



Maturango News

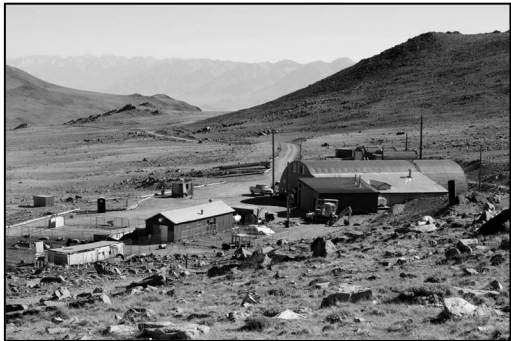


Death Valley Tourist Center • Northern Mojave Visitor Center
Maturango Museum • 100 E. Las Flores Ave. • Ridgecrest, CA 93555

Phone: 760.375.6900 • Fax: 760.375.0479 • e-mail: matmus@maturango.org • Web: www.maturango.org

Volume 44, No. 9

October 2008



Barcroft Station--©Paul Kennedy

October Lecture: Science in the White Mountains

By Sandy Rogers, Archaeology Curator

Mr. Daniel Pritchett of the University of California White Mountain Research Station will present the first lecture of the 2008-2009 series at the Maturango Museum on October 22. He will speak on the research programs of the Station in a talk entitled "160 Years and Counting: Science in the White Mountains". The University of California founded the White

Mountain Research Station (WMRS) in 1950 to conduct research in alpine ecosystems, climate, and other related areas. The principal facility is Barcroft Laboratory, located in the White Mountains east of Bishop, at an altitude of over 11,000 feet.

Science first came to the White Mountains in 1848, when John C. Frémont literally put the mountains on the map. Mr. Pritchett will give an overview of research in the White Mountains, with emphasis on the founding of the White Mountain Research Station, its history, and some of its researchers' accomplishments. Ridgecrest residents may be particularly interested in the important role in the founding and early history of WMRS played by the U.S. Naval Ordnance Test Facility at Inyokern, the forerunner of the Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division. Mr. Pritchett has an MA from San Francisco State University in ecology and systematics, and has been on the WMRS staff as System Administrator since 1997.

The lecture will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Sylvia Winslow Gallery.

CORRECTION: LUNCH IS NOT INCLUDED IN THE MCFARLAND TOLL ROAD TRIP ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1. WE APOLOGIZE FOR THE ERROR.

Open Studio Tour 2008

By Rosemary Lackaye, Gallery Coordinator

We are pleased to have well-known artist Carol Wilcher join our Tour this year. At right, she shows some of her textiles that will be available in her studio.

Each artist will have one piece of their art in the Open Studio exhibit in the Sylvia Winslow Gallery. Join us for the reception for the artists on Friday, October 10, at 7:00 p.m. The show runs through November 12. The Tour dates for visiting the artists' studios are



Saturday and Sunday, October 25 and 26.

We want to thank our wonderful sponsors of this year's exhibit: Judy Fair-Spaulling, Louise and Carl Morley, Dick and Debbie Benson, and Lois Hinman.

For the rest of the story, see the article by this year's chairperson, Debbie Benson, on page 4 of this newsletter. Coordinating this event is a huge undertaking, and our thanks go to Debbie for a fantastic job!

This newsletter is published monthly by
Maturango Museum
 100 E. Las Flores Ave., Ridgecrest, CA 93555
 The Museum is open every day (except
 major holidays) from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Businesses and Organizations Supporters • Contributors • Sponsors

Please support the businesses and organizations that support the Maturango Museum

Staff

Harris Brokke, Director
 Karen Mendoza, Administrator
 Sandy Rogers, Curator, Archaeology
 Elizabeth Babcock, Curator, History
 Camille Anderson, Curator, Natural
 History
 Mary Adler, Bookkeeper
 Fran Van Valkenburgh, Membership,
 Petroglyphs
 Rosemary Lackaye, Gallery
 Coordinator
 Mary Phillips, Bookkeeping Assistant
 Nora Nuckles, Education Coordinator
 Steve Benson, Museum Assistant
 Paula Caudill, Museum Assistant
 Penny Loper, Newsletter Editor

Volunteer Chairpersons

Sally Richards, President, Docent
 League
 Carroll Evans, Chair, Concert
 Committee
 Sandy Rogers, Chair, Lecture
 Committee
 Janet Westbrook, Webmistress

Board of Trustees

Thom Boggs, President
 Carolyn Shepherd, Vice President
 Skip Gorman, Secretary
 Phyllis Lilly, Treasurer
 Ron Atkins
 Mike Baskerville
 Paul Colter
 Phyllis Hix
 Howard Laire

<p>AltaOne Federal Credit Union Altrusa American Association of University Women Best Western China Lake Inn BevLen Haus Bed & Breakfast Boulder Creek RV Resort Carriage Inn Center Pharmacy <i>Daily Independent</i> DART Desert Area Teachers Assoc. Earth Industries, Inc. EconoLodge of Ridgecrest Elks, B.P.O.E. Lodge 1913 Exchange Club of Ridgecrest The Flower Shoppe Furnace Creek Inn & Ranch Resorts Heritage Inn & Suites High Desert Haven High Sierra Auto/Truck Repair Historical Society of the Upper Mojave Desert <i>Inland Adventurer</i> IWV Water District Jacobs Sverdrup Technologies Kern Schools Federal Credit Union Kiwanis Club Kristy's Restaurant Law Offices of Phyllis M. Hix The Library Press, Dr. Lorraine Blair Lockheed Martin McDonald's Mediacom Mojave Desert Bank <i>News Review</i></p>	<p>Oasis Garden Club Optimist Club Owens Peak Group, Sierra Club P&R Storage PG&E PackWrap Business Center Gail Marie Petty, AAMS-Edward Jones R.B. Sweeping Service Ridgecrest Area Convention and Visitors Bureau Ridgecrest Automotive Ridgecrest Chamber of Commerce Ridgecrest Moving & Storage/Atlas Van Lines Ridgecrest Septic Service Roadrunner Trading Post Rotary Club of China Lake St. Ann Catholic School Sand Canyon Environmental Education Program Santa's Art Shop Searles Valley Minerals Servicemaster of IWV Sierra Sands Unified School District Southern Sierra Medical Clinic Spring Hill Suites by Marriott Studio Eight The Swap Sheet TJ Frisbee Bicycles, Inc. Tokyo House TOSS Union Bank of California Vagabond Inn WACOM</p>
--	--

Thanks to Our Museum Donors

Summer Appeal Donations

Anne Alpers	Frank Knemeyer	Mr. and Mrs. Bruno J. Pannuto
Phil and Linda Archibald	Arlyne and Phil Lopez	Jim and Carolyn Shepherd
Dixie Chantler	Carter McCrary	Jane Van Aken
Mel and Karen Creusere	Roger Peck and Terry Mitchell	Elva Younkin
Norman and Suzanne George	Carol and Clay Panlaqui	

Memorial Gifts in Memory of Jean Bennett

Robert Henry and Family	Bertha M. Ryan	Stan and Jeanie Haye
Felice S. Mueller	Ken and Nani Banks	

Other Gifts

Bill and Charlie Wight – TV and Screen to Maturango Library
 The Swap Sheet

Message from the Director

By Harris M. Brokke

Since our last newsletter, additional progress has been made toward planning for the Museum expansion. Surveyors were on site in late August, and progress is being made on estimating material costs and total construction costs. Upon receipt of that information, it will be shared with the public.

I am very pleased to report that a number of service clubs in Ridgecrest and Trona have asked me to present my PowerPoint presentation that describes the Museum operations and provides details of our building expansion plans. I have also had the privilege to share this information with Assembly member Jean Fuller and her field representatives and with Ridgecrest City Manager Michael Avery, members of his staff, and the city council members.

I invite you to stop by the Museum to shop in our Museum store and enjoy the displays by Maria (Prebilib) Coit of her digital prints, woodcuts, and paintings in the Sylvia Winslow exhibit gallery through October 8. On October 10, please join us for a reception to meet our local artists as they introduce their art exhibits, which will be featured from October 11 through November 12. We are very fortunate in this community to have so many very talented artists. While you are here, take the opportunity

to buy tickets for the Open Studio Tour on October 25 and 26. Also, you will want to purchase tickets for the field trips, concerts, and lectures that are scheduled for October and November.

This schedule of events is included in this newsletter, is available on our website at www.maturango.org, is advertised on local radio stations, and featured in the Chamber of Commerce schedule of community events.

We continue to ask for volunteers to work in the Museum store and to serve as docents. For more information, please check with Karen Mendoza or Nora Nuckles.

The Maturango Museum will have a booth at the Desert Empire Fair from the 16th through the 19th of October, as well as at Maturango Junction on October 25. We invite you to stop by our booth to learn more about Museum activities and our expansion plans.

As always, I invite you to stop by the Museum and consider joining as individual or family members, and I encourage your business to join as a business sponsor. Our goal is to provide a Museum that you will enjoy so that you will come back often and will encourage your friends to visit and consider Museum membership also.

Adventures with Branchiopods

By Camille Anderson, Natural History Curator

One of the interesting things about living in the desert is how much life there is around us that we rarely notice. Everyone knows that our playa lakes have no fish. How could they live when the water dries up? This leads us to assume that there is nothing living in the lakes, except for maybe microorganisms. Look closely, however, and one can see that playa lakes are teeming with life.

I have known that when the playa lakes are full, the eggs of fairy shrimp will hatch. These crustaceans (Class: Branchiopoda, Order: Anostraca) will hatch when there is standing water and conditions are right. Certain species of these organisms are sometimes called sea monkeys. Some types like saline water, like those in Mono Lake; others prefer non-saline water. I have often collected fairy shrimp in Mirror Lake after a spring or autumn rain.

After the flood in July, I waited a few days for the branchiopod eggs to hatch. I then headed down to the lake with my trusty collecting jar. Mirror Lake was full of movement! I scooped up the moving things into my jar. I then walked home to inspect my organisms. Because the lake water is so muddy, it is hard to identify the organisms while at the lake. Imagine my surprise to see something other than fairy shrimp. Instead I had a jar full of tadpole shrimp (Class: Branchiopoda, Order: Notostraca), sometimes called Triops or "the oldest living organism." After a few days living in my

October Concert Features

Sergio Ramirez and Catherine Douglas

By Sandy Rogers

As the opener for the Maturango Museum's 2008-2009 concert series in the Sylvia Winslow Exhibit Gallery, Sergio Ramirez and Catherine Douglas will continue their very popular lecture-concerts linking art and music to a period and culture. By popular demand, there will be two concerts – Friday, October 24 and Saturday, October 25. Both concerts will begin at 7:30 p.m. Seats each night are limited to 60, so avoid disappointment, and get your tickers now in the Museum store. The price is \$8 per adult and \$5 per child 12 and younger.

In the concert, entitled "Mexican Art and Music," Sergio will introduce paintings from the 1840s to the 1950s of eight major artists, and Catherine will play music from four renowned composers.

Sergio Ramirez was born and raised in Mexico City. He received a BS in Business Administration from Universidad Iberoamericana in Mexico City, a BA in Photography at Brooks Institute in Santa Barbara, California, and teaching credentials and an MA in Art History at California State University, Los Angeles. Sergio had a one-man photography exhibition at the Maturango Museum. He is a second grade teacher at Pierce Elementary School and has given art and photography classes at Cerro Coso Community College.

Catherine Douglas was raised in Circleville, Ohio. She received a BM from the Conservatory of Music at Capital University in Columbus, Ohio and a MM from Florida State University in Tallahassee. She has been a soloist with the Capital University, Kings County (California) Symphonies, the Cerro Coso Community Band and the Desert Community Orchestra, and was selected four times to be a soloist at the Music Teachers' Association of California State Convention. She performs locally as a solo pianist, accompanist, member of the "We Friends" ensemble, and organist. Catherine is a music instructor at Cerro Coso Community College and a private music teacher. She and her husband, Barry, live in Ridgecrest and have two grown children, Bradley and Christina.

The Open Studio Tour 2008

By Debbie Benson

Everybody mark your calendars; it's time to come to the tour! 2008 is the fifth year of the Maturango Museum's Open Studio Tour. This is an event that has grown in popularity and attendance, and we are proud of it and the artists involved. The Tour is a shared experience between the artists, their studio environments, and the public. The opportunities for viewing and purchasing local Art created by local artists, sharing ideas, and having discussions are magnified by the number of artists who are participating. We are excited to have eight new artists joining fourteen returning artists and the Cerro Coso Art Department.

The Tour will open with the artists' reception celebrating the opening of the artists' show at the Sylvia Winslow Gallery at the Maturango Museum on October 10 at 7:00 p.m. The show will be up for a month, and all of the artwork in the show will be for sale to the public. The Tour itself will be on the weekend of October 25 and 26. The studios will be open both days from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The \$15 tickets and Tour maps will be available at the Museum during the month of October and on both days of the Tour. This event is in support of local artists and is a fund-raiser for the Museum, with a percentage of all sales going to the Museum.

The local artists participating in this event for 2008 are: Bob Burrows, Coral Sawyer, Donnie Woods, Bob Parker, Lois Hinman, Alana Stein, Jerry Bradley, Carol Wilcher, Barbara Andolsek, Betty Spindler, Paula Caudill, Joan Welsh, Olaf "Bill" Doud, Marcy Holbrook, Fred Hartson, Kacey Henderson, Jeffrey Spindler, John P. "Skip" Gorman, Andrea Pelch, Julie von Schlemmer, Su Tipton, and the students and staff from the Cerro Coso Community College Art Department.

We are excited about opening our studios to you and sharing our creative endeavors and some time with you! So come on out and see us!

Docent Doings

By Nora Nuckles, Education Coordinators

What a wonderful September meeting the docents held! Harris Brokke, the Museum Director, and Karen Mendoza, the Museum Administrator, attended to learn more about the docents and lend support. Phyllis Wise and Paula Herr, retired docents, came back to visit and, hopefully, consider joining us again. I remember the great programs they presented to my fifth graders when I was teaching! Joanna Foster, Dan Foster, and Dick Nickles were also able to join us at this meeting. Lucia Varnhagen visited our meeting and has decided that the call to be a docent can't be resisted. Nancy McCrary visited earlier in the summer and plans to be a docent!

Dr. Pat Brown-Berry and her pet bat, Bonnie, of course, stole the show when they came to visit at the docent meeting. Pat gave us some new information about bats. Bonnie purred just like a kitten! Did you know that the Western Pipistrelle, Mexican free-tail, California Myotis, Townsend's big-eared, and Pallid bats are the most common in our area? Pat promises to present a full program, probably at our December 2 docent meeting. You are invited to join us.

The docents have several requests for Bat presentations during the month of October. We love to do these presentations because we love to dispel the myths and misunderstandings about bats. Not only do bats actually have best friends, but also they are our best friends! Do you know why? Ask a docent or visit the Museum to learn more about these special mammals!

The docents did six programs in September to service about 150 people. Thanks to Carol Dezellem, Susan Moore-Woodman, Rosalie McChesney, Kate Goodson, and Kathy Collins for presenting programs in September.

Docents plan to be at the Turkey Vulture Festival on the weekend of September 27-28. We also plan to have our exciting specimens and hands-on activities at the Museum booth on Balsam Street at Maturango Junction on October 25. Come visit our booth.

Our next meeting is October 7 at 9:00 a.m. at the Museum. Come visit to see what being a docent is all about!

Branchiopods (continued from page 3)

kitchen, they were starting to grow large, so I transferred them to the aquarium at the Museum where they stayed on display for a few weeks.

The tadpole shrimp in Mirror Lake were also growing huge (a couple inches in length). As the lake was evaporating, their bodies began to pile up on the edges of the lake and birds and insects began to notice the feast. The bodies did smell like dead fish. Finally the lake dried up and one would never know that all those organisms had been there.

These branchiopods have a unique life cycle perfectly adapted to the desert. The eggs hatch rapidly once exposed to a certain amount of water. The salinity, oxygen content, and temperature of the water also affect when, and which type of eggs hatch. Once the eggs hatch, the branchiopods eat and reproduce. Some are filter feeders, others are omnivores but can also be cannibalistic. They can reproduce both sexually and asexually. They lay their eggs in the mud and then die as the lakes dry up. The eggs are resistant to both heat and cold and can last in the dirt for many years. They can be transported to new areas by dust storms. When it rains again, the cycle continues.

During this time I was informed by people at the environmental group on the base that we have a number of different species of branchiopods that live in our playa lakes. The species existing in the lakes differ depending on a number of factors, including time of year the eggs hatch. I find this fascinating. Closely watching our natural environment constantly offers surprises. I will be monitoring Mirror Lake to see which branchiopods hatch next time it rains!

To close out this story I want to mention that my son and his friends love to play in the mud in Mirror Lake when it fills with water. They run around and throw mud at each other and "swim" across the lake. After I showed him my jar of critters and we went back to collect more tadpole shrimp, he was somewhat horrified to see thousands of these large odd crustaceans swimming around in what he felt had been "clean" water. Although I told him the eggs probably hadn't hatched when the boys were playing in the water, I wonder if they will be "swimming" in the lake next time it rains, or if they will leave it to which ever branchiopod species hatches?

Calendar of Events

October 2008

Tuesday, October 7 – docent meeting
9:00 a.m.

Friday, October 10 – Gallery Reception
7:00 p.m.

Monday, October 20 – board meeting
7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, October 21 – gallery meeting
9:30 a.m.

Tuesday, October 22 – lecture 7:30 p.m.

Friday, October 24 – concert 7:30 pm

Saturday, October 25 – Open Studio Tour

Saturday, October 25 – concert 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, October 26 – Open Studio Tour

Petroglyph trips – October 4, 5, 11, 12, 18,
19; reservations required.

Note: some dates may be full, so call
before you submit an application.

From Karen's Desk

By Karen Mendoza, Administrator

We are pleased to announce our new Little Petroglyph Canyon store items. The Museum store is full of new items and some old favorites. Come in and see the wide assortment of stylish jewelry. We are especially proud of our book selection. We might have something you just can't live without. The Raku Pottery is back, great quail and fetish turtles.

Check our website for all the event dates this fall, prior reservation is required. Don't hesitate to call the Museum with questions. Have a great month. See you here!

WELCOME

New Members

Donald and Susan Barrett

Nancy Hoyem

Wendell L. Shaw

Ashli Milich

Peggy Ivie

Dan and Vanessa Zelco

Maturango Museum
100 E. Las Flores Ave.
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Ridgecrest, CA
Permit #26