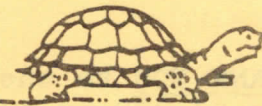


TORTOISE T-R-A-C-K-S



THE DESERT TORTOISE PRESERVE COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER +++ WINTER, 1985-86
P.O. Box 453, Ridgecrest, CA 93555 + Vol. 6, #2 + Gloria Nowak, Editor

THANKS TO ALL WHO CAME TO FENCE PARTY #4! On November 16th and 17th a group of Committee members and others repaired approximately 37 fence breaks and other forms of damage. Present at the gathering were Ron and Mary Ann Henry, Mimi Loutrel, Marv Cornett, David Darby, Arnold Valencia, George Moncsko, Laura Stockton, Bev Steveson, Warren Forgey and Carol Panlaqui; assisted by Steve Smith and Fred Coe of the Bureau of Land Management. The amount of work was determined by a fence survey in October by Dan Christensen of the State Dept. of Fish & Game, accompanied by Laura Stockton, Bev Steveson and Warren Forgey. Our schedule calls for another fence party to take place in the spring. Further information on this will appear in the next issue.

PLEASE COME TO OUR ANNUAL BANQUET! The Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee will hold its annual banquet-meeting on Saturday, January 18th at the Holiday Inn, 300 W. Palmdale Blvd., Palmdale; near the Antelope Valley Freeway, (Hwy. 14), Palmdale Blvd. exit. The meeting will begin at 1:30, with the dinner at 7:00 and the program at 8:00. Reservation deadline is January 13th, so send in the blank below with your check, payable to the Committee. Dinner will be \$14.75 per person, which includes tax, tip and beverage. The program will feature two special guests. The first will be Assemblyman Phil Wyman of Tehachapi, whose 34th District contains the Desert Tortoise Natural Area. Now in his fourth term, he serves on the Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee among others. He will give a brief talk on the role of the Legislature in helping to preserve wildlife. Mr. Wyman will be followed by John Brode, leader of the Amphibian & Reptile Project in the California Dept. of Fish & Game's Endangered Species Program. The title of John's program is "Saving California's Herpetofauna." He will show slides and speak of the Dept. of Fish & Game's programs for rare and endangered species, including efforts to save the Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard, San Francisco garter snake and desert tortoise. John joined the Dept. of Fish & Game in 1971 and has worked on rare and endangered species for 13 years. He is active on several "recovery teams" and committees which are assigned to protect and restore populations of troubled species. During 1986 he will be senior Co-Chairman of the Desert Tortoise Council. Please join us for an outstanding program and to hear about the Department's efforts to acquire land in the Natural Area.

RESERVATION FOR ANNUAL BANQUET

Send to Secretary, Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee, Inc.,
P. O. Box 453, Ridgecrest, CA 93555; before January 13, 1986.

Please make a reservation for _____ person(s) in my name for the Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee annual banquet at the Holiday Inn, Palmdale, CA, Saturday, January 18, 1986. I understand that the dinner will be \$14.75 per person, including tax, tip and beverage.
I am enclosing a check for \$ _____, payable to the Committee.

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ PHONE _____

ORGANIZATION IF ANY _____

A BIG THANK-YOU to the Westchester Chapter, CTTC, for their generous contribution of \$2,000 to our land purchase fund. It is friends like the California Turtle & Tortoise Club members who have been the mainstay of our project

A GREAT HONOR FOR OUR COMMITTEE! The Office of Technology Assessment of the Congress of the United States is conducting a two-year assessment of Technologies to Maintain Biological Diversity. As part of the project, they are producing an interim report featuring grassroots conservation activities in the U.S. The Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee was one of the eight conservation groups selected for discussion!

THE TORTOISE IS BECOMING WORLD-FAMOUS! We have recently received two gifts of widespread publicity, which is the lifeline of our project. Children from all over the U.S. and as far away as Nova Scotia have responded to an educational story entitled "Tortoise in Trouble", in the November issue of Ranger Rick magazine. (Over 60 letters so far.) And on the other side of the world, an article in De Schildpad, the magazine of the Dutch Turtle Society, quoted our own Dr. Kristin Berry as well as Jim St. Amant and Betty Burge in their July-August issue, in describing the lifestyle and problems of the desert tortoise.

OUR PRESIDENT'S BELATED CHRISTMAS WISH LIST: The Committee members provide most of the labor to maintain the fence around the Natural Area. We do this twice a year on an organized basis; and in between, individual members go out there and repair the fence whenever they can. However, the tools we're using are not the best. To do this job right, the Committee needs a pair of fence stretchers (\$50) and 2 pairs of fence pliers (\$12 ea.). Anyone wanting to play Santa for the Committee with one or more of these items (and get a year-end tax deduction in the process) would really brighten the new year for our friend, the tortoise, by helping to maintain the integrity of the fence.

IT'S MEMBERSHIP TIME! If you haven't already joined or renewed your membership in the Committee for 1986, we invite you to use the convenient membership blank attached to this newsletter. If you have, pass it along to a friend!

REMINDER: If you would like to help with any of our activities (writing letters, handling or selling products at shows, etc.,) please let us know.
HAPPY NEW YEAR! SEE YOU AT THE BANQUET!!!

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

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