



Winter 2018
Edition 38: 4

Tortoise Tracks

Newsletter



Photo by Tina Erway

LAND MANAGEMENT

DTPC Volunteers Clean up Common Dump Site on Tortoise Habitat

On Saturday, September 29, nineteen volunteers traveled over 3,000 cumulative miles to attend the fall work party. This season's work party focused on a large area in the Western Expansion Area that is commonly used as dumping and shooting grounds, despite its status as private property. This is not the first time the area has been the target of one of our work parties. Many of the secondary streets which begin at Neuralia Road in California City lead to uninhabited areas of the desert and are inviting to those who wish to discard unwanted items or practice target shooting. The volunteers came from as far as the Bay Area to help tackle the large dumping area just outside the current DTRNA fence line. The clean-up covered approximately three acres where large amounts of shattered glass, clay pigeon fragments, mattresses, shot gun shells, and much more were removed. All of these items pose a serious threat to desert tortoises and other wildlife, but thanks to our volunteers this area is now a much more suitable habitat.



Trash collected during the work party

For those wondering about the use of the area as dumping grounds in the future, this area was fenced off in November thanks to the OHV grant we were recently awarded by California State Parks. The grant project connected fencing that was installed earlier this year with the existing DTRNA fence to completely enclose an entire section (640 acres) of tortoise habitat, preventing further illegal use of the property. Additional restoration activities will take place during December.



Trash collection begins on a beautiful fall morning

On the following day of the work party, a small group tackled fence monitoring in the recently fenced Eastern Expansion Area where eight new instances of fence damage were observed and repaired. In December, the ACE restoration crew will also perform trail camouflage in these often damaged areas to discourage future fence cuts and trespass.





Dedicated to the recovery and conservation of the Desert Tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*) and other rare and endangered species inhabiting the Mojave and western Sonoran deserts.

**The
Desert Tortoise
Preserve Committee, Inc.**
Founded 1974
Board of Directors

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

**Preserve Manager &
Conservation Coordinator**
Jillian Estrada

Director of Land Acquisition
Jun Lee

Telephone: (951) 683-3872
Fax: (951) 683-6949
Email: dtpc@pacbell.net
www.tortoise-tracks.org



Tortoise Tracks is published
four times a year.

©2018 Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee

Using Trail Camouflage to Discourage Trespass

During outreach and education events many people ask us what we do to manage and protect tortoise habitat. Each area that we manage has its own Land Management Plan which dictates what actions are to be done in order to protect and restore the habitat. Many parcels of land have varying actions required to make them suitable habitat but one common type of damage we see on unfenced land is illegal Off-Highway Vehicle trails. Once we acquire a large enough area of land, we typically will install a wildlife-friendly fence to prevent illegal trespass and damage. In order to help the land restore itself, we hire a restoration crew to perform restoration including trail camouflage. Trail camouflage is a quick and efficient method of planting vertical mulching (essentially dead shrub branches), de-compacting soil, and helping the denuded area to "camouflage" itself among surrounding areas of vegetation. Not only does this method prevent further use of off-road vehicles, the mulch acts as a capture net for native seeds and water which help native plants grow under the shade of the vertical mulching.



Before and After photos showing recent trail camouflage

Meet a Director: Dave Zantiny, Board Member

Dave grew up in Long Beach, California and received an A.S. at Long Beach City College. He then continued his education to earn a B.S. degree in Biology at Humboldt State College in 1971. He has served two years as a Biologist for NOAA as a porpoise mortality observer aboard tuna boats for the National Marine Fisheries unit out of La Jolla, San Diego. He has been a member of the California Turtle and Tortoise Club for more than 25 years and is currently the president of the High Desert Chapter. He has been a member of the Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee for over 5 years and is currently a board member. He has worked on many outreach activities including habitat work parties for both the CTTC and DTPC over the years.



*Photo provided by
Dave Zantiny*

EVENTS

The Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee invites you to join us at our **44th Annual General Meeting** Saturday, January 19, 2019

The DTPC's Annual Meeting and Luncheon will be held Saturday, January 19, 2019 at **The Lancaster Columbus Club, Knights of Columbus, 719 West Avenue M, Lancaster, CA**. The afternoon Annual Meeting will feature a review of the Committee's ongoing programs and activities, and plans for 2019.

Speakers from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will provide updates on important activities throughout southern California. The luncheon guest speaker will be Dr. Jim Andre. Serving as Director of the University of California's Granite Mountains Desert Research Center since 1994, Jim's academic training is in plant ecology, taxonomy, and rare plant population biology. With 35 years of experience conducting floristic studies throughout the desert southwest, Jim has contributed 45,000 herbarium specimens and discovered and published many new species to science. He is author of *A Flora of the Mojave National Preserve*, a book project, *A Flora of San Bernardino County Desert Region* (in press), and is currently working on a *Flora of the Mojave Desert* spanning four states, a lifelong endeavor. Jim has been a strong advocate for native plant conservation, and serves as the Senior Advisor to the California Native Plant Society's Rare Plant Program. Dr. Andre will present the following program:

"Recent Plant Discoveries in the California Desert Shed Light on Human Ignorance"

Commonly portrayed as barren and lifeless, the vast region of California's desert is exceedingly rich in plant species. Surprisingly, the flora also represents a major hotbed for taxonomic discovery in the United States.

Even conservative estimates predict that 15% of the flora remains undescribed today, and that many new species discoveries will continue into the next century. In this presentation I will provide an overview of botanical exploration in the California Deserts, highlighting recent taxonomic discoveries. With accelerated rates of new species discoveries throughout the desert southwest amid looming large-scale impacts, I stress the urgent need for additional botanical inventory and public lands conservation in a region that represents one of the last remaining floristic frontiers on planet earth.



ANNUAL MEETING PROGRAM

Doors Open	11:00am
Buffet Luncheon	11:45am
Annual Meeting	12:30pm to 2:45pm

To RSVP or For Additional Information Contact:Jill Estrada at (951) 683-3872 or Email: dtpc@pacbell.net\$ _____ **Luncheon Reservation (\$45.00 per person)**\$ _____ **Optional tax-deductible donation**\$ _____ **Total of my enclosed check****Please RSVP by January 14, 2019****Name(s):** _____ **Phone Number:** _____**Address:** _____ **E-Mail:** _____**City:** _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____**Organizational Affiliation (if any):** _____**Dietary Restrictions?** _____**Make check payable to:** DTPC, 4067 Mission Inn Avenue, Riverside, CA 92501

Note: We are always looking for exciting items to add to our raffle table for the end of the meeting. All proceeds from the raffle help to fund our conservation programs.

44th Annual Desert Tortoise Council Symposium**February 21-23, 2019****Westward Look Wyndham Grand Resort & Spa****245 East Ina Road****Tucson, AZ 85704**[Click to Register](#)

Join dozens of leading experts as they present on research and recent actions to study and protect the Desert Tortoise and other desert species. The symposium will begin with a field trip on February 20th to tour Gila monster study sites located north of Tucson, AZ with field researchers Roger Repp, Dale DeNardo, Daniel Beck, and others.

WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK!

The Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee, Inc. is considering adding a slogan or tag line to our name. Examples of tag lines or slogans used by other organizations include: "Helping preserve the places you cherish" (LandChoices), "Explore, enjoy and protect the planet" (Sierra Club), and "Clean Water. Healthy Fish. Happy People." (Lake Champlain International). We would like to emphasize our commitment to protecting tortoise habitat. Please send your ideas to dtpc@pacbell.net or include them with your membership renewal. Those with the top two ideas will receive a free plush tortoise.

Join us at the Spring Work Party Saturday, March 16, 2019



Photo by Jill Estrada

- Removal of non-native invasive plants in western expansion area
- Camping at Red Rock State Park Friday and Saturday nights
- Land monitoring of DTPC properties on Sunday (optional 2nd day)

PLEASE RSVP for this event by emailing dtpc@pacbell.net or call us at 951-683-3872. Further details will be sent to those who RSVP.

Saying Goodbye to a Critical Supporter of the Desert Tortoise Research Natural Area

Retired BLM District Manager Louis Boll passed on Nov 9 2018 at the age of 87. He served in the Marines after high school and graduated from University of Montana in 1956. Lou and his wife, Kay, are survived by 3 children, Sally, Terri and Brian.

In 1971 Lou Boll was District Manager for the Bureau of Land Management and was the administrator in charge of the western Mojave Desert as well as a large part of the Central Valley. His office was in Bakersfield and he was the first manager I approached about setting up a Preserve or Natural Area for the desert tortoise in 1971-1972. Lou was supportive of the concept and over a period of a few years, agreed to enlarge the boundaries of the Natural Area so that it could become a viable Research Natural Area. He dealt with the complexities of removing sheep and off-road vehicle use, and had his staff sign the area as closed to livestock grazing and recreational vehicle use in late 1973 and 1974. He was supportive of fencing, the kiosk, and withdrawing of the land from mining and grazing-- and helped to make it happen--all by 1980. He visited the Natural Area several times while he was in charge of the area and afterwards. I had high regard

for him then and have come to value his contributions more and more as time has passed. He was a District Manager with special attributes and highly effective in conservation of the desert tortoise. We have been very grateful for his involvement, interest, and willingness to set aside a small part of the desert for the tortoise and from disturbance created by sheep grazing, off-road vehicle use, and mining. We last saw Lou at the 25th Anniversary Meeting of the Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee, Inc. The early investment made by the Bureau of Land Management through Lou Boll has paid many dividends through the years for the desert tortoise.

-Kristin H. Berry-



Lou Boll at the 25th Anniversary Meeting

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:

- ☐ \$25 Individual
☐ \$40 Family
☐ \$75 Sponsor

- ☐ \$100 Benefactor
☐ \$200 Patron/Corporate
☐ \$1000 Life Membership

2. My membership is current but here is an additional donation of \$_____.
 Please use it for:

- ☐ Fencing ☐ Land Acquisition ☐ Where Most Needed
☐ Other:_____

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

- ☐ \$250 ☐ \$2,500
☐ \$500 ☐ \$5,000
☐ \$1,000 ☐ Other \$_____
☐ Marketable Securities (Stock): Contact DTPC Finance Committee Chairperson,
 Greg Lathrop at 2redgrey@gmail.com or (415) 637-7187 for instruction

Let's grow the endowment!

- ☐ I would like my contribution to remain anonymous
☐ I would like to receive Tortoise Tracks electronically (please provide email address)

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.

If you would like to renew your membership or donate online, please visit * www.tortoise-tracks.org *



Tortoise Tracks

THE DESERT TORTOISE PRESERVE COMMITTEE
4067 MISSION INN AVENUE
RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA 92501

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
RIVERSIDE, CA
PERMIT NO. 3216

Address Service Requested

Thank you for being a member

Membership expiration date:



When you shop @[AmazonSmile](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-7413415),
Amazon will make a donation to
Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee Inc.
[http://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-7413415](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-7413415)



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



Electronic copies of *Tortoise Tracks* are in **COLOR**!
If you would prefer to receive an electronic copy, notify us
by email at dtpc@pacbell.net

Volunteer Corner

Volunteer Needs:

Fence Monitoring—The DTPC owns and manages more than 50 miles of fencing in and around the DTRNA and expansion areas which need to be monitored and repaired as needed.

Land Monitoring— We are in need of trained land monitoring teams to help us tackle the task of monitoring our parcels. Monitoring will resume in March. If you would like to become trained, please contact us at dtpc@pacbell.net

GO GREEN

Our electronic newsletter is growing in popularity and we want to see it continue to grow! One added benefit of receiving the e-newsletter is that it is provided in color and is received sooner than those that are mailed. If you would like to be added to our e-newsletter list, please email us at dtpc@pacbell.net.