

The Desert Tortoise Council Newsletter Winter 1997

OUR 22nd YEAR

Our Goal: To assure the continued survival of viable populations of the desert tortoise throughout its range

22nd ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM NEWS

The 22nd Annual Desert Tortoise Council Symposium will again be held at Sam's Town from Friday, April 4 through Sunday, April 6, 1997. A field trip will be planned for Monday, April 7.

FEATURES: Dr. Richard Knight, editor of the Island Press book entitled *Wildlife and Recreationists: Coexistence Through Management and Research*, will be a special guest at the 22nd Annual Symposium. Dr. Knight will lead a special session with a half dozen speakers on recreational impacts. Copies of his book will be available for purchase and there will be a book signing session.

LODGING: 150 rooms have been blocked from April 3 through April 8. Rates on weekday nights (Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday) are \$40.00 +8% tax for single or double occupancy, and \$65 +8% tax on the weekend nights. Sam's Town does not accept Saturday arrivals. Fees for additional people are \$5 and 8% each. Registrants must contact Sam's Town at 1-800-634-6371 and make reservations as soon as possible. To get the rate and the reservation, you must mention you are with the **DESERT TORTOISE COUNCIL SYMPOSIUM**. You must give notice by noon the day of arrival for cancellation of your reservation with full refund. Sam's Town requires the 1st night deposit prepaid. The block of 150 rooms **WILL BE DROPPED** 30 days before the symposium. Make your reservations as soon as possible.

LOCATION: Sam's Town is located at 5111 Boulder Highway, near Flamingo Road, in Las Vegas, Nevada.

REGISTRATION: Form is found on page 3 of this newsletter. Note the Sacramento address on the form. Contact Marc Sazaki with any questions at 916/654-5061 or 916/739-0450 after 5 pm. Early registration and membership pays **BIG...** probably the best deal in Las Vegas! Also note the new student registration fee of \$50.00 found on the form (verifica-

tion or id required). It is \$25.00 less than a non-student member's registration fee.

1996 PROCEEDINGS

The 1996 Desert Tortoise Council Symposium Proceedings are completed! They were edited by Breck Bartholomew and are in a handsome new format. The proceedings will be available at the 1997 symposium.. The charge for members is \$10.00, \$15.00 for non-members.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

The 22nd annual Desert Tortoise Council business meeting will likely be held on Saturday afternoon immediately following the last symposium session for the day. Among other annual business activities, officers will be nominated and elected for several positions.

PHOTO CONTEST

Along with our new print and voting format, we hope to have a mix of old and new faces as winners. First Place winners win \$25.00 and Best of Show wins an extra \$25.00.

We will accept mounted prints this year, not slides. This will allow attendees to view the photos and vote on their favorites. **ENTRY DEADLINE IS 12:00 noon, APRIL 5, 1997.** The Council is sponsoring the annual contest to honor and encourage our members to participate in educating the public through photography.

AWARDS:

Qualified winners will be awarded first, second, and third place ribbons in each category and a best of show plaque will be awarded. All first place winners will receive \$25 and the best of show an additional \$25. (The increase from \$20 to \$25 is to make up for the added costs of the Prints.)

CATEGORIES:

1. WILD DESERT TORTOISES
2. CAPTIVE (PET) DESERT TORTOISES

- 3. OTHER DESERT REPTILES
- 4. DESERT MAMMALS
- 5. OTHER DESERT WILDLIFE
- 6. WILD DESERT PLANTS
- 7. DESERT SCENICS
- 8. TORTOISE CONSERVATION

RULES:

With the exception of Captive (Pet) Tortoises, all PRINTS must be taken of WILD (i.e., unrestrained and photographed in its natural habitat) subjects occurring within the geographic range of the desert tortoise. Prints may be either color or black and white and must be mounted. Each contestant may submit a maximum of two PRINTS per category. Photos must have been taken by the contestant and will be judged at the Symposium by the attendees. Attendees will pick up ballots at the registration table and vote Friday and Saturday until noon.

The category "TORTOISE CONSERVATION" is fairly open, but should depict activities or subject matter important in the perpetuation of the species. Examples are research, impacts (i.e. raven predation), improvements (i.e. fencing), and environmental education.

The back of each PRINT must include the following information:

- Category
- Common & Scientific Name of Subject
- Location, Date PRINT Taken
- Contestant's Name, Address, & Phone Number (No names on the front please, titles & date OK)

PRINTS will not be returned, except upon advance request, and become the property of the Desert Tortoise Council. The Council shall have the right to use these photographs in its publications and educational programs, as well as to assign such permission to others, with full credit given to the photographer.

Contestants may mail entries to Bob Parker, 600 W. Weiman ST., Ridgecrest, California 93555 or submit them on the first day of the symposium, before 12:00 noon. Winners need not be present to receive their awards. If you have questions phone (619) 384-5425 (work), or (619) 446-2001 (home).

1997 Desert Tortoise Council 22nd Annual Symposium Registration

April 4, 5, 6, 1997, Las Vegas, Nevada

Return to: Desert Tortoise Council
1616 40th Street
Sacramento, CA 95819-4035

Phone Marc Sazaki with questions at 916/654-5061 or 916/739-0450 after 5 p.m. .

Please complete a SEPARATE form for each attendee. (Please Print or type.)

Name: _____

Organization: _____

(name to be used on badge) _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip Code: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ Fax: _____

SYMPOSIUM FEES Enter Amount

Member Registration (\$75.00) _____

Student Member Registration (\$50.00) [verification required] _____

Non-member Registration (\$95.00) _____

Late Fee Postmarked after March 10, 1997 (\$15.00) _____

Regular Membership Dues (\$12.00) _____

[see dues schedule in newsletter]

Banquet (\$21.00) ___ Check here if VEGETARIAN _____

Raffle Ticket (\$1.00 each) _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Monday Field Trip

I would like to attend the Monday, April 7 field trip (to be announced)

Yes ___ No ___