

Meeting Minutes
New Mexico Herpetological Society (NMHS)
August 4, 2011

President Scott Bulgrin opened the meeting attended by 23 adults and 2 junior herpers. Jean Burt read the minutes from the May 2011 meeting. Garth Graves reported a bank balance of \$1,282.27 as of August 4, 2011.

Old Business

May 12, 2011 – Scott provided an educational presentation to several 2nd grade students at East San Jose School.

May 18, 2011 – Pat Maher provided an educational presentation to 80 students at Alvarado Elementary in the North Valley.

Memorial Day Field Trip consisted of three day trips to Cerrillos Hills State Park. Ted Brown gave a presentation Saturday night at the park – 10 people attended. Ted distributed the report at the NMHS annual pot luck in June.

July 28, 2011 – Scott presented at the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society meeting at Buffalo Thunder Resort and Casino, Pojoaque. The topic of his presentation was the Sandia Pueblo Surveys, 2007 through 2009.

Scott spoke to Junior Ranger Program groups and displayed live animals at the Rio Grande Nature Center in May, June, and July 2011. Approximately 20 students attended per group.

Scott reported that NMHS was represented by Ted Brown, Pat and Lilly Maher, Zane Dohner, Tara and David Wheeler, and Scott at the BioBlitz held at the Rio Grande Nature Center on June 10-11, 2011. Ted and Tara led 60 participants on a morning nature walk, and Scott led 30 participants on an afternoon nature walk.

Scott thanked Jaci and Fred for hosting the annual potluck in June.

Ted provided a brief update on the Sandia Pueblo foothills survey.

Dave Burt provided information on the rattlesnake vaccine – most of the evidence that the vaccine is effective is anecdotal; it has been tested for safety not for efficacy.

New Business and Educational Events

June 4, 2011 – Santa Ana Pueblo Earth Day was rescheduled – now to be held on August 27, 2011. Scott asked for volunteers for the NMHS educational display – No animals will be allowed outside their cages. Tara volunteered to represent NMHS.

The Albuquerque BioPark has received a King Cobra and Green Mamba for display in the reptile house.

Members discussed two newspaper articles – Alligators in Roswell; and repair of a Sulcata tortoise.

Scott has one 10-gallon acrylic aquarium and one 10-gallon screen-topped cage available.

Ted has garter snakes in need of a good home.

Josh Emms suggested that the Labor Day field/camping trip be held at Mills Canyon in conjunction with the North American Field Herping Association, Rocky Mountain Chapter. Members voted and approved this location. Ted reported that there is a new campground on the rim which has 6 to 7 camp sites; the canyon bottom has 12 sites. We will finalize details at the September 1, 2011 meeting. Members who camped at Mills Canyon in 2002 discussed types of critters found, the impressive number of mosquitos, and the ATV annoyances.

After a break for cookies and other snacks, Tara Wheeler provided a slide presentation of herps that she photographed on her recent trip to Arizona and photos of the Sandia Pueblo foothills survey.

The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Jean S. Burt, Secretary, NMHS