

NEW MEXICO HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY
MEETING NOTES OF 2 APRIL 2009

Before the meeting began, Bob Myers treated us to a Popeye movie ("Reptile Ranch" that looked like a precursor of the Flintstones cartoons). The meeting was called to order by Scott at 7:05 PM with 16 members in attendance.

Ted read the minutes of the March 5th meeting that Jean had provided in her and Dave's absence.

Garth reported that the NMHS account now stands at \$1013.55.

Tom promised to produce and send out a newsletter with details of the proposed spring field trip ASAP.

Old Business: a) Scott reported that the Sandia Pueblo Earth Day (which had been scheduled for April 25th) had been cancelled and would possibly be rescheduled for later in the summer. The other NMHS event dates are still in effect: May 16th for Earth Day at Santa Ana Pueblo, June 5th for Scott's presentation at the Los Griegos Library, June 6th and September 12th for Ted & Sue's presentation on local herps at Villanueva St. Park, July 11th or 18th for the Osprey Festival at Heron Lake and December 12th for Ted & Sue's presentation at the Randall Davey Audubon center in Santa Fe.

b) Scott reported that Rebecca is ready to set up the new NMHS website – NMherpsociety.org – and we discussed some possible items to be included: a home page with links to information about NMHS (officers, meeting dates, mission statement, etc.), photos of NM herps, a calendar of upcoming events, classified pages, and a link to the Rattlesnake Museum's website. Whether we wanted to include links to our members' own websites was left undecided. We decided NOT to include a list of our current members for reasons of privacy.

c) Scott told us that our plans for surveying in the Sandia Pueblo bosque between the Bosque South and the AMAFCA Drain had changed because the Bureau of India Affairs is planning to drastically remove more invasive trees from that area this spring and summer. He proposed that we move the traps at the south end of Bosque South to the area along the dirt road at the north end of Bosque North. An alternative would be to set up more traps in the Sandia foothills near the base of Rincon Ridge where 4 traps are already in operation. Sue Brown suggested that we continue the bosque survey for this summer and perhaps have a weekend later in the summer (perhaps Labor Day weekend on Sept. 5-7) when we could all conduct a brief survey of the foothill site in preparation for next year's more extensive survey there. This idea was approved by the surveyors. To move the traps in the bosque, we agreed to meet at the gate just north of the new Sandia Lakes gateway on Saturday May 2nd at 9 AM.

d) Scott had researched local animal control ordinances for Rio Rancho and Bernalillo County in view of Evelyn Candelaria's inquiries last month. Non-indigenous venomous snakes and poisonous fishes, as well as piranhas, big cats and elephants are prohibited in Bernalillo Co. The Rio Rancho ordinance is still being improved and takes its definitions from the Bernalillo Co. ordinance. Stay tuned for any further developments.

New Business: a) Jaci wondered if it was too early to inquire about guest speakers for the December banquet and suggested that perhaps Howard Snell and his discovery of the pink land iguanas would make a good topic. Bill Degenhardt mentioned that a new herpetologist (Steve Poe) had moved to the UNM Biology Department and was working on the lizard genus *Anolis* and that he might be available. Scott mentioned that Dave Burt had the name of a fellow at the Arizona Game & Fish Dept. who might be available for the banquet. Bob Myers mentioned that Charlie Painter had returned to India for more work with king cobras and might be available as a regular meeting speaker or for the December banquet.

b) Jaci Fischer volunteered her place for the July Potluck and a date of Saturday June 27th was selected.

d) Scott shared an article explaining that magnets had been attached to the head of alligators or crocodiles in Florida to keep the animals from returning to certain areas inhabited by humans.

e) Regarding the Spring Field Trip: Ted explained that the area at Mesilla Valley St. Park, checked out by Garth last winter, may not be our best choice for the field trip because NM State University herpers had thoroughly researched the area and because of a lack of campsites and the presence of certain nasty mosquitoes in spring. The area at Rattlesnake Springs near Carlsbad was also lacking in campsites and was a protected site. This left us with Nara Visa, a site that he and Garth had scouted on March 19th.

After a suitable pause so members could fill their plates with cookies and chocolate cake (TWO flavors!) in celebration of birthdays for Jaci (April 2nd), Ted (April 3rd), Bill (April 16th) and Scott (April 19th), Ted showed slides of the Nara Visa area with a lot of background information about the Llano Estacado, Texas Caprock Canyons and critters from the area whose names appear on his list for the trip. Directions on how to get to Nara Visa are included on the reverse side of the critter list. The group approved this site as the one for our May 22-25 field trip. A small fee of \$50 will be paid by NMHS to the Nara Visa school board (their usual fee for out-of-town groups) for that weekend's use of the kitchen and rest room facilities (and the gym if bad weather like rain or tornadoes appear that weekend). An update on the site will be provided at the May 7th NMHS meeting.

The meeting concluded at 9:30 PM.

--- submitted by Ted L. Brown