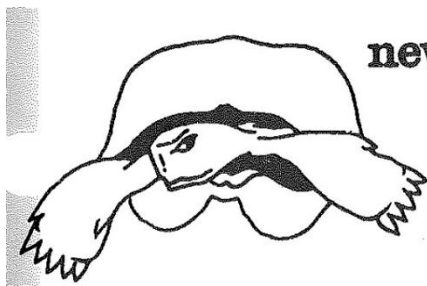




This is a reproduction of a previous Gopher Tortoise Council newsletter. This document has been altered from its original presentation so that information, news, and notable content can be preserved. Formatting, spelling, and grammar have been maintained to the extent possible. If possible, original 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

Bette Bechtel, Editor

ANNUAL MEETING

The fourth annual meeting of the GTC was held at Tall Timbers Research Station on the 30th of October. Dr. Bruce Means, Director, was the host for the social on the 29th and for the meeting. Win Seyle, Co-chairperson, was in charge of the Saturday program. Dr. Peter C. H. Pritchard, Florida Audubon Society, gave a conservation address: "Endangered tortoises of the Galapagos Islands and elsewhere." He took us on a tour of tortoise populations showing slides and making comments as to the status of survivability. Other speakers and their topics were:

History of the GTC – Dr. Robert H. Mount, Auburn University

State representatives updating what is happening in their state:

Dr. Dan Speake, ALABAMA

Ms. Joan Diemer, FLORIDA

Dr. Harold Wahlquist, GEORGIA

Dr. John Burris, MISSISSIPPI

Dr. Jim Sorrow, SOUTH CAROLINA

Commensal invertebrates associated with gopher tortoise burrows –

Dr. Robert Woodruff, Florida Division of Plant Industry.

Dr. Woodruff's paper was read by Dick Franz.

Plant responses to fire and their effects on gopher tortoises –

Dr. Bruce Means, Tall Timbers Research Station

Cape Sable, Florida gopher tortoises – Dr. James Kushlan,

Everglades National Park

A request for the GTC's help – Dr. Dale Jackson, Nature Conservancy,

Tallahassee substituted for Mr. Don Wood, Florida Game and Freshwater Fish

Commission. The floor discussion was lively when the call for help went out. Two

motions were approved unanimously by the members; ONE: A moratorium on the bag

limit of gopher tortoises in Florida be declared with a review of said moratorium at the
end of 5 years. TWO: Council empowers Dr. Pritchard to draft a moratorium proposal

with input from executive committee and research advisory committee and submit

with appropriate documentation to the proper agency.

GTC members in good-standing, and those who registered for the 1982 meeting will receive a copy of the 1982 proceedings. If you did not attend the meeting and want a copy, information will appear in forthcoming newsletter for obtaining a copy. Copies of last year's meeting at Jackson, Mississippi are presently available from Dick Franz, Florida State Museum, Gainesville, FL 32611. The cost is \$8.00.

GTC BUSINESS MEETING

Co-chairperson Win Seyle called the meeting to order for the following business:

TREASURER'S REPORT: Dr. Robert Taylor reported \$1,012.17 in the checking and savings accounts. Money collected at the meeting is not included in this total.

STUDENT AWARDS: Dr. Dale Jackson announced 2 students tied for the award and each will receive \$200.00. Ed Wester, Auburn University for is proposal entitled "Demographic analysis of two island populations of gopher tortoises in a Georgia reservoir." Laurie Macdonald Rask, University of South Florida will work on "Possible role of gopher tortoises in seed dispersal and viability in a sand hill community."

ELECTIONS: Dr. Wally Wahlquist, chairman of the nominating committee presented the following slate of officers which was accepted without opposition.

Co-chairperson: Dr Peter C. H. Pritchard, Florida Audubon Society

Secretary: Ms. Rene Priest, Florida Audubon Society

Treasurer: Dr. Robert Taylor, Nature Center of Lee County, FL

GEORGIA ALERT

Next year legislation will be proposed that will allow Georgia taxpayers to contribute to the nongame program by checking off a small donation on their state income tax form. The donation will be tax-deductible and will be deposited in the states' nongame fund. Contact your legislators to support and vote for the checkoff.

GOPER TORTOISE PROJECT WINS FIRST PLACE FOR 4-H MEMBER

Rod Berger from Screven County has been working with gopher tortoises for 4 1/2 years. He is working with 4 separate colonies on his family farm of about 550 acres. He has marked and is monitoring about 60 tortoises in order to study their needs, habits, and reproduction.

NEW NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Ms. Ellen Nicol, Rt. #, Box #####, Anthony FL 32617 will be doing the newsletter with the next edition. If you have any items of interest, please forward them to her for inclusion in the newsletter. I have enjoyed being editor and thank all of you for help in getting the editions out.

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