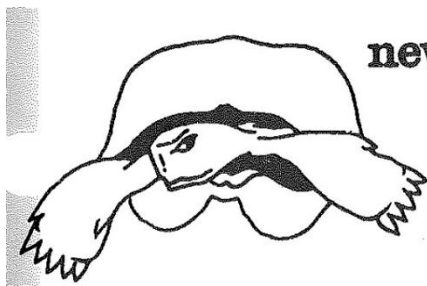




This is a reproduction of a previous Gopher Tortoise Council newsletter. This document has been altered from its original presentation so that information, news, and notable content can be preserved. Formatting, spelling, and grammar have been maintained to the extent possible. If possible, original images from the document have been included in these reproductions. The current and recent newsletters of the Gopher Tortoise Council, *The Tortoise Burrow*, can be found on the Council's website [here](#). Personal information, such as addresses and phone numbers have been redacted from this document.



newsletter of the GOPHER TORTOISE COUNCIL

Image: Original artwork and letterhead for the newsletter of the Gopher Tortoise Council

JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI ANNUAL MEETING

The Mississippi Museum of Natural Science hosted the 1981 GTC Annual Meeting on 14 November 1981. There were 45 registered members ready to listen to speakers covering a wide range of topics from legislation to use of tortoises for food. John Burris from the Museum welcomed us and Jim Fowler gave the conservation address. Fowler stressed that education of the public concerning what the natural world is all about is an important and necessary task. It is the private sector that should develop public awareness and make available animal displays in their natural habitat. He emphasized this last point by comparing the showing of a Rembrandt behind 6 layers of chain link fence. Mr. Fowler's talk will be in the proceedings that will be published by the Council along with all of the other speakers. If you were registered for the meeting you will receive a copy, if you did not attend and want a copy, you will be able to purchase one and that information will be made available in a forthcoming newsletter. The morning and afternoon sessions included:

The gopher tortoise, the gopher tortoise council, and legislation – Richard Franz, Florida State Museum, Gainesville, FL.

Wildlife conservation: current administration policy – Walter Stieglitz, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of Interior, Atlanta, GA.

Current Status and management of the gopher tortoise in the national forests of the southeast – Ben Sanders, U.S. Forest Service, Gainesville, GA.

The gopher tortoise burrow community – Dan Speake, Alabama Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, Auburn University, Auburn, AL.

The gopher tortoise, its use as food by man – Robert Taylor, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL.

Winter burrow flooding and the behavior of the gopher tortoise – D. Bruce Means, Tall Timbers Research Station, Tallahassee, FL.

The southern evaluation project: a status report – Henry Pearson, U.S. Forest Service, Pineville, LA.

Current research on gopher tortoises in Florida – Joan Diemer, Florida Game and Freshwater Fish Commission, Gainesville, FL.

Panel discussion: The future of gopher tortoise habitats – Robert Mount, Moderator; Panel – Bill Herrington, St. Regis Paper Co, Monticello, MS; Ren Lohofener, MSU Research Center, NSTL Station, MS; Ben Sanders; Dan Speake.

GTC BUISNESS MEETING

Co-chairperson Ren Lohofener called the meeting to order after lunch for the following business:

TREASURER's REPORT:	Checking account	\$ 631.17
	Savings account	<u>795.04</u>
	Total assets	1426.21

ELECTIONS: Co-chairperson; Win Seyle, Savannah Science Museum
Treasurer; Robert Taylor, University of Florida
Secretary; Gail Johnston, Mississippi State University

STUDENT AWARD: Dr. Ron Altig announced that Reed Kaltenbach received \$400.00 to survey the Florida Parishes of Louisiana for gopher tortoise populations. Reed is a graduate student working on a master's degree in zoology at the University of New Orleans under the direction of Robert A. Thomas of the Department of Zoology and MSU and LA Nature Center.

GTC DUES: Annual dues will be from annual meeting to annual meeting. If you have not paid yours for next year, please send them to MS Lynne Lohmeier, Membership Chairman, c/o MSU Research Center, NSTL Station, MS 39529. Student membership is \$5.00, regular membership is \$10.00, contributing membership \$25.00, and sustaining membership is \$100.00.

PUBLICATION

Landers, J. Larry, et al. The gopher tortoise: distribution, ecology, and effects of forest management. The others have compiled their articles in one collection. It is possible to get some of the reprints by contacting Landers at Wildlife Research Station, Southlands Experiment Forest International Paper Co., Bainbridge, GA 31717.

AUBURN PROCEEDINGS OF THE 1ST ANNUAL MEETING OF THE GTC

Copies are available from the 1 November 1980 meeting held at Auburn University. Send \$5.00 to Richard Franz, Florida State Museum, Gainesville, FL 32611 for your copy. You will enjoy reading what went on.

GEORGIA LAW AND THE TORTOISE

Bob Mount, Larry Landers, and Harold Walquist met with Mr. Leon Kirkland, GA Director of Game and Fish, and his staff to discuss the status of the gopher in GA. Kirkland was in sympathy with the gopher's plight and pointed out that the tortoise is a fully protected animal in GA. He stated that he would investigate the possibility of a problem with people taking gophers in GA, and if determined that a problem existed, he would have it stopped.

This document was created and transcribed by Bradley O'Hanlon
March 2026