

## NMHS Approved Meeting Minutes

Volume 53 Number 10

New Mexico Herpetological Society

October 1, 2015

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

Scott Bulgrin presided over our meeting which began at 7:08 PM and was attended by 18 guests including a toddler and a child herpers.

Scott asked Cosmos to read the Secretary's Report which were the NMHS Draft Meeting Minutes from September 3, 2015. These were approved and accepted by members present.

Scott asked our Treasurer for the latest financial report. Letitia said that a balance on September 15 of \$2,789.32 is in our NMHS checking account. The Treasurer's Report was approved and accepted by members present.

### OLD BUSINESS

#### NMHS OUTREACH

Tom Eichhorst said that he put on a 20-minute program on Wednesday at Ghost Ranch near Abiquiu for 30 4th-graders from Mesa Del Sol Charter School in Albuquerque. The kids spent 3 days and 2 nights there. Tom showed a couple of Bullsnares, California King, Desert King, cornsnake, male and female box turtles and a 3-day old hatchling.

September 11 Friday at Bitter Lakes NWR, Jerry Tuttle and Scott put on a presentation about herps of New Mexico for 40 people that evening.

September 12 Saturday at Bitter Lakes NWR. Daniel Carroll put his rattlesnakes on display and Jerry Tuttle put his Gila Monster and Beaded Lizard on display indoors. Scott had his herps of New Mexico on display under the tent outdoors. 1200 visitors were there on a warm Saturday.

Scott said that someone stole Jerry's Calibara Burrowing Python which was on display. And someone attempted to steal Jerry's Rubber Boa. Jerry displays his snakes in Expo plastic containers and sometimes takes out more than one snake at a time for people to touch and hold. Tom Eichhorst warned us that having too many snakes out can result in losing track of the snakes and someone getting bit because the owner is not controlling the snake's head.

### NEW BUSINESS

Scott asked Bob Myers about the memorial plaque to be put on the display of the New Mexico Milksnake in his Museum. Bob said that the tribute to Charlie Painter plaque now is on the enclosure and that Lori Painter will give Charlie's hat and other memorabilia to the Museum for display.

Scott reported that a sub-folder "In Memoriam" will be added by Josh Emms to our NMHS website.

Scott suggested that NMHS sponsor the rock rattlesnakes and milksnake displays in the Museum into the future (in perpetuity). Tom made that motion. It was seconded and members present voted in favor.

Scott brought us up to date on Lynn Schuler's request to have a table near our NMHS table at the Festival of the Cranes on Saturday November 21. Four students at a time will man the table.

September 26 at Valle de Oro NWR was the refuge's 3<sup>rd</sup> Birthday Party. Scott was there. 300-400 visitors showed up.

Josh Emms said that Steve Richardson reported finding a Mediterranean Gecko at night near Coors Boulevard and Paseo del Norte in northwest Albuquerque. Steve immediately went home and returned with a flashlight and found 13. Josh went there and found 4. Jonathan found 9. Josh reported that Mediterranean Geckos have been found at Elephant Butte Lake, Socorro and Alamogordo.

A guest reported that a 30-35lb Sulcata Tortoise with 21" carapace was found on south highway NM-14.

Scott said that two ladies at the Valle de Oro Birthday celebration asked him where they could find box turtles. The Rio Grande Turtle and Tortoise Club had DENIED their application to adopt turtles.

Lize Brown told us that she volunteers at the Wildlife Rehab Clinic and asked whether the Clinic should stop calling the Rio Grande Turtle and Tortoise Club about adopting out turtles that are turned in at the Clinic. Scott suggested that only tortoises be sent the Turtle Club's way.

Bob Myers said that a lady down in Socorro had a rescue facility complete with more than 100 Sulcata Tortoises of all sizes, a heated barn and a large fenced outdoor range.

#### NMHS OUTREACH

October 17 at Coronado State Monument in Bernalillo. Scott will ask Jerry Tuttle if he will display in the covered area

October 24 at Corrales Senior Center. Scott will put on a program that morning.

November 8 at Maxwell NWR near Las Vegas, NM. Scott will put on programs.

November 21-22 Saturday (9-4) and Sunday (9-?) at the Festival of the Cranes in Socorro. Scott asked Ted Brown about display space. Ted said that Jim Lohman assigned room in the fire station garage for NMHS, Lynn Schuler's class and Albuquerque's Zoo 2 U. Ted is asking each NMHS exhibitor to bring no more than 4 or 5 cages. Scott said that he has asked Daniel Carroll to bring fewer display cases. Josh said that he will be at the Festival on Saturday. Scott said that he will be there on Sunday. Sue Brown suggested having more signage.

Scott recommended that NMHS donate \$50 to the Charlie Painter Memorial Fund at SWPARC (Southwest Partners for Amphibian and Reptile Conservation). Letitia recommended giving \$100.

Members voted in favor of giving \$100.

October 31 Saturday at Sandia Pueblo. We will uncover traps

November 1 Sunday at Valle del Oro NWR. We will uncover traps

December 12 Saturday Banquet. Scott talked to the manager of the Church Street Café about having our Banquet there. The manager said that NMHS needs to have 50 people so we can have the room to ourselves from 7 to 10 PM. The room holds 70. The dinner menu is chips and salsa, dinner salad, cheese enchilada, chicken enchilada, chicken fajita, beans, rice, sopapilla, honey, natilla, drink at a cost of \$25 per person.

Scott suggested charging guests \$20 per person and having NMHS pay the \$5 difference. The Café' requires a 20% deposit. Scott will deliver a check for the amount of \$400 to the Café.

Scott told us that the speaker at the Banquet could be Dr. Sarah Rivas of New Mexico Highlands University but noted that Richard Reams, new Curator of Reptiles at Albuquerque's Zoo, is among our guests and is to present on reptiles of Australia this evening. So, Scott proceeded to wangle, asked Curator Reams if he would put on his program at our December Banquet instead. Richard agreed. Scott said that he would put on a program of his own for us this evening.

Scott offered to spend more NMHS money by paying Tom, Daniel, Jerry and Scott \$25 each for gas for their outreach travel. Scott made the motion to pay \$25 for gas for any member travelling more than 60 miles for outreach. Letitia suggested paying out for gas on a case by case basis as NMHS funds permit. How much will be paid out for gas will be determined in January.

**BREAKTIME**

8:50 PM. As promised, Scott presented his PowerPoint slide show on a history of Minneapolis, Minnesota as well as descriptions of Reptiles and Amphibians of southern Minnesota.

Scott mentioned gartersnake and Eastern Hognose Snake and that there are 6 species of salamanders, 3 species of toads, 4 species of tree frogs and 6 species of true frogs found at the present time in Minnesota.

9:25 PM. Our meeting adjourned

These Draft Meeting Minutes are submitted on November 5, 2015 by Secretary Cosmos

Thank you very much Bob and Lorraine Myers for hosting us in your American International Rattlesnake Museum