

Our purpose is to document and publicize the values and conservation needs of horned lizards, to promote horned lizard conservation projects, and to assist with horned lizard management initiatives throughout their ranges.

HLCS Business Meeting 5 September 2010 Lake Colorado City State Park

by Lee Ann Linam

A business meeting of the Horned Lizard Conservation Society was held on September 5, 2010, at the Recreation Hall of Lake Colorado City State Park, Texas. The meeting was held in conjunction with a field survey conducted at the state park and the nearby Texas Native Prairie Association's Maddin Preserve.



Lunch break from planning session. Clockwise around table: Phil Watkins, Ruth Heatley, Fannie Messec, Rollo Newsom, Joyce Roach, Fred Messec, Jill Heatley, Connie Watkins, Lee Ann Linam and Gordon Linam.

HLCS President Joyce Roach called the meeting to order at approximately 1:30 p.m. Those in attendance included board members Joyce Roach, Jill Heatley, and Rollo Newsom; HLCS members Sylvia Newsom, Fannie Messec, Fred Messec, Phil Watkins, Connie Watkins, Lee Ann Linam, and Leslie Nossaman (via phone), and guests Ruth Heatley and Gordon Linam.

The following business items were discussed:

1. Membership Chair – Lenee Weldon is resigning as of October 1; however, Amy Trost, who currently is providing much assistance in checking the HLCS post office box, has offered to take up the Membership Chair duties, along with the assistance of her husband.

2. Newsletter – The current mailing service we use (Print Mail Pro) is no longer willing to provide services to us now that we no longer mail a large volume of newsletters (approximately 50 are mailed, while the rest are delivered via electronic link). Members in attendance agreed to use the current printer (Allegra) and mailing-service for production

of the next newsletter, as this is the 20th anniversary edition and hard copies will be mailed to all members. After that, for the February newsletter, Joyce Roach has offered to take responsibility for finding a local printing source, such as Staples, and then work with that source to complete mailing.

3. Merchandise brochure – Those present reviewed the draft brochure provided by Danny Martin. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to accept the brochure, with the final edits marked on the draft, to include in the 20th anniversary newsletter.

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4. Website and online marketing – A motion was made, second, and approved to seek bids for upgrading and revision of the HLCS website, to include online marketing. A suggestion was made to provide direct sales from suppliers whenever possible (Tom McCain of Horny Toad Connections has already offered us this service.) Joyce or Jill will speak to Wendy Hodges about the best way to seek bids.

5. Treasury – Rollo Newsom reported that we have \$5361 in our administrative account and \$11,081 in our merchandise account. Rollo noted that our long-term trend in funds is down, as, with an active grants, field trip, and meetings schedule, and fewer fund-raising festivals we now seem to be spending more than we take in. However, it is also unknown how much is in our PayPal account that is replenished by online memberships, which may be increasing.

6. Executive Director proposal – Lee Ann Linam presented

a draft proposal for an Executive Director for HLCS. The job of the Executive Director would be to take care of the operational details of HLCS and to seek ways to increase membership, revenue, and outreach/visibility of HLCS. Several additional thoughts were offered during discussion. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to begin a search for an Executive Director and drafting of a job description. Rollo suggested that the position may need to allow the executive director some flexibility to develop approaches and particular job responsibilities. It was decided that the Board of Directors will oversee the search and development of a contract. Jill will draft an announcement for the next newsletter.

7. Elections – Lee Ann asked for suggestions for nominees for the following offices: President-elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and At-large Director. The nominee biographies and a removable ballot will be placed in the next newsletter.

8. Field Trips – Lee Ann asked for input on scheduling of field trips in future years. There was a general consensus that regularly scheduling a trip on Memorial Day weekend and Labor Day weekend were a good approach, with other trips added as opportunities arose or as landowners requested. Phil Watkins suggest that the Roby Quail Research Station near Abilene might be a good site.

9. Festivals – It was noted that revenue is down due to TPWD Wildlife Expo being cancelled (merchandise sales there often approached \$2000). Jill suggested that the Society needs to put together a priority list of booth venues and plan ahead to get volunteers to help represent HLCS. We need to follow up and see if Bill Brock has arranged for participation in the Old Rip Festival in Eastland on the first weekend of October.

10. Outreach – Joyce mentioned that Carolyn Todd is interested in producing

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Please renew your annual HLCS membership!!!
HLCS depends on its membership for its conservation and educational presence in the community.

Categories for *annual* memberships include:

- Regular \$25
- Student or Senior \$10
- Family \$25 Each additional family member \$10
- Contributing \$50
- Corporate \$250

Lifetime membership \$300

The HLCS welcomes contributions in any amount you wish to submit and is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.

masks for Roundtail Horned Lizards and Short-horned Lizards. The group supported the idea of developing these additional outreach materials.

11. Funding Requests – HLCS received a request from Stephanie and Beau Leland to support production of their documentary film *Where Have All the Horned Lizards Gone?* HLCS assisted with filming opportunities for this film during a field trip to Matagorda Island. It was suggested that the Lelands be encouraged to submit a proposal during the Conservation and Research Grant process, especially because it is the desire of HLCS to use at least one grant annually to support outreach efforts.

Bill Brooks suggested that HLCS might want to provide a donation to help support produc-

tion of the Austin Environmental Directory, which lists HLCS among its groups. Lee Ann noted that information in the directory needs to be updated. There was a motion, a second, and approval to provide \$25 to the group which produces the directory.

12. Final business – Jill showed a lovely display of three of Tom McCain's horned lizards, which she used as speaker gifts for the 20th anniversary meeting. She presented one of the displays to Joyce in appreciation of her service as president. A motion was made, seconded and approved to reimburse Joyce for the cost of rental of the Rec Hall and to offer our thanks for the lunch she provided for the business meeting.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:30 p.m.



Ant bed in the mown grass of the park. They are harder to spot than in the unmown areas. See photo at right. Photo by Fannie Messec.



Ant bed in the unmown grass of the park. Photo by Fannie Messec.



Typical scenery outside the camping areas of the park. Photo by Fannie Messec.



Lining up to get the great food provided by Joyce Roach. Photo by Fannie Messec.

HLCS Finds Friends and Horned Lizards in Mitchell County

By Lee Ann Linam

HLCS members closed in on Mitchell County, Texas, to close out our 2010 survey year. Members visited Lake Colorado City State Park and the Maddin Prairie Preserve owned by the Native Prairie Association of Texas (NPAT) over Labor Day weekend and are happy to report that horned lizards are thriving at those sites located about 70 miles west of Abilene.

Participants from Houston, Wimberley, Austin, and College Station arrived in Colorado City Friday night, enjoying accommodations either in town or in the RV camping and basic cabins located in the park. On Saturday, after waking up to brisk temperatures in the 50s and trees full of scissor-tailed flycatchers, we were joined by new members from Abilene to begin our survey.



Attendees to the board meeting: (L-R) Fred and Fannie Messec, Sylvia and Rollo Newsom, Joyce Roach, Connie and Phil Watkins, Lee Ann Linam, Ruth and Jill Heatley. Photo by Fannie Messec.

After letting temperatures warm up a bit, we split up to walk the trails and drive the roads of the small state park. Lake Colorado City State Park hosts a mixture of native and introduced grasses on its red sandy soils, with mesquite-dominated



Lake Colorado City shoreline. Photo by Fannie Messec.

woodlands common along the reservoir shoreline. Harvester ant beds were everywhere and friendly park staff reported that horned lizards are frequently seen; however, no one was

successful in spotting a horned lizard that morning. We took consolation in a delicious lunch provided by President Joyce Roach, who drove in from Fort Worth for the board

meeting which followed.

After a brief break, we decided to head over to Maddin Prairie Preserve for an afternoon survey. This 1100-acre property features remnant and restored mixed-grass prairie, mesquite savanna, and riparian areas. A tributary of Champion Creek passes through the property and features a diverse riparian area. Bobwhite quail thrive at the preserve, and a prairie dog colony has been reintroduced on the site, but we were

looking for horned lizards! After walking about a mile down the dirt roads, new member Connie Watkins spotted the only horned lizard of the day, a youngster only about two inches in length. We took measurements of the lizard and gathered habitat data, then adjourned to share a meal back on the shores of Lake Colorado City.



Connie Watkins with first find of the day. Photo by Phil Watkins.

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Walking the Maddin Prairie looking for horned lizards. (L-R) Ruth Heatley, Rollo Newsom, Jill Heatley, and Fred Messec. Photo by Lee Ann Linam.

The next morning we headed back to Maddin Prairie, sure that there were some more horned lizards there. There were! We joined Marsha May of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) and Kirsti Harms, a volunteer with NPAT, as they prepared to conduct a count of prairie dogs as part of TPWD's Black-tailed Prairie Dog Watch. We thought we'd



Surveyors at Maddin Prairie: (L-R) Kirsti Harms, Fred and Fannie Messec, Ruth Heatley, Rollo Newsom, Jill Heatley, Gordon Linam Lee Ann Linam, and Marsha May. Photo by Fannie Messec.

never get to the prairie dog town, because of the need to stop and chase down horned lizards along the way! All told, we spotted seven more horned

lizards and managed to collect data on five of them. The news wasn't so good for the prairie dogs. Marsha and Kirsti had seen two prairie dogs on the previous evening, but we saw none on Sunday and there was evidence that

predators have been digging out the prairie dog burrows.

Following the successful morning at Maddin, most folks headed for their respective homes; however, Jill Heatley and her mother, Ruth Heatley, remained overnight at the state park and took the opportunity to scout around a bit more for horned lizards there. Though they weren't successful, we received a note from park staff the following week that a horned lizard had been spotted and photographed near a residence on the park.

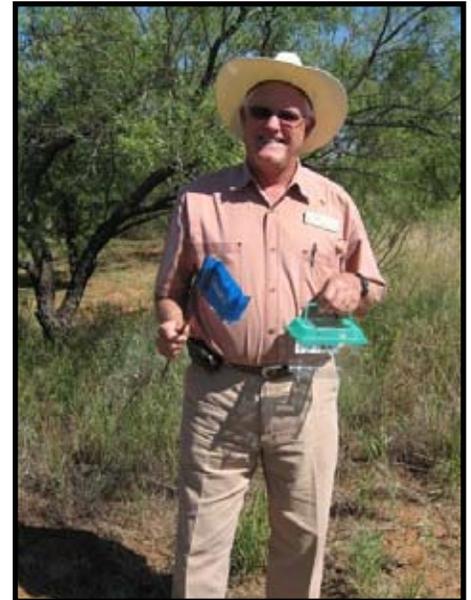
HLCS made good friends and contacts in Mitchell county. We have had further correspondence from park superintendent, Rick Thompson, who wants

to increase visitor awareness about horned lizards and, with signage, decrease incidental road-kill mortality. Maddin Prairie board members are also



Prairie dog skulls found near a burrow opening. Photo by Fannie Messec.

interested in taking steps to improve habitat and decrease road mortality. We hope to continue to work with these new partners to help horned lizards continue to flourish in the Rolling Plains!



Phil Watkins holding one of the cages and flag used for marking food sources. Photo by Connie Watkins.



One of the adults caught and temporarily held in this plastic cage while data was collected. The lizard was returned to the spot it was captured. Photo by Fannie Messec.



One of the Horned Lizards seen on the Maddin Prairie. Photo by Lee Ann Linam.



When a lizard is captured, a rectangle, like above, is one of several tools used to evaluate its habitat. Photo by Phil Watkins.



Phil Watkins and Rollo Newsom measure the distance from a horned lizard habitat to a food source while Lee Ann Linam records the data. Photo by Connie Watkins.



After being captured, the lizards were placed in a box while measurements were taken. This lizard gave us a fecal sample, which showed that harvester ants were the primary food being consumed. Photo by Fannie Messec.



Total length and snout-to-vent length is measured. Photo by Fannie Messec.



Jill Heatley weighing a lizard. This was accomplished by placing the lizard in a small plastic bag open on one end. Photo by Fannie Messec.



A very young horned lizard. Photo by Fannie Messec.



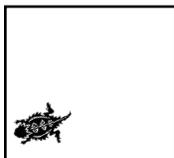
A proctoscope exam? No, just getting a sample for DNA statistics. Photo by Fannie Messec.



Using a cell photo to get a comparative measurement. Photo by Fannie Messec.



“Can You Find?” clues. See page 13. The three boxes on the left represent the top three photos on page 13. The three boxes on the right represent the bottom three photos on page 13.



2009 Grant Recipient Research Summary

In 2009 HLCS awarded three grants to people who submitted a plan to perform research on the horned lizard. The following article is from one of the HLCS 2009 grant recipients, Megan Lahti. Megan has provided an article on her research the past two years.

Annual Dwarfed Short-Horned Lizard Hunt



The study site is located on the Medano-Zapata Ranch, just south of the Great Sand Dunes National Park. Surface temperatures quickly increase as the sun rises, making it best to capture lizards in the early morning. Photo by Chris "Potsy" Lahti.

By Megan Lahti

As the late summer sun began to rise over the San Luis Valley in south-central Colorado, I used the vantage point from the back of my pickup truck to scan the horizon. Southwest Conservation Corps crew members were due to arrive any minute. This hearty group of volunteers would assist me, my two siblings and my partner on our day long hunt for horned lizards.

Their two large vans presented a challenge to the soft and sandy roads leading to my study site, so we caravanned

steadfast through the Medano-Zapata Ranch. After crossing several cattle pastures we reached State Well 052.

The San Luis Valley is a vast landscape covering more than 125 miles in length, 50 miles in width and 7,500 feet in elevation. It is flanked by mountain ranges exceeding 14,000 feet and forms the headwaters of the Rio Grande River. This Valley is perhaps best known for showcasing the tallest sand dunes in North America.

But today's visit was outside the normal tourist boundaries. It was the annual short-horned

lizard hunt as part of my dissertation research.

Horned lizards can be found throughout the Valley, but they are most abundant in stabilized sand dune habitat, which constitutes the majority of the land on the 104,000 acre Medano-Zapata Ranch owned by the Nature Conservancy. What makes horned lizards in the Valley unique is their extremely reduced body sizes.

Outside the Valley, lizards are 65-84.5mm body length, whereas populations in the Valley are only 49-55mm body length, a body size over 30% smaller. As a comparison, short-horned lizards in the Val-



Collecting baseline data on these lizards is important for investigating their population dynamics. Here, a lizard is being weighed and measured. Photo by Chris "Potsy" Lahti.

ley are as small as the pygmy short-horned lizards in the Pacific Northwest.

Although their dwarfism has been reported since 1968 by Donald Hahn and later confirmed in 1981 by Geoffrey Hammerson, no one has further investigated the dwarfism phenomenon in the Valley. My dissertation research is focused on investigating these horned lizards along with a second dwarfed species in the Valley, the Great Plains toad (*Anaxyrus cognatus*).

I am specifically interested in knowing the extent and patterns of dwarfism, whether the Valley populations are genetically distinct, and any differences in their ecology as a result of this dwarfism. To address their ecology, I have spent one day every summer over the past four years conducting a lizard hunt at SW052 and relying on numerous volunteers to assist with this labor intensive project.

After an introduction to the Val-



In the cool shade of the van, the exhausted volunteers were curious to know why short-horned lizards are dwarfed in the Valley. Photo by Chris "Potsy" Lahti.

ley ecosystems and the purpose of my research, the volunteers eagerly began searching the study area to locate as many lizards as possible.

These annual lizard sweeps are useful for studying population dynamics, such as recruitment of neonates and population sizes. Since population dynamics are inherently affected by body size, research-

ers can better understand the effects of dwarfism on a population. For instance, because females have smaller body cavities to develop fetuses, do they have smaller or fewer offspring every year? Understanding these basic questions can address future conservation efforts and provide insight into evolutionary adaptations.

This year, Southwest Conservation Corps volunteers caught a record 54 lizards in under three hours. A high proportion were neonates, suggesting a high recruitment rate that is common to many horned lizard populations. As the rapidly increasing temperatures forced the lizards to quickly retreat to their shrubs and burrow holes, the volunteers also made a beeline towards the shade of the large vans. In spite of their hunger and tired legs, they were eager to learn more about the cause of this dwarfism.



Short-horned lizards in the Valley are dwarfed. This is an adult female in the palm of a volunteer's hand. Photo by Jennifer Esterline.

Some volunteers speculated it was a combination of the elevation and long winters, while others though it might be due to poor nutrition.

In spite of their fatigue, the volunteers were still eager to ask questions and learn more about these unique horned lizard populations. So, I shared more of the findings from my research. The lizards are disproportionately dwarfed such that their limb proportions and head morphologies are smaller relative to normal sized lizards. So, when comparing dwarfed and non-dwarfed lizards side-by-side, there are readily observable differences in their body forms.

Short horned lizards in the Valley are also genetically distinct from populations outside the Valley. Mitochondrial DNA shows that Valley populations of lizards have historically been isolated in the Valley, potentially since the Valley began forming during the Miocene (~26-5 million years ago). Based on the pattern of genetic variability across the landscape, lizards most likely migrated to the Valley from New Mexico.

By collecting lizard scat, I was able to analyze their diets and found that dwarfed lizards have a diet similar to populations outside the Valley that consists mostly of native ant species and beetles. Neonates tend to eat smaller ant species



Short-horned lizards in the Valley are disproportionately dwarfed compared to non-dwarfed lizards outside the Valley. Investigating their morphologies will determine the patterns of dwarfism and provide insight to the effects of body size reduction. Photo by Chris "Potsy" Lahti.

and a few beetles, while adult lizards eat larger ant species and more beetles.

Also, dwarfed females, because of their reduced body sizes, have fewer, not smaller, offspring. Together, this new information provides a history of these unique populations of dwarfed horned lizards and improves our understanding of the effects of dwarfism.

Although the day's volunteers returned home without the answer to why the lizards are dwarfed, they gained valuable knowledge and insight into the natural history of dwarfed lizards and their habitat. That is, after these tired and exhausted volunteers excavated their van tires from the sandy pullout.



In the Valley, horned lizards are most common in stabilized sand dune habitat, which is especially formidable terrain when trying to free a stuck vehicle. Photo by Jennifer Esterline.



To escape temperature extremes and sleep, short-horned lizards in grazed habitat make use of cow paddies as refugia. Photo by Jennifer Esterline.



Member Spotlight: Amy Trost

By Amy Trost
HLCS Member Services Officer



From a recent camping trip to Palmetto State Park - no horned lizards but lots of stately palmettos. Amy with her 5-year-old daughter, Catie, and 1-year-old son, Matthew.

"I used to see horny toads all the time when I was young! Where did they go?" I wish I had a dollar for every time I've heard these words while volunteering at the HLCS booth at Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's EXPO and other events. I've enjoyed answering the question and trying to help educate people, especially children, about the plight of our official state reptile. (And it was very sweet listening to my then 4-year-old daughter tell visitors at last year's Nature Fest in Bastrop what's happening with horned lizards. She did a great job.) I've also enjoyed learning from my fellow HLCS members as they talk to visitors at these events, since they know so much about horned lizards.

My involvement with HLCS began in 2003 when my husband and I joined the Capital Area Master Naturalist (CAMN) program. To meet required CAMN volunteer hours, I helped staff the HLCS booth at EXPO that year and loved it. In 2006, I volunteered to take on the unglamorous but important job of checking the mail that arrives in the HLCS mailbox in downtown Austin. This past

October, I took on the board position of member services. Please encourage everyone you know who is interested in protecting wildlife to become a member of HLCS. A great way for the organization to grow and increase the public's interest in horned lizards is by reaching out to likeminded people.

I love my job as a senior policy analyst for the Texas Legislature for many reasons, but largely because I get to try to make Texas a better place by improving public policy. Being a member of HLCS also lets me perform public service by helping others learn about one of the most interesting and iconic animals in the state. My husband and I enjoy teaching our young children about nature and conservation, and we hope they'll grow up to do their part to protect remaining natural places, and the critters and plants that inhabit them.

Unfortunately, our children have never seen a live horned lizard, something we hope to fix on upcoming HLCS surveys. But when I was growing up in Lubbock, I would find horny toads often and, I'm sorry to say, bring them home with me. We built a little cage for them and added some prickly pear cactus to make them feel "at home." But, of course, the horny toads didn't like the little cage and weren't very interested in the tasty ants we gave them, so we always ended up taking them back where we found them. Now we know better.



Amy's husband, Chris, and 1-year-old son Matthew.



TCU Exhibit Will Deliver Horned Lizard Conservation Message

By Lee Ann Linam

The following article describes an effort by students at Texas Christian University (TCU) to develop a live horned lizard exhibit on campus. Student body member Preston Patry contacted HLCS members about a year ago to get input and ideas about the initiative. Patry was very receptive to suggestions from HLCS members that the exhibit should first, and foremost, provide a healthy environment for the lizard(s) exhib-

ited; that the exhibit should be focused on education, not entertainment; and that the exhibit should share a message about horned lizard conservation and advisories against the collection of horned lizards from the wild. Carolyn Todd also offered specific suggestions about the design of the housing and horned lizard care.

The students, under the guidance of Dr. Dean Williams in the Department of Biology, did a good job of research and

proposal development and secured an impressive amount of funding to underwrite the project. In October, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department awarded an Educational Display Permit to Dr. Williams. Fort Worth Zoo has indicated to TCU that they can provide lizards that are already acclimated to captive environments when those lizards emerge from hibernation in the spring, so we'll keep you posted as the project develops!



Live Horned Frogs on Campus Await Permit

By Whitney Gibson, TCU Daily Skiff Reporter

Permits from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department are the only thing standing between the university and two live mascots next semester, a student said.

Senior political science major Preston Patry said he has tried to get live horned frogs on campus since his freshman year.

Last spring, he helped pass a resolution in the House of Student Representatives to gain support for the initiative. Then, in last Tuesday's Student

Government Association meeting, the House passed a bill providing \$20,000 to make it happen, Patry said.

The university must now wait on an educational display permit approved by Texas Parks and Wildlife. According to the TPWD website, the permit is required in order to hold or collect protected wild-

life. The educational display permit is only issued to educational institutions and only if the display is used to deliver educational messages about the species and its conservation concerns.

Patry said the horned frogs will be donated by Texas Parks and Wildlife, and the \$20,000 will be used to feed and house the horned frogs.

The ones the university will receive were rescued from people who held them without proper permits. "The frogs are not endangered, but it is illegal to have these reptiles without it," he said.

Speaker of the House Andrew Pulliam said SGA was excited about being



This photo published with the original article.

able to provide students with live mascots.

Patry said both horned frogs are male and would be able to cohabit, but the university would provide two different viewing sites. One frog will be housed in the Brown-Lupton University Union by the information office, and the other will be housed outside the University Recreation Center near the pool, he said. The two reptiles will be split from each other and would alternate between the outdoor and indoor habitats.

Patry said Texas Parks and Wildlife officials recommended

the horned frogs have an outdoor natural environment in order to receive direct ultraviolet rays from the sun.

Lee Ann Linam, Texas Parks and Wildlife program adviser, wrote in an e-mail that the university needs to provide the horned frogs with about 100 harvester ants per day. Patry said the university plans to get these ants from the same source as Fort Worth Zoo.

Linam wrote that the horned frogs would feel more comfortable if there was a base of sand and a container that provided temperatures ranging from 70 degrees to 95

degrees. The container would need to make the horned frogs feel secure from exposure to people. Horned frogs tend to stress, so they would need screening for walls and plenty of hiding places, she wrote. Patry said he was working with TPWD to make sure the habitats were done correctly.

No names have been decided, but Patry said there would likely be a student body vote to determine them. "I feel Addy and Randolph would be the best bet though," Patry said.

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Can You Find the Horned Lizard in each Photo?



These six photos were taken on Maddin Prairie on Labor Day weekend, 2010. All lizards seen that day were the ones that were moving. On page 7 you will find clues as to where to find the lizard in each photo. All photos taken by Fannie Messec.



Eastland's Old Rip Festival, 2010

By Bill Brooks with help from Bill Brock

On October the 10th, 2010 I was in Eastland, Texas at the Old Rip Festival with Bill Brock. If you don't know the story of Old Rip, please Google him and read the articles in the Anniversary Newsletter, "House Concurrent Resolution #31" (pg. 11) and "Old Rip" (pg. 24). Old Rip is the most famous horned toad in Texas, and we know that's true because the Texas Legislature said it's true.

The Horned Lizard Conservation first got involved with the Old Rip Festival (originally called the Old Rip Derby) in 2002 when member, Bette Armstrong, invited us to man a booth. Bette's involvement with the Old Rip Festival and horned lizards in general, is legendary. Once Bette left Eastland, our main man at the Old Rip Festival has been Bill Brock. He has continued getting a HLCS booth and for many years he was there all alone or with just a few helpers.

This year, at this wonderful



Bill Brock manning the HLCS booth at the Old Rip Festival. Photo by Bill Brooks.

small town festival, he and I enjoyed the parade, car show, the food, and all the craft booths.



<http://www.eastlandtexas.com/>

I want to encourage all our members to volunteer to booth sit for the HLCS at the Old Rip Festival, or any other nature festival in your area. We actually need to do a lot more of this. We want to spread the mes-

sage of horned lizard conservation, but frankly, we also need the money. Since the demise of the TP&WD's EXPO two years ago, we have lost several thousand dollars we counted on getting every year. If you can help man a HLCS booth, please volunteer. If you have a festival in your area where you think our society would find a good audience, please tell me: (Bgbrooks@mail.utexas.edu). We can supply exhibits, handouts, sales items, and other experienced HLCS volunteers, to help.



Old Rip was found alive in 1928 after being entombed in the cornerstone of this Eastland, Texas courthouse for 31 years. Photo found at http://www.texasescapes.com/FEATURES/Believe_It/OL_Rip/feature_night_of_the_lguana.htm#History.html.



Old Rip in his coffin in the new Eastland, Texas courthouse. Photo found at <http://www.eastlandvisitor.com/oldRipHistory.html>.



New Leaders Take the Reins for HLCS

By Lee Ann Linam

Congratulations and thank you to our new slate of HLCS leaders who took office January 1!

Dr. Jill Heatley, an associate professor in the College of Veterinary Medicine at Texas A&M University, moved up to the President position from the position of President-elect. Dr. David Wojnowski, an assistant professor in the Department of Teaching, Education, and Administration at the University

of North Texas, will serve as President-elect. Beth Moeller Bendik, a natural resources specialist in the Watershed Program at Texas Parks and Wildlife who did research on horned lizards in South Texas, will take over as secretary. Carolyn Todd, a founding member of HLCS and employee of the Texas Education Agency, will be our treasurer. Danny Martin, a biologist in the Colorado Department of Wildlife who has done much volunteer horned lizard research in that state,

will continue in his service as Director-at-large. Amy Trost, a Texas Master Naturalist and employee of the Texas Sunset Commission, will make up the final member of the Board of Directors in her appointment as Membership Chair.

Please feel free to contact any of these officers if you have any concerns or would like to see how you can get involved with HLCS!



Calling All Horned Lizard Survey Ideas

By Lee Ann Linam

Do you know of some great locations for horned lizard surveys? Are you involved in a horned lizard project where you need some volunteer help? Is there just a neat place that you think we should explore?

We're looking for horned lizard survey ideas for 2011. We'd welcome ideas for any state or any horned lizard species. Please send ideas to Lee Ann Linam (leeann.linam@tpwd.state.tx.us) to help HLCS offer some great opportunities to its members. The 2010 HLCS

field trips to the Chaparral Wildlife Management Area, Milam County, and Mitchell County, Texas, were great—let's have some more fun in 2011!

Watch for details in upcoming newsletters.



HLCS Invites Applications for Executive Director

By Jill Heatley

The HLCS is pleased to announce the creation of an Executive Director position. This position is intended to provide a more streamlined approach of daily management of HLCS business and a more user friendly interface between the public and HLCS. This position will require a highly motivated, outgoing individual familiar with multiple media communication, and management as well as grant administration, and structure and administration of

nonprofit NGOs. Experience in media, communication, web site design, public education, governmental relations and marketing are welcome additions to the applicant's portfolio. In addition, a familiarity with horned lizard (*Phrynosoma* spp.) biology, history, and culture is highly desirable. Additionally, this individual must be able to organize and participate in up to two HLCS meetings per year and facilitate newsletter publication and distribution, currently managed by HLCS volunteers. Initially, this posi-

tion will be given a three year tenure with annual review by the board to allow for individual input into the powers and responsibilities of the executive director. This is a part-time contractual position with a salary of approximately \$3000.00US per annum. For full application details and job description, please contact Jheatley@cvm.tamu.edu. Application and inquiries will be accepted until July 1, 2011 or until a suitable candidate is determined.





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PLEASE JOIN US! Students/Seniors: \$10; Regular: \$25; Contributing: \$50; Corporate: \$250; Lifetime: \$300
Families: \$25 for the first person and \$10 for each additional member
HLCS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Contributions are deductible to the extent allowable by law.

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Phrynosomatics is now sent electronically.