

4/3/14 -- Approved Meeting Minutes Volume 51 Number 4
New Mexico Herpetological Society (NMHS)
April 3, 2014

American International Rattlesnake Museum

President Scott Bulgrin opened the meeting at 7:07pm attended by 19 adults and 1 toddler herper. He welcomed all present and asked for a reading of the Minutes of March 6th by our Secretary. These were acknowledged with a few laughs, approved with few corrections or additions. Scott called on Letitia Peirce for a Treasurer's Report which showed a bank balance of \$2470.54.

Scott reported that he will be at an Environmental Protection Conference in Dallas and therefore will not preside over our NMHS meeting on May 1st. He said that Matt Eschenbrenner and the veterinarian of our zoo went to the Ivory Coast of Africa to scope out possibilities for a shared project involving Nile Crocodiles and will present a program about this at our next meeting. Josh offered to bring the needed power point projector. Scott reminded us that NMHS still needs policy statements pertaining to the display of native venomous reptiles and quarantining of herps.

Old Business

The first topic for discussion was where do we want to go on our Memorial Day Field Trip? Scott asked for a show of hands of those willing to drive more than three hours to a destination in New Mexico. Eleven hands went up. It was broached that the North American Field Herping Association will be convening in Rodeo, New Mexico in September.

Scott brought up that the Bottomless Lakes State Park near Roswell offers swimming and camping and that nearby Mescalero Sands on BLM has produced Corn Snakes, Barking Frogs, herps of 35 species. Historian Ted Brown was asked when NMHS made the last field trip to Black River Recreation Area on BLM west of the Pecos River and east of White City. With remarkably usual lack of hesitation on his part, Ted recalled that the year was 1987.

Scott pointed out that Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge near Roswell has shelters with electricity and a porta-potty in an area used by Boy Scouts, noted that Bluewater Lake near Grants will be crowded, asked whether there is a campground on Mount Taylor near Grants, pointed out that southwest of Datil is Datil Well Campground, that Ojito near San Ysidro has no water and no latrine, and asked what about the Jemez. Scott said that he will pass on the list of possible destinations to Josh tomorrow and also contact Bitter Lake.

New Business

Scott said that he will send a Memo to the Governor of Sandia Pueblo requesting permission to again open bucket traps on the Pueblo's bajada for our NMHS Sandia Pueblo Herpetological Survey to be conducted from May to October.

Ted Brown said that he will have a report ready as early as May 8 about our 2013 Sandia Pueblo Survey. Scott reminded us that DVDs of our NMHS 50th Anniversary Celebration are available for sale.

Jerry Tuttle reported that:

on 4/1/14 he, Geneva and Olivia presented on "Snake Acquaintance & Confidence" to 20 Attendees in Summer Brown's Pre-K class at the North Valley Academy in Albuquerque.

on 4/4/14 he and Aja Michell provided ambassador animals for kids to touch in the "1 book 1 school" literacy project titled "The Summer According to Humphrey" at the SY Jackson Elementary School in Albuquerque. There were 500 Attendees. The Zoo crew had on hand "Og" the frog, gila monster, hognose snake, mountain kingsnake, California Kingsnake and Savannah Monitor (rescue).

on 4/23/14 he was at the Bosque School

Albuquerque with the Zoo Crew and ambassador animals for the Thesis Presentation: "Herps and High Schoolers; and he took part in the BEMP outreach on April 24th and 25th. Much more about Jerry's outreach can be found at

The Zoo Crew with Jerry Tuttle - blogspot.com zoocrewkids.blogspot.com Contact: Heiyou50@msn.com

Josh reported that he and his cousin who is a Cubmaster presented the program Passionate Pets to the scout group.

Josh said that when his aunt presents on herps to a class the kids sit still.

Ted Brown said that he and Sue presented on March 10 at Lynn Schuler's Truman Middle School. They brought a baby bullsnake, Larry the bullsnake, whiptails and a milksnake and included questionnaire and suggestions about research. Two students completed assigned projects.

Jerry Tuttle announced the 1) Inaugural Texas Rattlesnake Festival at the Dell Diamond in Round Rock, Texas north of Austin on March 8 and 9 with Cristin Wylie and Jim Harrison doing venom extraction, 2)

the Rattlesnake Roundup in Sweetwater, Texas and 3) a conference at the Sanderson, Texas Snake Days.

New Business

April 8 Scott will be at Wilson Middle School in southeast Albuquerque for five sessions

April 24 Ted, Jerry and Tom will present with Bosque School at Los Golangrinas in Santa Fe

April 24 Albuquerque school.....

April 25 Jerry and Scott will be at Bosque School for cookies and pizza

May 1 Will NMHS need a table at Santa Clara Pueblo Earth Day? Snakes are welcome. The U.S. Forest Service will be there, so will the "bird people"!

May 1 We will need a leader for our meeting.

May 3 Sandia Pueblo will open the bajada for our NMHS Herpetological Survey.

With obvious excitement, Scott shared with us insiders that he and a Sandia tribal member will be cooperating with a French filmmaker this coming weekend on Pueblo land. This producer? director? writer? videographer? wants to record our desert and our reptiles for two million viewers back in the Old Country. Scott plans to borrow a Prairie Rattlesnake from the Rattlesnake Museum for an appearance in the production, an hour-long documentary special. Scott went on to tickle his and our imaginations with his glowing look ahead at the certain fame his own on-screen appearance will generate among French vidiots from all walks of life who just might recognize him sitting highly visible sitting at a sidewalk cafe' along the Rue with a "Yes, oui, it's him, Monsieur Scott "Prairie Rattlesnake" Bulgrin', oui, the American!" Considerably and obviously calmed down, Scott moved on to news and announcements:

For Sale: Peruvian X Red-Tail Boas: Dave's 1"-long axolotls \$1 each; Scott's tank.

An article from Scott's mom in Fort Meyers, Florida told that the Florida Department of Game and Fish caught a 6' to 8'-long Nile Crocodile.

Sue Brown suggested that members consider, agree to send a thank-you note to former Vice-President Nancy Bush and meet after the business meeting to do that.

Scott tossed in that Aja Michelle graduated from UNM Biology where she studied anoles and monitors.

Janie Nemitz, guest, described herself as a woman who likes snakes, has a Ball Python to adopt out, worked in social services with adult humans, has \$10 in hand for NMHS dues.

Max Havelka was with us.

So was Mark Haber. He recalled that he was President of NMHS ten years ago, co-owned herp store Subterranean Jungle in Albuquerque for five years, now is Cub Scout leader. He recalled a trip to Quarai ruins, rainy night when he saw 2 Blacktails mating, and Canyon Tree Frogs, What did he say about Chi? Brigadoon?

Bob Myers, our host, reminded us that we still need a vice-president, introduced Oliver, a rescue dog from the West Side of Albuquerque, and, with relief, said that he and Lorraine will be visiting Disneyland.

Break

We celebrated April birthdays of Ted Brown, Scott Bulgrin, Bill Degenhardt and Jaci Fischer by downing many of the most delicious chocolate, carrot and Boston cream cupcakes brought by Sue and Ted from Dulce's in Santa Fe.

Program

Scott promised presentations by Matt Eschenbrenner in May and Max Havelka in June and our annual NMHS Potluck in July at Jaci's.

Tonight's program er, rather, canned entertainment' provided by Bob, was a feature video aired in 2011 on the Discovery Channel titled "The Speed of Life." Narrated by Sheppard Smith, "Speed of Life' recognises that much of nature functions much faster or slower, lighter or darker, larger or smaller than can be appreciated with the naked eye. By using modern technology to manipulate time, light and size, this fascinating new series will reveal the subtle nuances and hidden majesty of the natural world. Scenes from locations including the Central American rainforest and East Africa have been painstakingly filmed and analyzed using high speed, time lapse, night, thermal, macro lenses, microscopes, and even 'Bullet-Time' photographic technology. The result is a unique look at nature and wildlife that has to be seen to be believed."

Our audience thinned out, the meeting adjourned on its own around 9pm.

Submitted by Cosmos, Secretary NMHS