

Phry'no'so'ma'tics

noun, 1. people enthusiastically dedicated to reversing the decline and supporting the conservation of horned lizards. From the genus Phrynosoma - the horned lizards.

January/February 1992

The Newsletter of the Horned Lizard Conservation Society

Bart's Notes — by Bart Cox

I'm sorry for the missed December meeting. Lea Stone has written an apology (though she bore no personal responsibility at all) on behalf of the Nature Center. We'll make sure that doesn't happen next December.

On December 6, Wendy, Jack Morse and I participated in a meeting at Parks and Wildlife entitled "Endangered Species Reintroduction and Restoration in Texas." We began with a welcoming speech by Dr. Larry McKenny, Director of Resource Protection Division, followed by an introduction to the workshop participation by Bob Murphy, Chief of the Endangered Resources Branch.

Bob unveiled the draft criteria Parks had developed for deciding

which species might be good candidates for reintroduction. The big hurdle for us horny toaders was "reasons for original decline are understood and correctable."

Another problem on the list was "success of reintroduction can be assessed and monitored." At 9:30 we broke out into working groups with me and Wendy among the "herps," chaired by Andy Price. Our purpose was to work on developing criteria for reintroductions in Texas.

Next we formed into working groups aimed at developing the actual steps to be followed for reintroductions. I strongly urged the use of "pilot projects" or "experimental releases" as part of the program. After lunch Jack joined us at the herp table with Andy. Ours was the largest contingent. Most outfits sent only one or two reps. I might also say we were the most popular (of course!).

The afternoon was devoted to the actual selection of species to be looked at for reintroduction. At this point I have to hand it Jack Morse. Jack made a speech to Andy Price I'd give anything to have recorded. It put a lump in my throat. Alas, it did not make our beloved horny toads an immediate candidate for Parks to spend a lot of time and money reintroducing, but I did notice a gleam in Andy's eye.

Our greatest accomplishment was getting to know all those folks from the U.S. Forest Service, Fossil Rim Foundation, Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge, the Audubon Society, Texas Nature

A Great Big Apology

We offer a big apology to members who fought their way through the Trail of Lights traffic to attend the last meeting only to discover a locked gate and darkened driveway.

Staff at the Austin Nature Center remembered in the afternoon of our meeting that Stratford Drive was closed off due to the special routing of Yule Festival and Trail of Lights traffic. Our regular opener for the meeting was taking the day off for her birthday and it took them a while to make contact with a board member. Unfortunately, the late hour of the day made it impossible to contact all our members. John Smith from Llano managed to find the back route to the Center along Stratford from Rollingwood. Others no doubt made it also. It was a case of thoughtfulness that backfired. We're really sorry for our members who were so inconvenienced. ▲

Conservancy, etc., etc. We now know them and they know us. Relationships are important in the conservation business.

Don't miss the GREAT HORNED TOAD BENEFIT CONCERT, Sunday, Feb. 2, 6-12 p.m. at the Broken Spoke! Our last benefit at La Zona Rosa made over \$1,000. This time we've got really big names from the Austin music scene: Alvin Crow, Steve Fromholz, Kimmie Rhodes, Bill Oliver, etc. Also, we've been given lots of neat stuff to auction off. There's a terrific homemade quilt. There's a guided trip for two that tours scenic

Upcoming Events

GREAT HORNED TOAD BENEFIT CONCERT—
Sunday, February 2nd,
6-12 p.m. at the Broken Spoke.
Featuring live music and a
silent auction

GENERAL MEETING—
Tuesday, February 11th,
7 p.m. at the Austin Nature
Center. Special Speaker:
Sunny Dooley, Miss Navaho
Nation

GENERAL MEETING—
Tuesday, March 10th, 7 p.m.
at the home of Steve Austin,
1408 W. 39 1/2 St. (see map in
Bart's Notes)

Research and Recovery Committee News

by Wendy Donaldson, Chair

LIZARD ALERT!

March is just around the corner, which means horned lizards (*Phrynosoma*) will soon emerge from their winter hibernation. Central Texas has experienced a rather mild winter; only twice since October has temperatures dropped below freezing. The ground has not frozen significantly, so there is a good chance that Horned Lizards can emerge early in the month if the weather remains favorable. If you live in or plan on travelling to south Texas or Mexico at the beginning of March, your chances of seeing the lizards are even greater.

Horned Lizards use a variety of cues to tell them when to end hibernation, but the primary one seems to be temperature. *Phrynosoma cornutum*, the Texas Horned Lizard, can withstand a low body temperature of about 49°F, but probably won't be visibly active until air and soil temperatures reach 75°F. J.E. Heath has studied horned lizard activity in response to different temperatures. In the laboratory, *P. cornutum* and *P. modestum* (the Texas and round-tail horned lizards) burrow with their heads up when their body temperatures fall below 72-73° F. When body temperatures fall below 70°F, the lizards completely burrow under the soil surface. As the temperature drops, horned lizards will wiggle deeper into the ground. All horned lizards undergo hibernation during the winter months. When and how long they hibernate varies geographically and among the different species.

Current evidence suggests that hibernation is needed to enable horned lizards to reproduce. Captive horned lizards require a period of winter dormancy to bring them into reproductive condition. Sexual activity begins in April, a

short time after-emergence. Why hibernation is required for reproduction is not known.

During March and April, horned lizards are active only one time of day, 10:30am-2pm. After April, activity becomes bimodal, or two-part, occurring in the early morning to late morning and then in the late afternoon to evening.

So, come March, I expect all of my faithful readers to head outdoors around noon on a warm, sunny day to search for horned lizards—who will be the first to see one in 1992?? ▲

References

Heath, J.E. 1964. Temperature regulation and diurnal activity in horned lizards. University of California Publications in Zoology. 64(3): 97-136.

Bigony, Mary-Love. 1981. When was the last time you saw a horned lizard? Texas Parks and Wildl. Mag. 39(2):28-31.

Montanucci, Richard R. 1989. Maintenance and propagation of horned lizards (*Phrynosoma*) in captivity. Bull Chi Herp. Soc. 24(12):229-238.

Pianka, E. R. and W. S. Parker. 1975. Ecology of horned lizards: A review with special reference to *Phrynosoma platyrhinos*. Copeia 1975:141-162.

Ace Reid Dies

We regret to report the death last November of Ace Reid — cartoonist, humorist, and horned lizard activist. Reid was born in 1924 in Leia Lake near Amarillo. After serving in the Navy during WW II, he went into ranching. During a drought in the early 1950's, he "wanted to find something he could do in the shade," so he turned to his drawing and humor. His COW-POKES cartoons, centered on homespun ranchland humor, were syndicated in over 300 newspapers and reproduced in numerous books. In addition to his cartoons, Reid organized trail drives along the old Chisolm Trail, founded the Old Crippled Cowboys of America, and started a 'pre-sweated' hat business. He recognized early on that something had to be done to help horned lizards and started a campaign to save the horned toads which drew needed attention to the dwindling numbers of horned toads. He lived to see the birth of our organization which shares his goal: the return of the horned lizard. He is a Texan many will miss. ▲

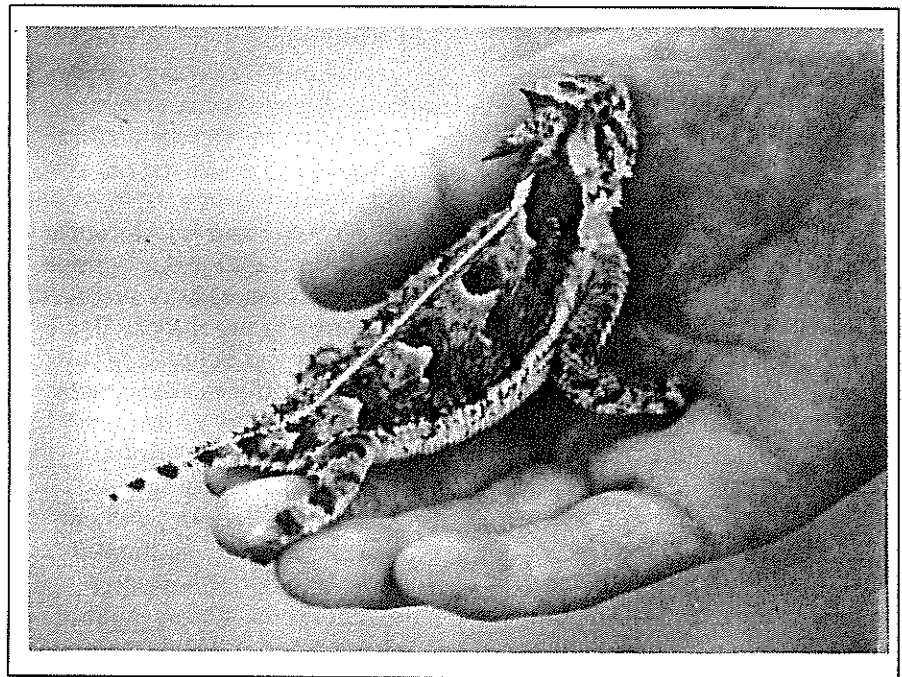
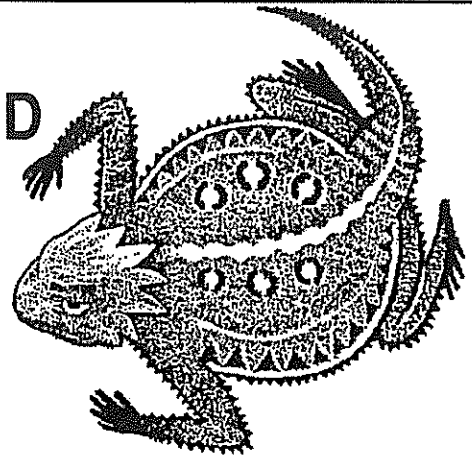


Photo by Melanie Typaldos

THE GREAT HORNED TOAD BENEFIT CONCERT

SUNDAY, FEB. 2, 1992, 6-12 PM
BROKEN SPOKE

3201 S. Lamar, Austin - \$5 Admission



Featuring Music by:

Alvin Crow Band • Steven Fromholz • Kimmie Rhodes
Bill Oliver & The Otter Space Band • Glen Alyn & The Ernest Tub Band
Bingham Creek Sisters • Special Guests

Silent auction and various horned toad jewelry & t-shirts for sale.
Sponsored by the Horned Lizard Conservation Society and The Broken Spoke.
Proceeds from this event go to fund horned lizard research.

SILENT AUCTION TO BE HELD AT BENEFIT

Along with the benefit concert on Feb. 2 at the Broken Spoke, a silent auction will be held. Items will be displayed with a bid sheet on which the bids are placed. (Most items require a reserve, or minimum bid, which is generally 50% of its value.)

The following table is a list of all current contributors to the HLCS silent auction. Please remember their support by visiting their businesses.

CONTRIBUTOR	DONATION
Amdur Gallery & Hardwood Framing	Custom Frame for etching by Bill Montgomery
Antone's Records	Earl King Album
Bill Montgomery	etching TBA (Bill is an Austin artist)
Ecowise	Solar Battery Charger
For All Seasons	Pewter Frog Keychain
Joseph's Framing	Custom Frame for Tom Curry's Print
Kingfish East	Care guides for Ball Pythons and Red-tailed Boas, vitamin supplements, turtle eye rinse, bactericide for captive reptiles
Mickey Hodges	hand-pieced king-size quilt
REI	Gift Certificate
Tower Records	Gary Stewart CD
Tried and True Music	Poster Autographed by Jerry Jeff Walker
Victor Emanuel Nature Tours	Wildlife Watching Tour for two to King Ranch
Whole Earth Provision Company	Backpack with lifetime warranty
Stumbling Bear Silversmith	Turquoise and Silver Handmade Bolo Tie by Joe Fish

More items are needed for the auction. Ask the businesses you visit to donate and contact Wendy Donaldson, 499-0158, with their name, the item and its value.

Phrynosoma Phacts

by Melanie Typaldos

Hey! Is anyone out there? I hope that I am not losing people by making these articles too technical...or are they just too boring? Let me know, I welcome all questions and comments. See me at the monthly meeting or drop me a line at:

Melanie Typaldos
P.O. Box, 18494
Austin, TX 78760
(512) 288-5291

WHAT'S FOR DINNER?

Last month I covered a little bit on each of the three species of horned lizards living in Texas and I started a discussion of their ecology. One thing that I have always found fascinating in ecology is the question of why is an animal found one place and not another? Or how can these two animals which seem so similar coexist? In this column, I'm going to discuss horned lizard ecology as it deals with feeding habits and try to address these questions in that context.

ECOLOGY

As a group, horned lizards are specialized at feeding on ants. All of the horned lizard species feed on ants to some extent, but not to the same extent. Table 1 shows the percentage of ants in the diet of the different horned lizard species. Clearly some horned lizards eat very few ants (*P. ditmarsii*) while others rely on ants almost exclusively (*P. solare*).

The two most common Texas species, the Texas horned lizard (*P. cornutum*) and the roundtail horned lizard (*P. modestum*) are intermediate in the amount of ants in their diets. In fact, they eat about the same percentage of ants. This might be considered surprising since the ecological principle of *resource partitioning* (see *Phrynosoma Phacts* 12/91) tells us that similar species which are syntopic (existing in the same habitat within the same

range) tend to utilize different resources. One way this could be accomplished is for one species to tend to eat fewer ants. Since both the Texas and the roundtail horned lizards consume ants for over 50% of their diet, two possibilities exist: food (ants) are not a limiting resource.

Common Name	Scientific Name	% Ants in Diet
	<i>P. asio</i>	31.1
Short-nosed	<i>P. braconieri</i>	49.1
Texas**	<i>P. cornutum</i>	61.2
Coast*	<i>P. coronatum</i>	44.7
Ditmar's	<i>P. ditmarsii</i>	11.3
Short-horned**	<i>P. douglassii</i>	51.8
Flat-tail*	<i>P. mcallii</i>	78.0
Roundtail**	<i>P. modestum</i>	66.1
Mexican	<i>P. orbiculare</i>	41.4
Desert*	<i>P. platyrhinos</i>	56.6
Regal*	<i>P. solare</i>	88.8
	<i>P. taurus</i>	56.5

Table 1. Ants as Percentage of Diet
*US species
**Texas species

Since the Texas horned lizard is much larger (20-25g) than the roundtail horned lizard (6-17g), we might suppose that the two species eat different sized ants. Indeed, this is the case. The Texas horned lizard typically eats harvester ants (genus *Pogonomyrmex*) while the roundtail preys upon honey pot ants (genus *Myrmecocystus*). This difference in prey preference is reflected in the foraging patterns of these two lizards. To better understand how this difference in prey species affects the horned lizards, we first need to know something about the habits of the ant prey.

Different species of harvester ants have different foraging patterns. Some of these ants are individual foragers and some are column foragers. The most common prey species for the Texas horned lizard is *Pogonomyrmex desertorum*, which is an individual forager. This species occurs in colonies of 400-600 workers, is strictly diurnal (active during the day) and is active throughout the summer. *P. rugosus*, a column forager, also makes up a large part of the diet. *P. rugosus* occurs in colonies of 1000 to 3000 workers and is both diurnal and nocturnal. This ant species is not active for extended periods of time during the growing season however so cannot be relied upon as a food source.

Pogonomyrmex desertorum ants do not seem to be affected behaviorally by the presence of horned lizard predators. When *P. rugosus* columns have been preyed upon by horned lizards, other ants in the column have been observed to become immobile, sometimes clinging to a blade of grass.

Honey pot ants forage individually for plant exudates, aphid dew and insect prey. Foragers leave the next in waves of from 200 to 500 workers and disperse in all directions in search of food. During the hottest parts of the day, the ants seek the shade of shrubs and yuccas. When startled or attacked honey pot ants either become motionless or run away "with surprising speed".

THE PREDATOR

The Texas horned lizard has been found to feed both in the open and at the entrance to ant mounds. When *P. rufosus* is available, the lizard may also feed along the ant's columns. The Texas horned lizard, as with all horned lizard species, is strictly diurnal and does not feed on ants which are active at night. Most feeding occurs during the morning, which corresponds to the activity patterns of the harvester ants. During the hottest part of the day, the lizards may climb into a

continued on pg. 7



Officer Nomination Form

The Nominations/Elections Committee, as directed by the Bylaws, is requesting nominations of candidates for offices of the HLCS. The seven offices to be filled are: President, four Vice-Presidents, Secretary, and Treasurer. The term of office is two years. The elected officers comprise the HLCS Board of Directors.

Candidates for office must be dues-paying, voting members of the HLCS (i.e. a Regular, Student, or Contributing member) and be willing to serve in the office. The Committee will contact the nominees for confirmation of their willingness to serve. You may nominate yourself.

Your nominations are important to ensure that each office has two or more qualified candidates. Please return your nominations to HLCS, PO Box 122, Austin, TX 78767, by March 1st, 1992.

PRESIDENT: _____
(Presides at all general membership and Board of Directors meetings; supervises the management of the HLCS.)

VICE-PRESIDENT for Research and Recovery: _____
(Serves as the First Vice-President; Chairs the Research and Recovery Committee which is responsible for all horned lizard research and restoration activities.)

VICE-PRESIDENT for Education: _____
(Chairs the Education Committee, which organizes activities for the meetings and develops HLCS educational materials.)

VICE-PRESIDENT for Member Services: _____
(Chairs the Member Services Committee, which is responsible for membership records and other membership services.)

VICE-PRESIDENT for Marketing and Publicity: _____
(Chairs the Marketing/Publicity Committee, which is responsible for the HLCS newsletter, reviewing all HLCS publications and organizing membership drives.)

SECRETARY: _____
(Responsible for keeping HLCS corporate records; keeps the minutes of all general membership and Board meetings.)

TREASURER: _____
(Responsible for all financial records; assists with the annual budget; sits on the Fund Raising Committee.)

I AM INTERESTED IN SERVING ON THE HLCS COMMITTEE CHECKED BELOW:

- Research and Recovery Education Fund Raising
- Marketing/Publicity Member Services
- Other: _____

BART'S NOTES *continued from pg.1*

wildlife areas of Texas... Lots more! Bring your friends!

Please don't forget our February meeting. We've gone all out for our program in February. For the first time in the history of the HLCS we're paying someone to present a program. Not only that, we're footing the expenses to bring our speaker all the way from New Mexico to Texas. She is a very special speaker: Sunny Dooley, Miss Navajo Nation.

Those of you who have regularly attended our meetings know that we've been blessed with heavy hitters from the academic field. Now, for the first time, we're going to hear about the spiritual aspects of horny toads.

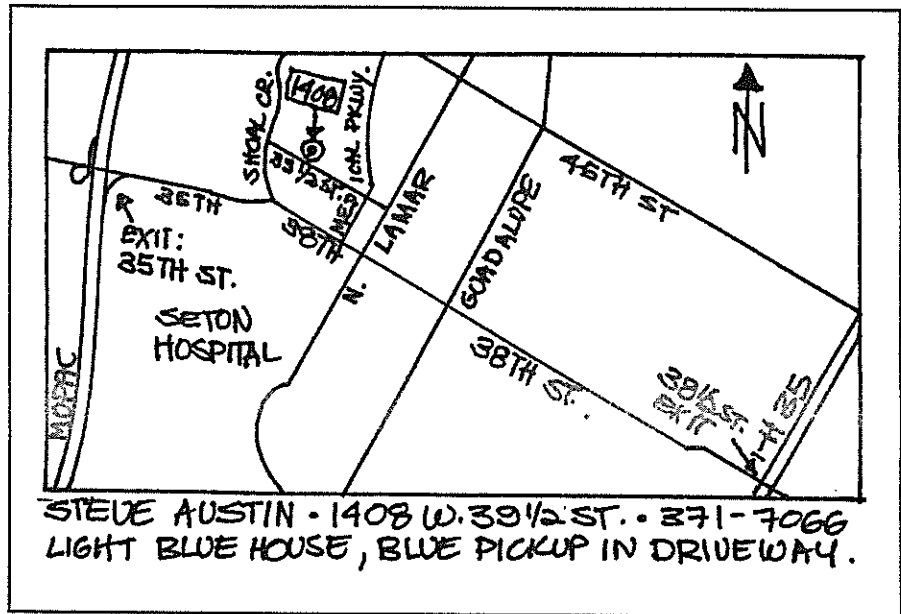
Sunny Dooley is trained as a Navajo storyteller. She comes from a long line of storytellers. Not only that, but we've made our arrangements during a very limited period of opportunity. The Navajo only tell their stories during certain times of the year: from first snow (usually late November) until first thunder (usually late February or early March).

I know (yea, I'm painfully aware) that some of our programs have been missing or less than exciting. But hear me horny toaders: this time we've got a program you don't want to miss! This is the real thing. Come early, there may be problems with space. No video taping will be allowed, but audio taping is OK. Photos are OK. There will be questions and answers after her presentation. I'm so excited!

Next item of business: We're changing the location of our meetings on odd-numbered months. Recall that we went from having a program and business at each monthly meeting to having a program on even-numbered months and a business meeting on odd numbered months. In November I added the feature of food for a little something to lighten the load

of business on even numbered months. In order to bring all that together (ie: to have a kitchen available for food) and to lighten the load on Lea Stone and the Nature Center, we will no longer be meeting at the Nature Center on odd numbered months; instead we'll meet at the homes of members (where kitchens will be available for food).

Our March meeting will be at Steve Austin's house at 1408 W 39th 1/2 Street (see map below):



It will be a business meeting and nothing like the spiritual encounter with Miss Navajo Nation in February, but, as I hope to illustrate below, the meeting will be of massive importance to our organization. Steve is a bachelor and tells me he rarely uses his kitchen, but said kitchen will be available for food.

Before I look to the future of this new year, let me reminisce a bit about our past. In January of last year we elected the first board of directors for HLCS: Me, Deborah Denner and George Perry. Deborah has been replaced by Jack Morse, and last week (at a board meeting) Jack asked George if he wanted to seek a position on the new board, and George said "no." Assuming I

can't talk George out of that position, it means that two of the three original board members of HLCS will be leaving. I must take a few moments now, in the midst of this long epistle, to pay tribute to these two.

Deborah Denner is as solid as Enchanted Rock. Things are so smooth now that its hard to remember when we were all screaming at each other about bullshit political stuff and the very survival of HLCS hung in the balance. I remember.

I'm sure some of you remember. It was not fun. During that difficult time many of you said "I've had it," and left. There were times when I said to myself "this ain't worth it." Then I'd glance over at Deborah: Solid; Grounded; Centered.

During her pregnancy Deborah continued to perform her duties as Secretary/Treasurer until the week before she delivered. Afterward, she asked to be relieved of her duties as she came to meetings with her newborn slung at her side. "A pitiful excuse," I told her, but what the hell. She said something about the combined responsibility of graduate school and a newborn, along with her three other children... Oh well. She resigned from the board and Jack Morse was

elected to replace her, and Jack's doing a terrific job. But when the going gets rough and I ask myself why am I doing this, I'll always glance around for Deborah. Her eyes are like two candles, shielded from every breeze.

HLCS will always bear the stamp of George Perry. George founded four local conservation groups, among them Austin Animal Rescue. It might truthfully be said that he founded us. Many of us (particularly me) are neophytes in the conservation business. George is an old hand. There ain't nothing like experience!

We're a lot like Bat Conservation International. We're a national organization with only one, Austin-based chapter. George has lots of experience with BCI. George is an organizational genius. He wrote our bylaws. He anticipated every crisis, every organizational crossroads, and he always had a common-sense solution. The first few times George predicted the consequences of certain decisions we were making, I wondered to myself. He was right on 100% of the time. If he really means it when he says he's going, all I can say is: George, HLCS will miss you.

To Deborah Denner and George Perry, for outstanding service and many, many hours of time spent working for our survival, with all that I have within me, may I say: THANKS!

Now is the time for all persons truly interested in bringing back horny toads to step forward and be counted. Our first election is coming. I cannot overemphasize the importance of this first election. Like any organization, we're only as effective as the membership chooses to be. Our experience at the meeting at Parks and Wildlife, and our experience with the press and other media tells us that public interest in Texas for restoring horned lizard populations is very strong.

Our nonnominating committee consists of: Jack Morse, Melanie

Typaldos, Joyce Snodgrass and John Smith. Their job is to get together the names that will be submitted to the membership on a mail-out ballot by April 15. Every member of HLCS will receive this ballot. There are seven positions to be filled: president, four vice-presidents, secretary and treasurer. There are also committee positions to be filled. Elsewhere in this newsletter is a request for nominations which contains descriptions of the seven offices which, when they are filled, will form our first elected board of directors. They will serve from June 1, 1992, until May 31, 1994.

I plan to run for president and I urge someone out there to run against me. We drafted our bylaws with the specific language that the nominating committee shall "accept nominations from the membership of at least two (2) candidates for each" office. Honestly, I don't want to run unopposed. If I'm defeated it will be like a fat person taking off his/her girdle (what a relief!) and I promise I'll take the opportunity to show all of you how hard I can work in a non-leadership capacity.

The bylaws require that the names in nomination for the board be finalized by March 15. The next step will be for those running for office to get together a statement about their candidacy to be published in the April newsletter. With the ideas, talent and devoted participation of our membership we cannot fail; without it we cannot succeed. Now's the time: Run for a position on the board of directors of HLCS!

Three final points, and I'll shut up. Last year we had a Spring outing at the Chaparral Wildlife Management Area near Cotula and a Summer party at Tom and Linda Curry's home. Be thinking about a place with horned lizards closer to Austin and a nice place for a party, and communicate your thoughts to me or Wendy or Jack. Don't forget your checkbook when you come to the Broken Spoke February 2. ▲

PHRYNOSOMA PHACTS *Continued from pg.4*

low shrub, alternating between the sunny and shady areas of the shrub to thermoregulate.

An interesting note is that even hatchling Texas horned lizards feed upon harvester ants. It is sometimes the case that young or smaller individuals of a species feed upon smaller prey items, but this is not the case for the Texas horned lizard. This may be due to the competition with the roundtail horned lizard or it may be due to the different habits of the smaller ant species.

The roundtail horned lizard also feeds mainly in the morning hours. However, most ant prey is encountered in the shade of shrubs. The lizards use these shady areas to avoid the hot sun during the midday hours and captures the ants as they come down out of the foliage where they forage. Because of this behavior, the roundtail horned lizard may continue to feed into the early afternoon.

The tenancy for the roundtail horned lizard to forage in and around shrubs, combined with its small size, makes this lizard much less likely to be seen by a casual observer than is the Texas horned lizard which forages in the open. ▲

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Munger, James C., "Optimal Foraging? Patch Use by Horned Lizards (*Iguanidae: Phrynosoma*)", *The American Naturalist* 123(5) 1982

Shaffer, David T. Jr. and Walter G. Whitford, "Behavioral Responses of a Predator, the Round-tailed Horned Lizard, *Phrynosoma modestum* and Its Prey, Honey Pot Ants, *Myrmecocystus* spp.", *The American Naturalist* 105(2) 1981

Whitford, Walter G. and Martha Bryant, "Behavior of a Predator and its Prey: The Horned Lizard (*Phrynosoma cornutum*) and Harvester Ants (*Pogonomyrmex* spp.)", *Ecology* 60 (4), 1979

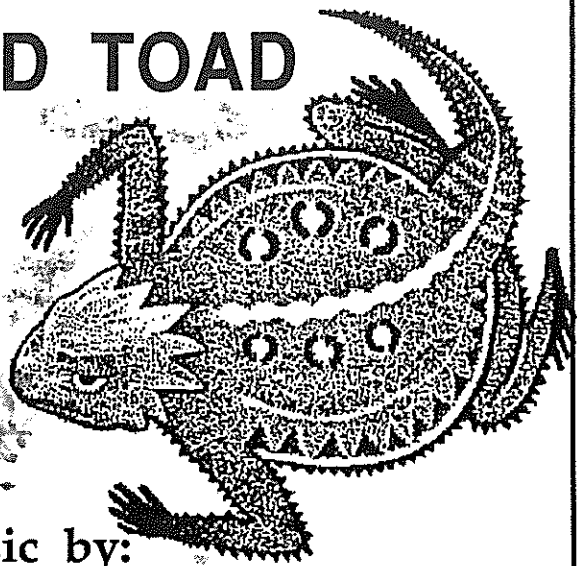
THE GREAT HORNED TOAD BENEFIT CONCERT

SUNDAY

FEB. 2, 1992, 6-12 PM

BROKEN SPOKE

3201 S. Lamar, Austin



\$5 Admission

Featuring Music by:

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Bill Oliver & The Otter Space Band • Glen Alyn & The Ernest Tub Band

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Silent auction and various horned toad jewelry & t-shirts for sale.

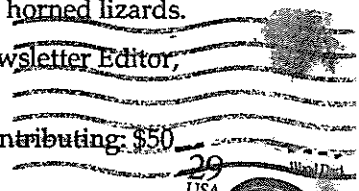
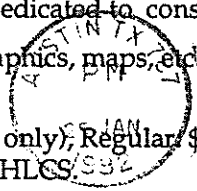
Sponsored by the Horned Lizard Conservation Society and The Broken Spoke.
Proceeds from this event go to fund horned lizard research.

The Horned Lizard Conservation Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to conserving horned lizards.

Newsletter Input • Please help build this newsletter. Send articles, graphics, maps, etc. to Newsletter Editor,
HLCS, PO Box 122, Austin, TX 78767

PLEASE JOIN US NOW! • Students: \$10, Subscribing: \$10 (newsletter only); Regular: \$25, Contributing: \$50

Mail fees along with name, address, phone number, and comments, to HLCS, 332



**HORNED
LIZARD
CONSERVATION SOCIETY**

Post Office Box 122, Austin, Texas 78767

Lea Stone
3503 Lafayette Ave.
Austin, TX 78722

Propagation Committee Field Trip

Great Scott! What a beautiful day for a field trip in January! Scott Harker hosted about ten members of the Horned Lizard Conservation Society's Propagation Committee for a day's outing 10 miles southwest of Dripping Springs. Led by Lea Stone, the members hiked over 20 acres of beautiful countryside. The goal was to investigate safe propagation site possibilities and to scout availability and types of ants.

It was a Saturday well spent. Three mounds of harvester ants exist, and one mound was made the more active by placement of a large glass bowl over it. The "dome" had the effect of raising the temperature enough to make the little critters active. We also laid a grid of "meat" bait, small chunks of hot dogs with neon orange tags, to attract fire ants. This bait was put out approximately 10 to 15 feet apart in two long lines going toward the springs. We hiked across the draw noting wildlife such as a gray fox, native prairie grasses, climaxing with an excellent madrone specimen. Returning to the fire ant bait, we found...fire ant bait! We did manage to catch a large black plastic individual who was out unseasonably; but perhaps a committee member knows more about how THAT ant got its bait!

The Propagation Committee discussed overlap of the sightings questionnaire with the Research Committee. It was decided to share the questionnaire. Dr. Mike Ryan, renowned herpetologist with The University of Texas, stated the questionnaire was excellent and not to change anything.

-Lynn Virta

Membership Update

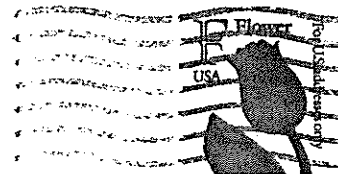
Our mailing list has already grown to nearly 215 ! We will be accepting our first membership fees at the February meeting. Dues will range from around \$10 to \$25. Please consider joining officially at the meeting. Also have anyone interested in joining us after the meeting contact Ann Cummings at 441-7620 (evenings) for information.

Call for Newsletter Input

Please help build this newsletter! We need articles, graphics, maps etc. Send to George Perry, 10101 Falcon Ridge, Austin, Tx 78733. Articles of more than 100 words must be: (1) typed originals, or (2) done on a Mac or PC and submitted on a 3.5" disk, or (3) transferred by modem, call me, 263-2039 evenings or 327-8395 weekdays.

Horned Lizard Conservation Society

c/o George Perry
10101 Falcon Ridge
Austin, Texas 78733



Ms. Lea Stone
2905 Lafayette Avenue
Austin, TX 78722



Dedicated to Restoring the Horned Lizards to Healthy Populations Throughout North America