

Meeting Minutes
New Mexico Herpetological Society (NMHS)
September 5, 2013

President Scott Bulgrin opened the meeting attended by 21 adults and 1 toddler. Jean Burt read the August 2013 meeting minutes. Garth Graves reported a bank balance of \$1,110.75.

Old Business

- August 2 Scott presented “New Mexico Turtles” at the Esther Bone Library in Rio Rancho to approximately 89 people and displayed live specimens (This item was previously reported at the August meeting).
- August 17 Cosmos/Zane Dohner and Jerry Tuttle represented NMHS with an educational exhibit at Santa Ana Environmental Day, Santa Ana Pueblo.
- August 24 Nancy Bush, August Breithaupt, and Jerry represented NMHS with an educational exhibit at the Wildlife West Harvest Festival. August excited attendees with a presentation on how to identify and cope with venomous snakes.

Dr. Dante Fenolio will be the guest speaker at the NMHS Holiday Banquet on Saturday, December 14. He is the current manager of Conservation and Research at the San Antonio Zoo. He will arrive in Albuquerque December 14 and leave December 15. NMHS will pay for his flight and meals. He will spend the night with Charlie and Lori Painter or Scott, Rebecca, and Logan.

Jaci Fischer reported that she confirmed the holiday banquet with Garcia’s on Central and asked if the menu from last year would work again this year. Members agreed that it was a good menu.

Josh Emms distributed the report for the NMHS Labor Day field trip at Water Canyon and summarized observations by the 10 adults and 4 children who participated.

At Scott’s request, the “new faces” at the meeting introduced themselves.

Members took a refreshment break to allow our guest speaker to set up for a presentation (the meeting resumed after the presentation). Nancy introduced Doug Hotle of the Albuquerque BioPark who presented “Albuquerque BioPark’s Native Species Recovery Program.” His presentation focused on three species:

- Sacramento Mountain Salamander
- Narrow-headed Garter Snake
- Northern Mexican Garter Snake

Cosmos asked Doug if NMHS could again be treated to a behind the scenes tour of the reptile house before the holiday banquet. Doug agreed, but asked that NMHS contact him to coordinate this.

Upcoming Events

- September 7 Dragonfly Festival at Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) in Roswell – Scott will represent NMHS.
- September 24 Scott will present to Navajo Elementary School children.
- October 5 Sevilleta NWR Open House

New Business

Nancy reported that she has contacted Jesus Rivas (an expert on anacondas) who has agreed to present to NMHS. However, he cannot present on Thursday evenings as he is currently at Highlands University in Las Vegas, NM and not available to make a weeknight trip. Nancy suggested holding the October NMHS meeting on Saturday, October 5, followed by a presentation by Jesus Rivas. Scott indicated that a short meeting should be held on Thursday night, October 3, with the Jesus Rivas presentation on October 5. Possible venues for the Rivas presentation were discussed. The Department of Agriculture building, previously used by NMHS for a weekend speaker is no longer available. Josh will request access to the training room at his work place, Scott will check other venues such as Open Space Visitors' Center and Public Libraries.

Josh suggested that we set a date for the NMHS 50th anniversary potluck. Members agreed to Saturday, October 19, late afternoon or early evening. Josh will have the 50th anniversary video scrolling during the potluck. Josh and Scott again encouraged members to either be interviewed on camera or write up and narrate historical information on NMHS on camera to be included in the video. Also, members are requested to send photos for inclusion in the video.

The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Jean S. Burt, Secretary, NMHS