



THE DESERT TORTOISE COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2006
OUR 31ST YEAR

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

15th ANNUAL SURVEYING, MONITORING, AND HANDLING TECHNIQUES WORKSHOP

November 4-5, 2006, Ridgecrest, California

The 15th Annual Surveying, Monitoring, and Handling Techniques Workshop is scheduled for November 4 and 5, 2006 at the Carriage Inn in Ridgecrest, California. **The workshop is full!** We will be sending out registration material August 5th via e-mail, with the cost of the workshop being \$250.00. If you are on the list to attend and do not receive the registration link by August 6, please contact us. You will have three weeks to send in your registration and full payment. After that, we will be contacting people on the waiting list. If you would like to be placed on the waiting list, please contact Tracy or Mike Bailey at tracy.bailey@mchsi.com.

The DTC Tortoise Handling Workshops are recognized by the USFWS and CDFG, but a certificate of attendance and participation **does**

not guarantee a USFWS or CDFG permit. However, completion of the Workshop should assist with obtaining the permits.

The Desert Tortoise Council's two-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 (BLM), California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), and Arizona Game and Fish Department. Last minute registrations at Ridgecrest will not be accepted, as we are a nonprofit organization trying to make the registration process fair and easy for everyone involved.

2007 ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM LAS VEGAS

The Desert Tortoise Council Symposium will be held in Las Vegas for 2007 and 2008. Sam's Town will be hosting the event from February 23 to 26, 2007. We will make available many of the details on this upcoming symposium in the fall and winter newsletters. We look forward to sharing this information with you then.

Because of the positive feedback we received regarding this years Saturday evening event, we will again be having a mixer only, with no banquet. We will also do our best to have the Saturday evening program finish as early as possible.

Registration fee structure has changed slightly. The fee structure makes it even more attractive to members, and to register early. Student registration remains the same. We have also added spouse registration, which includes breakfasts and socials. A registration form is below.

Sam's Town has reserved a block of rooms from February 22 to 26, 2007. The room rate is \$45 for Thursday and Sunday, and \$99.99 a night for Friday and Saturday. Reservation information will be posted on our web page when we receive it and in future newsletters. Refer to the Sam's Town web page for additional information:

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

and information on Las Vegas can be found at:

<http://www.visitlasvegas.com/vegas/>

Both individual or group donations for the symposium are greatly appreciated and can be made by contacting Bob Turner, local host chair, at KKBK@cox.net.

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, 2007.

THE CURRENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE DESERT TORTOISE COUNCIL

Senior Co-Chair	Pete Woodman
Junior Co-Chair	Dan Pearson
Co-Chair Elect	vacant
Recording Secretary	Lori Rose
Corresponding Secretary	Pat von Helf
Treasurer	Mike Coffeen
Products Manager	Tom Egan
Immediate Past Co-Chair	Doug Duncan
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Board Member	Kristin Berry
Board Member	Becky Jones
Board Member	Cari Ronning
Board Member	Glenn Stewart
Board Member	Bob Turner

Newsletter Editor/Membership [Doug Duncan](#)
Webmaster [Michael Connor](#)

REGISTRATION FORM

Desert Tortoise Council 32nd Annual Meeting and Symposium February 23-26, 2007

Return to
Desert Tortoise Council
P.O. Box 331
Tucson, AZ 85702-331

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	\$90.00 (\$125.00 if postmarked after 1/14/2007)	_____
Student Member Registration	\$40.00 (verification required) (\$65.00 if postmarked after 1/14/2007)	_____
Non-member Registration	\$110.00 (\$145.00 if postmarked after 1/14/2007)	_____
One-day Registration	\$75 member/ \$95 non-member Day	_____
Spouse (inc. breakfasts/socials)	\$40	_____
Regular Membership Dues	\$15.00 (see dues scheduleewsletter)	_____
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 26, 2007, field trips
Yes: _____ No: _____

www.deserttortoise.org

KRISTEN MURPHY “RETIRES”

Kristen Murphy has resigned from the board to move back to her home state of New Hampshire. Kristin served for more than three years on the board, and was instrumental in the 2003 and 2004 symposia and with various conservation issues. Kristen, thank you so much for your service on the board and to the Desert Tortoise Council. We wish you the best of luck in your new endeavors!

FUTURE ANNUAL SYMPOSIA

The symposium’s location for 2008 will be Sam’s Town in Las Vegas on February 22-25. Suggestions or bids for future symposia locations and venues will be gratefully accepted. The Board of Directors is researching St. George, Mesquite, Phoenix, and Laughlin.

CONSERVATION NEWS

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Science Advisory Committee

The US Fish & Wildlife Service Desert Tortoise Recovery Office (DTRO) includes a Science Advisory Committee (SAC) chaired by the Desert Tortoise Recovery Coordinator. The SAC is made up of scientists from within and outside the Mojave desert tortoise sphere with diverse expertise relevant to desert tortoise recovery. Serving in an advisory role to the DTRO and cooperators, the SAC ensures that recovery action plans, recovery plan revision, monitoring, and recovery action effectiveness, meet rigorous scientific standards. The DTRO will provide the primary interface between the SAC and stakeholders and managers, but the SAC will meet with these groups to communicate and discuss scientific findings and recommendations on specific topics, as needed.

The SAC is composed of seven scientists with diverse backgrounds appropriate to the SAC’s charge. SAC membership includes scientists from within the Mojave desert tortoise community, but it also includes several outside members to ensure independent, broad perspectives are brought to the tortoise recovery effort. The SAC includes scientists affiliated with five universities and the Smithsonian Institution, and one representative of the U.S. Geological Survey. Two members participated on the original Desert Tortoise Recovery Team, and two served on the Desert Tortoise Recovery Plan Assessment Committee. Two members include Mojave Desert tortoises among their current research interests, while another studies gopher tortoises. The conservation biology background of the remaining three members brings diverse perspectives to the SAC, especially relative to genetics, population viability, and biostatistics.

Responsibilities of the SAC:

- * Advise the DTRO and cooperators on the overall scientific direction of the desert tortoise recovery effort, including revision of the recovery plan and adequacy of recovery goals;
- * Assess the efficacy of monitoring (tortoises, habitat, and threats);
- * Prioritize research and research-based recovery actions;
- * Evaluate research results and recovery progress;
- * Consult outside scientific experts, as necessary.

Desert Tortoise Recovery Office Science Advisory Committee Members

Dr. Kristin H. Berry – Research Wildlife Biologist, U.S. Geological Survey, Box Springs Field Station, Moreno Valley, California

Dr. Peter J. Hudson – Willaman Professor of Biology, Center for Infectious Disease Dynamics, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pennsylvania

Dr. Earl D. McCoy – Professor of Biology,
University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida

Dr. Katherine Ralls – Senior Scientist, Department
of Conservation Biology, Smithsonian's National
Zoological Park, Washington, D.C.

Dr. J. Michael Reed – Associate Professor of
Biology, Tufts University, Medford,
Massachusetts

Dr. Robert J. Steidl – Associate Professor of
Wildlife and Fisheries Science, University of
Arizona, Tucson, Arizona

Dr. C. Richard Tracy - Professor of Biology and
Director of the Biological Resources Research
Center, University of Nevada, Reno, Nevada

Desert Tortoise Management Oversight Group Meetings

August 15, 2006 - Las Vegas, NV - Desert
Tortoise Management Oversight Group scheduled
to meet.

PATAGONIA'S ENVIRONMENTAL GRANTS PROGRAM

Patagonia (<http://www.patagonia.com>), the
outdoor clothing and gear company, provides
support for environmental work through grants to
nonprofit organizations. Patagonia funds only
environmental work, and is most interested in
making grants to organizations that identify and
work on the root causes of problems and that
approach issues with a commitment to long-term
change. The company funds work that is action-
oriented; builds public involvement and support; is
strategic in its targeting and goals; focuses on root
causes; accomplishes specific goals and
objectives that can be effectively measured; and

takes place in countries where Patagonia has retail
stores or an international office.

The company does not fund organizations without
501(c)(3) status or a comparable fiscal sponsor;
general environmental education efforts; land
acquisition, land trusts, or conservation easements;
research (unless it is in direct support of a
developed plan for specific action to alleviate an
environmental problem); environmental
conferences; endowment funds; or political
campaigns.

Most grants are in the range of \$3,000 to \$8,000.
Patagonia accepts proposals for programs that fit
its grant guidelines during the months of April or
August. Only one proposal from an organization
will be considered per year.

Please note that organizations based in a
community in which Patagonia has a retail store or
an international office should submit their request
to the store. Retail store applications are accepted
year-round. Visit the Patagonia Web site for
complete program information and grant
application procedures.

Deadline: August 31, 2006

Request for Proposal link:

<http://fconline.fdncenter.org/pnd/10001676/patagonia>

For additional RFPs in Environment, visit:

http://fdncenter.org/pnd/rfp/cat_environment.jhtml

WILBURFORCE FOUNDATION GRANT

Wilburforce Foundation is dedicated to protecting
nature's richness and diversity through funding
programs that help preserve our remaining wild
places. We focus our funding on organizations

that work to protect habitats that are critically important to sustaining abundant ecological communities in Western Canada and the Western United States.

Wilburforce makes investments that contribute to the following types of outcomes:

- Increasing the amount of protected critical wildlife habitat;
- Assuring the quality and extent of key connective lands between core habitat areas;
- Lessening immediate threats to critical wildlife habitat;
- Improving management programs that preserve the ecological integrity of existing or proposed protected areas;
- Increasing knowledge of wildlife populations or improving management plans that ensure the viability of focal species in a region; and

- Building the capacity of our grantees that are working to protect our priority area.

Applicant organizations should be classified as 501(c)(3) by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service or 149(1)(f) by the Canadian Customs and Revenue Agency. Wilburforce Foundation will consider funding a limited number of grants for organizations that do not have these legal designations. If you are seeking a grant but do not have public charity status, please raise this early in discussions with a Program Officer.

Applicant organizations must be incorporated in the U.S. or Canada, and have programs currently operating in our funding region.

http://www.wilburforce.org/grant_guidelines/index.html

Deadlines: 18 August 2006, 15 December 2006



NO
TRIANGULATION
REQUIRED!

GPS DATA SENT REAL-TIME VIA VHF

- Bundled GPS data Downloads.
- GPS data for your study animal transmitted
- Up to 100,000 data events stored.
- FCC narrow band compliant.
- 20 km to OSPREY receiver.
- HR2600 Full featured data/telemetry receiver,
Better than -150dBm over 2 or 4 MHz bandwidth.

Frequency 218.884MHz
S19
(1) RF Gain 85%
(2) Volume 82%
(3) Scan OFF 7.9u
48 26.44N 22
123 22.31W 05/02/07
2004/03/30 18:24:12

H.A.B.I.T.
RESEARCH

692 Sumas Street, Victoria, BC, Canada V8T 4S6 Tel: 250-381-9425
Toll Free: 1-866-863-5155 info@habitresearch.com www.habitresearch.com

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 3273**

Beaumont, CA 92223

The Desert Tortoise Council does not release its membership list

www.deserttortoise.org