



# THE DESERT TORTOISE COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2003  
OUR 28<sup>TH</sup> YEAR

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

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## 2003 SYMPOSIUM REVIEW

The Desert Tortoise Council's Twenty Eighth Annual Symposium was a huge success with more abstracts submitted and papers presented than ever before. The Symposium [Program](#) and [Abstracts](#) are still available for viewing on line.

On [Friday](#), sessions featured results of ongoing and new research projects in Nevada as well as discussion and signing of the recently published book, *The Sonoran Desert Tortoise*.

On [Saturday](#), paper presentations began at 8:00 a.m. and continued throughout the day, culminating in featured speeches by Dr. Dan Beck on gila monsters and tortoises and Dr. Olivia Judson, author of Dr. Tatiana's *Sex Advice to All Creation*. Dr. Judson, an evolutionary ecologist, spoke on the evolution of female promiscuity. Dr. Cecil Schwalbe was the evening's Banquet Speaker, and entertained with his reminiscences of 20 years of field work on tortoises. Saturday also featured a government panel on accomplishments to recover the desert tortoises and planned actions for the future.

On [Sunday](#), February 23, there were papers on ecology, natural history, health, and habitats of desert tortoises.

Three [field trips](#) were offered on Monday: a trip to the Desert Tortoise Conservation Center with Michelle McDermott; a trip to the Large Scale Translocation Study Site, Line Distance Sampling Training Line near Jean, Nevada, led by Phil Medica; and a trip to the Piute Eldorado Restoration Sites, led by Beth Tomica.

### Vendors and Exhibitors

#### **Turtle Fine Art:**

Donald Switzer, P.O. Box 84688,  
San Diego, CA 92138-4688  
(619) 276-1800  
[dswitzer@san.rr.com](mailto:dswitzer@san.rr.com)

#### **Laura Cunningham:**

P.O. Box 70, Beatty, NV 89003  
(775) 553-2806  
[lacerta@bettynv.com](mailto:lacerta@bettynv.com)

#### **Stevan Logsdon:**

P.O. Box 4070, Silver City, NM 88062  
(505) 388-4263  
[logsdon\\_johnson@zianet.com](mailto:logsdon_johnson@zianet.com)

#### **Shadow Mountain Studio:**

Mark E Heuston, 83267 Mesa Drive,

29 Palms, CA 92277  
(760) 367-5206

[solarmouse@dslextreme.com](mailto:solarmouse@dslextreme.com)

**Hahn's Natural History Books:**

Donald Hahn, P.O. Box 1004,  
Cottonwood, AZ 86326  
(928) 634-5016  
[hahnnatu@sedona.net](mailto:hahnnatu@sedona.net)

**Desert Tortoise Council:**

P.O. Box 3141, Wrightwood CA 92397  
<http://www.deserttortoise.org>

**Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee:**

Michael Connor, 4067 Mission Inn Avenue,  
Riverside CA 92501  
(909) 683-3872  
[dtpc@pacbell.net](mailto:dtpc@pacbell.net)  
<http://www.tortoise-tracks.org>

**Center for Biological Diversity:**

Daniel R. Patterson, P.O. Box 710,  
Tucson AZ 85702  
(520) 623.5252 x 306  
[dpatterson@biologicaldiversity.org](mailto:dpatterson@biologicaldiversity.org)  
<http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/swcbd/>

**Reno Tur-Toise Club**

P.O. Box 8783, Reno, NV 89506  
(775) 972-8532 (hotline)  
[TortoiseQn@aol.com](mailto:TortoiseQn@aol.com)  
<http://sierrawave.com/rttc/index.htm>

**Advanced Telemetry Systems, Inc.:**

Laura Reichle, 470 First Avenue North, Box  
398, Isanti, MN 55040  
(763) 444-9267  
[lreichle@atstrack.com](mailto:lreichle@atstrack.com)  
<http://www.atstrack.com>

**AVM Instrument Company, Ltd.:**

Barbara Kermeen, P.O. Box 1898,  
1213 S. Auburn St, Colfax, CA 95713  
(530) 346-6300  
[bckermeeen@avminstrument.com](mailto:bckermeeen@avminstrument.com)  
<http://www.avminstrument.com>

**ANNUAL AWARDS**

ANNUAL AWARD: MICHAEL P. COFFEEN  
RESEARCH AWARD: CECIL R. SCHWALBE  
SPECIAL AWARD: REBECCA JONES  
SPECIAL AWARD: ROBERT J. TURNER  
SERVICE AWARD: TIM DUCK  
SERVICE AWARD: DARLENE POND  
SERVICE AWARD: ANN MCLUCKIE

**BEST STUDENT PAPER: TAYLOR EDWARDS**

from the University of Arizona: Analysis of Gene Flow  
Among Sonoran Tortoise Populations Using Molecular  
Techniques and Radiotelemetry

Photo Contest

The results from the photo contest held at the Council's Annual Symposium are in! Each first place winner took home \$50 and the Best of Show won \$100.00.

The first place winners are:

<b>Dennis Silva</b>	Wild Desert Tortoises
<b>Cheryl Darnell</b>	Captive Desert Tortoises
<b>Dave Focardi</b>	Other Desert Reptiles
<b>Chris Blandford</b>	Desert Mammals
<b>Shelley Ellis</b>	Other Desert Wildlife
<b>Eric Stitt</b>	Wild Desert Plants
<b>Shelley Ellis</b>	Desert Scenics
<b>Ted Cordery</b>	Tortoise Conservation

The **Best of Show** went to **Dennis Silva** for his photo of a wild desert tortoise taken at the Marine Corp Air Ground Combat Center at 29 Palms. Thank you to all who participated! And a special thank you to Dennis Silva who donated his prizes of \$150.00 back to the Council! Winning photographs can be seen at: <http://deserttortoise.org/symposium/2003/photo2003win.html>

**CONSERVATION NEWS**

Glamis/Imperial Mine

International mining conglomerates think they have an unfettered right to mine on the public lands that belong to all Americans, no matter

what is destroyed in the process. And it appears that Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton does also.

Armed with the outdated and industry-friendly 1872 Mining Law, mining companies prevail over other public interests and multiple uses of the public lands - even on those public lands that Congress has set aside to give them greater protection.

Seven years ago, Glamis Gold, Ltd., a Canadian-based mining corporation, proposed to carve an 880-foot-deep, mile-wide, cyanide heap-leach, open-pit gold mine out of 1,600 acres of a fragile desert ecosystem at Quechan Indian Pass in the Bureau of Land Management's California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA). After exhaustive review, a permit for the mine was denied by outgoing Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt on Jan. 17, 2001.

On Nov. 23, Norton withdrew the decision to deny Glamis a mining permit in the area. Norton's action makes the approval of the mine almost inevitable.

Apparently it doesn't matter to Norton that the proposed mine would destroy American Indian sacred sites, cultural artifacts, trail networks, petroglyphs, ancestral grounds, and 55 archaeological sites eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The 3,000-member Quechan Tribe, which has lived in the desert for thousands of years, will witness the obliteration of their cultural heritage.

Willa Scott, a member of the Quechan Tribe's Culture Committee, has stated, "if these sites are destroyed, we will lose our ability to pass down our beliefs ... We will have lost our cultural gatherings, funeral rituals, singing, story-tellings, and teachings. Without these practices, our people will lose the most important part of who we are."

Quechan Tribal Council President Mike Jackson, Sr., was quoted in the *Wall Street Journal*, Dec.

28, as saying, "The Bush administration is laughing at us. They're saying, 'We don't give a damn about your history.'"

Apparently, it doesn't matter that California's two U.S. senators and more than half of the state's congressional delegation sent a letter to Norton urging her to deny the mining permit. The delegation's letter concludes: "Regardless of the standard that you choose to apply to the proposed mine, the unmitigable environmental and cultural impacts require denial." When the mine was first proposed in the mid-1990's, Imperial County officials were against the Glamis gold mine, which would be located in their county.

Early in her tenure as Interior Secretary, Norton criticized Babbitt for not listening to the people in the West who were affected by his land management decisions and the creation of numerous national monuments. In overturning the denial of the Glamis mine permit, Norton did not consult with the Quechan Tribe, the California congressional delegation, or local officials.

This mine has nothing to do with extracting minerals that are vital to our national security. It has to do with profit — foreign profit. The 25-million acre CDCA was created by Congress in 1976 to protect significant scenic and biologically important areas in the southeastern corner of the state, including lands in Imperial, San Diego and Los Angeles counties. The conservation area extends from the U.S.-Mexico Border north to Death Valley and the eastern Sierra Nevada Mountains.

The 20-year old management plan for CDCA was created after one of the most extensive public participatory processes in the history of federal land management. The plan protects the conservation area with a Limited Use designation. The proposed gold mine is inconsistent with the CDCA plan.

The conservation area is divided into three federal regions managed by the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Department of Defense, respectively.

The BLM's management portion of the CDCA falls under the agency's Office of National Landscape Conservation System, which was created during the Clinton administration and was supposed to guarantee greater management attention and protection. The focus of the office was to have been conservation. That goal has been subverted under the new administration.

A report released in November by two conservation groups, the National Wildlife Federation and the Natural Resources Defense Council, concludes that the BLM is failing to protect the long-term health of the 264 million acres of public lands under the agency's management. Some agency critics say that the BLM considers mining the highest use of public land.

The Department of the Interior's "Manual on Sacred Sites" establishes the "policy, responsibilities, and procedures to accommodate access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites and to protect the physical integrity of such sites." The manual also states that "each bureau or office shall undertake a periodic review of its policies, procedures, rules, and regulations to ensure consistency" with the above stated purposes and "make any changes necessary to avoid adversely affecting the physical integrity of sacred sites."

The department's own policy manual is clear. It forbids the destruction of the Quechan Tribe's sacred lands by the proposed gold mine.

According to the Record of Decision which denied the mine permit, the proposed project "would encompass a mine and processing area, including open pits, waste rock and topsoil stockpiles, haul roads, an electrical substation, distribution lines, and associated facilities. Up to 150 million tons of ore would be mined and

leached, and an additional 300 million tons of waste rock would be deposited on the site."

The gold ore that Glamis wants to mine is low grade. It would require the excavation and processing of 422 tons of rock to produce one ounce of gold.

The project would leave behind mounds of toxic mine tailings, up to 30 stories high. The mine's deepest pit, at 880 feet, would never be backfilled. Precious American Indian cultural and religious artifacts would be ravaged beyond any mitigation.

Once these cultural-religious sites are gone, they are gone forever. What would the American people get in return, if the gold mine is allowed? Nothing. No royalties go into the U.S. Treasury from this type of mining under the 1872 law. The only beneficiaries of this travesty would be the mine owners.

Used by permission; by Charles Levendosky, Faultline, California's Environmental Magazine; <http://www.faultline.org>

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### BLM ORV Designation

#### **News Release**

**For Immediate Release:** March 24, 2003

**Contact:** Doran Sanchez (909) 697-5220

BLM Releases Environmental Assessment and Proposed Plan Amendment for Routes of Travel Designations in West Mojave Planning Area

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) released an environmental assessment (EA) and draft plan amendment of the California Desert Conservation Area Plan to complete the routes of travel designation portion of the West Mojave Plan Amendment by June 30, 2003, to meet an agency deadline.

The EA analyzes the proposed routes of travel network that was developed through an extensive public collaborative process as part of the West Mojave Plan, a joint State/Federal Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). The 30-day public comment period for the proposed designations begins with publication of the EA.

The EA is available for review on line at [http://www.ca.blm.gov/cdd/wemo\\_ohvdesigproj.html](http://www.ca.blm.gov/cdd/wemo_ohvdesigproj.html) and is also available in hard copy at BLM's California Desert District Office, 22835 Calle San Juan De Los Lagos, Moreno Valley, Calif. (909) 697-5200, Barstow Field Office, 2601 Barstow Road, Barstow, Calif. (760) 252-6000, and Ridgecrest Field Office, 300 South Richmond Road, Ridgecrest, Calif. (760) 384-5400.

Written comments **were due** by Wednesday, **April 23, 2003**. Two public meetings were scheduled to receive comments on the EA and proposed plan amendment.

San Bernardino County, representing the State under the California Environmental Quality Act, will serve as the co-lead to prepare the environmental impact report (EIR) for the West Mojave Plan HCP. BLM is preparing the EA to designate routes of travel and the draft environmental impact statement (EIS) for the West Mojave Plan HCP concurrently, but must expedite route designation to satisfy legal timeframes.

The Draft West Mojave Plan EIR/EIS is scheduled for release in early May for a 90-day public comment period, and will include the same vehicle route designations and provide the public further opportunity to comment. BLM anticipates a Record of Decision for the West Mojave Plan by February 2004.

The West Mojave Plan is the largest HCP in the United States encompassing 9.3 million acres, including more than three million acres of BLM-managed public lands. The HCP will provide a comprehensive strategy to conserve and protect

more than 100 species and their habitats, including the desert tortoise and Mohave ground squirrel. The plan will also provide a streamlined program for complying with requirements of the State and Federal Endangered Species Acts.

For further information contact BLM Project Lead Bill Haigh at (760) 252-6000.

*(and now the response...)*

This is an excerpt of a letter sent to the BLM regarding the Environmental Assessment and Draft CDCA Plan Amendment Western Mojave Desert Off Road Vehicle Designation Project

The Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee, the Desert Tortoise Council, and the California Turtle and Tortoise Club thank you for the opportunity to offer public comment on the "Environmental Assessment and Draft CDCA Plan Amendment Western Mojave Desert Off Road Vehicle Designation Project" (EA). Representatives of these groups have participated in the West Mojave Plan Supergroup, Steering Committee, and Task groups 1, 2, 3, and 4. The Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee works to promote the welfare of the desert tortoise through preserve development and management and was recently honored by Director Kathleen Clark with the presentation of a conservation leadership award on March 26, 2003. The Desert Tortoise Council organizes the Annual Desert Tortoise Council Symposium and has produced 21 volumes of Symposium Proceedings since 1976. The California Turtle and Tortoise Club was founded in 1964 to promote conservation and education, and with 2,200 members is the largest such organization in the United States.

The West Mojave planning area includes regions that historically supported dense populations of desert tortoise and we view timely adoption of appropriate management in the planning area to be crucial to the species' recovery. The West

Mojave planning effort itself has been a long, tortuous, and expensive process. We recognize that the “*Environmental Assessment and Draft CDCA Plan Amendment Western Mojave Desert Off Road Vehicle Designation Project*” (EA) is an important step in advancing this process however, for reasons outlined below, we are extremely concerned that the current document does not withstand scrutiny. The document is inconsistent with 43 Code of Federal Regulations 8342, CDCA Plan Direction for Route Designation on Public Lands, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Federal Land Management Policy Act (FLPMA), and the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The document clearly establishes that the Proposed Action has environmental impacts sufficient to trigger the need for an Environmental Impact Statement. The EA itself does not form an adequate basis for the signing of a Record of Decision.

The EA lists numerous direct and indirect effects that the proposed routes may have on the desert tortoise and other species. The BLM’s 2000 route inventory is significant new information. The quantitative effects of the Proposed Action on the desert tortoise and its habitat are enormous (see below). The Proposed Action significantly diverges from the current CDCA Plan by postponing implementation of on-the-ground obliteration of closed routes (needed to ensure user compliance) to some future time when other efforts “have proven not to be successful.” **The USFWS needs to fully analyze these effects in a biological opinion.**

For convenience, we have grouped our specific comments under general headings. (*Only the headings are included here since the letter was 9 pages*)

- **Magnitude of the Impacts to The Desert Tortoise**
- **Magnitude of the Impacts to Other Sensitive Species**
- **Need to Remove Closed Routes on the Ground**
- **Adequacy of Alternatives**

- **Range of Alternatives**
- **The Proposed Action Is Based on Subjective and Suspect Methodology**
- **Lack of Consistency With Previous and Related Projects**
- **Other Inadequacies in the Document**

*The Letter was signed by:*

**DESERT TORTOISE PRESERVE COMMITTEE  
DESERT TORTOISE COUNCIL  
CALIFORNIA TURTLE & TORTOISE CLUB**

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### NEWSLETTER

The last issue of the Desert Tortoise Council newsletter was mailed electronically and also made available on the DTC web page as a pdf file. There did not appear to be any problems with the procedure.

These electronic options will conserve resources, and make sending the newsletter quicker, and more efficient and economical. The Desert Tortoise Council membership is about 600 now; it costs hundreds of dollars to mail each newsletter. If you wish to change how you receive the newsletter or update your address, e-mail Doug Duncan at [fldhcky@earthlink.net](mailto:fldhcky@earthlink.net).

### The current Board of Directors of the Desert Tortoise Council

Senior Co-Chair	Becky Jones
Junior Co-Chair	Bob Turner
Treasurer	Mike Coffeen
Recording & Corresponding Secretary	Ed LaRue
Board Member	Tracy Bailey
Board Member	Kristin Berry
Board Member	Doug Duncan
Board Member	Tom Egan
Board Member	Marc Graff
Board Member	Kristen Murphy
Board Member	Glenn Stewart
Board Member	Pete Woodman
Newsletter Editor	Doug Duncan
Webmaster	Michael Connor

## PROCEEDINGS

The Desert Tortoise Council will donate sets of proceedings to deserving libraries. Preference will be given to libraries within the range of the desert tortoise, universities, and especially institutions in Mexico. If you know of a library, university, or other institution that would benefit from a set of proceedings, please contact a board member.

We also plan on putting batches of proceedings on a CD as pdf files, and offering them for sale. All proceedings would likely fit on two CD's; with the first 10 years on one disk, and the remaining years on another CD. The price has not been determined yet. When we have the CDs ready, we will place a notice in the newsletter and on our web page.

Hard copies of the proceedings are still available for 1976 and 1978 to 2001. The 1980 annotated bibliography is also available. Check the web page for prices and ordering information. Proceedings will also be on sale at the symposium.

## PROCEEDINGS & PUBLISHING & EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

We plan on having the Symposium proceedings for 2002 and 2003 ready by the 2004 symposium. There are two ways you can assist this huge volunteer effort. Authors can submit their full papers by the June 30 deadline. Anyone interested in assisting with editing the proceedings should contact Doug Duncan.

## 12TH ANNUAL HANDLING WORKSHOP

The Desert Tortoise Council, Tortoise Handling Workshops are held once a year. The next workshop will be held November 8 and 9, 2003, at the Carriage House, Ridgecrest, California.

The Desert Tortoise Council's 2-day workshops are structured to provide information on the handling, monitoring, surveying, and biology of desert tortoises. Instructors include: Desert Tortoise Council officers, public and private sector biologists, and personnel from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Bureau of Land Management, and California Department of Fish and Game.

### Content Certification

- information on handling, monitoring, and surveying for desert tortoises
- authorized egg handling and burrow construction demonstrations
- overview of the desert tortoise and threats to its survival

Desert Tortoise Council Tortoise Handling Workshops are recognized by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, BUT a certificate of attendance does not guarantee a USFWS permit. However, completion of the Workshop should help with the permitting process.

**NOTE: Anyone not registered for the Workshop will be turned away.**

People that were on the waiting list last year but didn't get into the 2002 workshop are now at the top of this year's list. Otherwise, registration for 2003 will be first come first serve. To get on the list send an e-mail to: [bailey0714@earthlink.net](mailto:bailey0714@earthlink.net).

Your e-mailed request to be included in this year's workshop will be added to a list chronologically from this point on. The first 100 on the list will be **notified by e-mail at the beginning of August to register** for the 2003 Workshop. The registration material will be put on the Council's website at that time. These 100 people will have three weeks to get the registration material and payment of \$200 mailed to the following address:

**619 Pinion Court, Ridgecrest, CA 93555**

**Please Note:** You cannot register unless you are sent an e-mail telling you that you are eligible. Unsolicited attempts to register will result in your being moved to the end of the list and your check returned.

After the three weeks are up, the returned registration materials will be correlated with the names of the top 100 on the list. Those people are in the workshop. We will then e-mail the number of slots remaining (if any) to the next group on the list. They will have two weeks to get the registration material to the above address. This process will keep repeating until we have 100 people registered.

If a registrant decides to cancel and send a replacement under their registration there will be a \$20 handling charge. Any replacements have to be made not less than two weeks before the workshop. Cancellations must be received two weeks before the workshop for a refund minus the \$20 handling fee. After the two weeks, the registration fee is forfeited.

**THERE WILL BE ABSOLUTELY NO WALK-INS AT REGISTRATION.** You need to be registered before you make the trip to Ridgecrest. Remember, we are a non-profit organization that is trying to make the registration process fair and easy for everyone involved.

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### **EQUIPMENT GRANT PROGRAM**

The Sandpiper Technologies Equipment Grant Program makes their rental equipment available to wildlife biology students in the U.S. and Canada. The equipment is scheduled for grants between regular rentals to wildlife consultants, usually for three- to six-week periods. Small cash grants may be issued to graduate students. Equipment may be sold to graduate students or universities at discounted rates if equipment is needed for a longer time.

Undergraduate and post graduate students studying in the U.S. or Canada are eligible for

the Equipment Grant Program and may use available rental equipment.

Available equipment includes: TreeTop I, TreeTop II, Basic Sentinel System, Peeper(tm)Video System, Peep-A-Roo<sup>(tm)</sup>, Aquapeep<sup>(tm)</sup>. Batteries are included in each system except the Sentinel System.

**To apply** students must send:

1. A brief description of their research project, including the research paper title.
2. A brief statement of how the student intends to use the equipment to further the research. Select only one system from the list of equipment, and please do not request equipment which is not listed as available rental equipment.
3. List the best times for you to use this equipment. In other words, what is the length of your field season? What are the peak times for using the equipment?
4. Contact information (student and faculty advisor's e-mail, phone number, and mailing address).

E-mailed proposals are acceptable. Please do not request equipment that is not in the list of available equipment, or specifications that are not listed. Please do not request more than one system in your proposal.

Students are informed in early spring of their acceptance into the program, and require that the following paperwork is required: Prepayment of shipping costs, \$500 deposit or letter from department chair acknowledging responsibility for equipment, and completion of the rental agreement and damage waiver form. Download the [Rental Form PDF](#) or call STI for a copy. Although we try to conform with all schedule requests, the deliveries and duration of the grant period may change at any time. Technical support is available for all Grant students to



assure that the equipment will meet their needs in the field.

**Deadline**

Students must apply by December 1 before the next spring field season. Fall/winter grants are offered as equipment is available.

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**Charles H. Lowe, Jr.  
Herpetology Research Fund**

The Tucson Herpetological Society is proud to announce the establishment of **The Charles H. Lowe, Jr. Herpetology Research Fund**.

The Charles H. Lowe, Jr. Herpetology Research Fund was inaugurated at the Current Research on the Herpetofauna of the Sonoran Desert II Conference and all of the raffle and auction earnings were contributed. The fund was established to support research on the herpetofauna of the Sonoran Desert, including the states of Arizona, southern California, Sonora and on the Baja California peninsula and gulf islands. Dr. Cecil R. Schwalbe has spearheaded the fund in honor of the many contributions to our understanding of herpetology in the Sonoran Desert by Dr. Charles H. Lowe.

The Lowe Fund will support travel, permits, diagnostic tests, or other operating costs. It will also cover items such as GPS units, Pesola scales, radiotelemetry equipment, dip nets, snake hooks, and even software. Purchased equipment will be kept as the property of the THS so that it can benefit multiple projects well into the future. The fund operates outside the loop of universities and granting agencies and is open to researchers - students, amateurs, professionals – regardless of affiliation.

For more information on how to contribute to or request support from this new initiative, contact Taylor Edwards of the Tucson Herpetological Society ([tayache@ag.arizona.edu](mailto:tayache@ag.arizona.edu) or THS, P.O. Box 709, Tucson, AZ 85702-0709).

**A GREAT GIFT**

*This was a great gift to the field biologists, and increased DTC membership by more than 10 percent. Their supervisor was asked to write the following article.*

Garcia and Associates has provided over 80 field biologists to monitor construction of the Kern River 2003 Expansion Project. The project is a large-scale pipeline installation extending from Wyoming to California. The California segments of the pipeline cover nearly 200 miles of land, including areas designated as critical habitat for desert tortoise. The project operates under permits from the USFWS, BLM, and the California Department of Fish and Game. Though several special-status species are present in the California segments, agencies are particularly concerned with potential impacts to desert tortoise. Under subcontract through Ecology and Environment, Garcia and Associates' biologists help ensure compliance with those state and federal permits.

Since October, 2002, Garcia and Associates biologists have worked long hours in protecting tortoise from construction activities. The work requires surveying in advance of construction, optically scoping burrows, relocating tortoises from the right-of-way, and on-site construction monitoring. Because of the warm temperatures and plenty of rain in the desert last year, our biologists have recorded hundreds of tortoise encounters.

We have employed more than 80 biologists for this effort, and their tireless commitment has paid off. We were proud to finish 2002 without a single take of desert tortoise. To celebrate the accomplishment, we gave Desert Tortoise Council memberships to all of our biologists. We hope that the memberships will benefit both the Council and our biologists, many of whom learned field skills through the Desert Tortoise Council's Annual Handling Workshop.

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## **Long Time Conservationist and Wildlands Advocate Passes Away**

Mike Seidman passed away in Phoenix, Arizona on December 31, 2002. Mike spent over 30 years of his life advocating for the protection of wildlife and the habitat they depend upon in the arid Southwest and Northern Mexico.

He was instrumental in the reintroduction of the Mexican wolf and the black-footed ferret and worked tirelessly and advocated on behalf of the black-tailed prairie dog, beaver, jaguar, desert tortoise, and other species of concern.

Mike served as the Conservation Officer for the Arizona Zoological Society and the Phoenix Zoo. He served on the Board of the Directors for the Arizona Wilderness Coalition and the Sky Island Alliance, and was a member of the Grazing Clearing House, Arizona Riparian Council, Middle Gila Conservation Partnership, and the Sonoita Valley Planning Partnership to

name but a few issues and organizations he was involved with.

Mike brought knowledge, integrity, and passion to every project, discussion, and debate. Whether one agreed or disagreed with Mike, he was highly respected for his unwavering efforts to protect those places dear to all Arizonans.

Those wishing to express their appreciation for Mike Seidman and his work may direct memorial contributions to the Sky Island Alliance at P.O. Box 41165, Tucson, Arizona 85717-1165.

*Ed. Note- I knew Mike mainly from many, many meetings of the Sonoita Valley Planning Partnership (AZ). Mike certainly was passionate about our earth and had the respect of more than just environmentalists, but also of ranchers and recreationists. It is unfortunate he did not survive to see the signing of the plan for Las Cienegas National Conservation Area that bears his mark.*

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## **AUTHOR GUIDELINES FOR THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE DESERT TORTOISE COUNCIL SYMPOSIUM**

Submit one copy of the manuscript (laser printer quality if possible) to: Doug Duncan, P.O. Box 331, Tucson, AZ 85702, by June 30, 2003. The copy of the manuscript should be complete, including tables, figures, etc. Also include one copy of the manuscript on computer disk or e-mail to: [fldhcky@earthlink.net](mailto:fldhcky@earthlink.net). The disk copy should contain text and tables if possible. WordPerfect 7 and Microsoft Word 97 or newer are accepted software programs.

**STYLE AND FORMATTING:** Title Page: Should include the title, author(s), author(s) address, including e-mail address. 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 six sections: Introduction (no heading), Materials and Methods, Results, Discussion, Acknowledgments, References 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 Acknowledgments and References 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 (e.g., 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. manus). Be very careful that all references cited in the text (including tables and figure legends) are included in the References Cited.

References Cited Format: The References Cited is one of the largest sources of errors. Please be sure that all entries in the References 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. Herp.* 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. (Identify state if not obvious from the university name). 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., and B. Black. 1991. Systematics and morphology of snakes. *J. Herp.* 25:100-105.

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

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

Smith, A.T., A. Black, and J. Jones. 1995. Temperature relationships in garter snakes. *J. Herp.* 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.

Figures: Figures should be original drawings, laser prints, or high contrast photos. Black and white figures are recommended. Colored figures will be accepted on a case-by-case basis. Do not submit figures printed on dot matrix or inkjet printers. Be sure that lettering will stand reduction to the final size (try reducing the figure on a copy machine prior to submission). The figure headings should be placed on a single page and numbered in the order in which they are cited in the text.

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 units.

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