

Meeting Minutes
New Mexico Herpetological Society (NMHS)
March 1, 2012

President Scott Bulgrin opened the meeting attended by 26 adults and 3 junior herpers. Jean Burt read the minutes from the February 2012 meeting. Garth Graves reported a bank balance of \$1,181.86 as of March 1, 2012.

Old Business

Scott reported that Dr. Valerie Clark presented, "Exploring the Diversity and Ecology of Amphibian Skin Chemicals" to 12 NMHS members on the evening of February 25, 2012. She also discussed other research including how to collect secretions noninvasively. A few NMHS members went to dinner with Dr. Clark after her presentation. Scott thanked Alf and Lisa Reeb for providing the conference room for the presentation and for the delicious brownies and cookies and bottles of water. Garth suggested giving Alf and Lisa free NMHS t-shirts in appreciation for their contributions. All agreed.

New Business and Upcoming Events

NMHS members will be attending the Dog Canyon Experience at Oliver Lee State Park on March 17 - 18, 2012. NMHS will exhibit critters and Ted Brown will provide a presentation to park visitors. Ted is coordinating NMHS attendance at the event, so contact him if interested. Jaci will provide NMHS t-shirts to Ted to sell at the Dog Canyon Experience. On a side note, the new t-shirts do not glow in the dark.

Bob Myers introduced visitors (and potential new members) Marty and Emly.

Jerry Tuttle reported on a reptile rescue. A guy known as "Mouse" said he had an Inland Taipan that needed a home. The snake was photographed, and the photo sent to Doug Hotle, (Curator of Reptiles at the ABQ BioPark) for identification. Doug identified it as an African house snake. The State Game and Fish Department and Animal Control were notified.

Evelyn Candelaria reported that there is an important meeting coming up. Bernalillo County is redefining animal ordinances and may remove a paragraph that prohibits the release of feral cats into the wild. Evelyn identified several problems with releasing feral cats – for example, zoonotic diseases, destruction of wildlife such as reptiles and birds, and destruction of wildlife habitat (e.g., endangering bobcat and coyote). Evelyn encouraged members to attend the meeting on the third Wednesday of March at 5:30 p.m. or to send an e-mail to Animal Control or the County Commission.

Bill Degenhardt reported that UNM Press has an overstock of several books, including "Amphibians and Reptiles of New Mexico" which he co-authored. Several members expressed interest in purchasing this book at a discount price. He will bring 20 books to the next meeting. Those going to the Dog Canyon Experience will try to sell a few books there as well.

Upcoming conference: May 1-5, 2012 Madrian Biodiversity and Management in Tucson, Arizona (SWPARC).

After members devoured cookies and brownies leftover from the February 25 presentation (as well as a new supply of cookies), Josh Emms showed slides of the Ute Lake State Park area critters. Bob showed an old movie from the 1930s about the dangers of crocodile hunting.

The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Jean S. Burt, Secretary, NMHS