



Maturango News



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

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September 2009

October Lecture on Rock Art of Australia

By Sandy Rogers, Archaeology Curator

The October Maturango Museum lecture will be presented by Mr. David Lee, a rock art researcher and educator. The lecture/slide show, "Finding Yidumduma: Recording the Stories Behind the Images," will describe his field work in northern Australia among the Wardaman people, with one of the last Aboriginal Elders still knowledgeable in the ceremonies involved with rock art production. In May 2009, David was awarded the Castleman Prize by the American Rock Art Research Association for this work.

David Lee's research has focused on the function and context of rock art. He has recorded rock art in California, Nevada, Arizona, and Australia, and has co-authored several papers on the Mojave Desert and eastern California. David Lee was the Steward of the Sweeney Granite Mountains Desert Research Center for thirteen years, and has taught classes on rock art there and at the Desert Studies Center (Zzyzx). He is a founding member and current treasurer of Western Rock Art Research, a non-profit organization based in California. For the last four years he has been studying rock art in several regions of Australia, focusing on working with Wardaman Senior Elder Yidumduma Bill Harney in the Northern Territory.

David suggests that the people who originally colonized Australia and the New World had complex belief and symbolic systems before they arrived. Further, these peoples successfully adapted to major environmental changes, and the adaptations are reflected in the rock art they left. Despite being a world apart, there are a surprising number of parallels in the production, evolution, and context of rock art on the two continents. Viewing rock art with a global perspective highlights both the similarities and the differences of people adapting to similar circumstances.

The lecture will start at 7:30 p.m. in the Sylvia Winslow Gallery on Wednesday, October 14.

"Color Infusion" in the Art Gallery

By Andrea Pelch, Gallery Coordinator

Join us for the Gail Martin show through October 7 in the Sylvia Winslow Exhibit Gallery.

Gail is from Tehachapi, so we'll welcome her as a "local". She photographs landscapes, seascapes, and florals and then 'rearranges' them to create abstract representations. She has shown her work at various galleries, including CrossRoads in Tehachapi.

Overview of Petroglyph Tours on our Website

Thanks to the efforts of several staff members and volunteers, the Museum website now has an excellent PowerPoint presentation about the Petroglyphs in Little Petroglyph Canyon. Thanks go to Camille Anderson and Sandy Rogers for developing the presentation, and to Carroll Evans and Gary Babcock for putting it on the website and creating the links to it.

Check out the presentation by going to the Museum website at www.maturango.org, click on "Petroglyph Trip - Little Petroglyph Canyon" on the home page, and then click on the slide show photo. Oh, and tell all of your friends to do the same.

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.

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Silent Auction Fundraiser on October 30

The Museum will be holding a Silent Auction fund-raiser in the Sylvia Winslow Exhibit Gallery at the Museum on Friday, October 30, from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

The Museum has a considerable collection of paintings, prints, and pictures remaining from the Spring Dinner/Auction.

During this time period, the artists participating in the 2009 Open Studio Tour will have artwork on display in the gallery. This artwork is also for sale at the prices as indicated by the artist.

Money raised at this event will help your Museum to keep offering the exhibits and services the whole community enjoys.

Message from the Executive Director

By Harris M. Brokke

There is always much to do and enjoy at the Museum. Now that we are beginning another school year, the schedule of activities at the Museum is again filled with events for the enjoyment of everyone. Please review the fall schedule that is inserted in this newsletter, mark your calendars with the dates, and contact us so you can enjoy what we have to offer.

Detailed information on the fall field trips is now available in the Museum store as well as on our website at www.maturango.org. If you are interested in one or more of the field trips, please stop at the Museum store to sign up for the trip.

The membership drive conducted in May, June, and July has been completed, but with only marginal success. During these three months a total of 41 individual and family members and 3 business members joined. While this is far short of the goal that I had set, it is nevertheless a significant growth in membership. All new members who joined during this three month time-period and current members who paid the annual dues for a new member to join were included in the drawing for a gift certificate. The winners of the drawing are Phyllis Wise, Fran Van Valkenburgh, and Gisela Sotomayor, who received gift certificates of \$100, \$150 and \$250 respectively. These gift certificates can

be used for any purchases made at the Museum. Thanks to all of you who participated in the membership drive.

Two fund-raising events will be held this fall and are described in separate articles in the newsletter. I encourage you to participate in these fund-raising events that will help pay the operating expenses for the Museum so we can continue to provide the services you all enjoy.

We continue to need additional volunteers to work in the Museum store. For more information, please check with Jane or with the volunteer working in the store. We also are looking for additional docents. For more information, please stop in or call and ask for Nora Nuckles.

Please consider the Museum when you are doing estate planning and also when you consider making tax-deductible contributions. Thanks to all of you who have recently made donations and contributions to the Museum. Your generosity is very much appreciated.

Lastly, and very important, I would encourage those of you who love the Museum to tell all of your friends and also let us know. Equally important, if you have ideas about how the Museum could make improvements, please stop by to see me, send me an e-mail, or give me a call. It will be my pleasure to hear from you. Your ideas will not be ignored.

Parking Lot Fund-raiser on September 26

Do you have a treasure in your attic? On your walls? In your basement? How about on your patio? Have you been wishing you could find someone as discriminating and sophisticated as yourself who would give it a new home and love it as much as you have? Congratulations! You are just in time to donate it to the Maturango Museum's fund-raiser, which will take place on Saturday, September 26, from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. adjacent to the Museum parking lot.

We expect to have a variety of treasures on sale, including furniture, kitchen items, tools, pictures, etc. Anyone wishing to donate an item for this sale should contact Harris Brokke at the Museum at 375-6900 or Ron Atkins at 446-6700. Arrangements can be made to pick up the donated items.

This parking lot sale is being held on the same day as the United Way Family Fun Fair and the Kiwanis Walk-A-Thon so we should have a good turnout since these other two events are held at the LeRoy Jackson Park, which is adjacent to the Museum. Your donations (and purchases!) will really help your Museum to keep offering the exhibits and services the whole community enjoys.

Docent Doings

By Nora Nuckles, Education Coordinator

Docents are working in the summer? That's right! Carol Dezellem and I composed a Scavenger Hunt for the exhibit room at the Museum. We tested it in July on 13 young adults from grades 7-11. We think that it was a big success. We plan to develop a scavenger hunt that can be used by visitors to the Museum. You might find some of the questions very challenging! What a fun way to learn the exhibit room!

Judy Breitenstein presented a program on Desert Flowers to the garden club in Trona. They were very kind to donate some money to the docent fund! Judy, of course, got rave reviews! Docents hosted a tour through the Museum for 18 four- and five-year-old children from the base Day Care. July was busier than we planned, but lots of fun! June was even busier! We serviced 795 people by providing programs to four Kern County libraries and finishing the school programs.

The Docent League of the Maturango Museum is recruiting new members for the fall training period! We need you! A new docent is given plenty of time to learn and to share with us. You are not required to do a program until you feel ready! Please join us at the meeting on Tuesday, September 1, at 8:45 a.m. Call me, Nora, at the Museum for more details on our first meeting! If you cannot make our first meeting, give me a call. We still need you! Our beautiful new specimen, the gray fox, is anxious to meet you!



2009

Our summer is coming to a close, and the excitement is building for this year's Open Studio Tour! We have over 20 new and returning artists and are so pleased to have the Burroughs High School Art Department join Cerro Coso as an Open Studio campus. This is one of the Maturango Museum's greatest opportunities for the public to meet with our local art community and to have the chance to see the studios and purchase work from the artists themselves. The artists work in a variety of media, and their studios reflect their different styles and needs. To aspiring artists, this tour can be inspirational and encouraging. To the art loving public, it is exciting to see the works in progress by the artists and be able to talk to the artists about their current creative endeavors.

The artists that will be joining us this year are Janice Allen, Christina Anderson, Kim Angeli Githens, Patrick Nichols, Donna Shelhart, and the Burroughs High School Art Department. We are pleased about the return of Helen Baker, Doris Bruce, Pat Kleinschmidt, Barbara Andolsek, Jerry Bradley, John "Skip" Gorman, Paula Caudill, Larry Sawyer, Fred Hartson, Lois Hinman, Marcy Holbrook, Bob

Parker, Andrea Pelch, Betty Spindler, Pat Rogers, Su Tipton, Julie von Schlemmer, Joan Welsh, Donnie Woods and the Cerro Coso Art Department.

The Tour will kick off with the Artists' Reception celebrating the opening of the Artists Show at the Sylvia Winslow Gallery at the Maturango Museum on October 9 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 24 and 25. The studios will be open both days from 10:00 a.m. until 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 fundraiser for the Museum, with a percentage of all sales going to the Museum. This event has received funds from the Arts Council of Kern.

Any questions concerning this event or for tickets sales, please contact The Maturango Museum, 100 E Las Flores Ave, Ridgecrest, Ca 93555, phone 375-6900, or send an e-mail Andrea Pelch at matmus5@maturango.org or Debbie Benson at rbenson82@mchsi.com.

Field Trip to Nethercutt Museum and Collection

On September 19, the Maturango Museum will be hosting a bus trip to the Nethercutt Museum and Collection in Sylmar, California. The Museum is home to a collection of automobiles from several eras, including:

The Antique Era (1890s – 1915): Innovation and experimentation were at the heart of this era and provided the catalyst for the automobiles' development. By the late 19th century, "horseless carriages" were being built by small groups of artisans, craftsmen, and engineers on a small scale, with many taking characteristics from the wagons they were replacing.

The Vintage Era (1916 – 1924): A class of cars that came to be known today as "vintage," fits in between the expensive coach built brands that became classics and the inexpensive models represented by Ford, Chevrolet, and Dodge. These cars sold for between \$500 and \$2,000. They had basic engineering features, but had better cosmetic appointments such as visors, cigar lighters, and wool broadcloth interiors.

The Classic Era (1925 – 1948): This era elevated the common automobile to a status symbol, as evidenced by their cost. When common vehicles sold for \$400 to about \$1,200, the classic car had a price tag of \$2,000 to \$20,000.

The Post-War Era (1945 – 1970s): Throughout the 1950s, engine power and vehicle speeds rose, designs became better integrated and more stylized, and cars grew more popular across the world. The auto market slightly shifted in the 1960s, causing Detroit to worry about foreign competition. European makers adopted even greater technology, and Japan appeared as a serious car-producing nation.

Also, Locomotive and Pullman Private Car: Just steps outside the Museum are a perfectly restored 1937 Canadian Pacific Royal Hudson steam locomotive and a 1912 Pullman Private Car, which were owned by the eldest daughter of Santa Anita Race Track founder, E.J. "Lucky" Baldwin.

The trip is limited to 46 people, so stop at the Museum to make your reservations early so you will not be disappointed. Participants will meet at the Museum at 7:00 a.m. for check-in and will be required to sign a liability waiver. We will depart on the bus promptly by 7:30 a.m. The cost of the trip is \$65 for members and \$80 for nonmembers, including members' guests.

It is an unguided walking tour of the Nethercutt Museum. We are scheduled for a 90-minute guided tour of the Nethercutt Collection at 1:30 p.m. Keith, our bus driver, will make a stop for breakfast at McDonalds in Acton, California, on the way to the Nethercutt Museum and will stop in Lancaster for dinner on the way back to Ridgecrest. Plan on comfortable walking shoes. Bring a bag lunch with you as there is no restaurant in the vicinity of the Nethercutt Museum.

If the Museum cancels the trip, you will be given a full refund, or you may transfer the money to a different trip. If you must cancel, please notify the Museum as early as possible so that people on the waiting list can be notified. No refunds for cancellations will be given unless the trip is full and we can sell your space.

Gift Certificates winners for new Family and Business Members or for member who paid for these new members

Phyllis Wise —\$100.00

Fran Van Valkenburgh—\$150.00

Gisela Sotomayor—\$250.00

Field Trip to Autry National Center October 10

On Saturday, October 10, the Maturango Museum will be hosting a field trip to the Autry National Center in Griffith Park. Participants will meet at the Museum at 7:00 a.m. for check-in; participants will be required to sign a liability waiver. We will depart by bus promptly at 7:30 a.m.

The cost for the trip will be \$65 for members and \$80 for nonmembers. The member price applies to members only, not nonmember guests. Price includes bus transportation and admission fee as well as the fee for an audio-guided tour of the Museum. The trip is limited to 46 people, so make your reservations early.

The Golden Spur Café, located in the Autry National Center, will be open during our visit. If you do not plan to eat at the café you may elect to bring your lunch with you.

Plan on comfortable walking shoes.

The Autry National Center will feature several displays during our visit including:

Charting the Canyon: Photographs by Mark Klett & Byron Wolfe: The Grand Canyon – natural wonder, sacred ground, national park, international tourist attraction – is perhaps the world's best “photo op.” Vivid colors, breathtaking vistas, and jaw dropping canyon depths have lured photographers to Northern Arizona for years. A new exhibition, *Charting the Canyon: Photographs by Mark Klett & Byron Wolfe*, on view at the Autry National Center from September 25, 2009, through January 3, 2010, explores this celebrated place of dramatic beauty with large-scale sweeping panoramas that marry 21st century color photographs with historic drawings and images.

Dreamers: From unknown hopefuls to international celebrities, surfers to scientists, quacks to entrepreneurs, Southern California has produced an unrivaled potpourri of dreamers unique in their unbridled optimism and world-class accomplishments. Fifty-plus color photographs of these dreamers, both current and historic, with accompanying short bios and quotes, plus some large-scale landscape photos and interactive features (‘suggest your own dreamer’).

Home Lands: How Women Made the West: From ancient pueblos to modern suburbs, women have shaped the Western landscape through choices about how to sustain home, family, and community. *Home Lands: How Women Made the West*, brings together women's history, Western history, and environmental history to show how women have been at the heart of the Western enterprise across cultures and over time. Historical artifacts, art, photographs, and biographies of individual women will lead visitors through four distinctive Western environments created and inhabited by women.

Cancellation policy: If the Museum cancels the trip, you will be given a full refund, or you may transfer the money to a different trip. If you must cancel, please notify the Museum as early as possible so that people on the waiting list can be notified. No refunds for cancellations will be given unless the trip is full and we can sell your space. Thank you.



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	Jerry and Carol Hartman	William and Claudia Theis
	Martin Hartman	James and Barbara Vijay
	Pam and Nick Hartop	James Werle
	Julie and Dawn Hirschy	Juanita and Bill Willis

Calendar of Events

September 2009

Tues., Sept. 1 – docent meeting, 8:45 a.m.
Tues., Sept. 15 – Gallery meeting, 9:00 a.m.
Thurs., Sept. 17 – Observatory open - 8:00 p.m.
Sat., Sept. 19 – field trip to Nethercutt Museum and Collection; reservations required
Mon., Sept. 21 – Board of Trustees meeting, 7:00 p.m.
Sat., Sept. 26 – parking lot fund-raiser, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Petroglyph Trip Schedule

As shown in the calendar of events schedule which is an insert in the newsletter.

October 2009

Tues., Oct. 6 – Docents meeting - 8:45 a.m.
Fri., Oct. 9 – Gallery reception, 7:00 p.m.
Sat. Oct. 10 – Field trip - Little Lake Ranch; reservations required
Sat. Oct. 10 – Bus trip – Autry National Center; reservations required
Wed., Oct. 14 – Lecture, 7:30 p.m., "Finding Yidumduma: A New Perspective on Australian Rock Art", David Lee, rock art researcher
Mon., Oct. 19 – Board of Trustees meeting, 7:00 p.m.
Tues., Oct. 20 – Gallery meeting, 9:00 a.m.
Fri. & Sat., Oct. 23 & 24 – Concert - American Art and Music, Sergio Ramirez and Catherine Douglas, 7:30 p.m.; tickets required
Sat. & Sun., Oct. 24 & 25 – Open Studio Tour; tickets required
Fri., Oct. 30 – Silent Auction, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

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