

**Meeting Minutes**  
**New Mexico Herpetological Society**  
**February 5, 2009**

President Scott Bulgrin opened the meeting. Jean Burt read the minutes from the January 2009 meeting.

Garth Graves gave the treasurer's report. The final balance as of 2/5/09 is \$968.46.

Letitia Pierce suggested that the final balance be included in the Secretary's minutes.

Tom Eichhorst reported that the next newsletter will be published in April or May, when members decide where to go for the spring field trip.

**Old Business**

Scott reported on his attempts to contact Paul, the phantom webmaster. If Paul fails to return Scott's messages, or if we cannot obtain html programming from him, we might need to start from scratch. NMHS will need a new domain name.

Scott made another poster for educational displays and has several postcards from his Florida vacation.

Scott provided additional details on the 2009 Sandia Pueblo bosque survey. The plan is to measure for transects in the foothills (~5800 ft elevation) and map out the area to concentrate traps (approximately ½ mile x ½ mile or ¼ mile x ¼ mile). We will need a crew to retrieve traps from the previous bosque survey area.

The 2008 survey total was 1,215 critters with more turtles in the AMAFCA drain and a new sighting in the survey area of a glossy snake.

**New Business**

Scott was at the Open Space Visitors Center between Paseo del Norte and Montaña, west of the river. There is a loop trail ~2 miles into the bosque along the drain. Scott informed the park manager that NMHS can provide a presentation or interpretive activity along the loop trail.

Upcoming Events:

Santa Ana Pueblo Environmental Day in May

Sandia Pueblo Environmental Day

Villanueva State Park presentations by Ted and Sue Brown June 6 and September 12

Scott reported on a bill being introduced to Congress with intent to ban exotics in the U.S. The bill was introduced by representative Bordallo (from Guam). Introduced last year (HR 6311) and again this January (HR 669). NMHS members discussed this bill and noted that there are websites where comments can be provided such as [www.NAIAtrust.org](http://www.NAIAtrust.org) or [www.capwiz.com](http://www.capwiz.com). A congressional representative from North Carolina was instrumental in stopping the legislation last year. NAIA trust is primarily an organization for dog interests but they want to represent all animal people.

Scott reported that Dr. Howard Schnell discovered a new species in the Galapagos, the pink iguana. Ted will contact Dr. Schnell to ask if he can provide a presentation to NMHS.

Scott has identified another potential speaker, W.P. Berger with the Arizona Fish and Game Tucson office who has worked with shovelnose snakes and Mexican garter snakes in New Mexico. Bill Degenhardt reported that a paper was just published on the shovelnose (referenced on the Center for North American Herpetology website).

If any NMHS member has ideas for speakers, let Ted or Scott know.

Members took a snack break and returned for a presentation by Garth on the Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park near Las Cruces, a possible field trip location. The meeting was adjourned.