



THE DESERT TORTOISE COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

FALL 2003
OUR 29TH YEAR

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

2004 LAS VEGAS SYMPOSIUM NEWS

The 29th Annual Desert Tortoise Council Symposium will return to Sam's Town in Las Vegas for the second year in a row, from February 20 to 23, 2004.

Presentations will cover many aspects of tortoise ecology and management. Presentations made on Power Point must be on a compact disc and must be Power Point 2000 compatible. All Power Point presentations will be on computers provided specifically for that purpose. No personal laptops and no zip disks! Slide presentations (35 mm) are still acceptable, but overhead projections are not. These rules will help the presentations flow smoothly and keep the sessions on time.

The Symposium begins Friday, February 20 with the Annual Meeting first thing in the morning. Sessions will begin Friday morning and continue until Sunday afternoon. Field trips will occur on Monday. Current plans include a mixer and book signing Friday evening, continental breakfast Saturday morning, and the mixer and banquet Saturday evening.

A block of rooms at Sam's Town is set aside for February 19 to 23. Rates are \$45 Sunday through Thursday, \$80 Friday and Saturday. When making reservations (800-634-6371), use the following code: DESB04A. That is a zero. Rooms should be reserved before January 19, 2004 as the remaining unused rooms will be released into hotel inventory. Refer to the Sam's Town web page for additional information:

<http://www.samstownlv.com/main.cfm>

CALL FOR PAPERS, REGISTRATION INSIDE THIS ISSUE

You must register to attend. Preregistration as a member is the best value. The deadline for early registration is January 15, 2004. Note that the deadline for papers is December 1, because the Symposium is earlier than usual.

www.deserttortoise.org

CALL FOR PAPERS AND POSTERS
29th ANNUAL MEETING AND SYMPOSIUM
Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, February 20-23, 2004

The Desert Tortoise Council will host its Twenty-ninth Annual Symposium on Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, February 20 to 23, 2004 at Sam's Town Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada. **Titles and abstracts for sessions or contributed papers and posters are hereby invited.** The Council welcomes pertinent papers on turtle and tortoise biology and conservation. *(All authors of paper and poster presentations are encouraged to submit their papers for publication in the Symposium proceedings. The deadline for submission is July 1, 2004. Instructions will be in meeting registration packets and future newsletters.)*

Please return the form below with Abstract by **December 1, 2003** (If necessary, abstracts can be submitted by January 1, 2004, but the form below must be submitted by December 1, 2003).

Abstracts

Content: They should be substantive, focused on findings and implications of findings (not methods). Abstracts for 15 minute papers should be limited to 250 words (body, not title and addresses) and double-spaced. Capitalize and center the title; underneath the title, list and center all authors (include first names) with affiliations and addresses. Italicize all scientific names and statistical notations.

Submission: Send a virus-free file by e-mail or on a 3.5 inch disk (WordPerfect 6.0 or Word 6.0 for Windows, or more recent versions) by surface mail. ALL e-mail transmissions must include all the information requested below, including author's address, phone, e-mail address, and fax numbers. E-mail transmissions must include the Abstract as an attachment in WordPerfect 6.0 or Word 6.0 (or more recent versions), not in the body of the text. The Program Chair must be informed immediately if a cancellation or substitution is necessary.

Papers

Speakers: should be prepared to give professional papers. Most papers will be scheduled at 15-minute intervals (12 minutes for presentation, 3 minutes for questions), unless other arrangements are made. Authors planning to publish in the Desert Tortoise Council Proceedings need to follow the [Guidelines for Authors](#).

Featured Speakers: The Keynote and Invited or Featured Speakers will be allotted additional time, to be arranged with the Program Chair.

Posters

Posters will be displayed through the meeting. Poster presentations may be offered at specific times. If you have questions about your paper or need assistance, please contact the Program Chair, Dr. Kristin Berry, at the address [below](#).

Information should be exact, because the program copy will be prepared from this sheet. If your title and the speaker list are tentative, say so.

Paper _____ Student Paper _____ Poster _____

Author(s) and Affiliations(s). Indicate speaker with an asterisk.

Title of Paper _____

Address of Speaker _____

Work phone _____ Home phone _____ E-mail _____

Special needs (e.g., AV equipment): _____ Time: _____

Submission

Mail to: Dr. Kristin H. Berry, Program Chair; USGS; 6221 Box Springs Boulevard; Riverside, CA 92506. E-mail to: kristin_berry@usgs.gov and to fldhcky@earthlink.net (send copies to both).

PHOTO CONTEST

The Council sponsors the annual Photo Contest to honor and encourage our members to participate in educating the public through photography. Tracy Bailey is managing the 2004 Photo Contest.

FORMAT. For 2004 the format is mounted print and digital photographs either in black and white or color (no slides). All prints must be mounted with the following information placed on the back of the PRINT: common and scientific names of subject; location; date PRINT was taken; contestant's name, address, and phone number; and entry category. No names on the front, please, but titles and date are OK. This year, the Council encourages contest entrants to also submit electronic copies (in jpg format) of their entries so that they can be posted on the website before the Symposium.

AWARDS. Qualified winners will be awarded first, second, and third place ribbons in each of the eight categories. First Place awards will be \$50; second and third place winners will receive ribbons. The Best of Show will receive \$100.

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. This category covers a range of subjects, but must depict activities or subject matter important to the perpetuation of the species. Examples are research, impacts (i.e., raven predation), improvements (i.e., fencing), and environmental education.

OTHER 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. Each contestant may submit a maximum of two PRINTS per category. Photos must have been taken by the contestant.

SUBMISSION OF PRINTS. PRINTS must be available for viewing no later than 3:00 p.m. on Friday afternoon, February 20. You may either bring your prints and provide them to Tracy Bailey at the Symposium early on Friday or mail them to her at: 619 Pinon Court, Ridgecrest, CA 93555. PRINTS must arrive at this address by Wednesday, February 18, 2003. Photographers do not need to be present to win. To ensure that your entries are posted on the website before the Symposium, submit electronic copies (in jpg format) to the [DTC webmaster](#).

JUDGING. Prints will be judged at the Symposium by the attendees. Attendees will pick up ballots at the registration table and vote Friday and Saturday until 3:00 p.m. Winners will be announced at the Banquet on Saturday night.

PRINTS will not be returned, except upon advance request, and will become the property of the Desert Tortoise Council. The Council will 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.

REGISTRATION FORM

Desert Tortoise Council Annual Meeting and Symposium February 20-23, 2004

Return to
Desert Tortoise Council, c/o Bob Turner
68 Isleworth Drive
Henderson, NV 89052

Please complete a SEPARATE form for each attendee.
Please print or type

Name: _____ **Organization:** _____
(First, Last) (Name to be used on ID badge)

Address: _____ **City:** _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

E-mail: _____ **Daytime Phone:** _____ **Fax:** _____

SYMPOSIUM FEES

ENTER AMOUNT

Member Registration	\$85.00 (\$105.00 if postmarked after 1/15/2004)	_____
Student Member Registration	\$40.00 (verification required) (\$60.00 if postmarked after 1/15/2004)	_____
Non-member Registration	\$100.00 (\$120.00 if postmarked after 1/15/2004)	_____
Regular Membership Dues	\$15.00 (see dues schedule in newsletter)	_____
Banquet	\$30.00 Buffet	_____
Raffle Ticket(s) _____	@ \$1.00 each	_____

TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

Make check payable to **Desert Tortoise Council**.
Only checks or fully executed purchase orders are accepted.

Monday Field Trip
I would like to attend one of several Monday, February 23, 2004, field trips.
Yes: _____ No: _____

GLENN STEWART

On the occasion of his “retirement,” we decided we should do an article focusing on Glenn Stewart.

Glenn’s interest in nature and tortoises started early, as he was growing up in Perris, California. He had a relative who had a silver mine in Joshua Tree, who would bring back desert tortoises every so often.

This being more than 50 years ago that part of California was far more rural than today, so they kept the tortoises in the chicken pen! The tortoises seemed to like it though, as young were produced.

Dr. Glenn Stewart, though I’ve never heard him called or referred to as Dr. Stewart (a positive reflection on the great person that he is) got his Bachelor’s degree at San Luis Obispo. He did his senior project on the Morro Bay kangaroo rat, which resulted in his first scientific publication. This kangaroo rat may now be extinct.

Glenn did his doctoral work at Oregon State University on garter snakes, and went from there immediately to Cal Poly Pomona in 1963.

Research at Cal Poly really began in 1970, when graduate degree programs were initiated. Though his main interests are in herpetofauna and tortoises, he also works with mammals, having directed a 20-year study on the black bears in the mountains of southern California. His best memory from working at Cal Poly has been working with grad students.

“Having Dr. Stewart as my major professor was one of the most pleasant aspects of my college career. I found him to be warm, friendly, and willing to help his students without any of the “super-ego” attitude so prevalent with other academicians. His down-to-earth demeanor didn’t detract from his deep knowledge and love of herpetology and mammalogy, nor the fact that

he is genuinely one of the nicest people I have known.”

Nathan Moorhatch, Wildlife Biologist/
Ecologist, AMEC Earth and Environmental

One of Glenn’s desert tortoise projects involved the Luz Solar Plant. With not a lot of notice, Glenn and his students relocated tortoises and radioed about 30 of them. Since the release site was only three miles from their home, several of the tortoises attempted to return there. This study was one of the first on translocation of wild tortoises, and stood as the benchmark study for years.

“I was privileged to meet some of the problems of desert tortoises through Glenn. He called me in to do field work for a project on the impacts of roads on tortoises under CalTrans. He had teamed up with Jack Edell and the two of them set the standard for thinking about the impacts of roads in the California desert. Those standards and the results of our work are being applied today to protect tortoises from roads through their habitats.”

Maggie Fusari, Natural Reserves Director,
UC Santa Cruz

Glenn was one of the founding members of the Desert Tortoise Council and its precursors. The Council was formed 21 April, 1975. Glenn has been involved with the Council ever since, serving in many capacities, including Chairperson.

In “retirement,” Glenn will be working half-time, while teaching one course at Cal Poly. With his newfound “extra” time, Glenn hopes to travel.

The Desert Tortoise Council congratulates Glenn on his retirement, and his career working for the conservation of the desert tortoise and educating two generations of college students. We know his retirement does not mean he will stop those efforts!

TECHNIQUES WORKSHOP

THE TECHNIQUES WORKSHOP IS FULL!! The Council's 2003 Tortoise Handling Workshop is now **FULL**. There is a waiting list to fill cancellations at this year's workshop and to make reservations for next year's workshop. To get on the list send an e-mail to: bailey0714@earthlink.net. Once we receive your e-mail, we will let you know where you are on the waiting list.

NOTE: Anyone **not** registered for the Workshop will be turned away. For those of you on the list to attend, notification of registration has already been sent. Registration information will be available at our website www.deserttortoise.org at this time.

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 nonprofit organization that is trying to make the registration process fair and easy for everyone involved.

GALÁPAGOS 2004 - July 19 - August 1

Come join Maggie Fusari for an 11 day cruise in the Galápagos Islands. As DTC members you enjoy a reduced trip cost of \$3550 plus airfare AND DTC gets a \$200 donation for each member who goes. You need to meet the giant tortoises (including Lonesome George) and the marine and land iguanas. You will see wonderful seabirds, feeding and nesting and flying all around you. You will get up close and personal with the Darwin's finches. You will visit northern, southern, and western islands. Last year we saw a pod of Orca feeding on a whale! We usually see many dolphins and the snorkling is excellent.

Maggie is a long time DTC member and has been going to Galápagos for almost 10 years. She knows the animals and plants, the history of evolutionary study on Galápagos, and the current status of the islands well.

The goal is to fill the trip by early January. So log on to the website (<http://www.galapagostravel.com>), see the pictures and maps, read the details of payments, refunds, insurance, etc., and then call and make your reservation. E-mail Maggie if you have questions: fusari@ucsc.edu.

SIGN UP NOW!!

HERPARTS.COM POSTER CONTEST

HerpArts.com (www.herparts.com) announced its first "Reptile and Amphibian Poster Contest." Believing that education is the key to saving the rapidly dwindling reptiles and amphibians of the world (for example of the world's 270 turtle species, almost 150 are either threatened or endangered, 25 might be extinct by the year 2050), this contest was formed to help educate both children and adults about the plight of all reptiles and amphibians.

According to Lorri Cramer, a contest judge and co-organizer, "the poster should focus on one particular species and why it is threatened. Some examples might include, but are not limited to excessive hunting for food, pets, pollution, road kill, and loss of habitat.

Teachers can also add other elements to this project. After the child has picked his or her animal, the teacher can also ask the student to find out where the animal is from, why it's endangered, what it eats, where it lives, discover the stories and myths people have created to explain where the animal came from, why it looks like it does, or what powers it has over people.

For specific information on turtles for children, Ms. Cramer recommends finding the book *Turtles*, by Anita Baskin-Salzberg and Allen Salzberg. The website is <http://www.herpdigest.org/turtles/>. The book is available in paperback, includes numerous charts, color photos of turtles and tortoises and is 64 pages long.

For reptiles and amphibians in general she suggests the University of Michigan's Animal Diversity Web at <http://animaldiversity.ummz.umich.edu/index.html>. Just type in the name of the animal and up pops its description, natural history, conservation problems, and usually thumbnail photos of the animal.

Each poster will be placed into one of two categories: reptiles or amphibians. Within those two categories, there will be subcategories for each age group: K-3, 4-7, 8-12.

In each group a poster will be awarded a first prize and then there will be a grand prizewinner for all posters. All children who enter will receive a special "Certificate of Participation." with their name on it with the title of the poster.

Posters should be submitted on a heavy weight poster board and can measure either 12 by 18" or 18 by 24" in size. Mediums suggested are paint, magic marker, inks, or collage. Name, address, phone number, age, grade, and name of school should be clearly printed on the back of the poster.

A panel of conservationists, artists and teachers will judge the posters using the following criteria based on content: Accuracy of the depiction of the animal, and artistic merit. Prizes will include t-shirts, books, toys, games, or jewelry.

Winning posters will be exhibited on-line at a special section on the Herparts.com website for an indefinite period of time. All entries must be

post-marked by February 1, 2004. No entry will be accepted before November 1, 2003. Mail all entries to: Poster Contest, c/o Lorri Cramer, 750 Columbus Avenue, Suite 4W, N.Y., NY 10025.

If you have any questions on appropriate subject matter and rules, please contact Ms. Cramer at lorricramer@yahoo.com. All posters become the property of HerpArts.com.

HERPDIGEST.COM

Herpdigest.com is a free electronic newsletter dedicated to only reptile and amphibian conservation and science. It delivers stories to your electronic mail box each Monday morning. Don't wait for the next scientific journal for the latest herp news.

CONSERVATION NEWS

* * * * *

Listing Review Privatized

For the first time, the USFWS is hiring a "private business" to review whether the northern spotted owl and marbled murrelet should continue to receive ESA protection says the Oregonian (September 12, 2003). The decision to outsource the status review is part of "broader efforts by the Bush administration to put checks on federal agencies sometimes criticized for going too far in shielding species."

The agency charged with implementing the ESA has "never turned such reviews over to anyone," instead relying on its own expert biologists, but "industry groups say the move fosters decisions that balance the needs of wildlife with logging or other land uses."

GAO Report

The General Accounting Office (GAO) today released the following report: Endangered Species: Fish and Wildlife Service Uses Best Available Science to Make Listing Decisions but Additional Guidance Needed for Critical Habitat Designations (GAO-03-803, August 29). <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-03-803>

Highlights

<http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d03803high.pdf>

GAO has previously suggested that the Service provide guidance on critical habitat. Statements emanating from the Administration instead claim the Endangered Species Act is broken and that critical habitat has no benefit to listed species.

BLM Contracting out Land Use Plans

According to a press release from PEER (Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility), the U.S. Bureau of Land Management is in the midst of an unprecedented effort to pay private contractors to design key land use plans. An agency interim report gives contractors mixed grades, citing greater costs, uncertain evaluation, and instances where contractors were “operating on their own agenda.”

BLM is completely contracting out 17 land use plans that guide mining, oil and gas production, logging, recreational use, and wildlife protection. Consultants are also writing portions of an additional 23 plans. The agency is in the second year of a ten-year effort to update or create its entire base of 189 land use plans. The draft report evaluating the experience with contracting finds several unsettling aspects:

- Higher Costs. Contracting is generally more expensive than doing the plans in-house. In El Centro, for example, the original cost estimate for the plan was \$700,000 but the contractor ended up costing \$1.3 million, almost double the

original estimate. But, the report notes, “Ultimately, even at this price the draft was unacceptable to the BLM and was rewritten by BLM staff.”

- Private Agendas. BLM offices cite cases where contractors had “strong biases,” would rewrite agency conclusions or “seemed to have a political agenda in writing the draft.”
- Local offices also express frustration over unclear standards for product quality, excessive amount of staff time needed to train contractors and “significant learning curves for both contractors and BLM.”

Overall, however, the draft report finds that “local offices are generally quite pleased with contracting for land use plans” but notes “a concern among evaluators that this satisfaction with contracting is based more upon relief from the planning workload than it is on the products produced.” The report repeatedly cites BLM’s failure “to plan to plan” as the reason for the backlog and need to contract.

BLM Announces Members of Imperial Sand Dunes Technical Review Team

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) El Centro Field Office Manager Greg Thomsen announced today the members selected to serve on Imperial Sand Dunes Technical Review Team (TRT), which advises BLM on the management of the dunes.

"We had a number of qualified applicants and the decision was difficult, but I believe that the combination of the returning TRT members and the new appointees will serve the public well," said Thomsen. "I also encouraged those who were not selected to stay in contact with the TRT and participate in the public meetings."

Returning TRT members include Bob Ham representing Imperial County, Jerry Seaver representing Arizona off-highway vehicle (OHV) interests, and Harold Soens, Jim Bramham, and Larry Jowdy representing California OHV interests. New TRT members include Nicole Giles representing economic interests, Glenn Montgomery representing Yuma County, and Mike Cuff representing California OHV interests. One member of the California Desert District Advisory Council will also be appointed to serve on the TRT. All returning members will be on a one-year term and new members will be on a two year term.

The TRT's mission will be to "Provide input to the Bureau of Land Management, El Centro Field Office, on the prioritization of the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area Management Plan implementation schedule, and the use of use fee funds collected in the ISDRA to complete specific projects in the schedule."

The TRT meets two to three times a year, for more information visit the website at www.ca.blm.gov/elcentro or contact Neil Hamada, Dunes Manager, at 760-337-4451.

*There are no biological resources on the dunes?
Ed.*

West Mojave Plan

From the Environmental Protection's Agency statutory review of Environmental Impact Statements comes this summary (Federal Register, Vol. 68, No. 182, September 19:54899-54900):

EPA expressed environmental concerns and recommended additional mitigation measures to further protect desert tortoise and riparian/wetland and stream functions.

This is on-line at:

<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/14mar20010800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2003/03-24000.htm>.

The Current Board of Directors of the Desert Tortoise Council

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

BOARD OF DIRECTOR DUTIES

The next article in a series to spell out the duties of the different board members. The excerpt is from the DTC bylaws, available on the web page.

Recording Secretary. The Recording Secretary shall record the minutes of the meetings and forward same to the Corresponding Secretary within thirty (30) days.

2002/2003 SYMPOSIUM PROCEEDINGS

The Editorial Committee of the Desert Tortoise Council is working on the Proceedings for the 2002 and 2003 Symposia. We received just enough papers to produce a proceedings volume. If you presented a paper at one of the Symposia, and could produce a paper quickly, we may still be able to fit it in. Do not hesitate to contact us. Doug Duncan is chair of the Publishing and Editing Committee. We plan on having the proceedings ready for the 2004 symposium.

LIFE MEMBERS

The following list contains life members that we have lost contact with. So, if you can contact them or let us know how to contact them so they can receive newsletters, please do so. Also, we neglected to list one very important life member, DTC co-founder **Jim St. Amant!**

William Berlat, Anthony Krzysik, Dorothy Russo, Dorothy Ricketts, Art Tuberman, Fred Turner, Eugene I. Majerowicz, James Harmon.

MADREAN CONFERENCE

Call for Papers
Biodiversity and Archipelago II:
Connecting Mountain Islands and Desert Seas
May 11-15, 2004; Tucson, Arizona

This conference will assemble the current state of our knowledge about the unique natural and cultural resources of the Madrean Archipelago (aka Sky Island) region of the southwestern United States and northwestern Mexico, and address management practices useful for maintaining those resources.

Invited and submitted talks and posters will be published as a bound volume of proceedings.

Abstract deadline: **November 15, 2003**. For details see conference website: www.madreanconference.com or email: madreanprogram@tnc.org.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

If you change your mailing address or e-mail address, please notify us. We use addresses for sending the newsletter, reminders of expired memberships, and last minute notices for the symposium. The membership database is only used for Council business and is never shared. Send address changes to DTC, P.O. Box 3141, Wrightwood, CA 92397-3141, or e-mail them to Doug Duncan at fldhcky@earthlink.net.

BARRIER FENCES

One cause for declines in desert tortoise populations is from road kills. The Recovery Plan for the Desert Tortoise recommended that research be conducted on sources of mortality, impacts of roads, and to monitor effectiveness of measures taken to reduce anthropogenic causes of mortality. This study was implemented to evaluate the effectiveness of a highway barrier fence at reducing tortoise mortalities. The objectives are to determine if: 1) a barrier fence reduces highway mortality, 2) tortoise density increases near the highway after construction of a fence, 3) the fence has negative effects on tortoises, and 4) tortoise will use culverts to cross the barrier posed by the fence and highway. Results will yield essential information for evaluating the need and specifications for barrier fences, which are a very expensive mitigation measure. The project has also been focusing on dispersal, foray, and home range movements of radio-tagged tortoises.

<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/sandiego/tort1.asp>

THE DESERT TORTOISE

An excerpt from the DTC publication, Answering Questions about Desert Tortoises: a Guide for People Who Work with the Public, by Kristin H. Berry and Timothy Duck

Important Laws and Regulations Protecting Tortoises

The laws and regulations governing the desert tortoise differ by state, location within the state, and whether the desert tortoise is a captive or a wild animal. In most places, the shell-skeletal remains are also protected by law and can only be collected by permit. People can be fined for collecting, harassing, shooting, harming, killing, or purchasing a desert tortoise under existing state laws. The populations that are federally-listed as threatened are similarly protected by the Federal Endangered Species Act of 1973.

The sequence of events leading to Federal protection under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, is shown below:

1980 - the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service listed the desert tortoise population on the Beaver Dam Slope in Utah as threatened and designated 35 square miles as critical habitat for this population.

1980 - the Bureau of Land Management listed the desert tortoise as a "sensitive species."

1989 - the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service listed desert tortoise populations occurring north and west of the Colorado River as endangered on an emergency basis for 240 days.

1990 - on April 2 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issued a final decision or rule listing the desert tortoises north and west of the Colorado River as threatened. The threatened populations include tortoises living in California, southern Nevada, southwestern Utah, and in Arizona north of the Grand Canyon. For convenience,

the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service referred to these populations of the desert tortoise as the Mojave population. In fact, the Mojave population includes desert tortoises living in the Mojave and Sonoran deserts.

1991 - the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service published a finding that the desert tortoise population living in the Sonoran Desert of Arizona did not warrant listing under the Endangered Species Act of 1973. However, tortoises are protected under state law in Arizona.

1994 - the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service designated about 6.4 million acres as critical habitat for the Mojave population of the desert tortoise (Federal Register, Vol. 59, No. 26, Feb. 8, 1994:5820-5866). Critical habitat is defined as those habitat areas that contain physical or biological features essential to the conservation of the species, regardless of whether the species is present in those areas (Endangered Species Act of 1973, Section 3).

1994 - the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service published the Desert Tortoise (Mojave Population) Recovery Plan. The Plan was prepared by a national team of specialists called the Desert Tortoise Recovery Team. The Plan identifies threats to tortoises and their habitats and recommends actions to recover tortoise populations to the point where they can be delisted.



Glenn Stewart, a professor in the Biological Sciences Department, receives his 40 years of service pin from President J. Michael Ortiz during the 2003 Service Awards ceremony.

Desert Tortoise Council
c/o Doug Duncan
P.O. Box 331
Tucson, AZ 85702

Check one: MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL _____ CHANGE OF ADDRESS _____

DATE: _____ EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

(Please Print)

(Include Area Code)

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

___ Regular (**\$15.00** per year)

___ Organization (\$55.00 per year)

___ Contributing (\$50.00 per year)

___ Lifetime (\$300 or more)

___ Student (**\$10.00** per year- Requires endorsement of student's advisor or Major Professor)

NEWSLETTER FORMAT:

___ Mailed paper copy ___ Pdf file via e-mail ___ E-mail notice for web page viewing

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**

The Desert Tortoise Council does not release its membership list