

Meeting Minutes
New Mexico Herpetological Society (NMHS)
January 12, 2012

President Scott Bulgrin opened the meeting attended by 15 adults. Jean Burt read the minutes from the November 2011 meeting. Garth Graves reported a bank balance of \$1,625.85 as of January 12, 2012.

Old Business

Scott thanked those who attended the behind the scenes tour at the Albuquerque BioPark Reptile House. The Reptile House is closed until March for renovations.

Members discussed the holiday banquet held December 10, attended by 38 people. The silent auction was again a success, bringing in \$231.00. Overall, the new venue at Garcia's was enjoyed however, there were some complaints about the limited food variety. If Garcia's is selected for the holiday banquet next year, it was agreed to discuss a more varied buffet selection with their staff.

Scott thanked members who participated in the educational exhibit at the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge Festival of the Cranes on 11/19-20/11. Members approved reimbursing those who participated as follows: \$60.00 for those who spent the night and \$30.00 for those who drove down for the day on Saturday. August asked who has access control to the room at the Visitors' Center where NMHS displays critters. Scott will find out before the festival in November 2012.

New Business and Upcoming Events

Scott reported that the Pueblo of Sandia and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are currently performing salvage operations on the diversion channel. They have rescued soft shell turtles, bullfrog tadpoles, and fish – including several thousand silvery minnows.

2012 Surveys to be performed by NMHS at the Sandia Pueblo on Tuesdays and Saturdays include an area of the Bosque and the foothills. The surveys of the southern 3 miles of the Bosque will be contracted out. Surveys are planned to start April/May through the end of October.

Scott proposed that NMHS again sponsor 2 animals at the Rattlesnake Museum at \$52.00 each. Members voted and approved this proposal.

August volunteered to present at the April NMHS meeting. The topic of his presentation will be venomous snake handling in the field.

The Venom Conference will be held in Albuquerque in October 2012. Members discussed the possibility of inviting a participant to speak to NMHS and volunteering our services to work the registration desk.

Scott knows a person who owns a ranch in Hildebrandt, Texas, northwest of San Antonio. She is interested in NMHS conducting herp surveys on her ranch. There is a bunkhouse with kitchen available for surveyors should we decide to do this.

Pat reminded members that Amphibian and Reptile Discovery Day at the Albuquerque BioPark is January 21, 2012, and Sea Turtle Awareness Day at the Aquarium is January 28, 2012.

Ted distributed a questionnaire to be completed and returned at the January meeting. Scott reminded members to complete the survey and collected those that had been completed.

Scott distributed reptile-related articles.

After a break for goodies, Jennifer Stabile, the Albuquerque BioPark, Curator of Amphibians, presented “The Coqui Conservation Initiative” to members already present and six newcomers.

The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Jean S. Burt, Secretary, NMHS