

## Meeting Minutes

Volume 53 Number 3

New Mexico Herpetological Society (NMHS)

March 5, 2015

Convened at American International Rattlesnake Museum in Old Town Albuquerque

Parliamentarian Bill Degenhardt passed out reprints of a piece titled "Libraries of Life" from THE NEW YORK TIMES 2/27/'15 about the importance of preserved animal and plant specimens in natural history museums .

President Scott Bulgrin called our meeting to order at 7:07pm., welcomed 16 adult, a toddler and a baby herpers present and asked for a reading of the Minutes of our February 5, 2015 meeting

### OLD BUSINESS

Secretary Cosmos read those Minutes which were then approved by attendees without trepidation and with minor corrections and additions. Pat Maher said that he did not recall finishing off his presentation about Baja and Arizona with the exclamation "COOL!"

Scott asked for the Treasurer's Report. Letitia reported a balance in the NMHS checking account of \$3,107.28 after the latest speaker's honorarium had been paid.

### NEW BUSINESS

Scott strongly recommended that our Society pay \$75 to Ted and Sue Brown for the cookies and drinks they bring for our breaktimes. This motion was approved by members and our Treasurer cut a check on the spot for that amount.

Scott assured us that he will renew the NMHS website for five years and that the cost will be negligible.

Scott announced that on April 8 he will present at Wilson Middle School in ABQ and on Sunday November 8 will present at Las Vegas NWR and that our NMHS Memorial Day Field Trip will take place while the International Herpetological Society is meeting in San Antonio, Texas.

Scott related that he had talked to Lori who said that Charlie Painter works for only a few hours in his shop and then rests up. Scott recollected that in November we members chose to give a gift certificate to Lori and Charlie, which Lori declined. This evening we unanimously chose to give \$104 to our American International Rattlesnake Museum with the request that a plaque reading "Sponsored in Honor of New Mexico Herpetologist Charlie Painter" be placed on the enclosure of the New Mexico Milksnake ( *Lampropeltis triangulum celaenops* ).

Letitia passed around a copy of the "New Mexico Wildlife" winter supplement to our ALBUQUERQUE JOURNAL with news that 2014 was the "Year of the Salamander" as declared by the Partners in

Amphibian and Reptile Conservation and a piece about the three species of salamanders found in New Mexico: endangered Jemez Mountains (*Plethodon neomexicanus*) which has no lungs; threatened Sacramento Mountains (*Aneides hardii*) which has no lungs; and the Tiger (*Ambystoma tigrinum*) which has lungs.

Scott reminded us that he will present at Coronado State Monument in Bernalillo, NM on June 28th. Jerry Tuttle reported that 600+ students came to the STEM GROUP.

Scott will ask the Governor of Sandia Pueblo for permission for NMHS to conduct a herp survey at a new location NE of previous surveys. And he let us know that the Cactus Longhorn Beetles were found on 17% of Cholla Cactus plants on Sandia Pueblo in 2014.

Scott said that Valle de Oro NWR in south ABQ has asked NMHS to conduct point surveys using five pitfall traps in 2015. Will we have the necessary volunteers? If traps are checked only once a week will watering devices be needed in pitfall traps? The Refuge offers a working farm, a wetlands and opportunities for restoration projects. NMHS could come up with a tri-fold list of herps found on the Refuge. Perhaps US Fish and Wildlife will then produce a poster showing those herps?

Scott said that NMHS will put in pitfall traps on Sandia Pueblo on April 25<sup>th</sup>.

Jerry Tuttle said that Travis and Parker will be at Valley High School in ABQ all day on Saturday and expect 800 students.

Secretary Cosmos brought up Old/New business: need for policy statement from herpers who display venomous NM reptiles that the herper and not NMHS is liable for any injury to visitors to the presentation. Good judgment peer pressure from NMHS will be that venomous reptiles must be displayed in locked VisionCages. Josh Emms objected to a seeming contradiction in the Secretary's statements. Jerry Tuttle offered to submit a Waiver of Liability involved in his NM Department of Game and Fish approved display of the Gila Monster. Scott suggested we take up the discussion in April of this year.

Someone mentioned that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service intends to prohibit the import of Reticulated Python, DeSchauensee's Anaconda, Green Anaconda and Beni Anaconda into the United States and its territories, as well as transport across state lines for snakes already in the U.S. This applies to live individuals, gametes, viable eggs or hybrids of the four species. The Service is doing this as Administrative Act 249 of the Lacey Act.

Scott announced that Pat Maher already has sold a snake and has one on breeding loan, Daniel Carroll has Black Range Pyros for sale \$450 each and three of NMHS VisionCages and Josh Emms has for sale a Desert King and two Gophers, one from Gila and one from Wind River, NM.

Scott said that the NMDG&F will put on the big show on November 2nd.

Guests introduced themselves. Malcom McKensie came in 86 miles from the east. He's third generation on his family's ranch out there and protects rattlesnakes. Randy\_\_\_\_\_ is reptile specialist at

Clark's Pet Emporium on Lomas NE, ABQ.

Joss asked for suggestions for where we should go on our Memorial Day Field Trip May 23 - 25. Bill Degenhardt suggested Nara Visa and the possibility of finding Hognose Snakes. Suggested destinations included Guadalupe Mountains, Queen, Redrock for Gila Monsters, BLM near Bluewater Lake south of Grants, Gallinas Mountains camping area.

Scott asked our Secretary to email to him and Josh a calendar of NMHS outreach events in 2015 and the NMHS Membership Roll 2014.

Tom Eichhorst paid dues \$10 and took off early. Kimberly Elizabeth of Alamogordo is a new member.

BREAK TIME

PROGRAM

Josh Emms took us along with him, Nikki, Chloe and Baby Boy on their herping roadtrips. His slides were vivid and his narrative was compelling. Away we went to: the family's appearance on ABQ TV Channel 4 with Nicole Brady, NMDG&F EXPO in ABQ with 2,500 visitors each day, Albuquerque BioPark Botanic Gardens, bosque ponds at Tingley Beach, Rio Grande Nature Center, volcanoes and Shooting Range Road, Valle de Oro NWR, Placitas, Wildlife West at Edgewood, Belen Airport Road, Bosque del Apache NWR, Farmington, and Spirit Falls near Sundance, Utah.

And we saw the Texas Horned Lizard at the northern limit of its range in Valencia County, Massasaugas, atrox, Striped Whipsnake, Woodhouse Toad tadpoles, Chihuahuan Spotted Whiptail, American Coot, Red-eared Slider Turtles, Soft-shelled Turtles, garter snake, Bull Frogs, Collared Lizard, Painted Turtle, a feisty glossy, Desert Kingsnake, Great Basin Gopher Snake, splendida, Long-nose Leopard Lizard, Collared Peccary, Great Plains Rat Snake, Plain's Spadefoot, Couch's Spadefoot, Great Plains Skink, Black-neck Garter Snake, Wandering Garter Snake, Big Bend Patch-nose Snake, and a Mormon Cricket.

Thank you very much Emms family for the adventure!! Our meeting adjourned at 9:20pm. Thank you very much Bob and Lorraine Myer for hosting us in your Museum!

Meeting Minutes submitted by Secretary Cosmos

