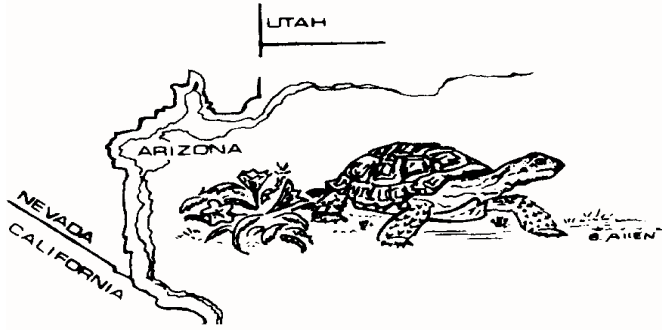

DESERT TORTOISE COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



**SPRING, 1999--
OUR 24th YEAR**

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

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING NEWS

The 24th annual Desert Tortoise Council business meeting was held at 9:00 a.m., Friday, March 5, at the Holiday Inn in St. George, Utah. Among other annual business activities, three officers were elected. Ed LaRue was elected Secretary, Mike Coffeen was elected Treasurer, and Tracy Goodlett was elected co-chair elect. Our thanks to the new officers.

BEST STUDENT PAPER AWARD

The winner of the best student paper award was: Kimberleigh J. Field from the Department of Biology, University of Nevada-Reno. Her paper was: **DESERT TORTOISE TRANSLOCATION: THE EFFECTS OF PRE-RELEASE WATER AVAILABILITY**. Kimberleigh received a \$200 check from the Desert Tortoise Council.

25th ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM IN 2000

Yes, there will be one. We are working on the date and location, and seriously considering your suggestions, while looking for volunteers for the host and arrangements committees.

We'll let you know as soon as we know. Hint: it's looking like Las Vegas for our 25th.

8TH ANNUAL DESERT TORTOISE SURVEY TECHNIQUES WORKSHOP ANNOUNCED

The Council's 8th Annual Desert Tortoise Surveying, Monitoring, and Handling Workshop will be held on October 23-24 in Ridgecrest, CA. Scheduled topics include: desert tortoise ecology; finding and recognizing tortoise sign in the field; tortoise field surveys, data collection, interpretation, and report writing; distance sampling; administering tortoise awareness briefings; guidelines for handling tortoises on construction projects; BLM's biological consultant's guide; CDFG's 2081 incidental take permit, and USFWS's 10(a) (1) (b), sec. 7, biological opinion. Outdoor demonstrations will include: field surveying; excavating burrows; handling desert tortoises and their eggs; and constructing artificial tortoise burrows. Invited speakers include: Dr. Kristin Berry, Dr. Bill Boarman, and Dr. Jeff Lovich (USGS), Tom Egan and Ed LaRue (BLM), Ray Bransfield (USFWS), Becky Jones (CDFG), Ann McLuckie (UDWR), and experienced field personnel from several private consulting firms. Registration forms will be available at www.deserttortoise.org in July, or they can be mailed to you by calling Tracy Goodlett at (760) 375-2189.

1999 DESERT TORTOISE COUNCIL SYMPOSIUM FIELD TRIPS REPORT

The 24th Annual Desert Tortoise Symposium held in St. George, Utah offered participants a variety of field trips. On Sunday, March 7 and Monday, March 8, 1999, field trips to the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve, Pakoon Basin, Northeastern Mojave Recovery Unit and Gunlock Slope were offered.


On Sunday, March 7, 1999, approximately 30 people attended the field trip to the Sandstone Mountain area in Management Zone 4 of the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve. Dawn Wilson, research biologist from the University of Nevada in Reno, discussed research objectives for this future translocation study site. Discussion topics included movement patterns and status of translocated tortoises at the Shivwits and Pakoon study sites. A brief side trip to the Virgin River led participants to a scenic area surrounded by sandstone outcrops and steep, basalt slopes.

On Monday, March 8, 1999, approximately 11 participants attended the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve field trip led by Rick Fridell from the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources. Discussion topics centered on the implementation status of the Habitat Conservation Plan including land acquisitions, boundary fencing, clearance procedures, grazing acquisitions, and desert tortoise monitoring. Also discussed were the flora and fauna found in this unique Mojave transition habitat.

On March 8, 1999, three participants attended the all day Desert Tortoise Fire Ecology field trip to the Pakoon Basin on the Arizona Strip. The principal investigator of this study, Todd Esque, from the U.S. Geological Service, Biological Resources Division, discussed the status of research efforts, including the effects of fire on wildlife and experimental manipulation of desert habitats.

Three participants attended the March 8, 1999, field trip to the Gunlock Slope tortoise population

led by Dennis Bedolla. This field trip included a brief overview of the known habitat and population dynamics of the Gunlock Slope Desert Tortoise population, west of the Town of Gunlock. Participants observed several winter dens in addition to a hibernating male adult tortoise.

On March 8, 1999, approximately 8 people attended the Northeastern Mojave Recovery Unit field trip led by Tim Duck, a biologist from the Bureau of Land Management. Participants visited the Woodbury-Hardy Study Plot in Washington County, Utah and the neighboring Littlefield Study Plot in Mohave County, Arizona. Discussion items focused on the status of the Northeastern Mojave Recovery Unit, including ACEC's, mineral resources, grazing administration, lands and realty, transportation, off-highway vehicles, wild burros, and agency  coordinati on.

1999 SYMPOSIUM HIGHLIGHTS

From the welcome address to the unprecedented four field trips, this was a symposium to remember. The welcome address was inspiring, in that we heard how a local mayor changed his ideas about growth, conservation, and open space, while dealing with these issues in the context of the Washington County desert tortoise HCP.

The special session on alien plants in desert tortoise habitat continued the mini-symposium theme, with presenters on the forefront of this issue. The special session on annual plants in the Mojave and Sonoran Deserts covered a wide range of ecological and physiological subjects on these uniquely adapted plants that play such a big role in desert tortoise habitat.

The Featured Author, Todd Wilkinson, who spoke on "A view from the trenches of combat biology" was both alarming and thought provoking. Drs. Ken Nagy and Brian Henen teamed on the evening presentation entitled "Taking the Silk Road to the Uzbek Tortoise" with a multimedia show that was

both entertaining and enlightening.

Author Guidelines for the Proceedings of the Desert Tortoise Council Symposium

What to Submit? Submit one copy of the manuscript (laser printer quality if possible). The copy of the manuscript should be complete, including tables, figures, etc. Include one copy of the manuscript on computer disk. The disk copy should contain text and tables if possible. Any computer text file will be fine (PC or Macintosh), but Microsoft Word 6.0 or older is preferred. **Style and Formatting:** Title Page: Should include the title, Author(s), Author(s) address, including e-mail addresses if available. **Abstract:** An abstract is required for all major papers. It should represent a concise statement of the objectives and results of the paper. Statistical results are not needed. **Main Body:** Manuscripts should consist of the following sections: Introduction (no heading), Materials and Methods, Results, Discussion, Acknowledgements, Literature Cited, Tables (each on a separate page), Figure Legends (grouped together), Figures, Appendix. Submissions formatted as Shorter Communications should follow the same sequence but should not use section headings (except for the Acknowledgements and Literature Cited).

In-Text References: Cite references in the text in **chronological order**, using a semicolon to separate citations. Use "et al." for three or more authors (example; Smith, 1975; Jones and Jones, 1987; Brown et al., 1990). Papers accepted for publication should be cited as Smith (in press). Unpublished manuscripts (including manuscripts submitted for publication) should be cited as Smith (unpubl. data), and should not be placed in the Literature Cited. Be very careful that all references cited in the text (including tables and figure legends) are included in the Literature Cited.

Literature Cited Format: The Literature Cited is one of the largest sources of errors. Please be sure that all entries in the Literature Cited are all also in the text (and vice-versa), and that the format instructions below are adhered to carefully:

Article in a Journal Smith, A.T. 1992. Ecology of rattlesnakes in Florida. *J. Herpetol.* 26:100-105.

Book Smith, A.T. and J. Jones. 1995. *Physiology of Amphibians and Reptiles.* McGraw-Hill Inc., New York (page numbers not needed). Note that book titles are capitalized.

Chapter in a Book Smith, A.T. 1994. Systematics of frogs and toads. In J. Black and M. Lee (eds.), *Systematics of Amphibians and Reptiles*, pp. 52-65. Univ. of Kansas Press, Lawrence.

Dissertation or Thesis Smith, A.T. 1991. Behavioral ecology of turtles. Unpubl. Ph.D. Diss. (or Thesis), Univ. of Kansas, Lawrence. (use state name if not obvious from the university name).

Multiple Citations Multiple citations for the same author should be organized as follows: single citations first, two-author citations second (in alphabetical order), three or more authors third (in chronological order).

Smith, A.T. 1992. Ecology of rattlesnakes in Florida. *J. Herpetol.* 26:100-105. Smith, A.T. 1993. Ecology of turtles in Louisiana. *J. Herpetol.* 27:91-99.

Smith, A.T., and B. Black. 1991. Systematics and morphology of snakes. *J. Herpetol.* 25:100-105.

Smith, A.T., and J. Jones. 1989. Diamondback terrapins in Louisiana. *J. Herpetol.* 23:234-236.

Smith, A.T., W. White, and J. Jones. 1989. Mating Behavior in Gila Monsters. *J. Herpetol.* 23:230-234.

Smith, A.T., A. Black, and J. Jones. 1995. Temperature relationships in garter snakes. *J. Herpetol.* 29:30-34.

Tables: Tables should be double-spaced and each table should be numbered consecutively and placed on its own page. Do not use vertical lines. The legend of the table should be concise but sufficiently detailed so the table can be understood without reference to the text. Avoid footnotes whenever possible.

Figure Heading: Figure headings should be placed on a single page and numbered in the order in which they are cited in the text.

Figures: Figures should be camera-ready when they are submitted; the Editor will NOT re-draw poor quality figures. Figures should be original drawings, laser prints, or high contrast photos. Do not submit figures printed on dot-matrix or ink-jet printers. Be sure that lettering will stand reduction to the final size (try reducing the figure on a copy machine prior to submission). Place your name and Figure number in pencil on the back of each figure OUTSIDE the area which will be reproduced.

Abbreviations: The following common abbreviations should be used: sec min h d wk mo yr km ml L (for liter) g N x P SD SE CV df Please note that all measurements should be in metric.

Where to Submit: Submit all materials for the proceedings to: Breck Bartholomew P.O. Box 58355 Salt Lake City, UT 84158-0355 Please do not send any other information meant for the Desert Tortoise Council to the address listed above.

Questions: If you have any questions, please contact Breck Bartholomew or call 801/491-0747; e-mail Herpbooks@sisna.com.

Deadline for submissions is July 1st

Desert Tortoise Council
P.O. Box 3141
Wrightwood, CA 92397

www.deserttortoise.org

Check one: MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL [] CHANGE OF ADDRESS []

DATE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____
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City *State* *Zip Code*

()-Regular (\$12.00 per year) ()-Student (\$8.00 per year) ()-Lifetime (\$300 or more)

()-Contributing (\$50.00 per year) ()-Organization (\$55.00 per year)

Student memberships require endorsement of student's Advisor or Major Professor.

Memberships expire at the end of March or the Annual Symposium in the spring of each year.

Make check or money order payable to the DESERT TORTOISE COUNCIL and send with the application to: Desert Tortoise Council, P.O. Box 3141, Wrightwood, California 92397.