

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.

February — March 1994

The Newsletter of the Horned Lizard Conservation Society

Important News

This is the **Call for Papers** for researchers and educators with information to present at the **Second Annual Conference on Horned Lizard Conservation**. See page 5 for details.

HLCS Southern California Chapter is hosting our **2nd Annual Conference June 1 in San Diego**. Non-California members, isn't it time you visited California? HLCS Southern California Chapter is working with the **Coastal horned lizard** [*Phrynosoma coronatum*] and the **Flat-tailed horned lizard** [*P. m'calli*].

The National Research and Recovery Committee is conducting a survey of Wildlife Departments and Natural Heritage Programs in the western states to determine the status of all seven species of horny toads..

The federal government is proposing to give the **Flat-tailed horny toad** some limited protection as a federally "threatened" animal. The flat-tailed has the most limited U.S. distribution of all our 7 species. You can recognize the Flat-tail by the dark stripe down its back, two extra long and sharp horns, and the sort of flattened tail. Found in extreme southern California and southwestern Arizona, it is threatened by off-road driving on our public lands and development in the deserts.

The Nominations Committee has some great nominees for you from all over the country for the next National Board of Directors. We've included a list of HLCS members in this newsletter, so you may suggest your own nominees. Your new national board will be truly national in scope.

DNA analyses are underway for the **mountain short-horned** and the **Texas horned lizards**. This will help in development of recovery strategies.

Lee Stone, President

**Register
now for
2nd
Annual
Meeting
June 1st**

Upcoming Events

Mar 1	Deadline for Board Nominations. Membership list and nomination form inside.
June 1	2nd Annual Conference on Horned Lizard Conservation, San Diego, Calif., San Diego Zoo. Pre-registration form inside.
June 4	Horny Toad Day at Chapparral Wildlife Management Area in south Texas. HLCS people must register with Carolyn Todd at 512-255-6770. Car camping available.

Flat-tailed Horned Lizard

Phrynosoma m'callii

The Fish and Wildlife Service of the U.S. Department of the Interior, concerned about both documented and anticipated population decline, is proposing to list the flat-tailed horned lizard, *Phrynosoma m'callii*, as a threatened species under the amended 1973 Endangered Species Act.

Phrynosoma m'callii is named for Col. George A. M'Call of the United States Army who collected the type specimen in Imperial County, California, in the western Sonoran desert between Camp Yuma and Vallecito in the early 1850s. Initially there was uncertainty as to whether the lizard belonged to the anota or *Phrynosoma* genus. No longer than 3.2 inches, the small creature has a dark mid-vertebral stripe and is cryptically colored with a pale grey to rusty brown back and a white, unmarked belly. It has fairly long

horns, two rows of fringed scales on each side, and a flat tail.

The lizard's primary habitat is in Riverside, San Diego, and Imperial Counties in California, west of the Gila and Tinajas Mountains in Arizona, and in adjacent portions of the Sonora Desert and Baja California Norte in Mexico. The preferred terrain is sandy, desert flatland with sparse vegetation, and where the surface soils contain loose or wind-blown sand. Sometimes *Phrynosoma m'callii* favors hills rising no higher than three hundred feet, or areas covered with small pebbles or desert pavement. At this time the Service is not defining a critical habitat.

Due to both urbanization and agricultural development, a third of the historic habitat no longer supports the species. Of this total, some 40% of the lost habitat is in Califor-

nia, and between 23% and 27% in Arizona. Across the border in Mexico, human impact has reduced the historic habitat by about 29%.

When the Salton Sea was filled between 1905 and 1907 in California, the venture triggered development in the region. Today, the flat-tailed horned lizard population is increasingly fragmented, and the smaller, isolated populations raise the threat of extinction.

Pesticides sprayed to curb the beet leafhopper, and aerial spraying which has likely reduced the population of harvester ants, *Phrynosoma m'callii*'s staple diet, are also blamed for the declining population.

Jane Manaster, author of both articles on this page, is a member of the HLCS Education Committee and a professional writer, living in Austin, TX.

Round tailed Horned Lizard

Phrynosoma modestum

In the year 1846, General Churchill retrieved a previously unidentified horned lizard, subsequently named *Phrynosoma modestum*, when he crossed the Rio Grande into Mexico at Presidio del Norte in the state of Chihuahua. This being a politically volatile area at the time, other military personnel were in the region, and a certain Colonel J. D. Graham took eight of the small creatures from San Antonio to El Paso. Both ensured that their finds were delivered to the Smithsonian Institution.

Modestum, a.k.a the roundtail or bleached horned lizard, is native to western Texas. The population seems to fluctuate in different areas, for instance

thirty years ago the lizards were plentiful in central Texas, but a decade later the focus was in the western part of the state. The native range also includes southern New Mexico, and southeastern Arizona. Fossil finds have occurred in each of these states, including two in the Big Bend at Maravillas Canyon and Tunnel View, near Rio Grande Village.

While the lizards sometimes make their homes in the lower elevations of mountains, they are generally found on desert flats, semi-arid plains, and scrublands. They seem partial to scarps, outwash slopes, and other eroding areas where their camouflage works

wonders among the small to medium sized pebbles scattered over the ground.

While *modestum* is strikingly talented at changing color, the Latin name, meaning calm, unassuming, and modest, is well-chosen for its normal greyish, yellowish, whitish or light buff appearance. With featured splotches on each side of its neck, and in front of its hind legs, this smallest species of horned lizard measures from 1 5/8 to 2 3/4 inches. Other distinctive physical absences are fringe scales along the abdomen, a vertebral stripe or a spiny back.

Membership Directory

Street addresses and phone numbers have been omitted to ensure this list will not be used for non-HLCS purposes. Names and cities are provided for the use of our membership in the nominations process for National Board of Directors. Newsletter subscribers are not listed.

Jamie	Akenhead	Austin	TX				
Martha H.	Allan	Austin	TX				
Edward & Linda	Allen	Lubbock	TX				
Pam S	Allison	Amarillo	TX				
Bette	Ammann	Fort Worth	TX				
Mike	Archenhold	Austin	TX				
Shelley	Armitage	Vega	TX				
Richard	Armstrong	San Antonio	TX				
John Eric	Artmire	Flint	TX	Edith Wood	Griscom	Monahans	TX
Karen	Austin	El Paso	TX	Lance D	Gritton	Poway	CA
Steven R.	Austin	Austin	TX	Ray Lee Wrage	Gunn	Dallas	TX
Robert	Ayrres	Austin	TX	Richard B.	Hagens, Jr.	Houston	TX
Shirley	Bailey	Riverside	CA	Dr. Jeffrey W.	Hall	Kenosha	WI
Ross	Baird	Ft. Worth	CA	Mike	Hall	Austin	TX
Alan	Barr	Austin	TX	Nancy L.	Hallman	Fort Worth	TX
John	Battaglia	Cedar Hill	TX	Jesse	Hamilton	Austin	TX
Ellen T.	Bauder	La Mesa	CA	Helen	Hand	Weatherford	TX
Debra L.	Beene	Austin	TX	Gail S.	Hansen	Midland	TX
Linda	Berg	Austin	TX	Michael W.	Harduk	Beaumont	TX
Dr. Jim	Bergen	Collegeport	TX	Scott	Harker	Dripping Spgs	TX
Judy	Blake	Dallas	TX	Carolyn H.	Harte	San Antonio	TX
Michael A.	Blount	Houston	TX	Joel	Hayes	Markham	TX
Charles K.	Bluntzer	Victoria	TX	William D.	Hayes	Sweeny	TX
Joline	Bolden	Levelland	TX	Holly	Helpenstell	Corpus Christi	TX
Jo	Boulware	Hesquite	TX	Travis	Henson	Rockwall	TX
Donna W.	Bowen	Llano	TX	Ira Craig	Hess	Harlingen	TX
Jim	Brand	Austin	TX	Billie F.	Hester	Austin	TX
Jim	Brannen	Austin	TX	DeWayne	Hightower	Fort Worth	TX
James R.	Brauk	Odessa	TX	Abraham	Hodges	Edinburg	TX
Karen	Brewer	Graham	TX	W. A.	Holland	Pleasanton	TX
Bill	Brooks, Jr.	Dale	TX	Les	Hover, II	Houston	TX
Tim	Burkhardt	Spring Valley	CA	Beverley	Howard	Irving	TX
Ginny	Burnett	Austin	TX	Warren J	Rubble	Bellville	TX
Mike	Byars	La Crosse	WI	Charles & Dominique	Illiff	Paradise Valley	AZ
Margaret	Campbell	Austin	TX	Hal D.	Inge	Dallas	TX
C. E.	Cantrell	San Antonio	TX	Anne S	Irby	Austin	TX
Diane	Carpenter	Houston	TX	Marcia	Isham	Fort Worth	TX
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Locke	Carter	Austin	TX	Elton	Jistel	Austin	TX
Michael	Casey	League City	TX	John	Johnson	Garden City	TX
Darlene	Cates	Houston	TX	David	Johnston	Fulshear	TX
Rick	Chappell	Hudson	WI	Susan T	Johnston	San Marino	CA
Keith	Christian	0811		Molly	Jones	Austin	TX
Mike	Cochran	Arlington	TX	Bill & Claire	Jordan	Rhntsville	TX
Gregory J.	Cowell	Beavercreek	OH	Jim	Keaton	Houston	TX
Mary L.	Colway	North Zulch	TX	Kevin M	Kennedy	Apple Valley	TX
Bart	Cox	Austin	TX	Chris	Kennon	Georgetown	TX
Bob and Jenny	Crenshaw	Lorena	TX	Dana M	Klatt	Riverside	CA
J.L.	Crislip	Round Rock	TX	Charles & Jessie	Kniffen	San Bernardino	CA
James A.	Cunyus	Austin	TX	Paul & Betty	Kramer	Amarillo	TX
Nancy	Czekala	San Diego	CA	John R.	Krystinik	Dallas	TX
Kathy E.	Davidson	Austin	TX	Tom	Laramey	Austin	TX
Bill	Davis	Austin	TX	David & Alesia	Le Vrier	Houston	TX
Dick	Davis	Austin	TX	Caroline	LeGette	Austin	TX
Don & Debbie	Davis	Austin	TX	Kendra	Leicht	Apple Valley	CA
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Jacques & Darlene	Deckwar	Redlands	CA	Prof. Carl	Leiden	Austin	TX
Deborah	Denner	Austin	TX	Woody	Leverett	Midland	TX
Ann B C	Dennis	Austin	TX	Mitchell	Locke	Niami	TX
Elizabeth Warren	Dimitry	Houston	TX	Carol R.	Lockett	Austin	TX
Bill & Mary Anne	Dingus	Midland	TX	Donald P.	Logan	Belton	TX
Joe	Dishner	Dallas	TX	Meryll	Mabray	Llano	TX
Sande	Dodd-McCormick	Austin	TX	Jason R.	Mallory	Fort Worth	TX
Deborah	Douglas	San Antonio	TX	Jane	Manaster	Austin	TX
Maggie	Douns	Austin	TX	Nick & Kathleen	Martin	Wimberley	TX
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Glenn W.	Dunnington	Austin	TX				
Anita	Earnest	Austin	TX				
Melinda	Eketrum	Victoria	TX				
Bryan	Engelbrecht	Houston	TX				
Greg	Erickson	Berkeley	CA				
Yvonne	Estes	Austin	TX				
Scott	Fair	Alice	TX				
F. K.	Fischer, Jr	Austin	TX				
James E.	Forbis	Decatur	TX				
Clare	Fresman	Austin	TX				
Steve	Froidkin	Phoenix	AZ				
Gerald S.	Frey	Houston	TX				
Major W D (Buzzy)	Frysjinger	San Antonio	TX				
Mary M.	Gaines	Copperas Cove	TX				
'Jan	Galvin	Amarillo	TX				
Susan R.	Garry	Coupland	TX				
Beverly	Gayle	Poteet	TX				
Betty	Gilbert	Austin	TX				
Keith Lee	Glaxener	Spring	TX				
Jim & Brenda	Goforth	Amarillo	TX				
Beverly P & Rodney	DGrage	Lindale	TX				
Mrs H C	Grauke	Dublin	TX				
Barbara	Greenwood	Ft. Worth	TX				

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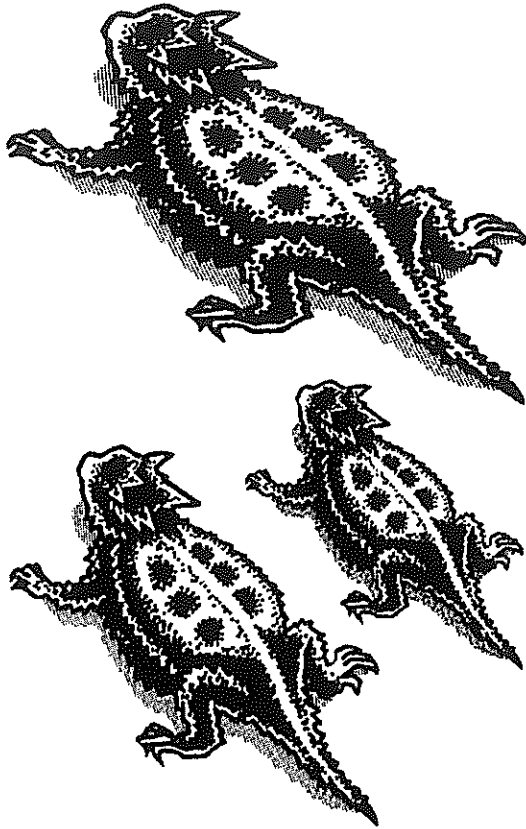
Frank W.	McBee, Jr.	Austin	TX
Tim	McClure	Austin	TX
Mary	McCoy	Fort Worth	TX
Phillip	McDonald	Blue Ridge	TX
Will	McNeill	Beaumont	TX
Mrs D G	Merritt	Midland	TX
Brian L.	Mihura	APC	AA
Jay	Miller	Arlington	TX
Lester G.	Milroy, III	Apple Valley	CA
Sydney	Moise	Trumansburg	NY
Brian & Phyllis	Moore	Apple Valley	CA
Jim M	Moore	Grass Valley	CA
James W.	Moore, Jr., PhD	Runtington	WV
William	Moranarco	Temecula	CA
Leigh	Morris	Denver	CO
Lynn	Morris	Winchester	VA
Kristi	Morris-Dague	Houston	TX
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George	Perry	Austin	TX
Ryan	Phillips	Wichita Falls	TX
M. R.	Pickering	Houston	TX
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Alma	Quillian	Fulton	TX
David	Rains	Houston	TX
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Janet & Greg	Reed	Arlington	TX
Weldon Harlod	Reese	Floydada	TX
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Eliane	Reneau	Houston	TX
Susan	Rice	Friendswood	TX
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Emmy	Rogers	San Antonio	TX
Carroll D.	Ross	Tomball	TX
Gerald L.	Savary	Marble Falls	TX
Patrick	Schaefer	Houston	TX
Henry I.	Schaffer, DDS	Van Horn	TX
Charles R.	Schultz	Woodville	TX
C. A.	Schutze, Jr.	Austin	TX
Sibyl	Sears	Rising Star	TX
Steve	Sheffield	Stillwater	OK
Patrick D.	Shell	San Antonio	TX
John Henry	Smith	Llano	TX
Robert Karl	Smith	Austin	TX
Travis	Smith	Fort Worth	TX
Alvin M.	Smith, MD	Santa Elena	TX
Joyce T.	Snodgrass	Leander	TX
Debbie	Srnnsky	Nanor	TX
Robert	St. Clair	Norman	OK
Melvin	Stanley	Austin	TX
Pam	Stephens	Houston	TX
Susanna I	Stephens	Edinburg	TX
Nancy and Bruce	Sterling	Austin	TX
F. N.	Stiles, Jr. DVM	Leander	TX
S. Lee	Stone	Austin	TX
James	Story	Austin	TX
Otto	Strauch	San Antonio	TX
Bartlett	Strayhorn	Rotan	TX
Jane	Stuart	Lubbock	TX
Gerald V.	Sutton	Willis	TX
Beth Howell	Sutton, M. D.	Wichita Falls	TX
Collene	Sweeney	Georgetown	TX

Jennifer	Taylor	Austin	TX
Guy & Eileen	Thompson	Austin	TX
Jerri	Thompson	Springtown	TX
Andy	Tirpak	Galveston	TX
Rosi	Tolar	Austin	TX
Susan	Torrance	Austin	TX
Dean	Tully	Austin	TX
Dale S.	Turner	Tucson	AZ
Craig	Vanbebber	N. Richland Hills	TX
Daniel & Nancy	Veselka	Lokena	TX
Frank J	Vogel	Riverside	CA
Will	Wagner	Victoria	TX
Mignonne	Walker	La Canada	CA
Woody	Walker	La Canada	CA
Dr Steven	Wallis	Apple Valley	CA
Lark Hughes	Waters	San Antonio	TX
June Rayfield	Welch	Irving	TX
Dr David R	Wheeler	Boston	MA
Robert	Whitacre	Katy	TX
Rob	White	San Antonio	TX
Marsha A.	Whitener-Valdez	San Antonio	TX
Martin J.	Whiting	Austin	TX
Debra A.	Wilburn	Denton	TX
Alan	Winter	Fort Worth	TX
Larry	Wisdom	Dallas	TX
Russell E.	Womack	Lubbock	TX
Bill	Woodley	Fayetteville	AR
Hal	Wylie	Austin	TX
Susan	Wynne	Arlington	TX
Danny Roy	Young	Austin	TX
Kelly R.	Zamudio	Seattle	WA
A. B.	Zankas	Orange Grove	TX

Membership Directory

concluded

IT'S COMING!



**SECOND
ANNUAL
CONFERENCE
ON HORNED
LIZARDS**

**June 1, 1994
San Diego, California
San Diego Zoo**

CALL FOR PAPERS

Submit your abstract of 200 words or less on any topic relating to *Phrynosoma* conservation, population recovery or management to the address below.

PRE-REGISTER NOW!

Pre-registration is \$17.50 /person and must be received by May 25.
Registration after May 25 is \$25. Luncheon is included.
Make your check out to " HLCS—SCC" and mail to the address in the box .

Mail abstracts or pre-registrations to:

**Lester Milroy III
HLCS — So. Cal. Chapter
16377 Rancherias Rd.
Apple Valley, CA 92307**

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

I'm really looking forward to our Second Annual Conference! I've checked the mailing label on my newsletter to see if it is time to renew my membership. I've enclosed my check for pre-registration registration membership renewal for a total of _____. See you in sunny California!

See back page of newsletter for information on membership categories.

Fold

FROM:

*PLACE
FIRST
CLASS
STAMP
HERE*



*HLCS — So. Cal. Chapter
Lester Milroy III, President
16377 Rancherias Rd.
Apple Valley, CA 92307*

Fold



Nomination Form for National Board of Directors

The Nominations/Elections Committee, as directed by the Bylaws, is requesting nominations for Board of Director offices of the HLCS. The term of office is two years. Candidates for office must be dues-paying [i.e. regular, student, or contributing member] voting members of the HLCS and be willing to serve in the office. The Nominations Committee will contact the nominees to confirm their willingness to serve and to obtain information for the ballot. You may nominate yourself for any position.

If you wish to serve on a committee, just drop us a note.

Fold this sheet of paper so the address on the other side is showing, staple and stamp it by March 1, 1994.

For PRESIDENT I nominate

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone No.'s: _____

Presides at all meetings of the general membership and Board of Directors, and supervises the management of the HLCS.

For VICE-PRESIDENT OF RESEARCH AND RECOVERY I nominate

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone No.'s: _____

Serves as First Vice-President; chairs and directs the activities of the Research and Recovery Committee

For VICE-PRESIDENT OF EDUCATION I nominate

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone No.'s: _____

Chairs and directs the activities of the Education Committee for development of educational materials for adults and youths

For VICE-PRESIDENT OF MEMBERSHIP SERVICES I nominate

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone No.'s: _____

Chairs the Membership Service Committee, which is responsible for membership records, mailing labels and other membership services.

For VICE-PRESIDENT OF MARKETING AND PUBLICITY I nominate

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone No.'s: _____

Chairs the Marketing/Publicity Committee, which organizes membership drives, sales, and reviews HLCS publications.

For SECRETARY I Nominate

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone No.'s: _____

Responsible for HLCS corporate records, and keeps minutes of all general membership and Board meetings.

For TREASURER I nominate

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone No.'s: _____

Responsible for all financial records, assists with the annual budget, sits on the Fund-raising Committee.

Fold

FROM:

*PLACE
FIRST
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**P.O. BOX 122
AUSTIN, TX 78767**

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Letters from Home

Dear HLCS:

I am interested in your society and would like some information on becoming a member. I find this genus of Iguanidae extremely interesting and hope that all species will flourish in this trying time of pollution and habitat destruction.

Over (-collection) or any collection (of some species) is also a problem. I have not seen any species, in Ohio, for sale in the pet trade for some time and am glad of it. Most of the people obtaining horned "toads" as pets are not aware of the requirements that must be met by these specialized lizards. Thank you for your time.

James G. Stran, Youngstown, Ohio



Dear HLCS:

I recently purchased a book "O Ye Legendary Texas Horned Frog" by June Rayfield Welch.... On page 2 he mentions the Horned Lizard Conservation Society, so he is aware of your work in this area.

However, on page 15 he details how to care for Horned Lizards as a pet. This seems to say it's fine to keep them as pets.

Don and I were in Katy, outside of Houston, and talked to our grandson's classes [1st & 5th grade] about horny toads. Some had seen some recently around where they live, a few had never seen one. Horned toads are fascinating!

Thank you, , Mrs. D.G. (Joann) Merrit, Midland, TX



Dear HLCS:

I took pictures of a horned toad I saw outside my home at Odell Texas in the northern part of Wilbarger County near the Red River this past July 28, 1993.

We used to see more of them... they don't dart around as fast as a chameleon. I also saw a small coal black lizard by my door last summer. And I hear of someone plowing and seeing an orange-black gila monster....They got off the tractor to take a closer look at this "strange thing" and it ran towards them. Needless to say they jumped back onto the tractor.

Wanda Wright, Odell, TX



Dear HLCS:

About 70 years ago someone released Texas Horned Toad [OK, Lizard] — I believe that is the species — onto the wide beach dunes of Isle of Palms in South Carolina. I've seen one running around myself [before Hurricane Hugo] after years of hearing about them. It seems someone told me they saw one since Hugo.

Corry E. Mason, Cola, South Carolina



Editor's Note: Thanks for your education work on behalf of horned toads! And thanks for alerting us to the pet issue. You are right to be concerned. With the Texas Horned Lizard on the state threatened list, we certainly don't need more "toads" taken out of the breeding populations to languish as someone's pet. The author greatly underestimates the survival needs of a horned lizard in captivity. The mortality rate is high even for the experts. We have written to the author about this issue and requested correction in the next printing and an erratum for the current version.

Greetings
Phry'no'so'maniacs!

I've finally tracked down HLCS with the help of Wall St. Journal reporter, Robert Johnson (July 8 story), and Wendy Donaldson, with whom he connected me. Wendy supplied me with a newsletter and "Facts About Horned Lizards" along with a friendly informative letter.

I grew up with Horny Toads (*P. coronatum*) in San Diego and have

Letters from Home

always considered them my totem. As an artist — photography and mixed media — I would like to dedicate more of my energy to Horny Toads and their survival. I hope to collect info and visual aids through HLCS to help me in this direction. I'm really excited to find HLCS and give new meaning to a part of my life, and work, that has been largely unexpressed up to this point in time.

Phry'no'so'ma tic ally, Leen Edwards, Portland, OR



Dear Friends:

I am pleased to enclose a money order to the Horned Lizard Conservation Society in the amount of \$250.00. This represents a contribution from the Texas Breakfast Club, a very informal organization of native-born, naturalized, and aspiring Texans here in the Phoenix area that meets once a month — for breakfast, logically enough — at Lone Star Steaks. We have designated the HLCS as our Official Philanthropy, and this \$250 is the first of what we intend to be on-going support of the Society.

If any of your members are ever in the Phoenix area, they would be welcome to attend one of our meetings — first Thursday of every month at 7:30 am....

If there are other things which we can do to assist and advance the fine work of the Society, please let us know.

P.S. We were delighted to note the Wall Street Journal article of July 8, '93 which featured the Society.

FOR THE TEXAS BREAKFAST CLUB, David Bolger, Propaganda Bubba Scottsdale, AZ



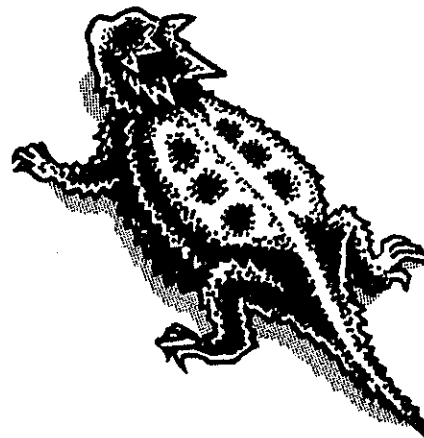
Editor's Note: HLCS is deeply grateful for the contribution. We thank the TEXAS BREAKFAST CLUB from the bottom of our hearts. The CLUB was not properly notified of our receipt of the check for quite some time: we have revamped our Post Office Box procedures since then. Our thanks to all of you who write us.

Dear HLCS:

While on our way back to Houston from Big Bend National Park on August 3, 1993, we stopped off at Seminole Canyon State Park. We went for a couple of short hikes and on one of the wildlife trails we saw an infant Horned Lizard! It was about an inch long. It was really a sight to see. When I was a boy I saw them all the time in Northeast Texas, but it's been probably thirty years since I have seen one. The first time for my two sons. We didn't touch the little horned lizard, but watched it for a few minutes until it ran off in the grass. We looked but didn't see any more. Just thought I would let you know when and where we saw a horned lizard. I saw the article in the Texas Parks and Wildlife magazine about the Horned Lizard. I thought there was a telephone number to call a wildlife biologist but I have since lost that particular issue. Thanks very much. I hope the Texas Horned Lizard survives. Maybe it will through our efforts.



Frank Holmes, Alief, TX



Dear HLCS:

(I believe the application of commonly used pesticides) was directly responsible for the disappearance of the Horny Toad in San Antonio and surrounding area in the 1960's. I have no litigated proof of this except for what I saw with my own eyes. Between the ages of 7 and 10 years old I had all the horney toads I wanted to play with. They ate the giant red [harvester] ants indigenous to south San Antonio. We kept them same wild horned toads for a couple of weeks every year, then we would let them go....

One day I noticed a product produced by Green Light Co. around the ant bed in the alley. [Perhaps they were] spread by the city? The horney toads completely disappeared within the next couple of years. I don't know the name of the ant killer but it smelled like Chlordane, [now a] banned chemical, and it looked like [small round] seeds covered with a green wash.

I also worked for Green Light Company in the 1970's [1974, 1975, 1977]. I was a team leader for a line that packed sevin dust and chlordane dust faster than any other team. I got a \$.50 raise for that. I lost the sensation at the tip of my tongue for packing chlordane, sevin dust, rat poison, insecticides of all kinds. (I think) it was either the sevin dust or the

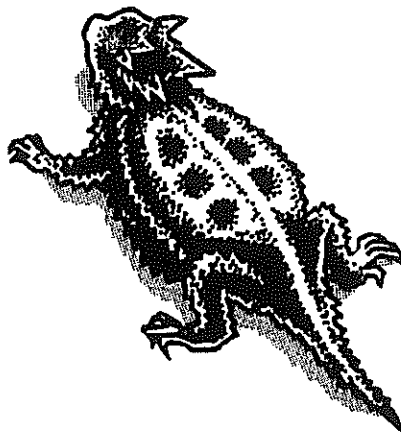
chlordane that got to me....

I have personally boycotted Green Light Co. products ever since the disappearance of the horney toad and the big red ants. I finally got the sensation back in my tongue about 5 years ago [20 years after exposure!]

The above statement is correct and true to the best of my ability.



Debbie L. Cantu, Austin, TX



Dear HLCS [via the James Avery Craftsman, Co.]:

I don't know whose idea it was to create the little horned toad paperweight, but it struck a chord in my heart.

Years ago when my son was small he used to catch them and we would hold them in our hands. they would puff themselves up (to look larger) looking much like tiny dragons.

He is 63 now. The horned toads seem to have diapered along with the beautiful wildflowers and short-cut paths through vacant lots (they're all built on now). I'm enclosing a poem I wrote about all this some years ago.

I've just ordered one of the horned toads for him, hoping it will remind him of those times long ago, and one for me because I do remember.

Mrs. Homer Martin, La Canada, California



Editor's Note:
Phrynosomatics printed Mrs. Martin's poem in our last issue.

Letters from Home

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