

Meeting Minutes
New Mexico Herpetological Society (NMHS)
March 3, 2011

President Scott Bulgrin opened the meeting attended by 26 adults and 1 child. Jean Burt read the minutes from the February 2011 meeting. Garth Graves reported a final bank balance of \$1,642.27 as of 3/3/11.

Old Business

Lori King Painter reported that the Biology of Rattlesnake Symposium will be held in Tucson July 20-23, 2011. There will be 60 speakers. Room rate is \$89/night. Registration includes a dinner at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum. Lori also reported that she and Charlie have been spending much of their time at the Chiricahua Desert Museum in Rodeo, NM working on an 18-foot all-steel sculpture of an Atrox.

Scott reported that the Sandia Pueblo has approved the purchase order for the 2011 herp surveys. There will be more discussion at the next meeting. The Pueblo's Bosque Plan is still under review.

We will need to decide a location for the Memorial Day field trip at the April meeting; bring your ideas.

New Business

Tom Eichhorst reported that he will be volunteering again this year at the BEMP student congress on April 28-29, 2011, from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. He asked for volunteers to represent NMHS. Students in grades 7-12 survey the bosque, present papers, and provide data for different studies. On 4/28, the congress will be at Los Golondrinas and will include students from Santa Fe and the Indian School; on 4/29, it will be at the Bosque School in Albuquerque at Montano and Coors. Set up on both days is at 9:00 a.m.

Scott has committed to an educational display at the Santa Clara Pueblo Earth Day on 4/28/11 and asked for volunteers.

Other upcoming events:

- July 27-30, 2011 - International Herpetological Symposium (IHS) at the Radisson Hotel, Fort Worth, Fossil Creek
- August 10-16, SW PARC Meeting, in Tucson, AZ with the meeting on August 10-11 and an Inventory and Monitoring Workshop on August 12-13. The meeting will be held back-to-back with Current Research in Sonoran Desert Herpetology V, on August 15-16, with August 14 as a day for relaxation in between the two conferences. Scott will set up the NMHS display if he attends.

Josh Emms reported on a new bill introduced in Texas that would require purchasing a herping stamp in addition to a hunting license; wearing reflective clothing would also be required for herping.

Josh also reported that Dusty Rhoads is collecting DNA from TransPecos Rat Snakes for research. If you find any dead on the road (DOR), please collect the specimen, record GPS coordinates or mileage to 1/10 mile, and contact Josh.

Josh reported that the U.S. Forest Service is considering road closures to limit access to the Gila National Forest. Charlie Painter added that this is part of a Forest Service initiative across the U.S. to close roads in order to preserve the wilderness as part of their travel management program; there are many issues related to use of ORVs and game retrieval.

Josh also reported that most members have requested the newsletter electronically, rather than hard copy.

Scott thanked Josh for links to herp-related articles.

Scott reported that at the Federal level, State and Tribal wildlife grants are being cut back. Charlie added that such grants might be totally eliminated.

Scott also reported of a bill that is being looked at related to animal cruelty. The bill will include reptiles and will increase fines and punishment.

Scott reminded members that there is still an inventory of NMHS t-shirts available for purchase.

Ted and Charlie provided suggestions for future NMHS field trips:

- Lincoln County, for example, the road from Corona to 285; an unexplored area; mostly private land – some BLM, with good habitat – rocky outcrops. Garth added that he has a friend who owns a ranch in that area who he can contact.
- Red Cloud Campground near Corona in the Gallinas Mountains – also with rock outcrops and limestone.
- Area north of Socorro, east of Escondido: Las Quebradas.
- Last Chance Canyon – Carlsbad Area in Guadalupe Mountains; campground north of Queen on Sitting Bull Falls Rd.
- Rattlesnake Springs – Carlsbad area – Camp available with BLM permission.

After a break for munching and visiting, Lorraine McInnes presented “Movement Patterns of Western Diamond-backed Rattlesnakes at the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge.”

The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Jean Burt, Secretary NMHS