

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.

Volume 11, Issue No. 2

May 2006

Surveys for the Texas Horned Lizard in Central and North Texas – Looking for volunteers

By Jack Goldfarb

We have just begun a long term study of the Texas horned lizard, *Phrynosoma cornutum*, and the second field season is just beginning. The majority of our work last year focused on a single site, the Beach Ranch in Garza County. This private ranch has a large population of horned lizards and we used it as a training ground for conducting horned lizard surveys and to standardize our methods for the coming years.

For this coming field season, intensive surveys will be conducted on all other sites throughout Texas, particularly the Army National Guard lands. The National Guard lands that we will be surveying occur in Brown, Lamar, Bastrop, Parker, and Palo Pinto

counties in Texas. For these surveys, we need additional volunteers to help find horned lizards in these areas. The more man-power we have, the more success we are likely to have in finding a significant number of lizards.



*Radio-collared Texas horned lizard.
Taken by Jack Goldfarb*

If you are interested in helping us find horned lizards, please contact me for dates, times, and more detailed information of what we'll be doing. Since these surveys will be conducted on National Guard lands, you will have access to areas that you wouldn't have otherwise and there will be plenty of time for photo-ops.

The preliminary analysis of the first year data has been completed and we've found some interesting results. We outfitted lizards with radio-transmitters, and followed them to determine movement

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Upcoming Events

Oklahoma Survey
Black Mesa Area
May - August, 2006

Surveys in Texas
Brown County.
May 20, 2006

Comstock Area
June 24, 2006

Matagorda Island
July 29-30, 2006

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and activity patterns. We've found that the home ranges of the horned lizards at the Beach Ranch are very small (0.5 – 1.5 hectares) and the farthest movements occurred during the spring.

The lizards were most active when temperatures were above 34°C and many lizards were observed basking on the roads when temperatures were well over 40°C. They ceased all movements and entered hibernation by the last week of August, even though high temperatures ranged from 31 – 34°C.

It has been thought that with increasing latitude the body size of Texas horned lizards would decrease. Individuals in this study, however, were found to be quite large and robust despite being in the northern part of their range. This indicates that there is con-

siderable variation between populations of Texas horned lizards, and this will in turn have conservation and land management implications.

The coming field seasons should prove to be very exciting and will continue to shed light on these fascinating lizards. I hope to see you in the field!

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www.hornedlizards.org

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.

The First Ever Horny Toad Artfest, A Success!

By Bill Brooks

Have you ever been in a room with 300 horny toads? No, this isn't the first line of a bad joke. This is how many horny toads on art pieces we had in the lovely Ray Benson Room of the Wild Basin Preserve, Austin, Texas, last February 4th. Twenty-two Texas artists brought 32 pieces of art to be judged. There was a great mix of media represented.

We had oils, watercolors, woodcarvings, bronzes, quilts, photos, etchings, and wood-burned gourds. Local Austin artists supported the show and they were joined by other Texas artists from Keller, Fort Worth, Marble Falls, Wimberley, Dallas, Alpine, Elgin, and Granbury.

This show was so much more

than just an art competition. Bette Armstrong brought 75 objects d'art from her collection. Bill Brooks brought about 30 of his horned lizards t-shirts. Wendy and Scott Messec, Joyce Snodgrass, Bob and Kathleen Brooks, and Wade Phelps brought even more horned lizard objects for the display. Jill Parrish and Ken Yaser brought their 5 foot long metal horned lizard aptly named "Spike" just to let the crowd "ooh" and "ah" over it.

Our artists had cookie cutters, foam horned lizards, gourds, bronzes, paintings and ceramics for sale. The gleeful crowd bought hundreds of dollars worth of t-shirts, caps, jewelry, and books from the Texas HLCS sales booth. Wade Sherbrooke signed 30 of his books and rushed them via UPS for

the society to sell and to use as art show prizes.

The HLCS was well represented with a talented bunch of artists. Ruthann Panipinto entered a drawing and a photograph. Bette Armstrong entered a fabric horned lizard and a wonderful horny toad made from 63 buttons. Carolyn Todd entered two oil paintings, a Cornutum with the RE Nebula and a Hernandezi with the NGC2787 Galaxy, part of a series Carolyn paints of endangered and threatened animals in space. Joyce Roach entered a drawing and got her grandkids, Trey and Hollyanne to enter drawings, too.

The show also highlighted three outstanding featured artists. Tom McCain mailed us a large collection of his lost wax, pewter, and hand painted horned



From left to right: Bill Brooks (the event coordinator), Bette Armstrong, and Susan Cranshaw at the Art Show. Susan's quilt at the right won second place in the Professional category and the People's Choice Award.

From left to right:
Jill Parrish and
Kenan Yaser
brought this metal
horned lizard to
the show. It was
made by artist
Marc Rankin and
is owned by Jill.



lizards for his special featured artist exhibit. He really wanted to be at the show, but unfortunately he was working his booth at the Fort Worth rodeo.

Bill Brooks brought a collection of posters and t-shirts by long time member and wonderful Californian nature artist, Mary Hawley.

Joyce Roach set up an exhibit featuring drawings by the late Charles Shaw, who illustrated Joyce's *Horned Toad Canyon* and James Michener's *Texas*, among other things.

Probably no one at the show had a tougher job than our distinguished panel of judges. On the panel, assigned with the daunting task of picking the top three pieces in three categories (youth, amateur, and professional), were Wyndell Faulk, Austin free lance computer artist; Patsy Harper, Native American expert and beader;

Kathleen Brooks, art teacher and painter; and Austin's treasure, Jean Andrews, the Pepper Lady, author and artist.

I don't know how they did it, but our judges finally narrowed the art down to nine winners, the top 3 in each of the three categories. Michael Burkes' picture of a horned toad shooting blood received a third place in the youth category. Chloe Mear's colorful painting of a horny toad with a twister got the second prize. Trey Roach received the first prize, youth division, for his colored pencil drawing of a horned lizard on a rock.

In the amateur division, Polly Orr's acrylic horned lizard on masonite got the third prize. Second prize went to our own Ruthann Panipinto for her pen and ink drawing of a TX horned lizard head. (You can see a copy on the cover of our "Facts about Horned Lizards" flyer.) First prize went to Jim

Clark who carved a wooden horny toad footstool. The third place in the professional division went to Bill Montgomery for his horned lizard etching. The judges had a really hard time deciding the first and second professional prizes. Finally they chose Susan Cranshaw's quilt as the second place winner. (Susan also won the people's choice award.) The grand prize-winner was an out-of-this world bronze horned lizard sculpted by Doug Pogue.

Our congratulations go out to all the prize-winning artists. These were judged as the top nine, but all of the art was top notch. I wish we had awards for everyone.

So many volunteers did so much to make this show the success it was. No doubt I will leave someone out. To those I have forgotten to mention, I apologize, but there are a few who deserve special note.

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Thanks go out to Ruthann Panipinto who assembled the wonderful show posters (that are works of art themselves.)

Thank you, Bette Armstrong for bringing so much of your extensive horned toad art collection and for the donation of one of your large fabric horned lizards for the people's choice award.

Jim Armstrong, thank you for all the fine photos. Thanks go out to artist Kathy Blossom who brought her 100 piece ceramic horned lizard wall art piece and to her husband, Stan, who helped with so many things. (Kathy and I first put together the idea of this Horny Toad Art Show.)

photos and for bringing down your laptop and a small printer to knock out our nametags.

Thank you, Shan Maika and Carol Macnaughton for putting on the Old Rip costume and waving at the cars on Loop 360.

Thanks to Vernon Berger for helping get the pegboard over to the storage shed Sunday.

Thank you to Wade Phelps for driving up from Kenedy to bring the Old Rip costume and a Kenedy stone horned lizard for display.

Thank you, Michelle Belden for tallying up the people's choice votes. Thanks to all of you who did time at the door and the

HLCS sales booth.

Thank you, Kelly German for the horny toad cookies. They didn't last long. Thank you, Joyce Roach for the chicken.

Huge thanks go out to the Wild Basin staff for providing help and the gallery free of charge.

Finally, a major thank you to all those who stuck around after the show Sunday and cleaned up the Wild Basin Center. There were so many of you, and you did such a great job, that I got to get home in time to watch the last half of the Super Bowl. What a great weekend!



Thank you Bob Brooks, for the

Find the Differences.



Mexican Plateau Horned lizard
Taken by Lee Ann Linam



Texas Horned Lizard
Taken by Jack Goldfarb

Differences found.

Scenes from the First Ever Horned Lizard Artfest



All photos on this page taken by Jim Armstrong



Bette Armstrong Takes a Break...

by Bill Brooks

Most of you know Bette Armstrong, the unstoppable hero of Eastland's Old Rip Festival. (For those of you who don't know her see page 76 in John Kelso's book, Texas Curiosities.)

Bette made the Old Rip costume and took the lead in the Old Rip parades, waving to the crowd and thrilling the kids. After she joined the Horned Lizard Conservation Society, she and her husband Jim, were forces to be reckoned with.

Bette volunteered for the hugely important Membership Chair

and performed the duties flawlessly for many years, reminding each and every one of us to pay our dues with the postcards she designed.

We were thrilled with her craft designs: her fabric horned lizards, her horny toad soap, and lovely copper cookie cutter. Her foam horned lizards and bookmarks are cherished reminders to kids (of all ages) who were lucky enough to get one at our horned lizard presentations. Bette cut each of these out by hand, making hundreds (if not thousands) of these before finally purchasing a machine which would punch out these foam

horned lizards.

Bette and Jim tirelessly supported numerous HLCS events and meetings. When Roger Repp retired as the National Treasurer, Bette was convinced to step forward and take over these duties.

Bette, the HLCS is so grateful for all you have done for us. We wish you continued success in all your endeavors. Cherish your time with your grandson and I hope you catch the Lake Granbury Granddaddy Catfish you are always casting for. If anyone can get 'em, you can. See you around my friend.



WANTED: Candidates for National Office

Nominations are being sought for the national offices of President, President-elect, and Secretary/Treasurer. Members of HLCS may submit their own name or names of others to run for these offices. (Insert provided.)

Duties of the President - The President supervises the business and affairs of the organization and is responsible for presiding over meetings of the National Board of Directors (NBOD), which includes representatives from each state chapter. The President signs contracts or other documents officially representing HLCS; oversees many other activities of the organization, including publication of the newsletter, other

publicity which includes the webpage; membership services; conservation activities, such as support of research and preparation of position statements; educational activities; and budgeting and fund-raising. He/she is authorized to appoint chairmen to oversee such committees with the assistance of the President-Elect and the approval of the NBOD. Many of these responsibilities may be accomplished through emails and phone calls. Meetings with committee chairs and NBOD may be required a few times per year.

Duties of the President Elect - The President-Elect shall serve in the absence of the President or in the event of the incapacity

or resignation of the President. The President-Elect shall help plan and recruit committees and plan and execute the biennial national meeting. The President-Elect becomes the President at the end of a two-year term.

Duties of the Secretary/Treasurer - The Secretary/Treasurer shall be responsible for Corporate records, keep the minutes of all general membership and NBOD meetings, and provide assistance to the President and the NBOD. The Secretary/Treasurer shall receive and deposit funds of the HLCS, advise the NBOD in preparation of an annual budget, be responsible for all financial records, provide the

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Survey Volunteers Needed in Oklahoma!

A Herpetological Survey of the Black Mesa Ecoregion and Surrounding Area with an Emphasis on the Texas and Roundtail Horned Lizards, *Phrynosoma cornutum* and *Phrynosoma modestum*

by Richard Stark

Oklahoma State University is conducting an intensive three-year survey (2005 – 2007) of the herpetofauna of the Black Mesa area of Oklahoma, with an emphasis on the Texas and roundtail horned lizards, *Phrynosoma cornutum* and *Phrynosoma modestum*. The study is funded by a State Wildlife Grant provided by the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation and a Conservation Grant provided by the Horned Lizard Conservation Society.

The Black Mesa ecoregion occurs in the western panhandle of Oklahoma. It is the coolest and driest region of the state and is characterized by flat-topped sandstone mesas capped with black, basaltic lava. The highest point in the state is found there.

The herpetofauna of the Black Mesa ecoregion is not well known and is in need of study. Additionally, a disjunct population of the roundtail horned lizard at Black Mesa in Oklahoma is known from only two museum records (Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History) and two verified sight records (Oklahoma Natural Heritage Inventory). The most recent record is from 1990.

During the winter and spring of 2005, the research team initiated setup of drift fences with pitfall and funnel traps. Surveys of reptiles and amphibians in the Black Mesa ecoregion and surrounding area occurred over the summer utilizing the drift fences with pitfall and funnel traps, systematic visual sampling, road cruising, nocturnal surveys at amphibian breeding sites, and opportunistic encounters of reptiles and amphibians. The researchers counted a total of 258 reptiles and amphibians, including 44 Texas horned lizards but no roundtail horned lizards.

They are currently analyzing

the data collected in summer 2005 and are organizing data into categories, such as the number of individuals caught in each method used and of each species. They also are ordering supplies for the 2006 field season, including small radio transmitters to delineate movements and habitat use of the Texas horned lizard.

The study team is currently looking for volunteers to help out with this survey effort during the 2006 field season. The 2006 field season will occur between May – August. If interested, please contact Tim Periard (e-mail: timothy.periard@ok-state.edu) for more information.



Female Texas Horned Lizard
Taken by Jack Goldfarb



Oklahoma Chapter News

The Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation is looking for amateur biologists to join their Wildlife Diversity Research Team

The Texas Horned Lizard is familiar to most Oklahomans, yet there are many unanswered questions about its distribution and biology in Oklahoma.

The Wildlife Diversity Program

of the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC) is seeking data on the distribution and habitat associations of this species within Oklahoma.

Members of the HLCS and other wildlife enthusiasts could make significant contributions towards this important survey effort.

If you see a Texas horned lizard

in Oklahoma, please take a few minutes to record your observations on the survey form provided by the ODWC (<http://www.wildlifedepartment.com/texas.htm>) and return it to:

Wildlife Diversity Program
PO BOX 53465
Oklahoma City, OK 73152



Texas Chapter News

2006 Horned Lizard Surveys-- Mark your Calendars!

May 20--Brown County -

A private landowner near Brownwood is interested in our assistance in conducting horned lizard surveys on his property on Saturday. If you're interested in helping out please RSVP to Lee Ann Linam (lalinam@wimberley-tx.com or 512-847-9480) for more information.

June 24 - Comstock area

The Shumla Archaeological School has invited us to return and conduct surveys for Round-tail Horned Lizards and Texas Horned Lizards on Saturday morning. On Saturday afternoon we will have the option to visit some of the local rock art, including the famous White Shaman. Free camping is available at the Shumla School site. Please contact Ruthann Panip-

into (artgecko20@austin.rr.com) if you would like to attend.

July 29-30 - Matagorda Island

We will assist Aransas National Wildlife Refuge in assessing habitat use by horned lizards on the island. We'll have a unique opportunity to visit and stay overnight (in an air-conditioned facility!) on this undeveloped barrier island. Space may be limited. Please RSVP to Lee Ann Linam (lalinam@wimberley-tx.com or 512-847-9480).

Jack Goldfarb, a graduate student at Texas Tech University, is looking for assistance with field survey work this season. See the article titled, "Surveys for the Texas Horned Lizard in Central and North Texas - Looking for volunteers!" for more information.

Get Involved in Your Chapter!

Have you been looking for a special way to contribute to HLCS? We are still looking for committee chairs to help us stay active in the following areas:

Field Surveys Coordinator - to organize field surveys and manage data

Outreach Coordinator - to improve our educational materials and organize our participation in outreach events

Merchandise Coordinator - to inventory and maintain our merchandise used for fund-raising

We can only continue these important functions if chapter members are available to organize them. Please contact Lee Ann Linam (lalinam@wimberley-tx.com or 512-847-9480) if you can help.



HLCS National News

Message from the (Interim) President

By Lee Ann Linam

I'd like to start this message with a big thank-you to two very special ladies who have served our organization for a long time. First of all, as I place this Interim President hat on my head, I'd like to say thank you to our outgoing president, Wendy Hodges. I've known Wendy for many years, and, for all those years, she has been a student of and an advocate for horned lizards. She's a unique blend of talented scientist and genuine enthusiast. HLCS is fortunate to have benefited from her devoted service for so many years, and I've learned many things from her.

Secondly, thank you to the original "Horned Toad Lady," Bette Armstrong. After serving HLCS for many years in many capacities (most recently as Membership Chair and Interim Treasurer) Bette has asked to step down from those positions. Bette has done so much for the Society and for horned lizards in general, especially in preserving the history and traditions in Eastland, home of Ol'

Rip. She's a unique lady, and I'm sure her creative genius and inspirational influence will continue to benefit HLCS for many years to come. Wendy and Bette deserve a chance to move on to new tasks and challenges--I'm simply grateful for the foundation that they and others have laid for our Society.

Now we have some building to do on that foundation. HLCS has not had a full slate of officers for several years now, and we desperately need to fill vacant positions and develop leadership for the future if we are to remain effective. Attached in this newsletter is a submission form for you to suggest the names of individuals that you would like to nominate for the national offices of President, President-elect, and Secretary-Treasurer.

And should you need inspiration about what the future of HLCS could hold, please read Bill Brook's article about the recent Horned Lizard Artfest. The idea of this event had been growing in Bill's mind for several years, and the two-day show held in Austin in February was

a huge success. Thanks to Bill for dreaming and creating this event to celebrate horned lizards--just one of his many good ideas...

The art show was just one more illustration that HLCS is all about pulling together people who love horned lizards and translating that love into conservation action. I recently was fortunate to attend a North American Crane Conference in Zcatecas, Mexico. It was just before Valentine's Day and during our field trip to a local mountain range, I kept hoping, against the odds of the mid-winter season, that we might glimpse a horned lizard. And then there she was--a beautiful basking adult female Mexican Plateau Horned Lizard (*Phrynosoma orbiculare*). And before I knew it, I was telling a crowd of crane biologists about diversity in *Phrynosoma* and blood-shooting and viviparity in montane species and...well, I think I was going on and on... but it was all for the love of a species (or genus) and sharing that appreciation. Let's consider what we all can do to carry that message.



Candidates for National Offices - continued from page 8

NBOD and the membership with written financial reports, including an annual report, and sit on the Fund Raising Committee.

Elected officers serve for two years (except President-Elect, who will serve a total of four).

If you have a vision and desire to help HLCS move forward in its goals to further the conservation of horned lizards (or you know someone who does), please use the insert provided. If you would like more information on what these offices entail,

please contact past Presidents, Bill Brooks (512-581-0377 or bgbrooks@mail.utexas.edu) or Wendy Hodges (432- 552-3265 or hodges_w@utpb.edu). Formal descriptions of the positions are in the HLCS by-laws (<http://www.hornedlizards.org/about/BYLAWS2003.pdf>).





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