

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
60.375.6900 www.maturango.org
Death Valley Tourist Center Northern Mojave Visitor Center

Museum Director's Notes

By Debbie Benson, Director

October seems to hold the essence of being a time for preparation. The heat of the desert lets go enough so that we can enjoy outdoor activities and to prepare for the holidays to come. One of our favorite activities in October is the Open Studio Tour. It is the perfect joining of buying locally made gifts mixed with friendships renewed and new ones made. The artists are all inspirational and fun people. We hope to see many out for the weekend on the 26th & 27th.

I would like give a thanks from each member of the Staff and our volunteers to each person who has made our fundraising efforts worthwhile and fun. You are a big part of why we are here and why we work so hard to fulfill the mission of the Maturango Museum.

My Best to you all.



Open Studio Tour 2024

Saturday October 26 and Sunday October 27, 10am – 4pm each day

There will be a mini-show of artists' artwork the week before the tour in the Museum's Argus Gallery.

Free maps to the studios will be available October 11.

E-mail gallery@maturango.org, or come in to the museum gift store or see our website www.maturango.org

Lecture-Concert: Children in Art and Music

Saturday November 16, 7pm and Sunday November 17, 2pm

This event is presented by Catherine Douglas, Karen Sanford, and Sergio Ramirez. Sergio will first read a brief introduction for each painting and piano piece. The paintings will be projected on to the video screen while Cathy and Karen play the piano pieces. In this way, the audience will have a more immersive experience with the combination of visual arts and music. There will be 10 pairs of paintings and piano pieces in a wide range of styles and periods. Some piano pieces will be played by Cathy Douglas and other pieces will be arrangements for 4 hands and will be performed by Cathy Douglas and Karen Sanford.

Mutau Flat/Carrizo Rock Art Weekend October 12-13 2024



Join Maturango Museum for a special rock art excursion to Mutau Flat on a private ranch in Ventura County. We will view Chumash pictographs that were first noted in the 1870s, with archeological excavation by Agnes Bierman Babcock in the late 1940s and detailed analysis by Chumash rock art expert David Robinson in this century. The ranch is not open to the public and this is a rare opportunity to see this extensive Ventureño Chumash site with pictographs and bedrock mortars.

We will meet at the Ridge Route Museum, Frazier Park, for a quick museum tour and comfort stop early on Saturday morning, travel another hour over dirt roads to the ranch, and then tour the Flat guided by long time ranch owner Kathy Williams, local historian Bonnie Kane from Ridge Route, and Wind Wolves Preserve Archeologist Jack Sprague. Our day will last from 9am to 3pm. Some carpooling can be arranged at the ranch gate for folks who may not want to drive on the final dirt roads to the Flat, although most street vehicles should be fine. Moderate - good mobility necessary with hiking up to 1/2 mile over the meadow to the boulder outcrops and possibly a short shallow stream crossing if there's any water in the meadow in October. Bring a picnic lunch and water, hiking sticks, and dress for sun exposure. Pleasant fall temperatures should be daytime 70s and nighttime 40s.

On Sunday Oct. 13, Jack Sprague will guide us from Frazier Park to some seldom visited rock art sites (Selby Rocks pictographs) in the Carrizo Plain National Monument, about two hours from Frazier Park. Jack has many years archeological experience with Chumash sites in the San Emigdio Mountains, Carrizo, and Los Padres mountains; any rock art tour with him is a fascinating day. Our Carrizo trip will last from 8am to 2pm.

Convenient hotel/motel accommodations (Holiday Inn Express and Motel 6); gas available in Frazier Park/Lebec). Camping also available at private or public Forest Service campgrounds in Los Padres NF to the west of Frazier Park.

Tour price: \$225 Maturango members, \$300 non-members; purchase at the Maturango website Events page <https://maturango.org/event/mutau-flat-carrizo-rock-art-weekend/> or by calling the Maturango gift shop, 760-375-6900. Your tour price includes gratuities for our guides and donations to their associated non-profits. Limit 18. Don't miss this opportunity to see some spectacular rock art sites not normally available to the public!

Natural History

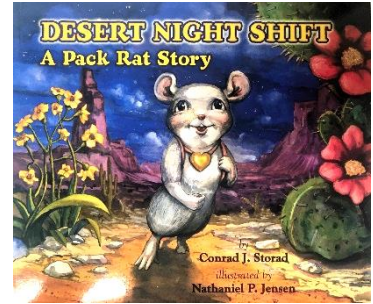
By Sherry Brubaker, Natural History Curator

Fall is here and with it comes shorter days and longer nights. We have two more super-moons coming; this year we are having four in a row. The last one, on September 17 also had a lunar eclipse. Super moons are when the moon is close to the earth and appears to be larger than usual. We had a very clear night on the 17th so the super-moon looked large, bright, and was sporting a dark shadow from the earth as it cleared the horizon.

In November the full moon will be on the 15th; hopefully the sky will be clear. There will be not be an eclipse this time, but the moon is always wondrous.

Another event to look for is the aurora borealis, aka, the Northern Lights. The sun has been very active with solar flares lately, some of the activity has been enough to make the northern lights visible here in the valley. <https://www.space.com/32601-where-to-see-northern-lights.html>

Children's Hour: Nocturnal Animals Friday, October 11, 10:30 to 11:30 am



The Docent Story Group is excited about introducing young children and older siblings to some of the **night critters** awake and active when it is dark outside. Are there many desert and mountain animals who mostly sleep in the daytime and then are very busy at night? What might be some reasons for that? The children will learn and be entertained through slides, stories, action songs and a craft. Curiosity and questions are always encouraged at the Discovery Table exhibits from the Docent's Collection.

The Children's Hour is a free monthly program presented September through May. The next Children's Hour will be on Flex Friday November 8, 2024. The theme will be "the Desert We Live In - The Land, the Animals, the Plants".

Flyers of the fall schedule will be available for pick-up at each of the programs.
Tel. 760-375-6900 maturango.org

Docent Doings

By Nora Nuckles, Education Coordinator

We are ready, fit, and able! The docents of the Maturango Museum look forward to a fun season as they bring varied animals, rocks, and "artifacts" to the children and adults in the community. The new request forms are on our website and can be sent to me (Nora) at any time. In the Fall our most frequent requests are for programs on Bats, Birds, Native Americans, and Art. The art docents deliver their programs in a sequence starting with the topic of Line. They share posters of famous works of art and then conclude the program with an art "experience" on the topic. It is good for teachers to request these programs starting in October so that they can have several programs during the school year.

We have recently visited High Desert Haven with programs on Reptiles, Tortoise Therapy, and Birds. We will bring programs to the residents there every month!

Our first Children's Hour on Bears was a lot of fun! The children crafted very cute bears using a clean toilet paper tube! We have some of these craft items in the Discovery Area of the El Paso Exhibit Room so children can visit and make their own bears. The next Children's Hour on Friday Oct. 11 will feature Nocturnal Animals. Children's Hour begins at 10:30 AM.

The next Free Saturday is scheduled for Oct. 12. Watch our outdoor sign, Facebook, and our website for more details.

The Maturango Museum Docent League is gearing up for a busy, fun season with children and adults. You are invited to join a group of people who love to share the wonders of our desert. 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!

A two-week resident of the museum, "Gertrude," the spiny lizard, was finally wrangled and put outside where she truly belonged. Gertrude had been sighted many places in the museum for about two weeks. Finally, Maureen and Nora were able to coax her into a box when she decided to visit the gift shop cash register area!



Tracking the Midnight Sun: A Journey to Norway 2pm Sunday October 27

Alice and Ken Atwood will present a travelogue about their recent trip to Norway. The presentation is part of the Museum Director lecture series and will be focused on their journey along the west coast of the country beginning in the town of Bergen and proceeding north to the Svalbard archipelago and then a southbound return.

The cruise, referred to as the Svalbard Express, was made on the MS Trollfjord of the Hurtigruten line. The journey was 15-29 June so it included the 2024 summer solstice; the plan was to experience the midnight sun. A trip extension to Oslo, 29 June -1 July was made and will be included.



This presentation will be in the form of a travelogue taking the audience along the west coast, crossing of the arctic circle in the fishing village of Traena and a foggy visit to the North Cape. The North Cape is the most northerly point on the European continent. Our voyage will then take us further north across the Barents Sea to Svalbard. The hamlet of Ny-Alesund is the northern most occupied village on earth and it is our last stop before beginning our return south.

The return voyage south includes stops along the beautiful and important fishery of the Lofoten archipelago. A short visit to the Geiranger fjord and Trollford (namesake of our ship) were made before our return and disembarkation in Bergen.

Images from the very modern and progressive city of Oslo include the new Munch museum (yes, including the Scream) as well as some images of the Oslo city hall where the Nobel Peace Prize is awarded. Do you know that swans represent the soul of Oslo?

The presentation is not intended as a photographic essay but will hopefully convey the resilience, and beauty of Norway through a glimpse of its landscape, wildlife and geography.

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/



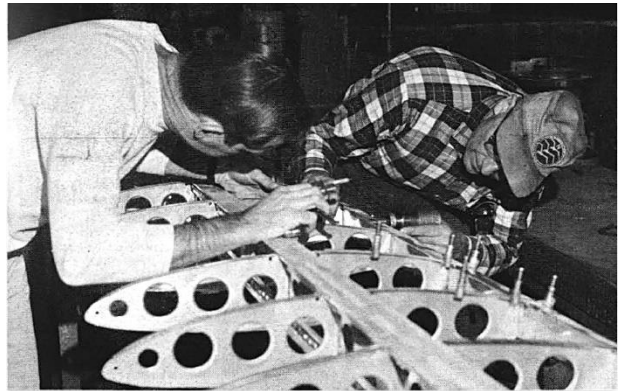
China Lake Soaring Club – a Brief History

The China Lake Soaring Club has a rich history that dates back to the late 1940s. It all began with Al Sievert and a group of like-minded individuals purchasing a war surplus TG-2 training glider in 1948. This glider, originally used for pilot training by the US military, became the foundation for the club's soaring activities above the Indian Wells Valley. In 1953, the club was officially incorporated as the China Lake Soaring Club.

Around 1962, the club replaced the TG-2 with a newer model, the Schweizer 2-22C two-seater training glider.

The members' passion for soaring extended to building their own gliders, despite having no prior experience in construction. This enthusiasm led to the completion of various glider projects, including a high-performance Breigleb BG-12 by Charlie Drew and a medium-performance Schweizer 1-26 by Dr. Bill McEwan, both of whom participated in the Southern California Soaring championships.

Today, you can learn more about the local history of soaring in the Indian Wells Valley by visiting the exhibit "Soaring - Flying High on the Power of Rising Air" at the Maturango Museum. The exhibit features an actual glider, the "Grob 102 Club III B" single-seat glider, and provides a fascinating insight into the sport of soaring.



BUILDING THE WING - As Jim Gladney holds the rib steady, Charles Drew installs a fastener through the "drag strut" along the trailing edge of the wing. Fasteners projecting upward along the ribs in the foreground hold thin alignment strips in place.



ARTifacts: Museum Members' Artistic Interpretations of Curated Objects August 17 – October 29

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.

A few items in the exhibit...



The Galileo thermometer inspired these two artworks: a very detailed woven piece and a clever found-objects wall décor.

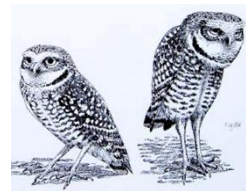


The tortoise scutes inspired these two artworks: a lovely painting and a montage of linocut prints.

You will be pleasantly surprised by the amazing amount of creativity and talent seen at this exhibit.

Burrowing Owl Volunteer Days at Hanning Flat

The Kern River Valley Heritage Foundation will be hosting 2 volunteer service weekends **October 12-13 and October 19-20 (8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.) at Hanning Flat**. We will be constructing 10 new artificial burrows for burrowing owls.



Over the past few years, volunteers have helped construct 15 burrows, some of which were used by the owls within days of their completion! This year we were rewarded with a mating pair of burrowing owls that stayed at Hanning Flat all winter and produced a family of 7 owlets in May!

We are hoping that you will join us in October to help with this very successful project. Please bring a hat, gloves, water, lunch, a chair, and a shovel. Primitive camping will be available at Hanning Flat for those who may want to join us all weekend. There will be lunchtime presentations discussing the life cycle and habits of burrowing owls.

For more information, please contact Kathy Dwyer (todwyergm@gmail.com) or Reed Tollefson (Reed.Tollefson@audubon.org).

Kern River Valley Heritage Foundation's Hanning Flat Preserve; entrance is located on Sierra Way Highway 9.7 miles east of Kernville and 3.5 miles west of intersection with Hwy 178. (Note: Sierra Way is currently closed at South Fork Kern River bridge. You must go through Lake Isabella around to Kernville) From gate at Sierra Way go north on dirt track 1.7 miles to water tank and spring where we will meet.

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

Don't forget to check out the Ridgecrest Lions Club exhibit at the Maturango Museum by October 19. The club has been serving the community for 75 years since 1948. They are involved in various initiatives such as supporting sight, hearing, and speech conservation, raising awareness about diabetes, engaging in youth outreach, promoting international relations, addressing environmental issues, and many other programs. As part of the exhibit, the Lions Club provided donation boxes for pop-tops and eyeglasses. So, please consider contributing your pop-tops and eyeglasses to these donation boxes!



Also, if you have a lot of plastic at home, the Ridgecrest Lions Club is sponsoring a Plastic Drive to receive a park bench from NexTrex. If enough plastic is collected, the club plans to put a park bench at the incoming Sgt. John Pinney Pool Complex. The plastic must be clean, dry, and free of food residue. The types of plastic accepted include grocery bags, bread bags, bubble wrap, Ziploc and other food storage bags, pallet wrap, stretch film, produce bags, and wrapping around store-bought items such as water bottles, etc. Help the Ridgecrest Lions Club meet its goal of collecting 1,000 pounds of plastic! You can bring your plastic to the Ridgecrest Library or the Ridgecrest Presbyterian Church. The deadline is February 14, 2025.

Recent Donations

DONATIONS

Dan and Brenda Burnett
Robert and Rhodean Glen
Dylan Layfield
Jack and Diane Murray
Patricia Wharton
Ken Whetzel

In Memory of

Alan and Joan Woodman
Robert Henry family

Curation Building Fund

Steve and Sharon Oldfield

Matching Funds Drive

Dianne Dilley
Andrea Pelch

Building Fund

Robert Westbrook

New Members

Julie Cornett
Melissa Cornett
Annie King
Chris Kleine
James Murray
Kathleen Murray
Karen Sizemore

New Premium Members

Debby Buffum
Roy and Lorraine Randolph
Mathew White

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

Board of Trustees

Robert McGowan – President
Dan Burnett – Vice-president
Diane Foucher - Secretary
Jann Philpott - Treasurer
Renee Lesniak
Peggy Chun
Patty Wharton
Howard McCauley
Dorie Cornell

Businesses and Organizations Supporters • Contributors • Sponsors

AltaOne Federal Credit Union
Ashley Furniture HomeStore
Beanster's Espresso
Boulder Creek RV Resort
Clarion Inn
Earth Landscaping
Eastern Sierra Custom Framing
Epsilon Systems Solutions, Inc.
Oasis at Death Valley
Gary Charlon State Farm
Heritage Inn & Suites
Hampton Inn & Suites
High Desert Haven
Historical Society of the Upper Mojave Desert
IWV Self Storage
Law Offices of Phyllis M. Hix
McDonald's Restaurant
Meith Operational Solutions
Michael's Certified Air
New Directions Technologies, Inc.
Oasis Garden Club
The Car Wash
The Pizza Factory
Red Rock Books
Ridgecrest Area Convention
and Visitors Bureau
Saalex Corp.
St. Ann Catholic School
Searles Valley Minerals
Sierra Sands Unified School District
Sinclair Legal Counsel
Sinclair Tax Service
SpringHill Suites by Marriott
Stafford's Pest Control
The Swap Sheet
TJ Frisbee Bicycles, Inc
T&T Alignment, Inc.
Vaughn Realty
WACOM



Upcoming and Ongoing Exhibits and Events

- Pizza Factory and Beanster's Espresso Fundraiser: All day, Wednesday, October 9.
- Children's Hour: Nocturnal Animals; Friday, October 11, 10:30 to 11:30 am.
- Free Second Saturday: October 12, 11am- 2pm, craft activities
- Mutau Flat/Carrizo Rock Art Weekend: October 12-13 2024
- Tracking the Midnight Sun: A Journey to Norway, 2pm October 27
- Open Studio Tour 2024: Saturday October 26 and Sunday October 27, 10am – 4pm
- Soaring Exhibit: now through February 2025
- ARTifacts Art Gallery Exhibit August 17 – October 29
- Ridgecrest Lions Club Exhibit: May – October 2024
- Lecture-Concert: Art and Music, Saturday November 16, 7pm and Sunday November 17, 2pm



Pizza Factory and Beanster's Espresso Fundraiser

All day, Wednesday, October 9.

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

October 2024 Newsletter

*Maturango
Museum*

*Ridgecrest,
California*

