

# CALIF. TURTLE & TORTOISE CLUB

## FAREWELL TO MARGARET STEWART

### Special points of interest:

- Next Meeting is August 11 at 7:00pm . Meeting will be located at the Sterling Inn. 17738 Francesca Rd. Victorville
- Fundraisers are ending August 11th
- August 16th Clean-up and tagging tortoise day at Tortoise Terrace
- Pet Fair at Lion's Park in Apple Valley
- Executive Board Meeting October 28, 2008
- Next Newsletter will be Fall 2008

### What Can't the Lady Do?

What has NOT been a part of her work for the club is a very short list. But wait.....she has kept the books accurate and up to date for 20 plus years. There is more! A monthly membership list and for good measure dues renewal post cards. Not done yet ladies and gentlemen. Her PC work has produced newsletters, flyers, business cards and would you believe an article for the Tortuga Gazette. And there is still more.....more meetings. Margaret is a fixture at the monthly club meetings, monthly club board meetings and the quarterly L.A. Arboretum meetings. Would you believe she is almost always found at club activities toting her cart loaded with calcium, seeds, shirts, literature, flyers and the club banner? Remember those home tortoise tours? I remember chopping down a sub sandwich or two at the end of the day in Margaret's beautiful back yard.



Margaret Stewart seated in the center is surrounded by club members

On the home front she has dogs, a koi pond, a turtle pond and a goodly selection of desert tortoises. She has done adoption pickups, deliveries and rehabbing. Margaret has applied plenty of elbow grease at the Tortoise Terrace at the Lewis Center under both hot summer sun and cold winds. What hasn't

our treasurer done? I may be leaving something out but the bottom line is that Margaret is a great team player that will be greatly missed by the club! Our loss is Indiana's gain. Margaret, we all wish you the very best in your new home. Hope to see you again soon, Dave

## COME OUT AND SUPPORT THE CLUB

Please come out to the next meeting to help raise money for the tortoises. Currently we have several opportunities you can participate in.

- Helping Hands-These are handcrafted items made by people from all over the world. Along with helping the club, you can also help
  - the people involved in making the many beautiful items.
  - The Family Entertainment Catalog-This offers movies, software, and music.
  - Designs Collection-This is a wide selection of beautiful jewelry.
  - Holiday Showcase Collection- Start getting ready for the holidays with high quality wrapping paper and unique gifts at affordable prices.

So whether your shopping for you, or getting your holiday shopping done early come out to our August 11th meeting and check out these wonderful catalogs.

## LET'S GET PUBLISHED!

Jay B. Winderman, the author of *Thunder on the Backyard*, *Thunder on the Desert* and *Thunder on the Reservation* is teaming up with the CTTC to compiling a new book. The best part is California Turtle and Tortoise club members are being asked to submit stories to be published in this new book. This is a wonderful opportunity to have a book that can answer many questions us tortoise lovers may have. As we all know care and handling information of Tortoises is not always easy to come by. Please don't let editing issues hold you back from submitting your stories as Jay will have all the stories edited.

Here are some topics Jay is looking for:

### **Introduction to the Desert Tortoise**

- General Description  
(physical characteristics, taxonomy, anatomy, history/origins, status)

### **Life in the Wild**

- Behavior  
(personality, routine, thermoregulation, territoriality, aggression, seasonal behavior, head bobbing, locomotion, vocalization, etc.)
- Diet  
(nutritional needs, food choices, etc.) Hibernating tips
- Courtship and Reproduction  
(age at maturity, reproduction timetable, selecting a mate, sex, egg laying, incubation, hatchlings)
- Hibernation  
(when, where, energy conservation)
- Threats  
(natural, animal, human, defense strategies)

### **Life in Captivity**

- Laws  
(federal and state-CA, AZ, NV, UT-including travel, breeding, and removal from the wild)
- Adopting a Tortoise  
(caveats, where to obtain it, checking its condition, registering, if you no longer can keep your tortoise)
- Caring for your Tortoise  
(environment, housing, feeding, handling, health, hibernation, if your female tortoise lays eggs)

Also included: references, bibliography, glossary, biographies of contributors, index

If you have a story that you would like to include in this book, please send it to: (kimberly.marcelletta@hotmail.com) or mail it to PO Box 163, Victorville, CA 92392.

### Tortoise Terrace

Pam Stich, Mary Dutro, and Margaret Stewart tagged approximately 20 tortoises at Tortoise Terrace last month. All members are strongly being encouraged to get their tortoises tagged. Should you need any information in the proper tagging or if you need replacement tags please contact the club.

August 16, 2008

the club will be cleaning up the paddocks and tagging any additional tortoises that were not tagged in July. Please come out between the hours of 8-10am. Tortoise Terrace is located at 17500 Mana Road, Apple Valley, California 92307

### Meeting with the President

Pam Stich the High Desert President hosted two speaking engagements last month.

July 28, she spoke at Mountain View School. This is a reform school for boys who face many challenges. Pam said it was nice to see the softer side of the boys while handling the tortoises. The principle felt it was great "pet therapy". Pam explained that they are the next generation to care for this endangered species and the children agreed having contact with the tortoises made them see how special the desert tortoise is.

July 30 and 31 Pam spoke to a total of 70 preschool age children. The children really enjoyed "Cleo" the Sulcata. The children were especially pleased to find out that "Cleo" is five just like many of them.

### Victorville Library

#### Presentation

July 3, 2008 Cathy Doub presented a tortoise education at the Victorville Library. Cathy was able to speak to approximately 300 children during two shows on the care and handling of tortoises.

Children are encouraged in asking questions and participate in an interactive program with Cathy. Children are very surprised to find out that the "Mommy tortoise doesn't take care of her babies once they are born", Cathy states. This is a difficult concept for the children, as they depend on their parents.

Cathy explains that tortoise also hibernate different. Some use burrows; others are kept inside homes, as Cathy explains she has a tortoise that hibernates on the patio in her backyard. However, Cathy goes on to explain that sick tortoises are not encouraged to hibernate, as they require care throughout the year.

If anyone would like to have Cathy speak to a group of people, please contact her directly at 760-956-1876. Cathy is dedicated in the education of others in the preservation of the California Desert Tortoise.

### FREE TO A GOOD HOME

Brenda and William Tuck are interested in finding a good home for their Yellow-bellied Slider Turtle. They are willing to include the pool and set-up items to a anyone willing to provide a good home. Please contact the Tuck family directly at 760-868-5837

### Pet Fair

The High Desert Chapter of the CTTC will have a booth at Apple Valley's Pet Fair. Dolly Windsor will be hosting a booth and handing out information. The article in the Apple Valley Newsletter is as follows:

Put your car in park and get your pooch in gear at the annual Town of Apple Valley Pet Fair. This all day celebration of everything pet-related includes give-aways, raffle prizes, dog agility demonstrations, animal rescue groups, a human barking contest, doggy fashion show, adoptable pet showcase, best trick contest, low cost vaccines, \$20 microchips, dog licensing for Town residents and more! Call Animal Services at 240-7000 x 7555 for more information.

Who: You and your vaccinated, leashed, friendly pets.

When: August 23

Where: Lion's Park

Time: 10am-2pm

Cost: Free attendance, \$1 contest.

### Book's Soldiers

Peggy Sedgwick is collecting books for troops in Iraq. If anyone would like to donate their gently used books please contact Peggy at 760-243-3779

### Newsletters

It is my intention to send out newsletters Quarterly. These Newsletters will be sent August, November, February, and May. Should you like to include any CTTC related information in the upcoming newsletter please contact me at 760-956-2281 or you may email me at

Kimberly.marcelletta@hotmail.com

*If anyone would like to have Cathy speak to a group of people, please contact her directly at*

*760-956-1876*

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**V. PRESIDENT/ADOPTIONS:**

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[www.tortoise.org/  
highdesert](http://www.tortoise.org/highdesert)

*Questions about the newsletter  
please contact Kimberly Marcelletta  
(760) 956-2281*

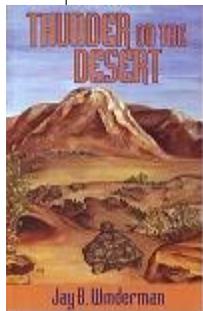
*Kimberly.marcelletta@hotmail.com*



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## ON SALE NOW!

The High Desert Chapter has copies of Jay B. Winderman's books for sale for \$11.00 each plus shipping and handling. The following paragraphs are excerpts from the back of each book.



***Thunder on The Desert;***  
**by Jay B. Winderman,**  
**LuAnne E. Becker**  
**(Illustrator); Pill Bug**  
**Press; 2005; Paperback;**  
**152 pp.**

In this book, thunder tells us about his escape from "A Huge Yellow Monster" and his first year away from home. He describes his life with a community of desert

animals and one who lives near the desert as they experience a series of adventures while contending with the forces of nature and human encroachment.

***Thunder on The Reservation;***  
**by Jay B. Winderman,**  
**LuAnne E. Becker**  
**(Illustrator); Pill Bug**  
**Press; 2007; Paperback;**  
**147 pp.**

*In this book, the second of the trilogy, thunder tells us about his dangerous trek from the*

*community of desolation to the tortoise reservation. He then describes his encounter with a huge combative tortoise, the effects of a deadly sickness, the ever present threat of ravens, his*

*becoming a father, and more.*

***Thunder in the Backyard;***  
**by Jay B. Winderman,**  
**LuAnne E. Becker**  
**(Illustrator) ; Pill Bug**  
**Press; 2008; Paperback;**  
**150 pp.**

*In this book, the third of the trilogy, thunder tells us about his ride with humans from the desert to their home in the Los Angeles suburbs. He describes his adventures in their backyard, at a turtle show, and in the neighborhood. In the end, another human enters his life.*

*Please hurry while supplies last.*