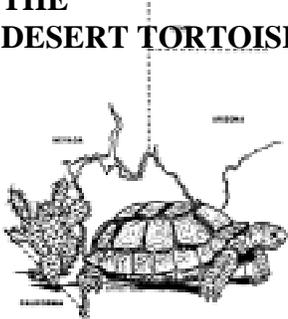


DESERT TORTOISE COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

THE
DESERT TORTOISE COUNCIL



SUMMER 2002

OUR 27TH YEAR

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

PALM SPRINGS - 27th SYMPOSIUM REPORT

The 27th Annual Desert Tortoise Council Symposium was a success, in spite of that low ceiling in the Ramada meeting room. Held in Palm Springs for the second time in the past 10 years, the Symposium returned to California.

The program, organized once again by Dr. Kristin Berry, covered a range of topics. Dr. Al Muth and Dr. Marc Graff, teamed up once again as the meeting chairs. They kept the meeting on time with wit, a stop watch, and a big stick.

There were special sessions on desert tortoise research and conservation at Ft. Irwin, California; and climate change and variability in the Mojave and Sonoran Deserts. Attendees heard why Ft. Irwin is still an issue and why we should pay attention to weather and climate.

A variety of vendors were on hand: Reno Tortoise Club, Archaeology California, Society for California Archaeology, Elizabeth Green's Creative Spirit Decorative gourds & jewelry, California Turtle & Tortoise Club, Hahn's Natural History Books, Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee, Mike Smiley's Stone sculptures, Mark Heuston's Shadow Mountain Studio metal & ceramics, and Tim Shields' art.

The Saturday night banquet was attended by about 125 well-fed persons. The banquet speaker, Jill Heaton, provided a humorous look at Faces of the Mojave. The raffle and auction were as entertaining as ever, with Ray Butler as the auctioneer for the many great items snared by Bob Turner and also donated by several members, including an AVM receiver.

Invited speakers included Thomas Leuteritz addressing the biology and conservation of the radiated tortoises of Madagascar; and Phil Pister (Desert Fishes Council) and Jeff Ruch (PEER) gave very timely talks on ethical issues and concerns.

Several poster papers were displayed, as were the images in the photography contest. The photo contest winners were: **Best of Show** - Other Desert Wildlife, Eric Stitt; Captive Pet Tortoises, Cheryl Darnell; Desert Mammals, Taylor Edwards; Desert Scenics, Casey Burns; Other Desert Reptiles, Mark Massar; Other Desert Wildlife: Eric Stitt; Wild Desert Tortoises, Julie Alpert; Tortoise Conservation, Ryan Hewitt; Wild Desert Plants, Ryan Hewitt.

Two field trips were held, with participants going to either the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Plan or the Chuckwalla Bench Area of Critical Environmental Concern.

Equipment was provided by: Chambers Group (Kathy Buescher and Mari Schroeder), University of Redlands (Jill Heaton), Enviro-Plus Consulting (Gilbert Goodlett), Kiva Biological (Peter Woodman), Bureau of Land Management - Barstow (Ed LaRue), Bureau of Land Management - Ridgecrest (Joyce Schlachter and Bob Parker), US Marine Corps - 29 Palms (Rhys Evans).

Special thanks to all who lent a hand: Gilbert Goodlett, Becky Jones, Karen Kirtland, Brent Husung, Rachel Woodard, Mike Coffeen, Tracy Okamoto, Ed Larue, Peter Woodman, Rich Inman, Candace Duck, Pat von Helf, Marilyn Poncey, Karen Kirtland, Mike Connor, Cheryl Darnell, Rae Packard, Darlene Pond, and Tim Duck. The Desert Tortoise Council owes a special debt of gratitude to the Chair of the Host and Arrangements Committee, Rhys Evans. In addition to the normal duties of being local host chair, Rhys had to deal with the low ceiling and the challenges it presented.

The proceedings of the 27th Annual Symposium are planned to be published. Presenters are strongly encouraged to review the Submission Guidelines in this edition and get their papers in, in a timely manner.

ADDRESSES

Please help us keep our mailing list and membership database current. If you move, if your name or address does not appear correct on the label, or if you fail to receive your newsletter please contact us at: Desert Tortoise Council, P.O.

Box 3141, Wrightwood, California 92397, or email us at info@deserttortoise.org

MICHAEL WEINSTEIN

Desert tortoise researcher and supporter Michael Weinstein, peacefully passed away in his home on April 12, 2002. His funeral was held at Hillside Memorial Park and Mortuary in Los Angeles on April 15.

I feel fortunate to have known him for ~ 25 years, both mentoring him as a student and later as a co-project investigator on several research projects. He made a substantial contribution to our understanding of the desert tortoise through numerous projects and was a wonderful, warm, thoughtful human being with a very high level of integrity and ethics. We were still working on several projects when he became terminally ill in late February, a continuation of a malignancy that first appeared in late 2000 and which he fought valiantly all during 2001.

For those of you in the Desert Tortoise Council, Michael Weinstein attended and spoke at many symposia and measurably added to the meetings. I will miss him a great deal, and already do.

Kristin Berry

Ed. note- I remember Michael for a presentation he gave about the significance of the one or two exceptional years in 50, and their significance to long-lived desert species like the desert tortoise and saguaro.

NEWSLETTER

We need to give a big “Thank You,” to Tim Duck. Tim recently resigned from the Board of Directors and as newsletter editor. Tim ostensibly resigned to give more attention to his new position at BLM, as ecologist at Parashant National Monument. We hear it has something to do with fire, which if you know Tim, explains why he wants to devote more time to it! Tim was the newsletter editor for years,

and served on the Board a long time, including a stint as the senior co-chair. *Thank you Tim!!*

THANK YOU'S

We also need to give a great big “*Thank You*” to Ann McLuckie and Darlene Pond. Both Ann and Darlene had to resign from the Board of Directors recently due to health considerations.

Ann McLuckie was the Junior Co-chair at the time of her resignation, destined to be Senior Co-chair. Ann had served on the Board for several years, and had also been the Chair of the Editorial Committee, serving as editor of the symposium proceedings.

Darlene Pond served on the Board of Directors for many years, and was always a tremendous help at the symposium. Darlene’s experience with the hotel industry was always a great help with symposium planning and logistics.

We’ll miss Darlene and Ann’s presence on the board- but hope to see them at the next symposium!

We should also recognize Tracy Okamoto for agreeing to serve as Senior Co-Chair two years in a row. Ann’s resignation created a vacuum in the co-chairs. Tracy’s second year as Senior Co-chair will allow Becky Jones to get her training in as Junior Co-chair, and allow us to keep on track.

Oh yes, and one last “*Thank You*” to Tom Egan. Tom has agreed to serve on the Board of Directors, helping to fill the void left by three resignations. Tom has lived near the center of the range of the Mojave desert tortoise. Tom previously worked for the BLM in Barstow for more than 10 years. He recently went into “private practice,” becoming a consulting biologist. Welcome to the Board of Directors Tom!

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

The Desert Tortoise Council is an all-volunteer, not-for-profit organization that depends on the efforts of many people. Members are encouraged to participate in Council activities, including

events such as the Annual Symposium and Techniques Workshop.

There are variety of responsibilities that we need help with, and we try to match volunteer assistance with the needs and desires of the individual.

If you are interested in doing more, please contact any member of the Board of the Directors or email info@deserttortoise.org

We are also interested in your thoughts and ideas. Please pass along information/content for the newsletter. Appropriate newsletter items would be updates on research projects, interesting observations in the field, and timely job announcements. The newsletter editor would prefer to cut and paste instead of write the newsletter articles.

Doug Duncan is now the newsletter editor. If you wish to submit an article for the newsletter, contact Doug at (H) 520 318-0599/ (W) 520-670-4860 or via e-mail at fldhcky@earthlink.net.

PUBLISHING & EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Doug Duncan has agreed to Chair the Editorial Committee. The DTC Bylaws state that the “Committee shall be composed of an editor and assistants of his or her choice.” Doug would like to have a core group of “senior” editors, with a larger group of “peer reviewers” to share the work load so one or two people are not responsible for all editorial duties. All papers should be edited by at least two persons. It would be helpful to have peer reviewers with expertise in different areas of desert tortoise conservation and biology. This would insure that all papers are reviewed by someone with expertise or knowledge in the subject area of the paper. Several people have expressed an interest so far. If interested, contact Doug and express what your interests are.

We will attempt to have the proceedings for the 2002 Symposium published in time for the 2003 Symposium.

FUTURE SYMPOSIA

The 2003 Symposium is planned to be in Las Vegas. We are attempting to get dates in February, to avoid the Mojave field season. It is getting more difficult to have Las Vegas as the Symposium venue. Hotel prices keep going up, more so than other locales, and the hotels are now asking for large deposits. Additionally, Clark County has additional requirements for vendors. The 2004 Symposium is also tentatively planned for Las Vegas. The 2005 Symposium is scheduled for Tucson.

*****TENTATIVE*****
Tentative Dates and venue are 21 to 23 February, 2003 at Sam's Town.
*****TENTATIVE*****

All members and Symposium attendees are encouraged to enter their photos in the contest at next year's Symposium in Las Vegas. Your images get wider viewing, and may even win a prize (remember, there's money involved)!

The current Board of Directors of the Desert Tortoise Council

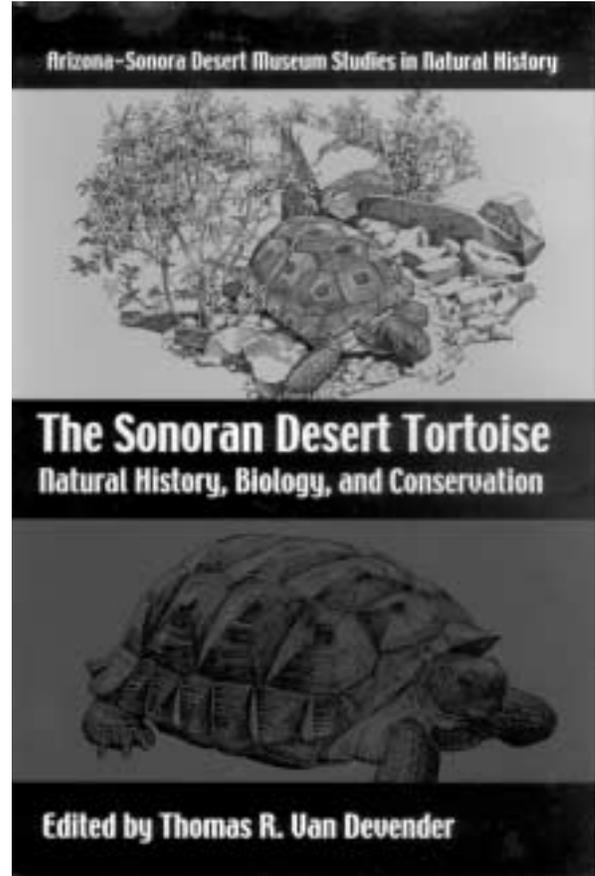
- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| Senior Co-Chair | Tracy Okamoto |
| Junior Co-Chair | Becky Jones |
| Junior Co-Chair Elect | Bob Turner |
| Treasurer | Mike Coffeen |
| Recording and Corresponding Secretary | Ed Larue |
| Board Member | Kristin Berry |
| Board Member | Doug Duncan |
| Board Member | Tom Egan |
| Board Member | Marc Graff |
| Board Member | Darlene Pond |
| Board Member | Glenn Stewart |
| Board Member | Pete Woodman |
| Newsletter Editor | Doug Duncan |

NEW SONORAN TORTOISE BOOK

This August, the University of Arizona Press is publishing The Sonoran Desert Tortoise: Natural

History, Biology, and Conservation, edited by Tom Van Devender. Many of you know the editor and many of you know some of the 32 contributors.

The University of Arizona Press can be contacted



at:

University of Arizona Press
355 S. Euclid Ave., Suite 103
Tucson AZ 85719
(800) 426-3797 (7am-4pm MST)
FAX:621-8899
<http://www.uapress.arizona.edu>

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 October 1, 2002. 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. The disk copy should contain text and tables if possible. WordPerfect 6.1 and Microsoft Word 6.0 or older are accepted software programs.

STYLE AND FORMATTING: Title Page: Should include the title, author(s), author(s) address, including e-mail address 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 six sections: Introduction (no heading), Materials and Methods, Results, Discussion, Acknowledgments, 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 Acknowledgments 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 (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. 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. 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.

**ELEVENTH ANNUAL DESERT TORTOISE SURVEYING, MONITORING,
AND HANDLING TECHNIQUES WORKSHOP REGISTRATION**

NOVEMBER 2 & 3, 2002 at The Carriage Inn, Ridgecrest, CA

Workshop Registration Form

Print out this page and return the completed form to:

**Tracy Okamoto - Desert Tortoise Council Workshop Coordinator
8287 Panorama Trail, Inyokern, CA 93527
e-mail: Bailey0714@earthlink.net**

Survey questionnaire:

For the workshop you will need a clipboard for recording data in the field, ink pen, and a hand-held mirror. You may also want a hat, water, sunblock, suitable footwear, etc. It will likely take between one and two hours for you to complete the survey. To facilitate this exercise, we ask that you fill out the following questionnaire to the best of your ability. For each question, check the most appropriate answer (answer each question only once).

Reason for attending the workshop: _____
Have you ever performed a tortoise survey? ____ Yes ____ No. If "yes" then how did you learn to survey for tortoises? (circle one) Work associated Non-work associated On your own At a Workshop Other (explain)

For surveys you have performed, tortoise sign was found (circle one) 0-25%/26-50/51-75/76-100% of the time
On parcels, how many sites _____, acres _____, hours _____ have you surveyed for tortoises?
On pipelines, transmission lines, etc. how many sites _____, linear miles _____, hours _____, have you surveyed for tortoises?

Other information you can provide to help determine your experience level: _____

Please send this entire page to Tracy Okamoto at the above address. Copy it if you need to, particularly if more than one person from your company is attending; i.e., send a form for each attendee. Attendance is limited to 100 registrants. Make your \$150 (non-student) or \$125 (student, need letter from advisor/professor) check payable to Desert Tortoise Council. With your registration fee, you will also receive a free membership to The Desert Tortoise Council (membership expires 3/03).

Refund Policy: Full refund prior to October 26, 2002. After October 26, 2002 a \$25.00 fee will be charged to the refund.

Please complete the following section:

Name: _____

Address (include city, state, zip): _____

Affiliation (for name tag): _____

Telephone (home): _____ (work): _____

E-mail address (to receive registration confirmation, finalized agenda, and other information):

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

Check one: MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL CHANGE OF ADDRESS

DATE: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS:

NAME: _____
(Please Print)

PHONE: _____
(Include Area Code)

ADDRESS:

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regular (\$15.00 per year) | <input type="checkbox"/> Organization (\$55.00 per year) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing (\$50.00 per year) | <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime (\$300 or more) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student (\$10.00 per year - Requires endorsement of student's advisor or Major Professor) | |

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