

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

“The only way to do great work is to love what you do.” Helen Keller

June at Maturango Museum is a busy place with activities and visitors. With our local schools out at the end of May, many people are planning to travel for a day or even longer. It is always fun to meet the people coming our way and people returning for a visit. For many, the Maturango Museum holds a place in their memories and they are happy to revisit! When stopping by the Museum it's also a good time to get some advice on great day trips. I had the pleasure of going to Manzanar for a day trip this last month and am always deeply touched by the place and the history of it. It does help to check on open days and road advice and we try to provide this for our travelers.

This month we are beginning our 4th Annual Matching Funds fundraiser. Please watch for the information in the mailer and the website. The drive will begin on June 15 and continue through July 31 (On June 15, the amount in the matching fund pot will be announced). We have some amazing donors so please match their funds as you can! Double the Impact!

Thank you to our supporters who funded the new roof on the older part of the Museum. The possible storms of Summer won't cause quite so many worries! Many thanks to C&L Construction for their work and their support of the Museum.

We still have the “buy a brick fundraiser” as well. They will continue to be a part of the new pathways through the Gladys Merrick Garden. They are a part of making our history! Forms can be found in the Gift Store or our website.

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.



Manzanar

Father's Day Sale in the Museum Store

25% discount Friday June 19 – Sunday June 21 Gifts and cards!



The SACRED WILD

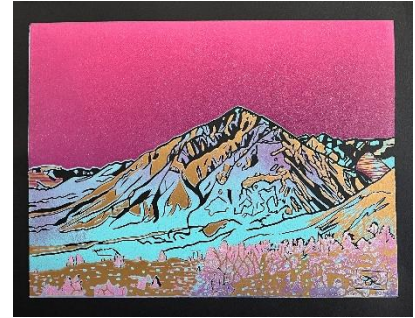
Featured Artists:
Julie Cornett
Janneil Eggleston

05.9.26 | Artist Reception | 3-5 PM
Hosted by Maturango Museum
Runs May 9 - June 30

“The Sacred Wild” Art Exhibit

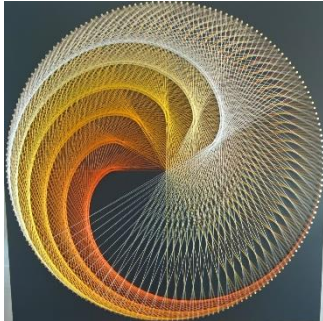
The Sacred Wild brings together two distinct yet connected artistic practices that explore the intersection of nature, reverence, and pattern.

Through linocut printmaking, Julie Cornett reimagines desert landscapes, plants, and native birds and reptiles as regal, almost mythic presences. Desert flora shimmer with quiet vitality, while



crowned and haloed creatures are elevated beyond the ordinary, inviting viewers to consider the Mojave not as barren or harsh, but as a place of quiet majesty and spiritual presence.

In dialogue, Janneil Eggleston’s intricate string-based geometric works translate sacred geometry into luminous, intricately strung compositions. Carefully constructed with balance and precision, these radiant patterns evoke harmony, interconnectedness, and the underlying structures that shape both the natural and unseen worlds.



Together, these works frame the desert as both wild and sacred—a space where reverence emerges from the natural world itself.

Free Saturday, June 13, from 11am – 2pm, will feature Greg Watson giving a presentation on honeybees. He will have some equipment to show but no live bees!

By formal education, Greg is an electronics engineer, retired in 2015 after a 40-year career. He has a broad interest in most science topics, including entomology (the study of insects). When he was in the fourth grade, his teacher placed a beehive directly into the classroom, creating a rare and unique learning experience that sparked Greg’s lifelong fascination with honeybees. Ultimately, that led him to become a backyard beekeeper in Ridgecrest for 20 years.



Few people realize how important honeybees are to our way of life. If honeybees were to completely vanish, about one third of the food we eat would also disappear. This presentation will address some basics about honeybees, hopefully giving the audience a basic understanding of them and what we can do personally to protect them.

Natural History

By Sherry Brubaker

Spring is here and Summer is closing in fast. Putting water out for our wild friends can mean survival or struggle. Make sure the water is clean and there are stones or bricks in the bowl so small creatures can get out and not drown. Be aware that ravens will also use the water and have a habit of putting food items in to wash or soften, this practice will spoil the water and other animals will avoid it. Ravens will do the same to a horse trough and horses don’t like yucky water. When the heat increases, dehydration can be catastrophic.

Raven chicks are now old enough to learn to be adults. The adults are masters at teaching their young to raid trash cans, pet food left outside, and other young critters. Remember to cover trash, don’t leave pet food out, and give other critters places to hide.

Continued next page...

Unfortunately places to hide can also attract critters you might not want...spiders and snakes. Gopher snakes, king snakes, and long leg spiders are what you want to control rodents and other spiders. Be mindful of pets and children when they are outside. Rattlesnakes will leave if given a chance. Call Animal Control if they hang around.

This is a gopher snake, the kind you want around.



Docent Doings

By Nora Nuckles

The Docent League of the Maturango Museum gave 23 programs to 415 people in April. Seventeen of the programs were given in the Museum and 6 were outreach. Our programs given in the Museum included offering guided tours to 9 classes. Most of the tours involve dividing each class into 3 groups so all children get an opportunity to see the art gallery or even do some art, see the exhibit room and tour the garden areas. Sometimes children are fortunate to see the live tortoises in our tortoise enclosure. Sometimes Bob Parker brings young tortoises to share. When out in the garden the children love the tortoises! The model solar system is also a HUGE attraction. The students love to travel to the outer planets. I often line them up two by two and let them race down to Pluto. Then we can have the discussion about Pluto being a dwarf planet. And of course, the labyrinth is always a MUST. But for the docents the MUST in the labyrinth is that each child MUST walk. The tufa rocks that form the labyrinth is very sharp so can be dangerous. Now another very fun attraction in the garden is the collection of outdoor instruments. Children usually discover where the best place to hit the mushrooms is! You can either make a great sound by hitting on the rim or a thud if you hit it in the middle.

The Children's Hour docents gave their last story hour until September. It was a Garden Adventure! Children heard stories and then went outside for a scavenger hunt and then some treats. What a wonderful way to finish story hours for the school year!

Terry McGuire presented a program in the Beth Armogida Planetarium and Barbara Bane, our archeologist, and Nadia Mohsen, archeologist for some Bakersfield College students. Elaine Wiley presented a program on Wildflowers 1st-3rd graders from the Ridgecrest Montessori Children's House. She taught them to dissect the flower and find its various reproductive parts.

What were our outreach programs? At High Desert Haven we played Bird Bingo. Most residents won small rubber duckies and enjoyed keeping all their ducks in a row! The art docents took art presentations to Trona 6th graders, Pierce TK/K students, and 5th graders at Inyokern School. Several docents took a Desert Alive program to TK/K students at Faller School.

A docent's life at the Museum is full of fun and surprises! If you would like to consider becoming a Maturango Museum docent, please join us at our next meeting on September 1 at 10:30am in the Coso Room of the Museum. We always provide great breakfast goodies and coffee! If you have any questions, please call me, Nora, at the Maturango Museum, 760-375-6900.



Cam Alden and Carol Dezellem are influential docents for school art programs.

Preserving History

By Terry McGuire

May is quickly dissolving away, and the summer heat is beginning to burn as the summer draws near. The new curation building is the perfect environment for items in the yard that, as history curator, I feel need to be moved as soon as we can manage. Therefore, we are starting with the Darwin Ore cart.

The ore cart sits on the west side of the museum and is a fascinating piece of local history. The wagon was airlifted from the base range to NAF on 21 Oct, 1970, "in order to present the relic to K. H. Robinson, Dir. of



the Maturango Museum on Navy Day, October 27," quote from Rocketeer, 30 Oct 1970 article - acc.#86.23. Dugan Hanson, local Panamint-Shoshone Native American, said he and his brother stashed this wagon on the north end of base years ago and that it was originally from Darwin.



We are meeting and making plans to stabilize the cart and get it ready to be moved to the curation building. With the help of our wonderful volunteers, we plan to move it soon

Recent Donations

Donations

Dan and Brenda Burnett
Ray and Minnie Miller
Lois Reed
Patricia Wharton and Ken
Wetzel

Art Gallery Lights

Andrea Pelch

Docents

Mojave Primitive
Encampment Girl Scouts
South Fork Union School
District Parent Teacher
Club

Facility Improvement

Bob and Paula Westbrook

Music Garden

China Lake Rotary Club

In Memory of

Judy Breitenstein
Pat Rogers

In Memory of Peg Howes

Jamie Corbin

In Memory of Janet Westbrook

Jim and Linda Bego
Robert L. Joy, Jr.
Naomi Norris
Andrea Pelch
Pat Rogers
James Thomas
Bernie and June Wasserman

Winter Appeal

Roofing Project

Cindy and Greg Cote
Barbara and James
Herriman

Operating Fund

Bill and Peggy Grisct

New Member

Don Beene
John Burmeister and Barbara
Murray
Karen Morrione

New Premium Members

Karin and John Auburn
Karen and Tony Battaglia
Thomas Dandy
Karl Enockson
The Heartland (89 new
members)
Cameron and Phyllis Hoover
Charlie and Stephanie Tilley

New Lifetime Members

Julie Stayton and Rob
Fitzpatrick

Help Us Keep Our Garden and Grounds Neat and Tidy

Garden Clean-up Party Friday June 5, 9 – 11am

Refreshments will be served.

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

Terry McGuire, Local History Curator

Sherry Brubaker, Natural History Curator

Andrea Pelch, Art Gallery Coordinator,
Newsletter Editor

Nora Nuckles, Education Coordinator,
Museum Assistant

Barbara Ingle, Membership, Donations,
Museum Assistant

Leslie Layfield, Accounting Bookkeeper

Heidi Farmer, Accounting

Addie Reyes, Website

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Bob Westbrook, Strategic Planning

Bev Hill, Gardens

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Epsilon Systems Solutions, Inc.

Oasis at Death Valley

Gary Charlon State Farm

Hampton Inn & Suites

High Desert Haven

Historical Society of the Upper Mojave Desert

Hyla Plant Nursery

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 Events

- **Garden Clean-up Party:** Friday June 5, 9-11am
- **Free Saturday June 13:** “Bees”, docent craft 11am – 2pm
- **Museum Store Sale for Father’s Day weekend:** 25% discount, Fri June 19 - Sun June 21
- **Art Gallery “The Sacred Wild”:** Linocut Prints by Julie Cornett and String Art by Janneil Eggleston through June 30.
- **Art Gallery “Reflections”:** Sculpture by Jim Hunolt and paintings by Barry Howard
 - **Opening Reception for “Reflections”:** Friday July 3, 3-5pm

Sponsor an Art Exhibit

If you are enjoying our Art Gallery Exhibits and really enjoying the Opening Receptions, especially meeting the artists, please consider sponsoring a specific exhibit or a time period. Sponsorships can help cover the cost of visiting artist’s hotel rooms, supplies, upkeep of the Coso Room and refreshments. Suggested donation is \$25 - \$50 for one exhibit.

E-mail Andrea at gallery@maturango.org

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