



# Tortoise Tracks



The Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee, Inc.

Winter 2013 33:4

## Chuckwalla Valley from the Air!

Article by Steve Ishii, Photos by Mary Logan, Marlene and Steve Ishii

*When the chilly wind blew down, across the desert  
Through the canyons of the coast, to the Malibu  
Where the pretty people play, hungry for power  
To light their neon ways, give 'em things to do.*

*~The Eagles, The Last Resort  
(on how the West was lost . . .)*

On Sunday 12/8/13, DTPC Preserve Manager, **Mary Logan** and volunteers **Marlene** and **Steve Ishii** had the opportunity to survey DTPC land holdings and local solar projects in the Chuckwalla Valley area. The flight was generously provided by **LightHawk**, a group that donates flights to conservation groups in North America and Central America via a large network of volunteer pilots. Thanks to the generosity of volunteer pilot, **John Kamburoff**, and the planning and guidance of LightHawk project manager, **Christine Steele**, the DTPC's Red Canyon, Amy's Wash, and Desert Center parcels were monitored, and the Palen, Genesis, Blythe, Rice, and Desert Sunlight solar project sites were surveyed from the air. The development costs of these solar projects have historically been considered high due to their high costs to tax payers, the loss of critical habitat for desert tortoises and fringe-toed lizards, and their impact upon cultural artifacts. The recent addition of avian fatalities to these costs increase the importance of the flight.

For additional photos, please see the photo album on the DTPC Facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/DTPCInc>).

Looking southeast across DTPC parcels in Amy's Wash area



John, Mary, Marlene, Steve

Looking north across DTPC parcel in Red Canyon area





## Revisions to the DTPC Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws

**!!! All DTPC Members - We need your vote !!!**  
*(Check the mailing label for expiration dates of active or recent memberships & contact the DTPC if you have questions or wish to renew your membership)*

You are cordially invited to attend this year's **DTPC Annual Meeting** to be held on **Saturday January 25, 2014** at 2:00 P.M. U.S. Pacific Time at The Palmdale Hotel, 300 West Palmdale Boulevard, Palmdale, California 93551.

This year's meeting will feature a special session for the acceptance of the DTPC's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. *Members are encouraged to attend to comment and vote on the proposed revisions. For those members unable to attend this meeting, please submit your vote via email (to [dtpc@pacbell.net](mailto:dtpc@pacbell.net)), via phone (at 951-683-3872), or lastly by using the postcard enclosed with this issue of Tortoise Tracks.*

***It is imperative that we receive a sufficient number of member votes to properly ratify these changes.***

To review the proposed Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, and the FAQ's, please see the DTPC website at [www.tortoise-tracks.org](http://www.tortoise-tracks.org), or contact the DTPC for a copy of these documents.

### ***Highlights of the updates:***

- Focus of the DTPC's efforts on the *Gopherus agassizii* species of desert tortoise
- Provisions for electronic communications and web-hosted board meetings
- Reclassification of DTPC board members

We welcome all questions via email at [dtpc@pacbell.net](mailto:dtpc@pacbell.net) or by phone at (951) 683-3872.

***Hope to see you at the Annual Meeting!***

Sincerely,

**DTPC Board of Trustees**



**Preserve Manager & Conservation Coordinator**  
Mary Logan

Telephone: (951) 683-3872

Fax: (951) 683-6949

Email: [dtpc@pacbell.net](mailto:dtpc@pacbell.net)

<http://www.tortoise-tracks.org>



Become a fan by clicking "Like" on our Page  
<http://www.Facebook.com/DTPC.inc>

## **The Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee, Inc.**

Founded 1974

### **Board of Trustees**

President	Ron Berger
Vice President	Open
Treasurer	Laura Stockton
Recording Secretary	Rachel Woodard
Board Member	Kristin Berry, Ph.D.
Board Member	Bob Wood
Board Member	Dave Zantiny
Board Member	Open



## ***DTPC Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws updates FAQ's***



### ***Why are the Articles and Bylaws being updated?***

The primary driver for the proposed changes was the taxonomic recognition of the new *Gopherus morafkai* species of desert tortoise. Please see [Tortoise Tracks, Fall 2011, p. 6](#) or <http://vimeo.com/3839729>.(video) for a complete description of the new species.

Additionally, as the current set of articles of incorporation and bylaws were last updated in 1999, the DTPC board felt that it was an appropriate time to update the bylaws to reflect changes in the conservation landscape, technology, and the DTPC's direction.

### ***Why was the new *Gopherus morafkai* species of desert tortoise not included in the primary scope of the DTPC?***

Including the new *Gopherus morafkai* in the scope of the DTPC's focus would expand the DTPC's efforts into Arizona. The DTPC board felt that this expansion would dilute the group's current resources and volunteer efforts to such a degree that the group's current focus in California would be negatively impacted. The DTPC will instead focus on the addition and management of lands within its existing portfolio of preserve complexes (i.e. DTRNA, Fremont Kramer DWMA, Chuckwalla DWMA, Mojave National Preserve, Harper Dry Lake, Piute Mountains Wilderness), and the establishment of additional preserve complexes within the state of California. The revised bylaws do include cooperation with other organizations in efforts to conserve and recover other *Gopherus* species as a secondary purpose of the DTPC.

### ***How do the technology changes affect the DTPC?***

Current technology now enables the board members to conduct its business virtually (i.e. via email, conference call, or web meeting), rather than in person in a single location. The bylaws were updated to formalize the use of this technology. The board also anticipates an increase in the diversity of board members as the geographical and logistical constraints that once existed have been eliminated.

### ***Why were changes made to the membership quorum required for DTPC meetings?***

The current bylaws require that a minimum of 20% of all members be present or represented by proxy for general and special meetings. While the board continues to encourage attendance at the DTPC's membership meetings, the board realizes that many of the group's members choose to maintain their connection to the DTPC through the Tortoise Tracks newsletter, emails, DTPC website, and Facebook page. The bylaws were updated to ensure no threshold of membership attendance will be required for future meetings.

### ***Will the proposed changes impact the DTPC's current 501c(3) non-profit status?***

The proposed changes will not impact the DTPC's current 501c(3) non-profit status with the IRS, or the DTPC's current non-profit status with the state of California.

# The Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee

## Invites You to Join Us At Our

### ***40th Anniversary Annual Banquet and General Meeting***

### **January 25, 2014**

The DTPC's Annual Meeting and Banquet will be held Saturday, January 25, 2014 at The Palmdale Hotel, 300 W. Palmdale Blvd., Palmdale, California 93551 (661-273-1200). The afternoon Annual Meeting will feature a review of the Committee's ongoing programs and activities and plans for 2014. Speakers from a variety of agencies will give updates on important activities throughout southern California.

#### PROGRAM

- Annual Meeting                      2:00 to 5:00 P.M.
- Social Mixer                            5:00 to 6:00 P.M.
- Banquet Event                        6:00 to 9:00 P.M.

#### To RSVP or For Additional Information Contact:

Mary Logan (951) 683-3872 or Email: [dtpc@pacbell.net](mailto:dtpc@pacbell.net)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Dinner Reservation \$40.00  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Optional tax-deductible donation  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total of my enclosed check

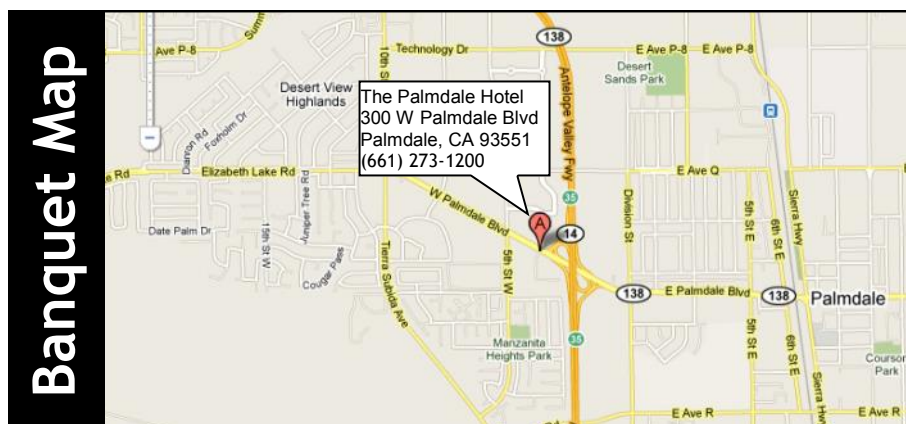
Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Organizational Affiliation (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to: DTPC, 4067 Mission Inn Avenue, Riverside, CA 92501



### Annual Banquet Program

The accomplishments of the Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee, Inc. over the past 40 years have been made possible by dedicated members, volunteers, and partners. In celebration of this rich history of collaboration, we are inviting many of our friends to share memories and reflections on their time with the Committee. During the evening program, we will hear from past board members, scientists who have studied at the Desert Tortoise Research Natural Area, past naturalists, long-time volunteers, and agency partners who have helped the Committee in its mission of protecting the desert tortoise and its habitat. Current board members will also speak about their vision for the years ahead. Please join us for this time to celebrate, catch up with old friends, and learn about the history and future of the Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee, Inc.

*For the banquet, we're compiling a slide show of moments and memories from the first 40 years of the Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee, Inc. If you'd like to share a photo, comment, or memory, please email [dtpc@pacbell.net](mailto:dtpc@pacbell.net) or call (951) 683-3872.*

### Looking to get more involved?

If you have a deep concern for the continued preservation of the desert tortoise and its habitat and would like to do more to help promote the welfare of the Mojave Desert, contact us at (951) 683-3872 or by email at [dtpc@pacbell.net](mailto:dtpc@pacbell.net) for details on different service committees, Board activities, and other volunteer opportunities. There are many ways to help!

DTPC is an IRS recognized tax-exempt 501 (c)(3) nonprofit corporation.

## DTPC Calendar of Events

**January 25, 2014: Annual Meeting & Banquet, Palmdale, CA**

**February 21-23, 2014: The 39th Annual Symposium of the Desert Tortoise Council will be held at the DoubleTree Hotel, Ontario, California. Visit DTC's website [www.deserttortoise.org](http://www.deserttortoise.org) for registration information and details for this event.**

**March 29-30, 2014: DTPC Spring Work Party. Details Coming Soon!**

### The DTPC would like to thank the following volunteers:

*Ron Berger*

*Dr. Kristin Berry*

*Laura Stockton*

*Rachel Woodard*

*Bob Wood*

*Dave Zantiny*

*Bonny Ahern*

*Craig Bansmer*

*Chuck Hemingway*

*Marlene Ishii*

*Steve Ishii*

*John Kamburoff, LightHawk*

*Laura Mogg*

*Charlie Massieon*

*Christine Steele, LightHawk*

More information for each event can be found by calling (951) 683-3872 or sending an email to [dtpc@pacbell.net](mailto:dtpc@pacbell.net).

Additional information can be found on the DTPC's website [www.tortoise-tracks.org](http://www.tortoise-tracks.org) and Facebook [www.facebook.com/dtpc.inc](http://www.facebook.com/dtpc.inc).



### Unexploded Ordnance: A Desert Hazard

The California Deserts have seen military activity for over 200 years. Within the approximately 25 million acres of California Desert, there are six active military installations and at least 50 formerly used defense sites and closed military stations. Throughout these areas, one can encounter unexploded ordnance (UXO), munitions such as bombs, shells, grenades, land mines, and artillery projectiles that did not explode when planted or fired, but still pose the risk of detonation. Much of these UXO are left over from the extensive military training that took place during World



Desert warfare training during WWII

War II, when General Patton commanded the Desert Training Center (DTC). From 1942 to 1944, over 1 million soldiers were trained in desert warfare and other maneuvers at several different camps, concentrated mainly in California. Due to past and on-going military operations, UXO is a serious safety hazard in the California Desert. While the ordnance may be old and appear rusted, it is still considered “live” and capable of detonation.

During annual monitoring of DTPC-owned properties within the Pilot Knob Grazing Allotment, volunteer land monitors Bonny Ahern and Craig Bansmer observed 6 UXO on one of our parcels and on adjacent public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management. Their detailed notes, photos, and coordinates have allowed the DTPC to coordinate with an Edwards Air Force Base Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) team to remove these hazards. Bob Wood, a new DTPC board member and retired Chief of the Environmental Management Division at Edwards Air Force Base, has taken the lead on this effort.



If you are out in the desert and come across an object you suspect to be UXO, you should consider it extremely dangerous and practice the 3 R’s developed by the Department of Defense: Recognize, Retreat, Report! Recognize when you have encountered a munition. Do not touch, move, or disturb it, but carefully retreat and leave the area the way you entered. Call 911 and report to local law enforcement what you saw and where you saw it. More information about UXO safety can be found at:

<http://www.denix.osd.mil/uxo/index.cfm>

Thanks to our volunteers and to the Edwards Air Force Base EOD for helping the DTPC remove these desert hazards!

**UXO, Dud, Training Round, War Trophy, Souvenir  
NO MATTER WHAT YOU CALL THEM! THEY CAN BE DEADLY!**

**Learn and Follow the 3Rs**

**RECOGNIZE:** The danger that a souvenir munition poses to yourself, your family and your neighbors

**RETREAT:** Do not disturb, touch or move it  
Do not give or throw it away

**REPORT:** Call 911

**If you did not drop it, do not pick it up!**

<https://www.denix.osd.mil/uxosafety>

Poster produced by the Department of Defense Environment, Safety and Occupational Health Network and Information Exchange

Unexploded ordnance identified and reported by Bonny Ahern and Craig Bansmer. They found 6 total munitions ranging from 6 to 36 inches in length.



## Mr. Ron Berger Board of Trustees, President

I am an entrepreneur focused on marketing and franchising.

I founded a business called National Video which grew into the world's largest video specialty store chain with 746 units in all 50 states when I sold it in 1988.

I next launched Rentrak Corporation, an information and payment processor whose annual revenues exceed \$100 million.

I've managed a number of other businesses, including The Pro Image, a chain of 240 sports apparel stores, and Blow Out Entertainment, a chain of over 200 video retail and rental stores.

Since 2001, I've owned and served as CEO of Figaro's Italian Pizza, Inc., a 32 year old chain of pizza retail outlets with outlets in 9 states from coast to coast, as well as stores in Abu Dhabi, Dubai, and Cyprus. In 2008, we acquired Portland, Oregon's leading 'pizza by the slice' format chain, called Pizza Schmizza and in 2012, we acquired Nick-N-Willy's, the #3 entry in the take and bake specialty business. Together, we currently franchise roughly a hundred restaurants.

I joined actor Jeff Bridges in 1997 to form a non-profit to feed hungry children, serving on its board until 2004. In 1995, I joined the Board of Trustees of the Nature Conservancy of Oregon, serving until 2001. In 2009, I led Figaro's creation of a non-profit called H.E.L.P, the Charity. To date, it has issued over 275 grants to schools and other educational programs. In 2012, I formed The Desert Tortoise Conservancy, a non-profit whose mission is to help insure that the species does not become extinct, and that sustainable populations survive in the wild, primarily by building awareness of the causes of the tortoises decline and how changes in human behavior can turn this situation around. I am honored to serve on the DTPC Board of Trustees and as its Acting President. Working closely with my fellow board members, I look forward to growing the geography managed by DTPC, working to perpetuate the Mojave Desert Tortoise, and protecting it and the lands it inhabits.

### DESERT TORTOISE PRESERVE COMMITTEE, INC.

#### MEMBERSHIP/DONOR FORM

NAME _____	DATE _____
ADDRESS _____	RENEWAL <input type="checkbox"/>
CITY _____	NEW <input type="checkbox"/>
STATE _____ ZIP _____	

- Individual membership      \$ 15 annually [ ]
- Family membership         \$ 20 annually [ ]
- Sponsor membership        \$ 30 annually [ ]
- Benefactor membership     \$ 75 annually [ ]
- Patron membership         \$100 annually [ ]
- Life                             \$500

Membership Dues             \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Donation         \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed               \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**DONATION ONLY**

Enclosed is my donation of    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to DTPC and mail to:  
 DTPC  
 4067 Mission Inn Avenue  
 Riverside, CA 92501

The DTPC is an IRS recognized tax-exempt 501 (c)(3) nonprofit corporation (tax ID 23-7413415). All contributions above the basic \$15 annual membership dues are tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

All contributors receive the quarterly newsletter *Tortoise Tracks*.

Membership and donor information are kept confidential and will not be disclosed to third parties.

**I WANT TO VOLUNTEER**

My area of interest/expertise is:  
 \_\_\_\_\_

My E-mail address is:  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**For more information on becoming a DTPC member, you can also contact us at (951) 683-3872 or visit our website at: <http://www.tortoise-tracks.org/wptortoisetracks/become-a-member>**





# Tortoise Tracks

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[www.Facebook.com/DTPC.inc](http://www.Facebook.com/DTPC.inc)



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If you would prefer to receive an electronic copy, notify us  
by email at [dtpc@pacbell.net](mailto:dtpc@pacbell.net).

## Save the Desert Tortoise and The Habitat in which it lives

One environment

One simple way to care for it .....

## Workplace Giving

Support The

## Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee

through payroll deduction by  
Donating to EarthShare of California

Contact your human resources department to find out about your company's workplace giving program. To find out how your employer can host its own campaign, go to EarthShare's web site at: [www.earthshare.org](http://www.earthshare.org)

The DTPC participates in the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC # 71985)