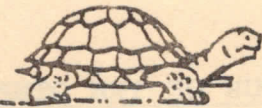


# TORTOISE T-R-A-C-K-S



THE DESERT TORTOISE PRESERVE COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER +++ SPRING, 1986  
P.O. Box 453, Ridgecrest, CA 93555 + Vol. 6, #3 + Gloria Nowak, Editor

THANKS TO ALL WHO CAME TO OUR ANNUAL BANQUET...and helped to make the event a great success. Following the dinner, awards were presented to Defenders of Wildlife, the California Turtle & Tortoise Club and Ron & Mary Ann Henry in honor of their loyal support of our cause over the years; and also to Kenneth Castelli and Margaret DeVault for outstanding service to the DTPC.

INVITATION TO FENCE PARTY #5! Our next fence repair party will take place on May 10th and if necessary, the 11th. As before, we will meet at the DTNA kiosk at 9:00 AM on Saturday. Please bring heavy gloves and a 4-wheel drive vehicle if possible. Otherwise, BLM will provide them. Although a recent survey of the fence breaks was conducted, further damage could be incurred in the meantime; therefore we don't know exactly how much work there is to be done. So if possible, please come prepared to stay overnight and work on Sunday. Bring food and camping equipment, and of course, plenty of drinking water in any case. If you would like to participate, please call (805) 832-9121 or (619) 377-4904.  
- Bev Steveson

...AND TO FACILITATE OUR FENCE PARTIES, a big thank-you to those who, in answer to our president's Christmas wish list, sent contributions earmarked for the purchase of fence repair equipment. We are indebted to Mr. & Mrs. J. S. Palmisano, Mimi Loutrel & Marv Cornett, Italia Birkinsha, Dana & Pam Karlin and Dee Jackson. Many hands make light work, but the right equipment makes it even lighter; because we can now separate into groups and work in different areas simultaneously, and thereby finish the job faster.

ANOTHER WORD OF APPRECIATION...to Barbara A. Poe, for her contribution of \$1,000.00 to help defray the cost of publishing the Desert Tortoise Status Report in book form.

MORE PUBLICITY FOR THE TORTOISE! In addition to the recent story in the National Wildlife Federation's Ranger Rick magazine (about which we have received over 100 letters from children throughout the U.S. and in Canada), two more distinguished publications have featured articles on the plight of the desert tortoise: The Amicus Journal of the Natural Resources Defense Council and the U.S. Congress Office of Technology Assessment magazine known as Grassroots Conservation of Biological Diversity in the United States.

CALLING ALL ARTISTS! Throughout its existence the Committee has raised many thousands of dollars through the sale of products such as T-shirts, wind chimes, postcards, note cards, posters, pendants, bolo ties and needlecraft kits -- and now a brand-new colorful and beautifully designed sew-on garment patch. We are always searching for new product ideas and the artwork to go with them. Currently, we need someone to design a new tortoise for our note cards and, for a new venture, note pads. We welcome suggestions for any new item with a tortoise theme, which we could sell for a reasonable price. Committee supporters who are artistically inclined could thereby make a significant contribution to our land purchasing efforts.

For further information or ideas, contact Carol Panlaqui, Products Chair, 630 Plaza Amigo, Palm Springs, CA 92262; (619) 327-7785.

1986 OFFICERS: President, George Moncsko; Vice President in charge of Stewardship, Laura Stockton; Recording Secretary, Elizabeth Forgey; Corresponding Secretary, Gloria Nowak; and Treasurer, Mary Trotter.

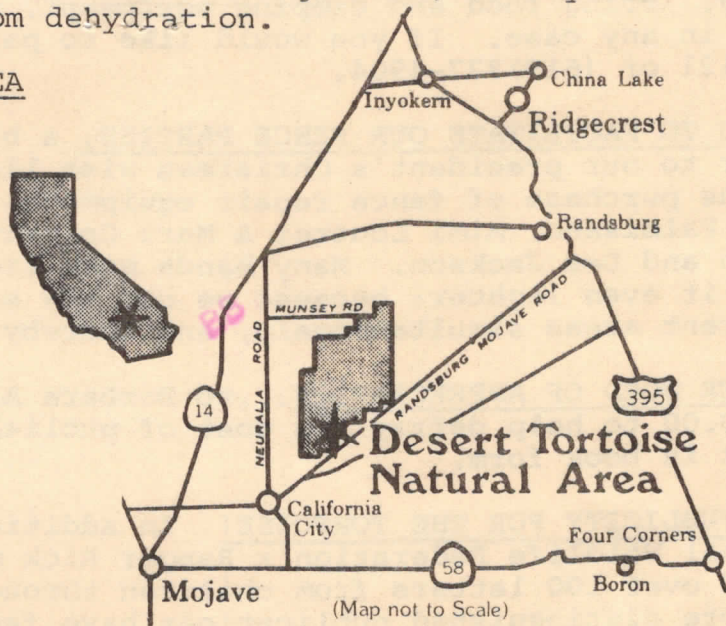


OPEN TOUR OF THE DTNA: Sunday, May 4th is the date set for the Committee's open tour of the Desert Tortoise Natural Area this year. All are welcome to participate, but advance reservations are necessary in order to avoid an excessive impact on the tortoise habitat. It's first come, first served; please contact Laura Stockton as soon as possible, at 6201 Wible Rd., #66, Bakersfield, CA 93313; or (805)831-2325.

VISIT THE DTNA! All indications are that this should be an excellent year to plan your own tour of the Natural Area, because we expect a good display of wildflowers and therefore, a lot of tortoises that will be visible; particularly in April and May. A wealth of information about the animal and plant life of the area may be obtained at the Interpretive Center kiosk and along the marked nature trails. A parking lot and rest rooms have been provided. Be sure to bring a sun hat, a removable jacket or sweater and comfortable walking shoes. Also, an ample supply of drinking water, since there is none available there. Please remember that pets are not allowed in the area, and that camping must take place outside it. Above all, never pick up a wild tortoise except to take it off a road. If frightened, it may lose its moisture and eventually die from dehydration.

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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