

DOCENTS OF THE MATURANGO MUSEUM OF THE INDIAN WELLS VALLEY

Museum Tours and Outreach Programs

SPECIAL TOURS *and* OUTREACH PROGRAMS

The Docents of the Maturango Museum offer the following: a general tour of the museum and its displays including the Sylvia Winslow Exhibit Gallery; your chosen program and tour of the museum; or an outreach program at the school or other meeting place.

The general museum tour may include local geology, archeology, anthropology, mineralogy, local history, native flora and fauna, petroglyphs, paleontology, a visit to the art gallery and a walk around the museum grounds.

Your selected program covers one topic in depth as described in this brochure. The programs are designed to supplement and enrich classroom lessons. Many programs address science and social studies standards. Docent talks are complemented by PowerPoint presentations and prepared specimens and realia.

Most programs may be tailored to any age; some are especially designed for preschool through second grade.

Museum tours and outreach programs must be scheduled in advance. These programs are presented by volunteer docents and are available Monday through Friday. The museum is open from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Special arrangements can sometimes be made for trips to the museum after hours.

Teachers, leaders and others interested in scheduling a tour or program may call the Museum at 760-375-6900 for information. Ask for the Education Coordinator. Request forms are available at the museum or on the website. Request forms may be returned to the Museum by FAX.

ASTRONOMY/PETER PINTO PLANETARIUM

The stars, our sun, the planets, comets, asteroids and meteors are always a great wonder to all. A PowerPoint program with wonderful photos is available. Docents need a large, dark area in which to use the Planetarium. The Planetarium can be used in the Museum gallery.

BATS

Victims of bad PR, bats are actually beneficial creatures taking an essential part in the fertilization of many plants as well as eating phenomenal quantities of insects. Man has yet to match nature's earliest radar.

BIRDS

From the tiniest hummingbirds to the majestic golden eagle, from the roadrunner to eared grebe, meet the winged fauna of the valley. This presentation identifies birds and their adaptations to our desert environment.

BONES

What is this? A skeleton, skull, ribs, . . . What is it for? Support, protection, muscle attachment? What animal is a mammal or reptile? How does it live? As prey, predator, scavenger, herbivore,

carnivore, omnivore? Children will learn the answers by observing and manipulating bones of many kinds.

CANINES

Various programs describe the lifestyle and adaptation of these intelligent, successful predators. Special emphasis is available for the coyote and the desert foxes.

DESERT ALIVE

The Upper Mojave Desert is a unique environment. Presentations highlight local plant and animal ecosystems emphasizing characteristics that enable them to survive in the desert.

EARTHQUAKES

This program explains where and why earthquakes may strike and what to expect when they do. The local area is featured showing the faults that have been active and where activity is expected in the future.

ENDANGERED SPECIES

This is a worldwide subject. What endangered species live in the Mojave Desert? Why do we need to care? What can we do?

ETHNOBOTANY

Desert foragers and hunters used plants for food, medicine, tools and shelter. This program identifies some of these plants and the different ways they have been used.

FELINES

Cats of the desert are seldom seen, yet there is much to know about them. Programs focus on their habitats and adaptations to the environment. Special emphasis is available for the bocat and mountain lion.

GEOGRAPHY OF THE LOCAL AREA

The program covers local geographic features and local economic geography, including samples of some natural resources and a discussion of how man has used these resources to make a living in the desert.

HISTORY OF INDIAN WELLS VALLEY & SURROUNDING AREA

This presentation begins with the arrival of European explorers, continues with the development of the valley, including the miners, homesteaders and military, through present day Inyokern, Trona, Ridgecrest and China Lake.

INSECTS

This program takes a close-up look at insects focusing on their physical characteristics and abilities. Emphasis is on insects found in California with a comparison to arachnids and their relatives..

MANZANAR

The program features Martha Shoaf's recollections and photos of Manzanar Relocation Center where she taught school during World War II. Martha Shoaf taught in Trona for many years after Manzanar was closed. The proximity of Manzanar to Ridgecrest makes it part of our local history.

PETROGLYPHS

This program is an introduction to the petroglyphs - what they are and how they were made. The Coso Mountains contains the largest concentration of rock drawings in North America.

NATIVE AMERICANS

This presentation explains how these Indians survived the desert environment during the last 1,000 years. The program includes examples and artifacts of the tools and baskets used, how food was prepared and types of shelters built.

REPTILES

The lizards, snakes and tortoises of the Upper Mojave Desert have adapted to their desert conditions. The presentation includes identification of local species, their characteristics, and habitats. We discuss poisonous reptiles and reptiles that are protected by the U.S. Government.

ROCKS & GEOLOGY

Each geologic era has left certain minerals, fossils and structures as evidence of the events of that time. This survey includes examination of rock specimens in the context of the geological events of this area. Sedimentary, igneous, and metamorphic rocks are discussed and samples are shown.

VOLCANOES

The eastern side of California is a geologically active area. Earthquake faults, cinder cones, obsidian domes, explosion pits, lava flows, the Long Valley caldera, and hot springs are explained with samples of volcanic rocks and geological maps.

WEATHER ON THE HIGH DESERT

We all know that the desert is supposed to be hot and dry. There are winter snows and summer morning fogs and afternoon rainbows. How do these things happen and why? What makes our weather different? How can we tell what the weather will be tomorrow? This program includes demonstrations that show what happens when you live at the bottom of an ocean of air.

WILDFLOWERS

In this spectacular presentation every color in the rainbow is represented. It is an introduction to the wildflowers of the Indian Wells Valley. From the diminutive "belly flowers" to the towering plumes of Parry's Nolina; every color in the rainbow is represented.



Maturango Museum

Ridgecrest, California