

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

*"Piglet noticed that even though he had a Very Small Heart,
it could hold a rather large amount of Gratitude." - A.A. Milne, -Winnie-the-Pooh*

I would like to thank each and every person who helped with our Annual Fundraising Dinner Auction. There are many, and each moment from each one made it a FUNdraising success! Our Board of Trustees, Staff, Membership and Friends all put in time, energy and support both monetarily and with great attitudes! Thank you so many times over.

A big shout out to our Sponsors: AltaOne FCU, Desert Valleys FCU, FireQuick, Hyla Nursery, Meith Operational Solutions, NDTI, The Rusty Plum, Kristy's Family Restaurant, Jim Charlton Ford, RAD Custom Graphics, PS & PPS and SPOT. A huge thanks to James Bell as our Auctioneer, Charlie White and the team from the China Lake Museum Foundation, The Key Club students, the Team from Casey's Restaurant and Bar, the advertisers, the basket makers, the donators of items and all of you. A rather large amount of Gratitude!

We are on to our next adventures this month with the Open Studio Tour! We hope anyone who can, will come out to the Studios!

Take care and enjoy the touch of cool in your day!

Children's Hour: "Going Batty at the Maturango Museum"

Friday, October 9, 10:30 - 11:30 am

Are bats blind? Are they birds or flying mice? Maybe you've wondered about these creatures of the night. If so, join us for a fun learning time as we "Go Batty" at the Maturango Museum.

This free program will be full of stories and information about bats, as well as action songs, and a fun child-friendly craft. We will be exploring exhibits and taxidermied specimens at the Discovery Table. More information about our Children's Hour program can be found at www.Maturango.org or by calling 760-375-6900. Maturango Museum is located at 100 E. Las Flores Ave.



Free Saturday October 10: "Scavenger Hunt", 11am – 2pm

Free admission - Museum open 10am – 5pm



Sandra Moore



Jerry Bradley



Nancy Crawford



Marcela Everitt



Julie Cornett



Molly Cooley



Larry Sawyer



Lois Hinman

Open Studio Tour 2026 October 24 & 25 Artists' Gallery Exhibit Sep 12 – Oct 31

Maturango Museum
100 E. Las Flores Ridgecrest CA 93555
760-375-6900 www.maturango.org



Debbie Benson



Birgit Gagliardi



Janice Allen



Janneil Eggleston



Skip Gorman



Mike Mumford



Kathy Fields



Dragonfly Pottery



Jacques Canot

During the weekend of Saturday and Sunday, October 24 and 25, 10 am – 4 pm each day, the artists open their studios so guests can visit and purchase artwork.

Each artist will also have a sample of their artwork displayed in the 2-month Open Studio Tour Exhibit (Sep 12 – Oct 31) at the Museum.

The free map and poster will be available by October 12 on the museum's website www.maturango.org and in the gift store or send an email request to galler@maturango.org

Aztec Sound Bath Experience with Musician Martin Espino
Sunday, October 11, 2pm

A sound bath is a beautiful and easy way to relax, rejuvenate and refresh your mind and spirit. Arrive and relax as Martin, your host, evokes beautiful sounds from his exotic instruments. Sound baths will relax and renew, letting yourself go to that beautiful place within to clear your mind and enjoy a relaxing meditative hour. Everyone who comes will find a great group of wellness-minded people. Bring a pillow, blanket or yoga mat for stretching out, or sit comfortably in chairs around the perimeter.

Martin Espino's native heritage is Yaqui (Sonora, Mex) & Tepehuano (Durango, Mex). He is a sound worker, musician and composer with many years of performing and teaching sessions for a variety of audiences around the world. He is also a Master Instrument Maker, performing the sound bath for you on his collection of indigenous Mexican instruments. Tickets \$15 Members, \$20 non-members.

Adults only, 16 years and older.

Space is limited, so purchase early in the museum store,

or call 760-375-6900 or online at:

<https://maturango.org/event/aztec-sound-bath-experience/>



East Greenland Photo Travelog by Ken and Alice Atwood
Sunday, 18 October, 2pm.

The expedition cruise included a visit to the village of Ittoqqortoormiit, the only permanent, inhabited town on the Scoresbysund and several stops to explore the fjords and geography of Northeast Greenland National Park. Scoresbysund is the largest fjord system in the world and the national park is the furthest north of any national park. An additional reason for this trip was to experience and photograph the total solar eclipse on 12 August 2026. The challenge of photographing this eclipse was that it was from a boat on the ocean.

Growing Together

Terry McGuire, Museum History Curator

September has been busy with the new items we acquired, the Children's Discovery Area remodel, and the annual auction dinner. It feels like there is never enough time to get it all done. However, somehow, we seem to achieve our goals.

We received two items from BLM that came from the Cerro Gordo area. We moved an ore bucket and an oil tank used to grease the cables that hauled the ore bucket down the mountain to the Keeler area. Shane at "Equipment Share" helped the museum and hauled the items to the museum grounds.



"Equipment Share" and Shane, with help from Bob McGowan, Howard McCauley, and Steve Farmer, also moved the old buggy from Inyokern to the curation building where we can eventually restore it. I learned from one of the previous owners that the buggy had been acquired from a woman who lived in Randsburg. She claimed that it had been Dr. Dummond's and had been used in parades. It is a great find for the museum.

The Children's Discovery Area seems to be coming along nicely. We have great people working on the details and getting needed supplies ordered. We are all excited to eventually have an engaging and stimulating place for families to learn from and enjoy.

The annual auction dinner went off well again this year. The whirlwind of activities and work involved kept us all busy and running. However, again, the hard work and contributions from various individuals made it a successful event.

Owens Lake Dust Mitigation Program **Field Trip** with LADWP Representative

October 30 ----- MORE DETAILS TO COME!

Docent Doings

By Nora Nuckles

The Maturango Museum Docents held their first meeting of the school year on Sept.1. The docents joyfully shared stories of the summer and eagerly signed up to deliver requested programs. Our art docents led by Cam Alden and Carol Dezelle brought the Line/Shape lessons to the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th graders at Pierce Art School. They will be delivering lessons on the basic art elements once a month to these students. Fourth-graders from Vieweg Stem School visited the Museum and spent two hours exploring and learning then had a tour of the garden area and the exhibit room as well as a lesson on Desert Alive that addressed their grade level standards.

About 35 students from Heartland visited the Museum and participated in a lesson on birds. They compared the bones of birds to the bones of mammals. They observed the bird feet and beaks and theorized why there were differences. The students recognized that birds live in several different environments and had varied diets. We look forward to seeing the same students in October for a lesson on Reptiles.

Docents supported Gateway Science Night by bringing many, many of our taxidermied mammals, reptiles and birds to the school. Over a hundred people attended science night.

Children's Hour docents presented a wonderful, fun lesson on Coyotes. In the gift shop we heard many howling "coyotes." Docents spend many hours preparing for these delightful presentations with books being read, action poems, and crafts as well as a short lesson on natural history.

We focused on Bones for our September Free Saturday. Shirley Crouse developed a great craft where participants created a skeleton from Q-tips. We had over 60 participants.

Look for the article on Children's Hour scheduled for Friday, Oct. 9. The theme is Bats. Bats are remarkable furry mammals that devour huge numbers of insects!

The 2026 Native and Drought-Tolerant Plant Sale: Plant Presentation Saturday, October 3, 1-2 pm.

Local gardeners will share tips for growing the plants. More information on cultivars can be found at calscape.org Information on wild-growing plants can be found at <https://calflora.org/search.html>

Nancy Gooch, Administrative Assistant

Eastern Kern Co. Resource Conservation District

ekcrd@gmail.com

Recent Donations

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**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
Travis Yost, Website

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Bev Hill, Gardens

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Upcoming and Ongoing Events

- **Open Studio Tour 2026 Artists' Gallery Exhibit**
In the Coso Room until October 31
- **Children's Hour, "Going Batty at the Maturango Museum"**
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- **Free Saturday October 10:** "Scavenger Hunt", craft activity 11am – 2pm
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October 2026 News



Julie Cornett
Open Studio Tour 2026