



# Tortoise Tracks



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## Stewardship Work Continues

*Highlights from the Fall Work Party*

*Article by Jill Estrada*

*Photos by: Jill Estrada, Clyde Golden, Brenda Rees, and Steve & Marlene Ishii*



*Photo by Steve Ishii*

The bi-annual task of maintaining our tortoise preserves kicked off again on Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers arrived at the Western Expansion Area of the [Desert Tortoise Research Natural Area](#) (DTRNA) full of excitement and enthusiasm. Seventeen volunteers drove a total of about 2,300 miles to take on the task of collecting debris, replacing worn-out boundary signs, and transferring items from our old storage unit into a larger unit that can now house our newly donated field truck! Some of the collected trash included concrete slabs, items used for target practice, a burned mattress, and pieces of electronic equipment. After several hours of hard work, everyone enjoyed some time catching up with one another with a yummy selection of lunch items and the shade of a tent stand provided by **Craig Bansmer** and **Bonny Ahern**. Proving that team effort can do just about anything; we altogether collected more than four garbage bins full of trash and replaced seven boundary signs. The wildlife sends their gratitude!

*(Continued on page 2)*



*Photo by Marlene Ishii*



*Photo by Jill Estrada*

(Continued from page 1)

A special thank you to our Fall Work Party volunteers **Bonny Ahern, Craig Bansmer, Lucy G. Clark, Phyllis Dobbins, Gerry Dobbins, Allan Eggleton, Clyde Golden, Chuck Hemingway, Marilyn H. Henke, Jim Henke, Steve Ishii, Marlene Ishii, Lisa Lavelle, Will Liebsher, Brenda Rees, and Laura Stockton.**



Photo by Brenda Rees



Photo by Marlene Ishii



Photo by Clyde Golden



Before



Photo by Jill Estrada



After

Photos by Brenda Rees



Photo by Marlene Ishii



Photo by Jill Estrada



**Preserve Manager & Conservation Coordinator  
Jillian Estrada**

Telephone: (951) 683-3872

Fax: (951) 683-6949

Email: [DTPC@tortoise-tracks.org](mailto:DTPC@tortoise-tracks.org)

[www.tortoise-tracks.org](http://www.tortoise-tracks.org)



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

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

Founded 1974

**Board of Trustees**

- |                     |                      |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| President           | Ron Berger           |
| Vice President      | Open                 |
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| Board Member        | Greg Lathrop         |
| Board Member        | Freya Reder          |
| Board Member        | Bob Wood             |
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## DESERT TORTOISE PRESERVE COMMITTEE, INC.

4067 Mission Inn Avenue  
Riverside, CA 92501  
Contact: Ron Berger  
Email: ron@figaros.com

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

10/05/2015

### JILLIAN ESTRADA NAMED PRESERVE MANAGER

RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA - The Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee, Inc. (DTPC) today announced that Jillian R. Estrada has been named Preserve Manager and Conservation Coordinator, effective immediately. Estrada has a Master's degree in conservation ecology, and most recently served as an education specialist and camp counselor at the Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Gardens.

Ron Berger, DTPC President, said that "Jillian's personality, education and passion for the desert tortoise and its habitat are a perfect fit for this position." Jillian Estrada said that she "looks forward to helping to expand the Desert Tortoise Research Natural Area (DTRNA), the largest existing preserve for the tortoise, Mojave ground squirrel and other threatened and endangered species which the DTPC, in conjunction with Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and other agencies has been building for more than 40 years." Ms. Estrada also plans to "expand the education outreach program and increase the number of research projects which are crucial to the preservation of the desert tortoise and the ecosystem in which it inhabits."

Additional Information: Please visit us at [www.tortoise-tracks.org](http://www.tortoise-tracks.org)

## An Exciting Time To Be Part Of The DTPC Family

*By Jill Estrada*



As the new Preserve Manager and Conservation Coordinator, I would like to personally convey my excitement about the Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee and our future projects and goals. I come to this organization as a Michigan native with a background in zoology, conservation ecology, and conservation education. Already in my first month I was able to meet some of the amazing members and volunteers that create the backbone to our organization. I have many personal goals to help advertise our organization and continue the work that has been done these past 40+ years. I look forward to being a part of such a wonderful family of people who all share the love and appreciation for desert tortoises.



*Jill's first visit to the DTRNA with Volunteer, Steve Ishii.*

*Photo by Marlene Ishii*

**The Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee**  
**Invites You to Join Us At Our**  
***41th Annual Banquet and General Meeting***  
**January 30, 2016**

The DTPC's Annual Meeting and Banquet will be held Saturday, January 30, 2016 at **The Elks Club, 240 E Ave K, Lancaster, CA 93535**. The afternoon Annual Meeting will feature a review of the Committee's ongoing programs and activities and plans for 2016. Speakers from a variety of agencies will give updates on important activities throughout southern California. The banquet speaker will be **Mark Faull**.

**PROGRAM**

- **Annual Meeting**                    **2:30 to 4:30 P.M.**
- **Social Mixer**                      **5:00 to 6:00 P.M.**
- **Banquet**                              **6:00 to 9:00 P.M.**

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

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

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Dinner Reservation \$45.00**  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **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

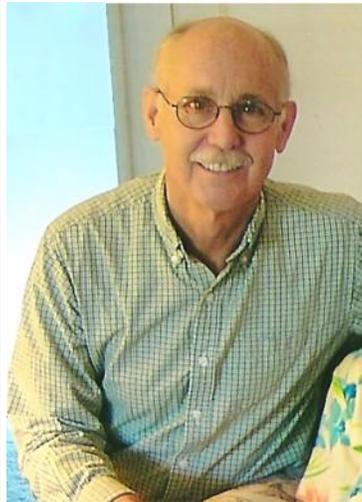


**Meet the babies!**



The Annual Meeting and Banquet this year will feature one or two special guests, desert tortoise hatchlings. Hatched in September, these cuties were provided by The Living Desert in Palm Springs, and will be available for adoption to qualified attendees. Note that qualifications are based on state and CTTC requirements.





## Mark R. Faull, Our Annual Dinner Speaker

A northern California native, Mark's formative years were spent in Mountain View, now in the heart of the Silicon Valley. Mark knew from early high school he wanted to be a State Park Ranger and thus attended California State University, Sacramento graduating with a degree in Parks and Recreation Administration.

After working at numerous northern California State Parks (such as [Humboldt Redwoods](#), [Pfeifer Big Sur](#) and [Andrew Molera State Parks](#) and [Half Moon Bay State Beach](#), Mark moved to the Mojave Desert in 1984 to become a Ranger at [Red Rock Canyon State Park](#). Very quickly, Mark and his family were captured by the desert's beauty and fascinated by its abundant natural and cultural history. Although other opportunities

availed, Mark chose to spend the last twenty years of his career with California State Parks stationed at Red Rock Canyon State Park, until he retired in 2004.

Red Rock Canyon represents an amazing natural and cultural history treasure trove. While Stationed at Red Rock Canyon, Mark undertook continual studies of the park's natural and cultural heritage, publishing many findings. After retirement Mark continued these studies, especially focusing on local to regional prehistory. In recent years, with friends, he has documented several local portions of the historic 1800s stage route, spotting the remains of several forgotten associated facilities.

Raised to value public service, in retirement Mark remains active in various community endeavors, including our local Mojave Desert State Parks. In 2009, along with other concerned citizens, he helped to save local State Parks from budget related closures. Mark serves on the non-profit boards of both the [Red Rock Canyon Interpretive Association](#) and [Poppy Reserve/Mojave Desert Interpretive Association](#). He helped to found the Save Saddleback Committee and the Committee to Reopen Mitchell Caverns, which secured funds to support both [Saddleback Butte State Park](#) and [Providence Mountains State Recreation Area](#). Mark remains very active with [Tomo-Kahni State Historic Park](#), which led to his service on the Tehachapi Tourism Commission, serving as that organization's Chair in 2014. Mark is also honored to serve on the Kern County Parks and Recreation Commission, as the representative for District 2. Mark believes in building partnerships to reach community goals.

The title of Mark's presentation is **The Great Red Rock Flood of 1997 and the Shaping of Red Rock Canyon**. In 1997 Red Rock Canyon State Park was devastated by a super-cell thunderstorm that dropped roughly 15 inches of rain on the park in less than one hour. As the collected runoff raced down slope, larger and larger floodwaters developed, which uprooted countless Joshua trees and ravaged park buildings. During his presentation, Mark will describe the power and destruction wrought by such a unpredictably large event, now known as the Great Red Rock Flood of 1997, and will place the magnitude of this event into the greater perspective of time. Although immense beyond belief, such events are very instructive. Mark will discuss how much we learn a great deal from natural occurrences so far beyond the norms of our experience.

Please join us for a wonderful and informative evening!



## Help Us Keep The Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee Operating Into Perpetuity

*Article by Greg Lathrop*

The Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee, Inc. (DTPC) Board has established a goal of growing our permanent unrestricted endowment fund. A large permanent unrestricted endowment fund would provide the DTPC with a steady source of income to fund our daily operations into perpetuity. This will allow the DTPC to grow and meet our objectives without a constant worry about funding sources for basic resources such as qualified staffing and equipment for monitoring our preserves.

The donation of appreciated marketable securities to the DTPC endowment fund gives donors an excellent charitable tax planning opportunity. Appreciated marketable securities are investments that have increased in value from the time they were purchased. These securities are usually publicly-traded stock, bonds or mutual funds.

Generally, when appreciated securities are sold, the owner typically realizes capital gains equal to the appreciated amount and may be liable for either short-term or long-term capital gains taxes. Rather than selling appreciated securities and making charitable donations, owners may realize greater tax benefits and enhance the impact of their gifts by donating appreciated securities to the DTPC.

If the marketable securities have been held for more than one year, a donor in most cases may be able to deduct the fair market value of the donation without realizing any capital gain. The DTPC is a California Nonprofit Corporation and is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) and California organization. Charitable gifts to the Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee, Inc. are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowable by law. Consult your tax professional for complete details.

Please help us grow our endowment so that the DTPC can protect the desert tortoise and other species and their habitat in perpetuity. If you are interested in making a donation of your appreciated securities, please contact: **Greg Lathrop**, DTPC Finance Committee Chairperson at: [2redgrey@gmail.com](mailto:2redgrey@gmail.com) or 415-637-7187

## DTPC Calendar of Events

- **December 1, 2015: Giving Tuesday**  
*A day of making charitable donations on the Tuesday after Black Friday.*
- **January 30, 2016: [Annual Banquet & General Meeting](#)**, Lancaster Elks Lodge, CA  
*See page 4 of this newsletter for details.*
- **Spring 2016:**
  - **DTPC Spring Work Party.** *Details coming soon.*
  - **Wildflower Hike.** *Details coming soon.*

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

*Ron Berger  
Dr. Kristin Berry  
Greg Lathrop  
Jun Lee  
Freya Reder  
Laura Stockton  
Bob Wood*

*Rachel Woodard  
Dave Zantiny  
Bonny Ahern  
Craig Bansmer  
Lucy G. Clark  
Gerry Dobbins  
Phyllis Dobbins*

*Allan Eggleton  
Jillian Estrada  
Clyde Golden  
Chuck Hemingway  
Marilyn Henke  
Jim Henke  
Marlene Ishii*

*Steve Ishii  
Lisa LaVelle  
Will Liebsher  
Brenda Rees*

## DTPC MEMBERSHIP/CONTRIBUTION FORM

1. YES, I want to help save the threatened desert tortoise and its habitat! Here is my tax-deductible membership contribution of:

- |                                          |                                                 |
|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 Individual | <input type="checkbox"/> \$75 Benefactor        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$30 Family     | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Patron/Corporate |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Sponsor    | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Life Membership  |

2. That's not nearly enough! Here's my additional contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.  
Please use it for:

- |                                       |                                           |                                            |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fencing      | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Acquisition | <input type="checkbox"/> Where Most Needed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |                                           |                                            |

3. I'd like to help you grow the DTPC endowment.  
Please accept an additional donation of:

- |                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                         |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$250                                                                                                                                                                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$2,500        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$500                                                                                                                                                                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$5,000        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000                                                                                                                                                                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Other \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Marketable Securities (Stock): Contact DTPC Finance Committee Chairperson, Greg Lathrop at <a href="mailto:2redgrey@gmail.com">2redgrey@gmail.com</a> or (415) 637-7187 for instruction |                                         |

Let's get the endowment started!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to DTPC and mail to:

**Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee**  
**4067 Mission Inn Ave.**  
**Riverside, CA 92501.**

Thank you.

\*All contributors receive the Tortoise Tracks newsletter. The Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee is an IRS recognized tax-exempt 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. All contributions and/or annual membership dues are fully tax-deductible. Contributor information is kept confidential and is not disclosed to third parties.

\* [www.tortoise-tracks.org](http://www.tortoise-tracks.org) \*



# Tortoise Tracks

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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)