

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 17, Issue No. 3

AUGUST 2012

## Become a Horned Lizard Leader!

*by Danny Martin*

HLCS is currently seeking nominations for 2-year terms for the 2013-2014 Board. The following positions will be available: President-elect, Secretary, Treasurer, Member Services, and Director-at-Large. Members who are interested can nominate themselves – if you nominate someone else please get their permission before nominating them.

Please provide a brief (up to 6 sentences) biography describing any interest/expertise in leadership and/or horned lizard conservation efforts. Board members are expected to be available for correspondence via e-mail, occasional conference calls or in-person meetings. In addition

to the specific duties mentioned above, board members are expected to participate in at least two board meetings per year, one of which shall

be in person and one of which can be conducted remotely. HLCS can opt to provide travel funds to board members to attend meetings.

This slate of officers should take office in early 2013 and will serve for two years. The President-elect then shall hold the office of president for two additional years.



*"I wish I could volunteer to be an officer in the Society. Maybe when I grow up, I can. And what a great newsletter too!"*

Please submit nominations (with biographies) to president-elect David Wojnowski: David.Wojnowski@unt.edu Nominations/volunteers must be received by September 15, 2012.

*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, and when so acting, shall have all the powers of and be subject to all the restrictions upon the President. The President-Elect shall 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.

### Upcoming Events

**Horned Lizard Release Site**

Parker County • September 8, 2012

**Lonesome Dove Fest**

Karnes City, TX • September 22, 2012

**Old Rip Festival**

Eastland, TX • October 6, 2012

**Business Meeting with Movie**

Wimberly, TX • October 13, 2012

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*on the web at — [www.hornedlizards.org](http://www.hornedlizards.org)*

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**[info@hornedlizards.org](mailto:info@hornedlizards.org)**

**Secretary** - The Secretary shall be responsible for Corporate records, keep the minutes of all general membership and BOD meetings, and in general perform all duties incident to the office of Secretary and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned by the President or the BOD. The Secretary shall also be responsible for cataloguing and maintaining the supply of all publications of the Corporation and responding to requests for information from the membership and general public.

**Treasurer** - The Treasurer shall be responsible for all funds and securities of the Corporation; receive and give receipts for moneys due and payable to the Corporation from any source; and deposit all such moneys in the name of the Corporation in such banks, trust companies, or other depositories as shall be elected by the BOD. The

Treasurer shall advise the BOD in preparation of an annual budget, be responsible for all financial records, and provide the BOD and the membership with written financial reports, including an annual report, sit on the Fund-Raising Committee, and in general perform all duties incident to the office of Treasurer and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned by the President or the Board of Directors.

**Director-at-large** - The Director-at-Large shall be responsible for development of special projects as assigned by the Board, particularly related to integration of scientific knowledge and conservation issues – this position has been filled by a professional biologist/ecologist in the past. Whenever possible, nominees for this position should be drawn from states not otherwise represented on the BOD.

HLCS is also looking for volunteers for the Member Services Officer. This is not an elected position but is an appointed one. Here is the description as documented in the bylaws: "The Member Services Officer shall see that all notices are duly given in accordance with the provisions of these Bylaws or as required by law, oversee the membership records and provide the membership with reports as may be requested by the BOD. The Member Services Officer shall serve as chair of the Member Services Committee and act as liaison between the BOD and any other standing or special Committees assigned to him or her, and perform such other duties as from time to time may be assigned by the President or the BOD." If you are interested in this position, contact Jill Heatley at JHeatley@cvm.tamu.edu.



## Horned Lizard Research Grant 2013 Applications

By Danny Martin

The Horned Lizard Conservation Society is dedicated to protecting horned lizards by documenting and publicizing the values and conservation needs of horned lizards, promoting horned lizard conservation projects, and assisting with horned lizard management initiatives. Towards those ends, the HLCS annually sponsors research that has direct conservation applications. To learn more about the

society and past grants, go to <http://www.hornedlizards.org/>.

We will be offering grants again in 2013. In the past, priority has been given to projects that have direct conservation implications, including public education.

To apply, send a proposal detailing the goal of the study, the rationale for it including relevance to conservation of horned lizards, and how your work would benefit from this

opportunity. The proposal may not exceed 1000 words, excluding up to ten references. Also include a preliminary budget with any other funding sources available or received for your project. In addition, send a short resume or CV (up to 3 pages) for the lead applicant and have a single letter of reference sent to David Wojnowski: David.Wojnowski@unt.edu. The deadline is January 1, 2013. The decision will be announced by January 31, 2013.





# 2012 HLCS Grants Awarded

By Danny Martin

*Grant Review Committee:* Danny Martin and Dr. Tom Mathies

Grants are perhaps one of the best ways that the HLCS can actively contribute to our understanding of horned lizard ecology, thus improving future conservation efforts! This year the HLCS was able to award three small grants for research projects. All three grant proposals we received were ranked by the Review Committee based on their expected contribution to our understanding of horned lizard ecology and conservation, expected population(s) to benefit from the project, and direct public education efforts. Following is a brief description of each project, and we will publish updates of each project in future issues.

Reilly Dibner, University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming.

*"How do ants, plants, and soil make horned lizards feel at home?"*

Reilly's project investigates the importance of several environmental factors for distributions and abundance of short-horned lizards in Wyoming. This project is expected to help determine how short-horned lizards are impacted by variation in availability of food (ants), habitat (e.g., soil), and other environmental factors thought to be important to short-horned lizards. Little is known about short-horned lizard ecology in Wyoming and this project should contribute substantially to our understanding of factors that limit the species' range. Results of the project should further enable land managers to improve future conservation efforts for the species, as well as identify environmental characteristics that may drive distributions of horned lizard species.

Megan Lahti, Arizona Western College, Yuma, Arizona.

*"The status of dwarfed populations of short-horned lizards... in the San Luis Valley, Colorado"*

Megan's project builds upon her Ph.D. research

that investigates the population genetics of a dwarfed population of short-horned lizards in the San Luis Valley of south-central Colorado. Habitat loss and fragmentation is a key issue for lizards in the San Luis Valley. Individuals in the population have long been known to be smaller in size (by about 30%) than those from populations outside of the high mountain valley and this project is attempting to clarify the genetic significance of this population. For example, results may find that this population is genetically different enough from other populations to constitute subspecific status or otherwise may warrant efforts to ensure persistence of this unique population into the future.

Jared Fuller, West Texas A&M University, Canyon, Texas.

*"Genetic diversity of a Texas horned lizard population in a managed thornbush habitat pre- and post-wildfire"*

Jared's project investigates the impact of wildfire on population genetics of the Texas horned lizard in a wildlife management area. The area was burned by a wildfire in 2008, and thus provides an important opportunity to investigate the potential genetic impacts caused by the wildfire. Expected findings should improve our understanding of how fire can impact the genetic diversity of Texas horned lizard populations at the local scale, especially in southern Texas brush habitat.



# Experimental Horned Lizard Release Site in Parker County

By Lee Ann Johnson Linam

## UNIQUE FIELD TRIP OPPORTUNITY – SEPTEMBER 8

For many years, horned lizard enthusiasts have longed for a way to “bring back the horny toad.” Many people have longed for reintroduction of horned lizards in the hopes of re-establishing a population, yet most efforts in that regard have failed.

On Saturday, September 8, HLCS will offer a chance to visit a site near Weatherford, Texas,

where the Fort Worth Zoo is conducting an experimental release of horned lizards. The zoo is utilizing soft release techniques to reintroduce subadult horned lizards onto a private property offering excellent habitat and potential for re-establishment. Since summer of 2011 approximately 20 horned lizards have been released at the site and followed using radio telemetry.

The Saturday morning field trip will include a presentation by zoo staff and the landowner about

the goals of the project and will include a chance to view the release pens and try to locate the released lizards.

Due to space constraints and a desire to control impacts, the field trip will be limited to the first 15 people to register. Priority will be given to HLCS members.

To register, please contact Lee Ann Linam at [leeann.linam@tpwd.state.tx.us](mailto:leeann.linam@tpwd.state.tx.us). Participants will be provided with directions and meeting times.



## Informal Board of Directors Meeting at McKinney Falls State Park

By Jill Heatley

An informal Board Meeting of the HLCS was held at McKinney Falls State Park on July 28, 2012 from noon - 3pm. Members included Carolyn Todd, Danny Martin, Amy Trost, David Wojnowski, Jill

Heatley, and Beth Bendik. Also attending were Leslie Nossaman and Wendy Hodges.

The executive director position search was tabled, for now, due to limited funding and cash flow. Instead, the board agreed that a redesign of the website and hiring of a webmaster would be prioritized. The treasurer reported that we are in reasonable financial standing, but low on many outreach items. In a split decision, 3 grants for this year's cycle will be funded in variable amounts. A specific policy for future grants will be written in the near future.

Board members will be actively recruiting for open positions. If you are interested in contributing to governance of the HLCS, please contact a board member. The biennial meeting will consist of a documentary on HLs. Please look for this opportunity to meet other horned lizard enthusiasts in the newsletter and in email announcements. Multiple sites for HL surveys by the group were discussed as well as a yearly rotating calendar. If you have a site that you would like HLCS to survey, please contact us. Also please look for a SAVE THE DATE calendar of events / activities scheduled for HLCS. We value your participation at these events.



Board members for HLCS in attendance from left to right: Jill Heatley, Carolyn Todd, Amy Trost, David Wojnowski, Beth Bendik, and Danny Martin.

# Member Highlight: Lee Ann Johnson Linam

*By Lee Ann Johnson Linam*

I think many of you may know me already. You know--the redhead who brings along her teenage kids, fisheries biologist husband, and quirky Mississippi mother on horned lizard field trips...and the one who pesters you to send in sightings for TPWD's Texas Horned Lizard Watch...

I guess you could say that chasing wild critters was "in my blood." My father worked for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and as a child I lived on several national wildlife refuges throughout the southeastern U.S., the last of which was Aransas National Wildlife Refuge, where my father was refuge manager for 13 years.

After graduation from Texas A&M in wildlife biology, I held several positions at Texas Parks and Wildlife, including serving as a wetlands biologist in Port Arthur working with waterfowl and alligators and as the Endangered Species Program coordinator in Austin. I also squeezed in a graduate degree in Environmental Studies at Monash University in Melbourne, Australia, along the way.

Unfortunately, all those experiences failed to bring me into contact with horned lizards. Horny toads were already very rare on the Texas coast by the time my family arrived at Aransas in the early 1970s; they



*Lee Ann on the HLCS field trip with a horned lizard at the Matador Wildlife Management Area. Taken by Abby Linam in May 2011.*

were never found in the marshes of southeast Texas; and my early years in Austin were filled with far too much bureaucracy and far too few field surveys.

Fortunately, that changed when I took a pay cut and a quality of life promotion as our children arrived. In 1996 I stepped down to begin my current position as a part-time biologist in the outreach branch of the Wildlife Diversity Program at TPWD. My goal, even at Texas A&M, was to combine the enjoyment of working in ecology with the important aspect of changing people's perceptions through education. My role as a biologist in the Texas Nature Trackers program ([www.tpwd.state.tx.us/trackers/](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/trackers/)) allows me to do just that.

My primary responsibility is to develop monitoring programs

for rare species around the state based on the concept of training volunteers to contribute needed data—a field often called “citizen science.”

We develop materials and teach workshops designed to get volunteers involved in monitoring amphibians, box turtles, freshwater mussels, hummingbirds, prairie dogs, bumblebees, and...horned lizards! In addition to the basic sighting and monitoring data on horned lizards collected through Texas Horned Lizard Watch ([www.tpwd.state.tx.us/hornedlizards/](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/hornedlizards/)), we've also expanded investigations to include collecting oral histories on their decline, working with local communities to increase awareness and conserve urban populations, examining genetic diversity, and now collaborating with the Fort Worth Zoo to look at experimental release techniques.

As Texas Horned Lizard Watch got off the ground I also started collaborating with HLCS, especially at venues such as TPWD Wildlife Expo. It didn't take Bill Brooks long to recruit me to run for HLCS office (though it did take me a while to say “yes”...). In 2004 his persuasion overcame me and I agreed to run for Texas Chapter president. I don't remember if Bill failed to mention that I was unopposed when he recruited me(!), so I soon found myself with a new title.



Then, in 2006, Wendy Hodges asked to step down from her long service as National President, and I agreed to take on that role as we transitioned away from a chapter structure. I was proud to hand the presidential reins over to Joyce Roach in 2008 and once again take a “demotion” to the fun job of serving as the field trips coordinator for HLCS, something that I’m still helping with today. As I look back at my service to HLCS, I’m proud to be among the ranks of folks like Bill Brooks, Wendy Hodges, Joyce Roach, Carolyn Todd, and others who have done so much for horned lizards over the years. Yet, I’m also excited to see our current set of officers and committee chairs representing new vision and enthusiasm for the future of HLCS. I think the public still loves horned lizards and HLCS still very much has a promising role in their future.

It’s a real blessing when work reflects what you love—reflected by the fact that our family’s hob-



Gordon, Lee Ann, Abby, and Frank Linam on the Matanuska Glacier, Alaska. Taken by Frank Linam (time-release) in July 2012.

bies include camping, hiking, hunting, scuba-diving, and travel and that we get to live in a rustic house in the hills of Wimberley. While home we enjoy training our golden retrievers, playing music, and serving others through our church—giving thanks for friends from places such as HLCS and the existence of wonderful creatures like horny toads...



## Calling All Horned Lizard Survey Ideas!

By Lee Ann Johnson 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 2012 and 2013. 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](mailto:leeann.linam@tpwd.state.tx.us)) to help HLCS offer some great opportunities to its members.

Watch for details in upcoming newsletters.



**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.

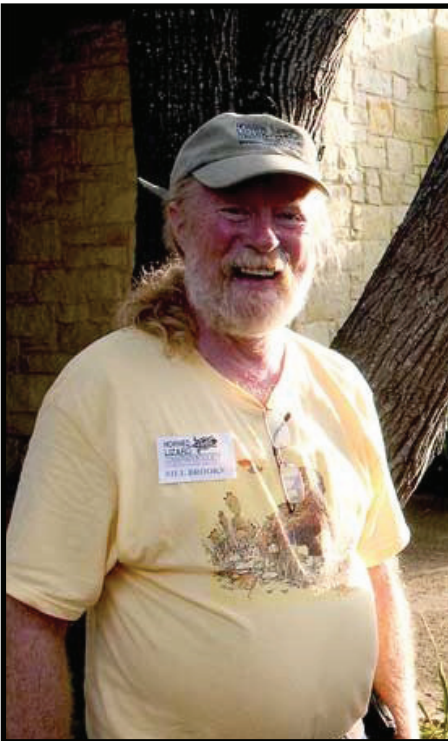
# Nature Night at the Lady Bird Wildflower Center in Austin, Texas

By Bill Brooks

The Lady Bird Wildflower Center in Austin hosted another of their wildly popular, free Nature Nights on July 26th, 2012. This night was all about snakes. The center has had other programs on raptors and bats.

Tonight, Dr. Travis LaDuc of the Texas Natural Science Center on the UT campus, gave two programs. Travis is a great speaker. If you ever get a chance to hear him, do!

Tim Cole had his large collection of reptiles on display. The HLCS had a table. We weren't a major player on this evening but we were busy from 6pm until 9pm. Luck-



Bill Brooks, the main person and energy for organizing the booth.



The HLCS Booth was usually this busy. Amy is working the booth here.

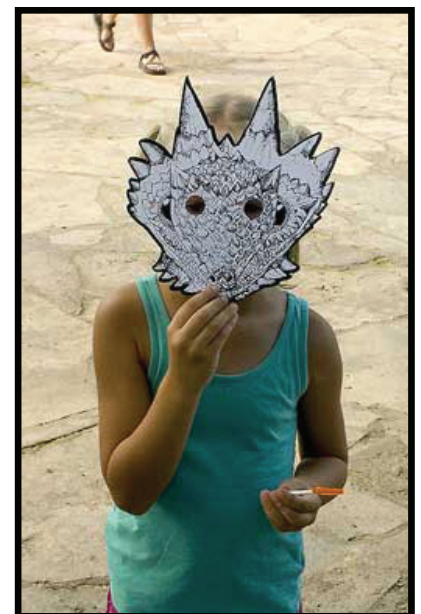
ily Beth Moeller Bendik was there to help with the booth. I got to meet her husband, Nathan. Amy Trost and her family, husband Chris, daughter Catie, and son Mathew were also there. (The kids loved the snakes.)

The adults fed a lot of mosquitoes and talked to a lot of people. This evening 1,403 people attended the program. This was the largest Nature Night program of the year. Our displays are always popular. We also gave out lots of "Fact Sheets" and the horned lizard masks, which are always a great hit with the kids.

There were several other notable people at the Wildflower center this evening. Past treasurer, Rollo Newsom was there. He is a volunteer at the Wildflower Center and is often

working as a guide at the Old Tunnel Bat Colony.

It was also a surprise to see Jane Manaster, the author of the book, "Horned Lizards." Luckily I had my copies of Jane's book, Wade's book and Joyce's book all on display.



Kids always love our masks.



It was a very fun evening. I would like to encourage all our members who have nature festivals in their neighborhoods to think about hosting a HLCS booth. We will supply you with handouts and do our best to get displays and people to help you man your booth. Let's spread the word! Our little horned lizard friends need protection.

We need to educate people about these animals, and frankly we need funds to keep our conservation dreams alive. This evening we collected \$17.46 in dona-



Chris (in back), Mathew, Amy, and Catie with the Horned Lizard Conservation Society booth.



Rollo Newsom, Beth Moeller Bendik, and Amy Trost with son Matthew. What a great group of volunteers!

tions. This is a modest amount, but it tells me that people love horned lizards and appreciate what we are doing. With donations like these, we keep our little non-profit going so we can spread our message. I hope you do this too, on whatever level you can.

If you have a local nature festival that you think we should support with a booth, please email me, Bill Brooks <b.brooks@utexas.edu> and we'll see if we can attend.



## Old Rip Festival in Eastland, Texas

By Leslie Nossaman

This year the Old Rip Festival occurs on October 6, 2012 in Eastland, Texas. The festival commemorates the opening of a sealed cornerstone of the courthouse in 1928 and a horned lizard which was found alive after being contained in the cornerstone for 31 years. Fact or fiction? Not sure but there is always fun for all! There are parades, entertainment shows, fun runs, a fish fry, kid's games, bull riding, a car show, and booths.

The HLCS has a booth at this festival every year to spread the



word about horned lizard conservation. It is also our biggest fund-raiser event of the year.

Bill Brock is in charge. We need additional volunteers to help man the booth. Please contact Bill Brock directly through email at [recycletx@aol.com](mailto:recycletx@aol.com) and cc Bill Brooks at [b.brooks@utexas.edu](mailto:b.brooks@utexas.edu).

For more information about the Festival, contact the Eastland Chamber of Commerce at (254) 629-2332 or Toll Free at (877) 2 OLD-RIP or email at [ecofc@eastland.net](mailto:ecofc@eastland.net). If you go to the Eastland Chamber of Commerce website (<http://www.eastlandchamber.com>), you can find discount hotels for the area and photos from past festivals.



# Horned Lizard Conservation Society Webmaster Job Specifications

By Danny Martin and David Wojnowski

The Horned Lizard Conservation Society (HLCS) is currently soliciting estimates for a Webmaster to update their website with the possibility for an additional contract for maintenance and membership and product management.

## *Description:*

The Webmaster will be responsible for the re-design, reorganization, and transfer of content of the existing website, as well as the development and production of the website, and conception, design, development, documentation, and implementation of Internet-based applications to support the HLCS's operations. Responsibilities will include management of the membership database (with notifications for renewals etc.) and the addition of a merchandise page, both of which must be compatible with PayPal.

## *Responsibilities*

- Collaborate with the HLCS Board of Directors (BOD) and web design committee to determine the website's purpose, functions, requirements, and long-term strategy
- Work with internal or outside developers to create an effective user experience
- Work to ensure optimal page loads, uptime and integration with HLCS business functions as appropriate
- Recommend to the BOD policies and procedures around content management when appropriate
- Research emerging technologies and services that may enhance the Web experience and make recommendations to the BOD

## *Technical Requirements:*

- Knowledge and experience with website design, HTML, DHTML, Javascript, database development, relational database design, and database protocols. Must be able to address HTML and scripting compatibility issues between different browsers and computing platforms.
- Experience in the creation of web-based applications using Microsoft tools & technologies. Knowledge and experience with installing, configuring, maintaining, tuning, analyzing, and optimizing websites.
- Ability to understand and contribute to functional requirements and translate them into technical design and development projects.
- Ability to clearly document features, technical specifications, and infrastructure requirements for self-produced technical work and job processes.
- Must be knowledgeable of industry trends, technologies, and standards and be able to research, recommend, and apply new technologies.



## *Qualifications:*

- Candidate must be self-sufficient and have good English oral and written communications skills. Bachelors degree from a recognized 4 year university or equivalent experience preferred (BS in Computer Science preferred). At least two years of experience with HTML, DHTML, COM and client-side JavaScript programming experience is preferred. Two or more years of thorough knowledge of browser compatibility issues for all platforms/major browsers is necessary and 2+ years conversion of existing images (TIFF, BMP, PSD) for online use (JPG, GIF, PNG) using Adobe ImageReady and PhotoShop, or similar image editing software is a must.

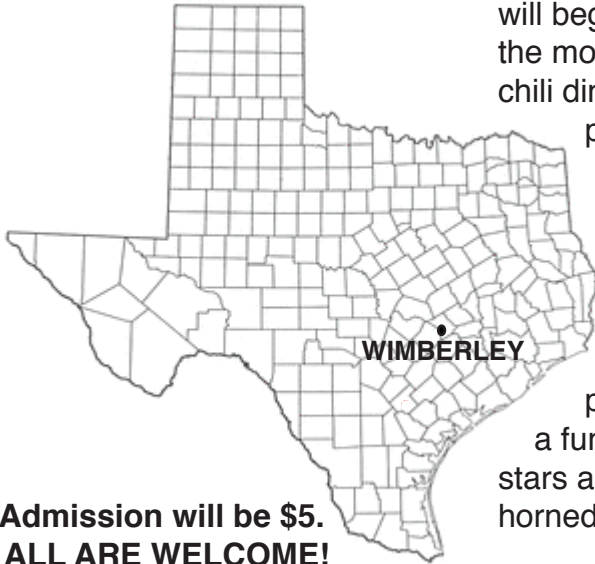




# HLCS Business Meeting and Movie Night

By Lee Ann Johnson Linam  
and David Wojnowski

Please join us on October 13 for the outdoor premiere showing of the movie "Where Did the Horny Toad Go?" at the Corral Theatre located at the intersec-



Admission will be \$5.  
ALL ARE WELCOME!

tion of RM 3237 and Flite Acres Road in Wimberley, Texas. Visit the website at <http://corraltheatre.com> to see a map and get directions to the theatre. The map is not to scale.

An HLCS business meeting will begin at 5:30 pm prior to the movie with a fundraiser chili dinner starting at 6:30 pm. A guest speaker (TBD) is also planned at 7:30. The movie will start around 8:00 pm (or when it gets dark enough). We shall adjourn at 9:30 pm. We look forward to a fun-filled night under the stars and learning more about horned lizards.



Front and back covers of Where Did the Horny Toad Go? DVD. Film by Stephanie Leland.



## GoodSearch: A Search Engine that Can Raise Money for Us!

By Wendy Hodges

GoodSearch.com is a search engine that donates half of its revenue, about a penny per search, to charities that users designate. The HLCS has been set up as a charity through their web site. You use it just as you would any search engine, and it's powered by Yahoo!, so you get great results. Rather than Googling to find out something, use GoodSearch.

What to do:  
Go to [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) and enter the Horned Lizard Conservation Society as the charity you want to support. You will earn us money doing a normal web search every time you use it! You can see how much money we earn at any time. Please use it as often as you can! Set it as your home page or bookmark it or put it on your web browser's tool bar. We could earn thousands of

dollars a year just by having our members designate us whenever they do an internet search.

GoodSearch has now added GoodShop. By following the links from the GoodSearch page to stores you already purchase from, a percentage will go to your charity of choice – designate *Horned Lizard Conservation Society*. Examples of stores that donate are ebay, Barnes & Noble, Alibris books, and REI.

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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.***