

Approved Meeting Minutes

Volume 53 Number 5

New Mexico Herpetological Society (NMHS)

May 7, 2015

We convened at the American International Rattlesnake Museum in Old Town Albuquerque.

President Scott Bulgrin presided over our meeting, welcomed 20 guests, including one child, one toddler and one youth herper.

Scott asked our Treasurer Letitia for the latest financial condition statement. She reported a balance in the checking account of \$2,963.28 as of May 7. Her report was accepted by members present.

Scott asked Secretary Cosmos to read Minutes of our April 2nd meeting. Three corrections were made and then the Minutes were approved by members present.

OLD BUSINESS (7:34 PM)

NMHS Presentations:

Jerry Tuttle told us about his presentations. Details of those are submitted as attachments along with these Minutes.

On April at Los Golandrinas in south Santa Fe and staffed by Jerry Tuttle, Tom Eichhort, and Sue and Ted Brown under the portal in beautiful weather. This annual event as attended by 300-400 junior and senior high school students

On May 1 at the Bosque School in northwest Albuquerque Bosque school which has a bent toward nature and staffed by Tom Eichhorst. 300 kids were there. Tom demonstrated how to be bitten by a California Kingsnake and bled well to the amazement of students. Some classes could not access the NMHS display because students were giving presentations of their own. This was a field trip for students who voted for this program. Hawks Aloft of Albuquerque was there. What was popular was a scorpion lit up by ultraviolet light.

On April 14 at Environment Day at the NMHS presentation was by Scott Bulgrin and Jim Morrison. This was held in a 5th graders classroom for 70 students.

On May 3, a Friday, NMHS was there at the New Mexico Museum of Natural History & Science for "Frog: Amphibian Day." Bob Myer from the Rattlesnake Museum presented. 400 people attended. Bob handed out 112 stick-ons tattoos for the kids UNM graduate students in biology brought a Bullfrog. Tom from NM Highlands Jesus Rivas and Shawn from the US Forest Service were there. Dave and Jean Burt were there. A Tiger Salamander was on display in the naturalist area

NEW BUSINESS

On May 3 NMHS will be at Valle de Oro NWR in south Albuquerque. Scott will be getting GPS coordinates of pitfall traps on Friday. Garth and Lynn Schuler and her dog will be checking those traps on Sundays. Scott asked whether NMHS will provide volunteers on Wednesdays or Thursdays.

Scott wanted to know when is Pond Day? He told us that he had looked around the refuge at buildings with urban trash. Valle de Oro is open 8 AM to 5 PM. There is an access gate for NMHS at the SW end of the refuge property. No collecting of live animals will be allowed. Scott asked if there will be a field day?

Bernalillo County Animal Control has notified us that it has Red-eared Slider Turtles to give away.

On June 20th Saturday from 10 AM to 6 PM NMHS outreach will be at Wildlife West in Edgewood. They will feed us.

On June 28th Sunday NMHS will present at Coronado State Monument in Bernalillo from 10 AM to 1 PM

Betsy Davis told Jaci Fischer that Charlie Painter is in Anna Kasemann Hospital=Hospice Room 707 on the First Floor 5500 Wyoming @ Constitution NE Albuquerque in his last days, hours. Scott suggested that NMHS pay for 2 years of sponsoring the New Mexico Milksnake in tribute to Charlie. Bob Myer said that he will provide a plaque to announce the tribute.

Sue Brown recalled the 2014 Memorial Day to Nara Visa, New Mexico. The school gym and grounds were reserved for NMHS for camping. Herpers found Box Turtles, Water Snakes, Blind Snakes, Garter Snakes, Black-headed Snake. The gym has kitchen facilities for our stay on Friday, Saturday and Sunday

Scott described the layout for our upcoming Sandia Pueblo Survey. We will put in 32 pitfall traps in 3 areas: the lower near I-25; the middle at corrals and an arroyo; and the green area further north in pinon-juniper woodland. We will meet on the Sandia Pueblo administration building parking lot. The governor of Sandia Pueblo is limiting us to 5 people and 4 cars on survey days. Pete Ferrari of the Pueblo will be with us on the Saturday surveys. Collecting of live herps will be limited to 2 lizards per surveyor per survey day

We will put in pitfall traps on Sandia on this coming Saturday in all 3 areas. Expect rocky, hard digging in the highest are.

Scott told us that he had read in the Fort Myers Florida news article #1 that a giant sea turtle had eaten a boy and article #2 that readers were not happy with that big lie!

Our summertime potluck is coming up. Could we have it in July? at Jaci and Fred's? Jaci said yes, so we will have it on the 18th

Tonight's is the last NMHS meeting til August 6th when Logan Bulgrin will present on "Does a 6th grader's opinion of arachnids change?"

We will need a speaker for our September meeting.

Guests

Shawn Sartorius and son 10 years old Russell. Shawn is head of endangered species in the SW Region of the US Forest Service in Albuquerque. Shawn went to school at U of Arizona and the U of Oklahoma. Russell said that he had moved a lot and been to different schools in different states..

Richard D. Reams is the new Curator of Reptiles in our ABQ BioPark. He came from zoos in Dallas, Indianapolis and Baton Rouge.

Ray Dennis joined us. He is moving to Rodeo, NM and needs to locate a home there

Mike Carroll joined us. He is Daniel's dad and has been with us in the field on Sandia Pueblo.

Max Havelka joined us too.

BREAK (8:12 PM)

Sue and Ted Brown showed slides of our NMHS Field Trip to Nara Visa, New Mexico in 2014. The area included the Horse Creek Ranch and the Baily Ranch. Of course we found herps and the slide show proved it:

Adult Prairie Blotched Lizard, Tiger Salamander, Red Garter Snake, Plains Black-headed, Blind Snake, Lined Snake, Great Plains Skink, Great Plains Toad, Glossy Snake, New Mexico Blind Snake, Bullsnake, and viridis

Ted had hand-outs: 1) "How To Get To Nara Visa For The 22-25 May 2009 NMHS Field Trip"; 2) "A List of Herps For The Nara Visa Area, Quay Co., NM"; and 3) "A Report On The New Mexico Herpetological Society Field Trip To Nara Visa, Quay Co., New Mexico, 22-25 May 2009, Ted L. Brown" listing 7 species of amphibians and 18 species of reptiles.

Scott gave us more details about our Sandia Pueblo Survey:

East of I-25 3 roads split off; take the road on the left

Area A is at the fork in the dirt road. We will put in 8 traps, some in an arroyo, all in rocky ground.

Areas B and C are centered around cattle corrals, a windmill and livestock watering tanks. We will put in 16 pitfall traps. There are wood piles to check out. We will have to cut some barbed wire fences at the windmill to access our traps. Green waste is the form of huge cottonwood tree stumps from the bosque has been dumped into the arroyo which is south of the windmill.

Area D is closest to I-25 and the Pueblo and bisected by a north-south road. We will put in 8 pitfall traps along an arroyo. The survey in these areas will go on for five years. The field office which is located two blocks east of the main administration building will be our rendezvous place before and after herping.

Our meeting adjourned at 8:58 PM.

These Draft Minutes are submitted by NMHS Secretary Cosmos and approved with few corrections by members present.

With much gratitude to Bob and Lorraine Myer who hosted us in their American International Rattlesnake Museum.