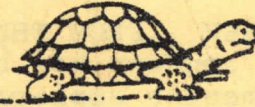


TORTOISE T-R-A-C-K-S



THE DESERT TORTOISE PRESERVE COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER +++ WINTER, 1981-82
P.O.Box 453, Ridgecrest, CA 93555 + Vol. 3, #2 + Gloria Nowak, Editor

Our scientific advisor, Kristin Berry, spent five days in England as the United States representative to the first meeting of the Tortoise Subgroup, Species Survival Commission, International Union for the Conservation of Nature. She also gave two papers at the Second European Tortoise Symposium, which was attended by tortoise experts from all over the world. She said the meetings were one of the more exciting and worthwhile professional and scientific experiences she has had.

A NOTE OF THANKS: To the Westchester Ch., CTTC for \$400.00, to the Foothill Ch., CTTC for \$500.00, to Milton Rosenau and Lloyd Dobney each for \$100.00 and to the Hermosa Garden Club for \$50.00. Also for \$100.00 received for Curt Uptain's expenses on the Natural Area, from a couple wishing to remain anonymous; like our benefactor who will match all funds received for this purpose. Thanks to all who have contributed to it so far, and a reminder to others that we still need you! Please send checks to the Committee address, payable to the Committee, and marked "Curt".

IT'S ANNUAL BANQUET TIME! Saturday, January 16th, Essex House, 44916 N. 10th St. West, Lancaster. Meeting: 2 PM; dinner: 6:30 PM; program: 7:30 PM. Dinner will be \$8.00 per person, which includes tax and gratuity. Reservation deadline: Jan. 8th. Please send check with blank below, to Peggy Woltosz, 44433 N. 13th St. East, Lancaster, CA 93534; (805)942-7475. You are welcome to attend the business meeting. We hope to see you there.

Our program will be an exciting and memorable one, presented by Bev Steveson of the Committee. Entitled "Desert Tortoise Country", it is a multi-image exploration of the beauties of desert life and landscape. It follows the tortoise through time and desert toward a better understanding and appreciation of the specialized parts of this ecosystem. Bev Steveson has an impressive background in both photography and wildlife conservation activities. As a member of the Photography Society of America, she has won numerous awards. She serves the Committee as photographer and Program Chairman, assists with the production of slide programs and conducts an annual photography contest. You can see that this program is a "must"!

RESERVATION FOR ANNUAL BANQUET

Send to Peggy Woltosz, 44433 N. 13th St. East, Lancaster, CA 93534; before January 8, 1982.

Please make a reservation for _____ persons in my name for the Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee annual banquet-meeting at the Essex House, Lancaster, CA, Sat., Jan. 16, 1982. I understand that the dinner will be \$8.00 per person, including tax and gratuity.

I am enclosing my check for \$ _____, payable to the Committee.

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ PHONE _____

ORGANIZATION IF ANY _____

NEWSFLASH...FROM THE PRESIDENT: Never a dull moment with the DTPC! Our latest concern has been the Ridgecrest Area Office of the Bureau of Land Management's applications for oil and gas leases on the Natural Area! Although the Ridgecrest office has recommended to the State office that there be NO leasing within the Natural Area, there are reasons for continued anxiety: we have no guarantee that the lease applications will receive the same recommendation for denial from the State office, and there WILL be leasing with some stipulations in areas adjacent to the Desert Tortoise Natural Area, where tortoises and their habitat will be impacted. There are few if any stipulations that could adequately protect the tortoises if oil and gas development occurs.

As many of you will remember, the DTNA was formally protected from mineral entry in 1980 (at about the time of the dedication of the Interpretive Center), but unfortunately that protection does not extend to oil and gas development. Some years ago the BLM District Manager in Bakersfield assured the Committee that leasing would not be allowed in the Natural Area; but tenures change and administrations change...and so we remain ever vigilant in our efforts to promote the welfare of the desert tortoise (in all of its range) and we hope that the State Director of BLM will very soon decide to keep BLM's commitment to protect the tortoise and the Natural Area. After all, the Natural Area is also an Area of Critical Environmental Concern; one of the "jewels of the desert". - E.W.F.

LAND ACQUISITION: In order to expedite our all-important land acquisition program within the Natural Area, the Committee has decided to enlist the aid of a realtor, to augment the efforts of the private and government organizations which are already working toward that goal, but in no way conflict with them. In fact, we are very happy to announce that The Nature Conservancy is in the process of acquiring 20 acres in Section 1 which will then be added to the area of undisturbed tortoise habitat.

DESERT TORTOISE COUNCIL SYMPOSIUM: Save the weekend of March 27-29 for this important annual event, to be held in Las Vegas. Details next time.

Remember; when you buy our products you are buying land for the tortoise.

Best wishes to all our friends for the new year. SEE YOU AT THE BANQUET!

DESERT TORTOISE PRESERVE COMMITTEE, INC.
P. O. BOX 453, RIDGECREST, CA 93555

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Non-Profit Bulk Mailing Permit #76 Ridgecrest, CA 93555
