

NEW MEXICO HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY
MEETING NOTES OF 4 February 2010

Scott called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM with 14 members in attendance.

Ted read the minutes of the January 7th meeting that Jean had provided in her and Dave's absence.

Garth reported that the NMHS account as of 7 January was \$1419.74. After receiving \$397 in income from Sandia Pueblo, dues and auction funds, followed by payments of \$300 to Ted Brown for the 2009 Sandia Pueblo Bosque report, \$150 to 3 couples for reimbursement for the Festival of the Cranes activities and \$15 to Jaci Fischer, the NMHS account now stands at \$1351.74.

Tom was not present to give a newsletter editor's report.

Old Business: a) Ted reported that preliminary numbers from the Sandia Pueblo Bosque Survey's 5th year show that we counted 1260 animals in total.

b) Scott reported that the NMHS website has been updated in regard to a calendar of our activities and minutes of the meetings.

c) Evelyn Candelaria asked about how we get status as a 501(c)(3) organization and Scott asked the members if anyone knew of other groups who had successfully done so.

d) Ted reported that Jaci is ordering more of our new "glow-in-the-dark rattler skeleton" t-shirts in various sizes and should have them for us at the 4 March meeting.

e) Regarding the red-eared slider named "Sara" from a young fellow named Jason: Scott now has the turtle. Jason also has a slide show on the Galapagos and Ecuadorian national parks for a possible program in March or April. Scott wondered if Jason could make a film of our surveying in the Sandia Pueblo bosque, since Jason is in the film-making business.

f) Scott replied to the request by Mark and Tricia Cantrell of the Gila Conservation Education Center in Silver City for a display by NMHS at their Children's Water Festival on 29-30 April (Thursday and Friday) and asked who present would plan to go and display animals. Scott & Ted volunteered their families to go and set up a critter display.

g) Scott's new pamphlet on "Living with Rattlesnakes" is ready for public distribution and he's completing one on responsible reptile ownership. He's also working on a letter to the New Mexico Fish & Game Dept. regarding permitting the Chiricahua Desert Museum in Rodeo to import rattlesnakes for their display.

New Business: a) There was a brief discussion about sites for the spring field trip: Broad Canyon near Radium Springs, Sugarite Canyon near Raton, Wind River Ranch near Watrous and the Bottomless Lakes near Roswell were mentioned as possibilities to be further evaluated at the March meeting.

b) Scott announced that the Osprey Festival had invited NMHS to display critters on 10 July at the Heron Lake State Park visitor center and that he would do so, inviting the rest of us to join his family there and display some of our critters as well.

c) NMHS will have a free display booth (no live herps, please) at the International Herpetology Symposium in Tucson on 21-24 July. Scott is submitting an abstract on the NMHS survey of the Sandia Pueblo Bosque at the symposium, which will also feature a photo contest and a field trip to the Chiricahua Desert Museum in Rodeo.

d) Scott shared articles on hybridizing pythons in the Everglades, removing a snake from a Honda and on snakebite first aid.

e) Scott told us that our plan for surveying in the Sandia Pueblo bosque this year would be limited to monitoring our pitfall traps in 3 areas from the AMAFCA Drain to Bernalillo and in the NACWA area (for which NMHS will be paid). We would also set up more traps in the Sandia foothills near the base of Rincon Ridge where 4 traps are already in operation. Details on both sites will be provided at the March and April meetings.

f) NMHS moves forward on its website list and descriptions of our states herps: several members have volunteered to write descriptions for various species, submit photos and maps, etc. Our guide will closely follow that of the Arizona Game & Fish Department's website for the herps of that state. To offer to write any species accounts, contact Scott.

After gorging ourselves on Valentine's Day cookies provided by Bob & Lorraine and Ted and cute li'l turtle-shaped biscochitos baked by Evelyn, we enjoyed Scott's slide show on his family's October 2009 visit to the Outer Banks of North Carolina, complete with interesting shots of wild and captive herps, lighthouses, the Wright Brothers' first flight site, local history and fancy beach houses.

The meeting concluded at 9:30 PM.

--- submitted by Ted L. Brown