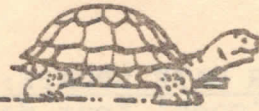


TORTOISE T-R-A-C-K-S



THE DESERT TORTOISE PRESERVE COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER +++ SPRING, 1985
P.O. Box 453, Ridgecrest, CA 93555 + Vol. 5, #3 + Gloria Nowak, Editor

TEN YEARS OF DEDICATION TO THE DESERT TORTOISE! The Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee was founded in 1974 by such determined and farsighted pioneers of the movement as Dr. Kristin Berry of the Bureau of Land Management and Elizabeth Forgey, whose involvement with the garden clubs gave it a real start. They were aided in this effort by a small but ardent group of active members from southern California. There followed ten years of hard work, with alternate advances and setbacks. Nonetheless, despite all of the headaches and hindrances, we have made a great deal of measurable progress. We have an official Desert Tortoise Natural Area, we are making headway in the acquisition of the pre-existing private land parcels within the area, and we are in the process of achieving some workable agreements with the various government agencies regarding stewardship, maintenance, wildlife management, etc. Originally little-known outside the desert towns in the vicinity, we now have contributing members in all parts of the United States. While there is much that remains to be done before our goals can be fully accomplished, the next decade should bring even more achievements in that direction. As long as there are concerned people out there who continue to give us their financial and moral support, our eventual success is assured and the desert tortoise will be alive and well in its habitat.

THANKS TO ALL WHO CAME TO OUR ANNUAL BANQUET... including many who drove to Bakersfield from a great distance and took their chances with the fog, in order to help make the event a huge success.

To celebrate this occasion of our tenth anniversary, we decided to honor a few of the many deserving individuals and organizations whose loyal and consistent support over the years has made it possible for us to accomplish what we have so far in our goal of protecting the tortoise. These tokens of our appreciation, consisting of a certificate and a framed color photo of a tortoise, were awarded to Barbara Horton and Judy Surfleet of The Nature Conservancy; Ed Hasteley and Lou Boll of the Bureau of Land Management; John Brode of the State Department of Fish & Game; Mrs. M. A. Machris, a faithful friend from the beginning; and Walter Allen, Vice President of the California Turtle & Tortoise Clubs' Westchester Chapter and an outstanding leader of all the chapters. In addition, we have initiated an ongoing award known as the Golden Tortoise, a plaque which we have conferred upon the California Turtle & Tortoise Clubs in recognition of their substantial contribution toward the protection of the tortoise by their help in establishing the Natural Area. At this point in time, we have received over \$7,000.00 in contributions from the various chapters.

MORE WORDS OF APPRECIATION: To the Fresno Audubon Society, for their generous gift of \$1,000.00 to our cause.

To the T.E.A.M. publication, for the assist given our ongoing land purchase fund in the January, 1985 issue; as a result of which we have received over \$600.00 in donations so far and have also acquired some new members.

To Arnold Valencia Jr., a new member from northern California who has collected \$200 in donations and memberships from the area of Healdsburg.

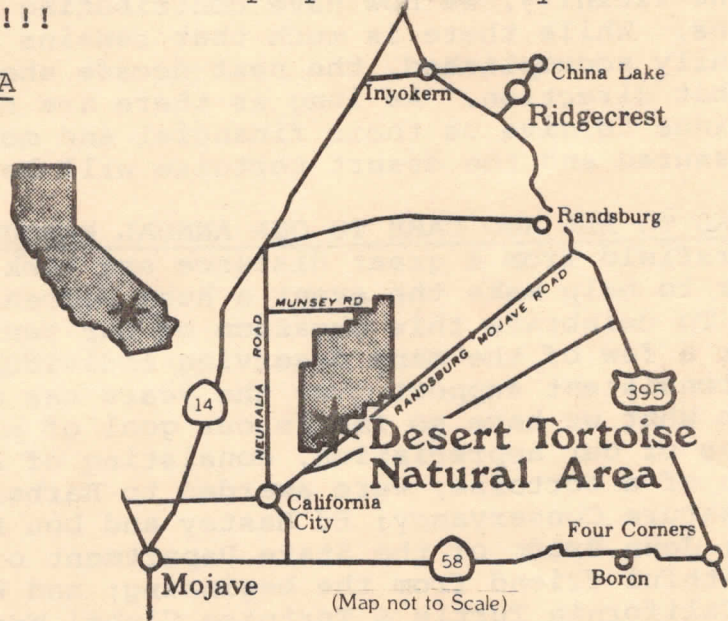
1985 OFFICERS: President, George Moncsko; 1st Vice President in charge of Government Affairs, Carol Panlaqui; 2nd Vice President in charge of Stewardship, Laura Stockton; 3rd Vice President in charge of Communications, Marc Colen; Recording Secretary, Elizabeth Forgey; Corresponding Secretary, Gloria Nowak; and Treasurer, Mary Trotter.

"OPEN" TOUR DATE UPDATE: Due to unavoidable circumstances, the previously announced "open" tour dates have been changed to April 20th and May 11th; both Saturdays. The Committee sincerely regrets any inconvenience that they may have caused. If you are interested in participating in either of these tours, please mark your calendar and write to Laura Stockton, c/o the Committee, for further information and reservations; as soon as possible.

TOUR GUIDES AND TRAIL CREW...MARCH 9TH is too early for tortoise-watching, but it's a good time for tour guides to review plants and for volunteers to repair nature trails. From 9 AM to 11 AM Mary Ann Henry will conduct a PLANT REVIEW session (mostly shrubs), which after a 1-hour break will be followed by a 12 PM to 2 PM TRAIL PARTY, to get the nature trails in shape for spring visiting. Anyone interested in the PLANT REVIEW session is welcome, whether a tour guide or hoping to become one. Please R.S.V.P. to Laura Stockton, c/o the Committee, including your phone number, if you wish to participate; specifying the session(s) in which you are interested. Both sessions will begin at the Interpretive Center kiosk. Don't forget to pack a lunch for the 11 to 12 o'clock break. Be prepared for any kind of weather and DON'T FORGET DRINKING WATER!!!

THE DESERT TORTOISE NATURAL AREA

ACCESS: From Los Angeles, the DTNA may be reached by traveling northwest on Interstate 5 to its intersection with Highway 14. Head east on 14 and through the town of Mojave. At California City Blvd., turn right and travel through California City to the Randsburg-Mojave Road (dirt). The Interpretive Center is located approximately 5 miles north of California City Blvd., just off the Randsburg-Mojave Road.



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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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