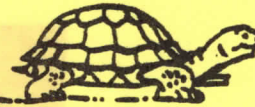


# TORTOISE T-R-A-C-K-S



THE DESERT TORTOISE PRESERVE COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER +++ SPRING, 1984  
P.O.Box 453, Ridgecrest, CA 93555 + Vol. 5, #3 + Gloria Nowak, Editor

UPDATE ON LAND ACQUISITION: The Committee is pleased to announce that the current land purchase effort, begun nearly a year ago, has resulted in the addition of a total of 46½ acres of privately owned land within the Natural Area; including 40 acres acquired in December, 1983 and 6½ acres in March, 1984. At the present time, 20 more acres are in the process of negotiation. Much of this progress has come about through the efforts and expertise of The Nature Conservancy, and of course, the generous contributions from our many friends; both individually and as members of organizations. Nonetheless, much remains to be done, and further land purchases will be negotiated within the limits of the monies available in the Committee's fund. It should be remembered that donations are tax-deductible.

Since the last issue, we have received some additional contributions to the project, in amounts ranging from \$10.00 to \$1,000.00; from Pearl Seidman, Dr. Helen Hammer, Dr. & Mrs. Ronald Henry, George R. Stuart, Joan Keenan and Eileen Drutz. Moreover, as always we are indebted to our garden club friends, who have consistently given us their support in the form of membership and donations. These include the Oasis, Cactus Wren, Silver Spur, Desert Holly, Boron, Stockton, Hermosa and Irvine Garden Clubs; and the Desert Planters of Ridgecrest, The High Desert Gardeners of Antelope Valley and the Gardeneers. To a great extent, the DTPC owes its very existence to garden club efforts!

THANKS TO ALL WHO CAME TO THE FENCE PARTY! Our first Fence Party was a great success. On the last weekend of February, 11 DTPC members and Steve Smith from the Ridgecrest BLM office repaired 27 breaks or defects in the DTNA fence, which amounted to 2/3 of the 41 inventoried repair jobs to be done. According to Steve Smith, wherever the repair work was completed, the fence was restored to as good or even better condition than when first built; and that hopefully the double wiring, extra posts and the 21 new boundary signs which were installed will decrease future fence vandalism. In addition to Steve, those who participated were Ron & Mary Ann Henry, Mike & Mary Shepherd, Brett C. Stearns, Nancy Nichols, George Moncsko, Carol Panlaqui, Bev Steveson, Laura Stockton and Warren Forgey. The weather was perfect and everyone enjoyed the outing; even the frosty overnight campout.

Another session to complete the remaining repairs is scheduled for the weekend of April 21st and 22nd. If you would like to help with this, please call me at (619)375-4812 after 5 PM for further details, no later than April 10th. Work gloves will be the only equipment needed this time. You are welcome whether you attended the first session or not.

We are working on a volunteer agreement with the Ridgecrest BLM office for helping with maintenance and improvements on the DTNA. These fence parties will be followed by other work sessions as the need arises. If you are interested in an occasional excuse to visit the desert and help us with various projects, please let us know and we will put you on a special list. Notices will be published in the newsletter as well. - Carol Panlaqui

THANKS TO ALL WHO CAME TO THE ANNUAL BANQUET...including those who came a great distance to do so, and helped to make it a success. Moreover, we were happy that the choice of location in the San Fernando Valley enabled us to get acquainted with several contributing members of long standing. Also, we were glad that some of our friends from the California Turtle & Tortoise Clubs were able to join us.

SPRINGTIME IS TOUR TIME! We have scheduled 3 "open" guided tours of the Desert Tortoise Natural Area during this season, all on Saturdays: April 28th, May 19th and June 9th. You need not belong to any organization in order to participate, but it is necessary to write for reservations. These will be on a first-come, first served basis; so send your request as soon as possible, to Laura Stockton, c/o the Committee. Further information will be provided upon acceptance of your application. The attached sheet, which was prepared by The Nature Conservancy, is furnished for your convenience when visiting the Natural Area any time. It contains many interesting facts about the area, as well as a map and directions for getting there.

MEMBERSHIP: The Committee has added some new classifications of annual membership, which are as follows: General (Individual), \$10; General (Family), \$15; Sponsor, \$25; Benefactor, \$50; and Patron, \$100. Organizational membership may be obtained for any of these amounts. Active membership is available to individuals who are willing to perform essential services in the furtherance of the Committee objectives, such as by holding a chairmanship or Board of Trustees position. Application for Active membership must be made in writing to the Secretary, and requires approval by the Board of Trustees. The Committee always welcomes new members, whether active or contributing, and you are reminded that no scientific background is necessary; just compassion for the tortoise and a sincere desire to help save it from ultimate extinction due to the activities of people. You are invited to attend any of our meetings and learn more about the project. Write to the Committee for information on dates and locations.

1984 OFFICERS: The officers for the new year include some new positions which were established for the purpose of performing specific functions: President, George Moncsko; 1st Vice President in charge of Government Affairs, Carol Panlaqui; 2nd Vice President in charge of Stewardship, Laura Stockton; 3rd Vice President in charge of Communications, Marc Colen; Secretary, Elizabeth Forgy; Corresponding Secretary, Gloria Nowak; and Treasurer, Mary Trotter.

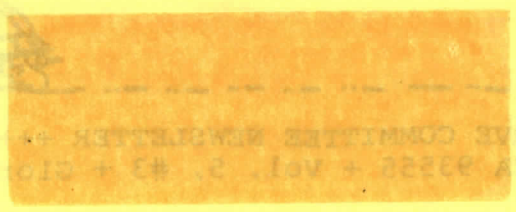
DON'T FORGET OUR FUND-RAISING PRODUCTS! Write for convenient order forms.

Best wishes till next time. SEE YOU AT THE FENCE PARTY #2!!!

DESERT TORTOISE PRESERVE COMMITTEE, INC.  
P. O. Box 453, Ridgcrest, CA 93555

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