

## Approved Meeting Minutes

Volume 51 Number 8

New Mexico Herpetological Society (NMHS)

August 7, 2014

American International Rattlesnake Museum

President Scott Bulgrin presided over our August meeting attended by 19.

Treasurer Letitia reported a balance in the Society's bank account of \$2468.54.

Secretary Cosmos read the Minutes of May 1 which were approved.

### OLD BUSINESS

Scott reported on the NMHS field trip to Datil Wells and annual potluck dinner at Jaci and Fred's on July 12th.

Josh Emms reported on the presentation at Wildlife West. Aided by Jason they showed herps to 87 visitors.

Ted Brown reported that he and Sue did not present at Villanueva State Park as scheduled on June 8 and requested a new date. Instead, they motored to Las Vegas, NV and in 85 to 105 degree heat helped store property of Sue's late uncle. Ted got in road herping with Steve Stocking on the north side of Lake Mead, on the road to the Yucca test site, found geckos, night lizards and a DOR sidewinder. Rains came in mid July.

Ted reported that he and Sue did present at Ute Lake State Park on July 19th to 40-50 visitors

Scott reported that he, Garth Graves and Logan Bulgrin appeared at Esther Bone Library in Rio Rancho on July 18 and on the 12th 24 herpers were at the annual NMHS potluck at Jaci and Fred's. For our program of the evening, Max Havelka showed powerpoint slides of Painted, Snapping, Red-eared Slider and Soft-shell Turtles and Wood Ducks he had photographed on the Albuquerque Drain near the Rio Grande Nature Center.

Kelley Hill reported that he, Jerry Tuttle and Jason showed their herps on July 19th at Isleta Pueblo's first ever Environmental Day. Rattlesnakes were well represented: Prairie, Banded Rock and Diamondback. On display too was a splendida (Common Kingsnake, *Lampropeltis getula splendida*).

### NEW BUSINESS

Scott pushed for more outreach. He reported that our Sandia Pueblo Survey has produced Long-nose, atrox and 2 viridis snakes. Of concern to Sandia Pueblo is the kill-off of Cholla Cactus by Cholla Cactus Longhorn Beetles. Beetles lay eggs on cholla and prickly pear cactus. Black spots on branches and

pads are caused by 1-1//2" grubs. These larvae may sequester for years. Along Tramway Boulevard on Pueblo land, chollas are green in the buffalo pasture to the south and dying on range land to the north. Scott has marked 30 100'x100' plots and chollas will be checked at 2-week intervals for numbers of adult and grub beetles and numbers of healthy, dying and dead plants. Increased precipitation from summer rains might be a factor.

Upcoming

August 15, 16, 17 Wildlife Expo with New Mexico Department of Game and Fish participation. Jamie and Olivia will be there. Josh will be there on Friday and Saturday.

August 23, Saturday, Santa Ana Environmental Day. Please leave your snakes at home.

September 8-9 Bitter Lakes National Wildlife Refuge Dragonfly Festival. This is the weekend after Labor Day. 120 species of dragonflies have been recorded. Set up in the Visitors Center 9am-4pm. Jerry will talk Friday evening. Count on there being field trips, showers, laundry.

#### OTHER NEW BUSINESS

Scott wryly noted that NMHS has no Vice President. Patrick spoke up and humbly accepted the position. He was voted in by acclamation.

And he announced that our Labor Day Field Trip is coming up on September 2nd. Our audience suggested destinations: Organ Mountains, Sugarite State Park, Florida Mountains, Peloncillo Mountains, Chiricahua Mountains, Jemez Mountains, Black Range, Cook's Range. Members will have to decide and get back to Scott and Josh.

Also, we must choose a restaurant that has enough room for our December 13th Banquet. Bistro? Garcia's? Monroe's?

Guests introduced themselves: Olivia from Georgia, Bobbie, Daniel who was envenomated at age 12 and Brian. Scott invited guests to help out with our Sandia Pueblo Survey.

Scott brought up that the Fish N Fin store in Albuquerque still is open for business. Josh and Jan had been to the San Antonio, Texas Zoo and Doug Hodal of our BioPark is on administrative leave.

Our August 7th meeting adjourned at 9:07pm.

Thank you very much, Bob and Lorraine Myers, for hosting us.

Submitted by Secretary Cosmos