Invasion of the Horny Toads:  
The Biology of Introduced Populations of Texas Horned Lizards in South Carolina

Did you know Horned Lizards feed primarily on harvester ants, also called red ants? Eric McElroy’s most recent work is examining the ecology of introduced Texas horned lizards on barrier islands dunes systems near Charleston. Texas Horned Lizards have some amazing defenses! Its horny appearance and coloration helps it to blend into sparse vegetation. Its horns may make it less palatable. It can also inflate itself to a larger apparent size. Finally, the horned lizard is renowned for its ability to shoot a stream of blood from its eye (actually, its eyelid). Don’t mess with horny toads!

*Available as a 1-part presentation.

Eric McElroy’s lab studies the ecology of lizards and other herpetofauna in coastal South Carolina. Studies range from community surveys to in-depth single species studies. Our most recent work is examining the ecology of introduced Texas horned lizards on barrier islands dunes systems near Charleston. Our interest in this species stems from horned lizards being ant specialists with derived life histories in their native region and, in particular, the Texas horned lizard which is part of the conservation concern in the Western United States.

Contact Dr. Alice Hamilton or Dr. Nancy Muller to register your group or community.  
Dr. Alice Hamilton: hamiltonam1@cofc.edu | 843.953.3313  
Dr. Nancy Muller: mullernj@cofc.edu | 843.953.6400