

Meeting Minutes
New Mexico Herpetological Society
October 1, 2009

Vice-President Ted Brown opened the meeting. Jean Burt read the minutes from the September 2009 meeting. Garth Graves gave the treasurer's report. The final balance as of 10/1/09 is \$890.84.

Old Business

Ted reported that 11 NMHS members participated in the fall day field trip in the Ojito Wilderness and observed 3 snakes, 29 lizards representing approximately 6-7 species. Ted will present the report and slides at the November meeting.

Ted also reported that we will complete the 2009 Sandia Bosque survey on 10/31/09. Volunteers are needed to survey and remove traps. The North America Conservation Wetlands Area (NACWA) is also in need of survey – Ted asked for volunteers for this activity as well.

Lori King and Charlie Painter had a bit more information on the Wind River Ranch Area (near Las Vegas, NM – off the Watrous exit) suggested for the 2010 spring field trip. The educational ranch consists of ranch houses, a barn converted to a classroom, ponds, and kitchen facilities. Some of the critters in the area include bullsnakes, bullfrogs, snapping turtles, Great Plains skinks, and collared lizards. There might be a fee. Lori and Charlie will obtain contact information.

New Business

NMHS will again attend the Bosque del Apache Festival of the Cranes – 11/21-22/09

Ted contacted Lee Fitzgerald to speak at the holiday party the weekend of 12/5/09.

Ted asked for volunteers to serve on the nominating committee. (Ted and Sue volunteered and Scott Bulgrin was volunteered by unanimous decision).

Next year the Sandia Pueblo herpetological survey will be conducted in the foothills. In this area much different from the bosque, critters might include coach whips, bullsnakes, hognose snakes, exanguis, spadefoots, collared lizards, and prairie rattlers.

Evelyn Candelaria reported on a pet alert – A rule-making has been introduced in Delaware (under the Department of Agriculture) to define reptiles and other animals as exotics. Also, HR 3501 was introduced in the U.S. Congress by Mr. McCotter to amend the Internal Revenue Code allowing deduction for pet expenses for approved pets.

Jean showed NMHS members an insert from the ABQ Journal that advertises the Rio Grande Turtle and Tortoise Club. The ad states that the Journal publishes these free for non-profits and some members stated that any club can advertise using this method.

Dave Burt reported on an impressive article in Reptile magazine, November 2009 issue, written by a local herper and businessman, Loren Pennebaker. The article has extensive information about and numerous photographs of Gargoyle Geckos a species from New Caledonia.

Charlie Painter reported about the NM Rattlesnake Chiricahua Desert Museum being developed by Bob Ashley in Rodeo, New Mexico. The NM Game and Fish Department has denied his request to import venomous animals. Mr. Ashley will appeal the decision and appear before the Game Commission. Charlie asked that NMHS members consider attending this and other Game Commission meetings to educate Commission members that those who keep reptiles are not all "kooks". NMHS members actively participated in a discussion on this topic. Charlie will send Game Commission contact information and Bob Ashley's e-mail address to Ted.

Josh Emms entertained us with an audio/video slide presentation that he produced of herps in New Mexico.

The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Jean Burt, Secretary NMHS