusiastically beginning our brick campaign. The funds will be used to further beautify and maintain our desert gardens at the museum. The bricks will be installed along the new path to the curation building and around the shade structure.



On this website page you will find a quick video and the printable flyer with mail-in order form.

www.fundraisingbrick.com/online-orders/maturango/



Recent Donations

Donations

Nivia Barker
Dan and Brenda Burnett
Renee Lesniak
Patricia Wharton
Ken Whetzel

In Memory of Harold and Carolyn Hockett

Kathie King

In Memory of Vivian Van Devender

Diane Youngblood

Building Fund

Robert Westbrook

Curation Building Fund

Mike and Jerry Mumford

Glider Display

Nick Panzer

Matching Funds Drive

Camille Alden
Frank Armogida

Pam and Charles Barnes

Sherry Brubaker

Karen Bruno

David and Jo Burdick

Milt and Jane Burford

Dan and Brenda Burnett

Bill and Linda Duncan

Diane Foucher

Sally Franklin

Sandra Gamble

Troy and Donna Ingle

Kathie King

Betty Kobler

Mary and Daniel Kus

Dennis Mar

Mawhirter family

Bob and Tiana McGowan

Ray Miller

Barbara Miras

Therese and David Moore

Kim Morrell

Naomi Norris

Pizza Factory

Joanna Rindt

Alexander and Fran Rogers

Carolyn Roseth

Stuart and Charlene Sims

Lloyd and Bea Smith

Andrew Sound

Gary Staab

Julie and Harry Stephens

Jim and Deanna Stewart

Mary and Larry Trowsdale

Francina van der Hoek

Janet Westbrook

Pat Wharton and Ken Wetzel

Peter and Elaine Wiley

New Members

Rebekah Aftim

Nivia Barker

Louise Caraway

Michael Cash

Calvin Gifford

Bruce and Jerry McClung

New Premium Members

Ann and Gary Charlton

New Lifetime Member

Rachel Woodard

ARTifacts 2024

ARTifacts: Museum Members' Artistic Interpretations of Curated Objects

August 17 – October 29

Opening Reception Sunday August 18, 2-4pm

Our museum curators have chosen 3 objects each from collection storage and our museum members are challenged to 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 idea is to have fun and get very creative.

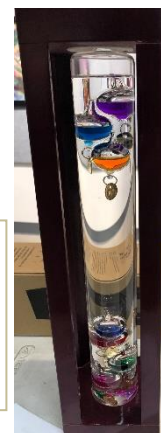
The Opening Reception will include artists' introductions, light snacks, and festive conversation. All opening receptions are free and open to the public.



From 2022 ARTifacts Exhibit: old highway sign inspired 2 paintings and a homemade banjo!



A few of the items to inspire artwork for 2024 exhibit: a cormorant, Pancho Barnes' bathtub, and a Galileo thermometer.



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
- There are 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!



Photos from Bodie trip in July.



**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.



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.

When you visit this exhibit, you will see that the Ridgecrest Lions Club sponsors many projects to help others. Currently, the club is collecting plastic film and bags. If enough of this plastic is collected, NexTrex will donate a park bench which the club intends to put at the new Sgt. John Pinney Pool. Acceptable plastic items for this project are: Produce bags, store bags, ice bags, Ziploc and other reclosable bags, cereal box liners, case overwrap, bread bags, newspaper sleeves, dry cleaning bags, bubble wrap, and plastic e-commerce mailers. All plastics must be clean, dry, and free of food and organic materials. Concurrently, the Ridgecrest Lions Club is collecting pop-tops for the Ronald McDonald House and unused eyeglasses for repurposing. These items can be dropped off at the Maturango Museum.

"Re - Art"



**An Eclectic Array
of Pre-owned Artwork
For Sale**

**"Re – Art"
Ends 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.

“SOARING – Flying High on the Power of Rising Air” Exhibit in the Sylvia Winslow Gallery

How This Exhibit Came to Be

By Nick Panzer

I have been involved in four recent Maturango exhibits, each showcasing photographs of a specific subject. I was looking for something new, something large, something three-dimensional. But what local historical item could fit the bill? After discussing this with Elaine Wiley, the History Curator at the Maturango Museum, we came up with the idea of an exhibit featuring an actual glider installed in the Sylvia Winslow Gallery. We wondered if a glider fuselage would fit in the gallery, with the wings displayed separately. We also needed to find a glider to borrow for the exhibit.



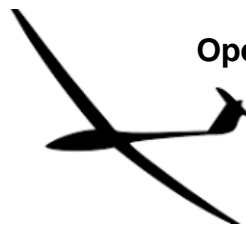
Finding someone willing to loan their glider for eight months or more is not an easy task. Luckily, as we talked to people in the local gliding community, we were directed to Cindy Brickner, a glider/tow pilot in Mojave. Cindy just so happened to have a glider stored in her yard and generously loaned the glider to the museum. In early January, we transported the glider to Ridgecrest, where it was stored in Bob Westbrook’s garage to be prepared for exhibit.

Glider are made to be lightweight and, in a sense, are strong but fragile. When transporting the glider to the museum, special care was needed when lifting and moving so as not to damage it. Since this is a functional glider, we handled it with care so that it could fly again after being exhibited at the museum. We moved the glider to the museum on June 23rd in preparation for a July opening. We had 12 volunteers to help move the glider due to its weight, size, shape, and fragility. Plus, we needed to be careful when moving the glider through tight turns in the narrow passageways of the museum.



The glider is a “Grob 102 Club III B” single-seater designed by Burkhard Grob and built by Grob Aircraft. This aircraft was one of the early fiberglass gliders and was the first Grob-designed glider. It first flew in December 1974. The wingspan of this glider is 49’3” (15 meters) and, when assembled, will not fit in the Sylvia Winslow Gallery. Therefore, the wings and fuselage are shown unassembled with the wings set behind the fuselage.

The exhibit became a reality thanks to the dedication of over a dozen museum volunteers. The museum holds a special place in the hearts of many, and the volunteers’ willingness makes it even more special. A big thank you to all the people who played a part in bringing this exhibit to life.



Opening Reception for Soaring Exhibit

Sunday August 4, 2-4pm

Free and open to the public

Light snacks, friendly people...

**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
Nadia Mohsen, 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

Elaine Wiley, Publications
Bob Westbrook, Strategic Planning
Bev Hill, Gardens

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Sierra Sands Unified School District
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TJ Frisbee Bicycles, Inc
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WACOM

Upcoming and Ongoing Exhibits and Events

- Soaring Exhibit: now through February 2025
- **Opening Reception for Soaring Exhibit:** Sunday August 4, 2-4pm
- Free Saturday August 10: no admission fee the second Saturday of each month, usually craft activities 11am -2pm
- Pizza Factory and Beanster's Espresso Fundraiser: All day, Wednesday, August 14.
- ARTifacts Art Gallery Exhibit August 17 – October 29
- **Opening Reception for ARTifacts:** Sunday August 18, 2-4pm
- Ridgecrest Lions Club Exhibit: May – October 2024
- "Re – Art": ends August 11
- Museum Annual Dinner and Auction: September 28

Donations needed



Pizza Factory and Beanster's Espresso Fundraiser

All day, Wednesday, August 14.

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

July 2024 Newsletter

*Maturango
Museum*

*Ridgecrest,
California*

