

Approved Meeting Minutes

Volume 53 Number 8

New Mexico Herpetological Society (NMHS)

August 6, 2015

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

Scott presided over our meeting which began at 7:18 PM and was attended by 20 guests, including a child, a toddler and a teen herper.

Scott said that this evening's presentation will come first, followed by a short break, followed by the business meeting and a recap of what's happened since our last NMHS meeting on May 7.

PROGRAM

Scott introduced our presenter of the evening, his son Logan Bulgrin. Logan titled his project "Does Educational Outreach Affect A 6th Grader's Perspective on Arachnids?" He did this for his 6th grade class at Corrales International Baccalaureate School.

Logan's Hypothesis was: I believe that after conducting an educational outreach (PowerPoint presentation and arachnid display) the subjects view on arachnids will increase positively.

His pre-survey asked 27 students in his class whether they liked or disliked arachnids.

With his dad's help, Logan brought live arachnids including a Rose-haired Tarantula, into the classroom and showed slides of arachnids to his classmates.

His post-survey asked those same students whether they now liked arachnids more or disliked them less.

And his Conclusion was: After analyzing results of my study, my hypothesis was correct. More students increased their liking for arachnids after the educational outreach.

Logan then showed slides of 8-legged arachnids to the delight of us in his audience. Tarantulas, scorpions with their black light fluorescing bacteria, sun spider, tick, arisumulid, schizomida, vinegaroon, daddy long legs, black widows and Happy Face spider. (End 7:58 PM)

Jerry Tuttle told us that students at Bosque School who surveyed 4th graders in 2014 regarding their aversion to reptiles will survey seniors this time. Jerry told Logan that his project will have a significant impact on his classmates.

Letitia Peirce asked if there are fewer spiders in Albuquerque this year.

Josh Emms said that he has seen lots of black widow, wolf and pumpkin spiders.

Scott said he presented at his mom's assisted living facility and showed slides of his and Logan's 4th of July trip to Yellowstone National Park, to 25 seniors. The Park was visited by 3.5 million people in 2014. They saw grizzly bear, black bear, cow moose and backed up traffic. Bear proofing is policy so there was no outdoor camping allowed in the Park. They had to camp outside of the Park

Scott recalled two herp news items: 1) a man held a rattlesnake in his hand, to take a selfie and the snake struck him in the neck; and 2) a guy was struck by a rattlesnake and got a hospital bill for \$143,000 (\$88,000 was for antivenin).

Scott started the business meeting

OLD BUSINESS

Scott and Logan went to Cave Creek and the Chiricahua Mountains in Arizona and found scorpions which they have not identified.

Cosmos read the Secretary's Report which was the NMHS Meeting Minutes from May 7, 2015. These were approved with minor corrections by members present.

Letitia read the Treasurer's Report which shows a balance in the NMHS checking on July 18 of \$2,918.32

Scott NMHS paid \$179 for four years hosting fee and \$54 for its website. Our website went down in July.

NMHS Outreach

June 20 Wildlife West at Edgewood, New Mexico

June 28 Coronado State Monument at Bernalillo, NN. The Ranger called the NMHS presentation "the best."

July 18 Isleta Pueblo Environment Day. Travis and Jerry Tuttle presented on the natural history of the Gilas Monster. Kelly Hill brought his rattlesnakes. This event was attended by 300-400 people. More vendors were there than in 2014.

There will be no environment days at Sandia and Santa Ana Pueblos this year

August 4 Meadowlark Senior Center. Scott put on a program in Rio Rancho, NM to 18 people. A lady from the Corrales Senior Center requested that NMHS put on a presentation there.

Jerry Tuttle's outreach. Scott asked our Secretary to attach that record to the Minutes.

July 18 NMHS Summertime Potluck at Jaci Fischer's home in northwest Albuquerque. Ted Brown said that this was attended by 20 people including Betsy Davis and Lorie Painter. After dinner Ted presented a slide show about set-up day on Sandia Pueblo. Then Josh Emms showed slides of herps in California and Colorado. He was followed by Max Havelka who showed a sequence of slides of Chuckwallas that Ted described as "dancing around on boulders" in Mojave, California and a Gila Monster from the

Newberry Mountains in Nevada. Thank you, Jaci and Fred!!

July Villanueva State Park, NM. Ted reported that he and Sue Brown presented to 50 people and featured Larry the 6' long Bullsnake,

July 25 Ute Lake State Park, NM. Ted and Sue put on a program in the Visitors Center. That evening they put on a program at Lake Shore. This followed a performance by two Kiowa dancers. The 7-year old fell in love with Bubbles the Bullsnake. This is the 4th year that Ted and Sue have appeared with herps at Ute Lake State Park. Ted reported that the water level is up and flowers are abundant.

Sandia Pueblo Survey. Ted Brown reported that Coachwhip, Prairie Rattlesnake, Glossy, and a Diamondback Rattlesnake have been caught in funnel traps. He said that snakeweed, grasses and tumbleweeds in our survey areas are going nuts.

Valle de Oro NWR Survey. Scott thanked Daniel Carroll and Garth Graves for tending traps. They have caught Woodhouse Toads, uniparens, Bullsnake and others. The refuge's contract farmer greeted them at their first meeting with "Oh, you're those snake people. You won't find anything you're looking for out there."

NEW BUSINESS

Scott had these dates and events on his calendar:

August 16 Wildlife West near Edgewood, NM. Jerry Tuttle will be there.

August 15 and 16 NMDGF Outdoor Expo in west Albuquerque. Josh Emms and Jerry Tuttle will be there. Daniel Carroll will have NM rattlesnakes on display, all species except Mottled Rock.

September 11 and 12 Bitter Lakes NWR near Roswell, NM. Scott and Jerry will be there.

August 8 The Charlie Painter Memorial Celebration will be held at the Old Town Farm, Albuquerque.

September 5, 6, 7 NMHS Labor Day Field Trip

July 11 HerpBlitz at Pecos National Historic Park near Pecos, NM..

Scott got the most laughs for letting us know that a Red-eared Slider Turtle is being given away.

Josh recalled that a monitor lizard got loose in Roswell. When the owners got it back they were required to take it out of state to have a veterinarian give it a clean bill of health before it could be returned to Roswell.

Scott recalled that a Red-footed Tortoise got loose in Albuquerque. The finders took it to Clark's Pet Emporium. Clark's contacted the Turtle and Tortoise Club which offered to keep it. Clark's proceeded to look at CraigsList's lost ads and found one for the Red-footed. Clark's succeeded in contacting the owner who picked up the Red-footed.

Scott told us about a Tegu (genus Tupinambis) that got loose in Albuquerque, was turned in, and that NM Game and Fish made the owners take out of state to be checked by a veterinarian. It's in the Department's Class 2 rather than Class 4.

Patrick Maher said that he and Garth had been at Quarai Ruins in Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument near Manzano, NM. They found a Bullsnake and gartersnake onsite, showed a snake to the Ranger on duty and helped her get past her fear of snakes

Our meeting adjourned at 9:21 PM.

These Meeting Minutes are submitted by NMHS Secretary Cosmos

Thanks very much to Bob and Lorraine Myers for hosting us in your American International Rattlesnake Museum.

<http://earthsky.org/earth/july-2015-was-warmest-month-ever-recorded>