Meeting Minutes New Mexico Herpetological Society September 2, 2010

President Scott Bulgrin opened the meeting attended by 15 adults and one child. Jean Burt read the minutes from the August 2010 meeting. Garth Graves reported the final bank balance as of 9/2/10 is \$1,842.16.

Old Business

Scott provided information on the International Herpetological Symposium (IHS) held in Tucson in July (previous reports were provided by Dave Burt and Pat Maher at the August meeting). Scott set up a display table for NMHS, the only herp society to do so. Scott spoke with IHS members about the possibility of bringing IHS to Albuquerque and was told that Albuquerque has been considered in the past and is on the "long list". Problems encountered were high airfares and lack of cooperation from the zoo. Scott suggested that if the conference is held in Albuquerque, NMHS could help with certain aspects such as registration. Activities could include a scheduled trip to the Rattlesnake museum and field trips to open space, foothills, etc. Members will be asked to think of ideas for field trips if the conference is held in Albuquerque.

Scott mentioned that Dr. Harry Greene (Cornell University) who spoke at IHS might offer an on-line field herpetology course with a certificate of completion provided at the end. The course would be affordable (maybe \$100). Those who take the course could later participate in guided trips in other states.

Scott will contact some IHS speakers who expressed interest in speaking to NMHS at our holiday banquet.

Garth Graves will now track the sale of NMHS t-shirts, snake bags, bandanas, etc.

Educational Outreach

7/21/10 – Scott provided a presentation at the Rio Grande Nature Center (RGNC) focusing on critters in the bosque. This was attended by approximately 16 school children ages 13-15.

8/3/10 – Dave Karmann provided the same presentation at the RGNC to 16 school children ages 13-15.

8/14/10 – Ted and Sue Brown set up a display and provided a presentation to an Audubon group in Santa Fe.

Upcoming Events

9/11/10 – Ted and Sue Brown will provide an educational presentation at Villanueva State Park

9/16/10 – Scott will provide an educational presentation and display at the Los Griegos Public Library.

10/30/10 - Last survey date in the Sandia Pueblo foothills.

11/20-21/10 - NMHS will provide educational displays at the Bosque del Apache Festival of the Cranes

11/10 Ted and Sue Brown will provide another educational presentation and display to another Audubon group

New Business

Lynn Schuler announced that a fellow school teacher has a python that needs a good home.

Members selected December 11 as the date for the holiday banquet. Jaci Fischer will check availability at Nick's Crossroads Café; members stated the need to organize the tables better this year for the silent auction.

Letitia Peirce will donate prints of the Turtles of Venezuela for the silent auction.

Details for the Labor Day weekend field trip to Wind River Ranch were discussed. NMHS will be staying at a different location on the Ranch.

Jaci showed off the bandanas and snake bags (pillowcases) with the new glow-in-the-dark logo.

Members took a short break to eat delicious desserts.

Scott showed Wind River Ranch slides to be used in the presentation to be provided by NMHS to the Ranch. Scott then showed members the continuous digital slide show on NM reptiles and amphibians that he usually runs at NMHS educational displays.

The meeting was adjourned. Submitted by Jean Burt, Secretary NMHS