

DTRNA 50th Anniversary Celebration

Text by **Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee** President Ron Berger

Photographs by **Tom Astle Photography**

On a beautiful, crisp sunny Saturday, March 25, 2023, a group of over 130 gathered at the site of the Desert Tortoise Research Natural Area (DTRNA) in California City, California. They were there to celebrate the 50th "Golden" Anniversary of the establishment of the preserve and to bask in the incredible accomplishment it truly has become.

Some 10 staff, management, and volunteers arrived from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Ridgecrest Field Office, and were joined by a dozen volunteers from the Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee (DTPC) in setting up a hundred chairs, tents, tables, a lectern, speakers and so forth. At a brisk 38 degrees many visitors began their day walking the nature trails.

By 10 AM, when DTPC President Ron Berger began a series of presentations, the temperature had climbed into the high 40's and was quite comfortable under the bright sun.

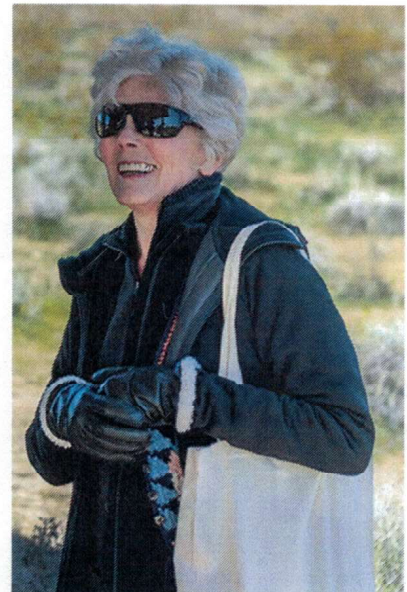
The crowd was treated to presentations by DTRNA and DTPC founder Dr. Kristin Berry, by Tom Bickauskas, Branch Manager of the Ridgecrest Field Office of the BLM, by Dr. Kristina Drake, Recovery Coordinator, Desert Tortoise Recovery Office, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, by Randy Banis, President of Friends of Jawbone, Ed LaRue of the Desert Tortoise Council, Sophia Markowska, Senior California Representative, Defenders of Wildlife, Robert Parker, President, Ridgecrest Chapter of the California Turtle and Tortoise Club, and more.

Ron Berger concluded his remarks by announcing that the DTPC Board, in honor of the event, was offering to match all contributions to the team's Permanent Endowment received in April up to \$50,000.

A fun time was had by all. 🐢



▲ DTPC Board left to right: Ron Berger, President; Rachel Woodard, Secretary; Kristin Berry, Founder; Greg Lathrop, Finance Committee Chair; Larry Nelson, Director; Bob Wood, Retired Director; Roger Dale, Director; Jun Lee, Interim Executive Director.



▲ Dr. Kristin Berry, founder of the Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee and the Desert Tortoise Research Natural Area.



▲ Guests enjoying a walk on a DTRNA nature trail.



▲ Guests welcome one of the presenters at the event.

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