



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.

May/June 1992

The Newsletter of the Horned Lizard Conservation Society

Bart's Notes — by Bart Cox

The election results are in and your new president is Lee Stone. My heartiest congratulations to Lee and HLCS! Some of you may have noticed that I ran something of a lackluster campaign, but the truth of the matter is: I want to do something else. I want to do fund raising. I've been wanting to do fund raising for quite a while now, but it seems that just about the time I get focused in on a particular person or group I want to solicit from I have to beat the bushes for a program for the next meeting, or file an amendment to our articles of incorporation for the IRS or get out some renewal letters or, or...

Free at last, free at last, thank God almighty... Anyway, I

plan to do just as much work for HLCS and I think the work I'll be doing will be just as important (possibly more important) and I think I'll enjoy it more. I'm awfully proud of the job I did as the first president of HLCS. I could do some bragging here, but I won't. I just hope I'm as successful at fund raising over the next couple of years as I was in getting this organization going. I just can't wait to attend the next meeting!

I also plan to keep writing for this newsletter (maybe not every single issue; depends on the feedback — Deborah Denner once told me she thought I was one of the most boring writers she'd ever read).

May I strongly urge you to join us for our spring outing this year! The date has been moved back one weekend to the 13th and 14th of June. We're still not certain where we'll be going (it has to be someplace with horny toads, of course). Our fallback place is the same as last year, Chaparral Wildlife Management Area, just south and west of Cotulla, but we continue to scout about for a closer place. The final planning will be done at our next meeting on June 9th. Of all the things we did last year, that opportunity to see and play with horny toads did more to lift my spirits than anything else. So be there at the June meeting and we'll make arrangements for car pooling, renting a big van, etc., etc.

Three cheers for Collene Sweeney! Collene has volunteered to take over the job of editor of this

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Election Results

by Jack Morse

The results of the Horned Lizard Conservation Society's first official election of board members are in. Eighteen out of eighty-nine qualified voters turned in ballots. That equates to a "voter turn-out" of twenty percent - about in keeping with the participation expected in local political elections conducted by public corporations.

In the race for president, Lee Stone defeated the venerable Bart Cox (our founding father) by a count of eleven votes to seven. A total of fifteen votes were cast in the hotly contested race for secretary, with John Henry Smith edging out Joyce T. Snodgrass by a margin of one vote. The candidates who were running unopposed all received over-whelming, if not unanimous, votes of confidence.

The new board officially begins its reign on June 1, 1992. The newly elected board members are:

President: Lee Stone
Home: 476-1663 Work: 327-8181

Vice-President for Research and Recovery: Wendy Donaldson
Home: 499-0158 Work: 471-1456

Vice-President for Education: Melanie Typaldos
Home: 288-5291

Vice-President for Member Services: Jack Morse
Home: 288-7194 Work: 288-4802

Vice-President for Marketing and Publicity: Bill Davis
Home: 442-4995

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Upcoming Events

GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, June 9, 7 p.m. at Shady Grove restaurant. We will discuss the upcoming field trip/picnic to Chaparral Wildlife Management Area near Cotulla on June 13-14. If a minimum of 5 people sign up for the trip; we could rent a van.

BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, June 9, 6:30 p.m. at Shady Grove restaurant.

RESEARCH AND RECOVERY MEETING

Wednesday, July 1st, 6:30 p.m. at the home of Melanie Typaldos, 7611 Hawkeye, Austin, Texas.

Research and Recovery Committee News

by Wendy Donaldson, Chair

Phrynosoma cornutum Status Survey Begins

The Texas horned lizard, *Phrynosoma cornutum*, is getting a good looking over this summer. From May 27 to August 31, 1992, four field assistants and I will be travelling all over the state of Texas conducting the field portion of the *Phrynosoma cornutum* Status Survey. The status survey is a cooperative research project under Section 6 of the Endangered Species Act, funded jointly by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Horned Lizard Conservation Society.

The field portion of the status survey involves each field assistant visiting twenty sites a piece, three times within the study period. Sites will be searched for six hours each visit to see if horned toads exist there, and if so, how many. An additional two hours will be spent gathering information from area residents about land-use history.

The status survey is a first in many respects. It is the first status survey ever implemented jointly by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and a private, non-profit organization. No other study of its magnitude has been attempted before. As a matter of fact, few other studies have attempted to document the occurrence and size of *Phrynosoma cornutum* populations in Texas, let alone document this information at 100 locations!

All 100 survey sites have historical records of the Texas horned lizard. I foresee the most important information gained from the status survey will be to know which areas are now void of horned lizards and which areas still have horned lizards. From additional information about each site, the data may help define what has lead

to the apparent disappearance of the Texas horned lizard in Texas.

I must take this opportunity to thank Andy Price at the Resource Protection Division of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. He has been very encouraging, and he has been the key to getting the project through TPWD: it would not be happening without him. I must also extend a thank you to the anonymous donor who donated \$2,000 to the HLCS specifically for the status survey: your generosity is duly appreciated. ▲

90 Seconds (a minute and a half)

by Joyce T. Snodgrass

Greetings.

Our last general meeting, on May 12, 1992, was at the Shady Grove restaurant on Barton Springs road. Not only did we have the chance to chow down, but we learned that a great deal of business can be accomplished in the informal outdoor atmosphere, under the pecan trees. The story goes that the property's owner would not let anyone build if they were going to cut any trees, so this old-timey bar and grille was created, owned by the same folks who brought you Chuy's (just down the road). The decor is nothing like Chuy's, and it looks like it was frozen in about 1948. They've got horny toads (just drawings, not live ones) on their menus and matchbooks, and it seems that a continuing relationship between HLCS and the Shady Grove restaurant is being formed. I believe Bart Cox suggested this meeting place—Thanks, Bart!

We had 5 tables of members and fans meeting and eating. Melvin Stanley, our new treasurer, was congratulated on completing the paperwork for the 501C3—to certify

BART'S NOTES

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newsletter. The copy you're reading at this very moment is her first. Collene has also volunteered her house for our summer party. I have big plans for that party (there are so many people we need to honor for their work and dedication — not the Leest being Marcia Jenkins for her job as editor). More about that later.

One last point and I'll shut up. At our last meeting we heard from a couple of HLCS members from Arizona that Wade Sherbrook has done a fabulous pictorial piece for Nature magazine on blood squirting by horned lizards. The cover of the magazine will feature a stop action photo of a lizard blasting away. It seems they can expel up to half of their total blood volume in one shot, and that's not all. They know which predators are likely to be dissuaded by this tactic. They'll plaster a dog but Lieve a threatening turkey alone. Again, more later... ▲

Election Results

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Secretary: John Smith
Home: 915/247-3181

Treasurer: Melvin Stanley
Home: 837-6877

(All phone numbers are 512 area code, unless otherwise shown) ▲

us as a real non-profit organization for tax purposes. The light at the end of the tunnel is in view! Also, Collene Sweeney was introduced as our new newsletter volunteer editor. We all owe thanks to both of these workers.

The next general meeting will be June 9 at Shady Grove restaurant, and plans will be finalized for the field trip/picnic on June 13-14 to Chaparral Wildlife Area. ▲

Brief Notes on the Board Meeting:

by Joyce T. Snodgrass

5/19/92 Board meeting

Attended by: Bart Cox, Wendy Donaldson, Jack Morse, John Smith, Joyce T. Snodgrass, and Melanie Typaldos
At Jack Morse's house

The HLCS Board of Directors, past and present met on 5/19/92, and voted to have only 4 program meetings a year, which will be really big, well promoted, **IMPORTANT** program meetings. The inevitability of inviting Wade Sherbrooke to speak to us at a program meeting came up, as well as the decision to have our Annual Meeting at the end of the Reptile season—in the fall. This would conveniently coincide with our November anniversary.

Bart Cox accepted the position of "Fund-raising Chair" on the board, effective on June 1, 1992 as Lee Stone takes over the position of President. It will certainly help with continuity to have Bart remain active with the board. It looks like the transition will be relatively smooth.

We discussed the need to change signature cards on the bank accounts to reflect the change in president and treasurer, with Melvin, the new treasurer, on both accounts, and Lea on the main account, with Bill on the "T-shirt and goods" account as he is currently.

We voted to authorize Melanie Typaldos, Education Chair, to give a stipend of \$25.00 to speakers from out of town. If more is desired for a particular speaker, she will present it to the board for approval.

We also voted to award another \$700.00 to the *Phrynosoma cornutum* Status Survey that Wendy is coordinating to avoid the incredible

increase in bureaucracy and paperwork that occurs when funding from Parks and Wildlife exceeds \$10,000. It is a great treasure that we have the resources to be able to do this, and Bill Davis deserves thanks again for helping keep our treasury in fine shape with his T-Shirts, books and jewelry. Thanks is also in order to the anonymous donor who gave the HLCS \$2,000.00 to fund the project.

Lee mentioned the necessity of stating that the opinions of members do not necessarily represent the opinion of the group, and a resolution was submitted to make this the policy: that No Statement made by any person or group is taken as policy unless officially authorized by the board.

Several other items were brought up for discussion, such as renting a van for the picnic; Collene's offer of a party at her house in August, and the suggestion that this be a Thank You party; and the resolution to authorize sending a plant & sympathy greeting to Susan Curry, whose daughter Emily recently died in a traffic accident. Lee Stone proposed a weekend retreat for board and other interested members and listed several possible locations. The purpose of this would be to discuss goals. No formal decision was made on it, and anyone interested is welcome to call Lee Stone to find out more (476-1663).

Melanie and Wendy expressed an interest in the SSAR (Society for the Study of Amphibians & Reptiles) / Herpetologist's League meeting in El Paso this August, and it was suggested we have a booth there. The American Society for Ichthyology and Herpetology is having their national conference at The University of Texas at Austin next March, and it seems this might be a very good time to invite Wade Sherbrooke to speak to the group. This will be looked into further.▲

Spiky the Mini-monster

by: Grace Penney

World Books, Waco, Texas

Report by:

Coral Waters (11years old)

Spiky the Mini-monster is an interesting book about two young brothers from Louisiana visiting their Uncle Frank in Arizona for the summer. Soon the boys come across a little spiky monster sitting on an ant hill, gobbling up all the unfortunate ants that happen to come near it. The boys think it is a monster, but Uncle Frank tells them it is just a horned toad. He tells them horned toads live in hot dry areas such as Arizona.

At first, the boys are afraid of the strange looking creature. Soon, the boys grow to love him and call him Spiky the Mini-monster. The boys want him for a pet so they build a pen for him. At first, Spiky doesn't like the pen and runs around trying to get out. After awhile, he stops, and the boys think he looks hot so they give him water. Uncle Frank tells them that instead of drinking water, horned toads get juices from the different bugs they eat.

Soon the summer is over, and the boys have to go back to Louisiana for school. They can't bear to leave Spiky, so they secretly take him home with them. Spiky doesn't like it in Louisiana and gets deathly ill. The boys are forced to send Spiky back to the hot Arizona sands. Although the boys miss Spiky, they know that when they go back to Arizona next summer, they will have many more fun-filled adventures with Spiky the Mini-monster. ▲



Bill Davis reports

Fund Raising Items

I haven't written in awhile, mostly for the lack of anything interesting to say. That hasn't changed of course, but I'm writing anyway.

First the story on our T-shirts and stuff. We have reached a respectable level on all the items we now offer with money in the bank for new items. Recently we got bolo ties in that should go for around \$15.00. Since there's not enough money to buy myself a new car, I welcome suggestions on new items. Before getting with me on your ideas, please do the leg work. Also, here are some painful lessons I've learned over the past year.

1. If we can't make 100% profit, it's not worth trying to pursue. An example is a beautiful sterling silver horned toad by James Avery for \$35.00. They would sell them to me in bulk for \$30.00 and we could have a new fund raiser for \$65.00. Wrong! Even the die hard horny toad loving membership

buy few of the \$6.00 and \$12.00 horny toads that we have now. The bottom line is to keep the price of anything around \$10.00.

2. Any idea that requires a distributor is going to cut our small profit even further. For example, the \$5.00 profit per T-shirt.

3. Leg work. If you have an idea, be ready to get behind it and make it happen.

I wish to thank the members that have put their time and talents into making our Horny Toad merchandise available. My personal time will be more limited this year as I am still working full time (168 hrs a week) and going to school (real college and everything) and dealing with family and house (coincidentally, the family came with the house). It seems my only free time is taken up with Horny Toad meetings and driving up to people on corners with those "Need Work" signs and rolling up my window real fast.

Even so, I am looking for new ideas and hopefully a few more horny toad benefits.

Geez, this article is turning into a lengthy sleeper like Bart and Wendy write; but with half the calories! We did not do Safari this year because they only allowed 1 fund raising item to be sold. "Too commercial" I guess, like anyone who went into "mosquito row" where the conservation societies got stuck, didn't expect to see fund raising stuff. The most profitable fund raisers last year were the Horny Toad benefit concerts.

Well, I guess everyone knows the election results by now. Lee won president with 17,000 versus Bart's 16,599 votes or something like that. I just barely got elected having no opponent and the other 37 vice-presidents got theirs. Ain't volunteer work wonderful. I'm expecting big contribution fund raising by Bart now, if anything contributors will dig deep just to keep Bart from calling them back. See y'all next meeting. ▲

The Horned Lizard Conservation Society is taking its annual spring outing to see the Texas horned lizard at Chapparral Wildlife Management Area again! The trip is planned for June 13 and 14, 1992. We are considering taking a van if enough interest is expressed. If you would like to ride in the van, call Jack Morse at 288-4802. We will need at least 5 people to ride in the van to reduce cost; 12-14 people can comfortably ride in a van. If fewer folks need transportation, we will arrange a ride with other members. **All of those going will need to have a Texas Conservation Passport!**

Newsletter Input • Send articles, graphics, maps, etc to Newsletter Editor, HLCS, P.O. Box 122, Asutin, TX 78767
PLEASE JOIN US NOW! • Students: \$10, Subscribing: \$10 (newsletter only), Regular: \$25, Contributing: \$50.

**HORNED
LIZARD** 
CONSERVATION SOCIETY

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