



42nd ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM OF THE DESERTTORTOISE COUNCIL FEBRUARY 24 – 26, 2017

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN!!!! The 42nd Annual Symposium of the Desert Tortoise Council (Council) is scheduled for February 24 - 26, 2017 at Sam's Town in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The Desert Tortoise Council is a private, non-profit organization comprised of hundreds of professionals and laypersons who share a common concern for desert tortoises in the wild and a commitment to advancing the public's understanding of the species. The Council has held an Annual Symposium each spring since 1976 to bring together scientists, managers, and concerned people to share the latest information available on the desert tortoise and its management. For the purposes of the Council, desert tortoise includes the species complex in the southwestern United States and in Mexico, currently referred to as *Gopherus agassizii*, *Gopherus morafkai* and *Gopherus evgoodei*. Tortoise populations have been declining in many areas for decades because of collecting, vandalism, loss of habitat, predation, and disease.

The Council promotes conservation of the desert tortoise in the wild in a variety of ways. The Annual Symposium is essential for sharing the most up-to-date information on the status of tortoise populations, threats (including disease, predation, development, loss of habitat, habitat fragmentation, invasive species, renewable energy projects etc.), genetics, and management of Critical Habitat. Proceedings of the Symposia are published for future reference. The Council also holds an annual techniques workshop to help field biologists and others learn how to comply with procedures needed to protect the desert tortoise. In addition, the Council provides educational and research grants to students, veterinarians, scientists, and others who work to characterize threats, to understand behavior, to improve habitat, and to further the conservation of the tortoise. The Council also publishes a quarterly newsletter and provides guidance documents for field biologists and information to individuals, organizations, and regulatory agencies on matters potentially affecting desert tortoise science, conservation, and management within the historical range of the species.

If you have an interest in the current status of the desert tortoise population in the wild, the threats to the species, the current research studies related to genetics and conservation, the efforts to preserve the tortoise, or if you just want to network with others who are interested in desert tortoises, then you are encouraged to attend the Symposium.

Just visit www.deserttortoise.org/symposium/index.html to find out all of the information.