

NMHS Draft Meeting Minutes

Volume 54 Number 1

New Mexico Herpetological Society

January 7, 2016

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

Scott Bulgrin presided over our meeting which began at 7:25 PM and was attended by 16 adult herpers.

Scott asked Cosmos to read the Secretary's Report which were the NMHS Draft Meeting Minutes from November 5, 2015 as well as December 12, 2015. The Minutes were approved with a minor correction by members present. Scott asked Cosmos how he could come up with such a detailed account of Richard Ream's presentation about reptiles and amphibians of Australia. Said Scott, "You weren't even taking notes then." To which Cosmos replied that his long-term and short-term memories and his audio tape recorder had not captured Richard's presentation in such remarkable detail but rather it was thanks to Google searches that our resourceful Secretary managed to reconstruct the gist and the spirit of Richard's presentation with accuracy in the weeks following.

Scott did not ask our Treasurer Letitia Peirce for an up-to-date report of our Society's financial condition. Because of winter weather and slick sidewalks leading to the Museum, Letitia prudently chose to stay home this evening.

OLD BUSINESS (7:45 PM)

Scott talked about our December Banquet at Church Street Café. Another party stayed in our dining room til 7:20 which prevented us from setting out items for the silent auction. When they left they stiffed the waitress of her tip. Our food was ready at 7:10 PM and the last person sat down with food 45 minutes later at 8. Our speaker began his presentation at 8:45 and continued until 9:45 which left us little time for the silent auction and leaving before 10. Cosmos suggested limiting a program at our Banquet to one hour and starting it at 8:30. At its 9:30 conclusion we would have enough time to end the auction and exit the dining room.

Scott brought up the topic of fundraising. He will find out if shipping is included in the total price of 72 pint drinking glasses that would have our NMHS logo on them. If so, the cost per glass will be \$2.20 and we could sell one for \$4.

Bob Meyers asked whether the Society needs a new logo. NMHS has used the snake skeleton since 2012 and the horny toad since forever. Josh joshed that the new logo should be Degenhardt's face. Scott described 3-D tee-shirts with dog faces, cat faces and even dragons on them that he has seen advertised, but none with herps. Bob suggested bringing in Jaci Fischer on this because her daughter drew the rattlesnake skeleton. Daniel Carroll said that he will talk to his graphic designer wife about coming up with a new design. Scott recalled that NMHS has sold tee-shirts with a glo-in-the-dark logo, bandanas and pillow cases that could be used as snake bags. Mention of pillow cases sidetracked discussion about a new logo to Scott's marvelous segway to a lurid news account of a Florida male teenager who kept a Water Moccasin in a pillow case on his bed. The snake escaped the bag, the teenager picked up the snake and proceeded to kiss it 12 times. On the 13th kiss the snake struck the teen on the lip and sent him envenomated to the hospital. Daniel was ready to show us a photo in his SmartPhone of the teen's greatly enlarged face. Scott continued with more lurid news that a gentleman had been sleeping with two 4 and a half foot-long alligators in his bed. Pulling back the top covers on his craziness and getting up to answer the doorbell revealed that this fellow was a bleeding mess.

NEW BUSINESS

Scott let us know that the NMDGF New Mexico Outdoor Adventures Hunting and Fishing Show will run February 19-21, 2016, in the Manuel Lujan Building at NM Expo (NM State Fair), 300 San Pedro, NE in Albuquerque with hours Fri 1-8, Sat 9-5, Sun 10-4, 1-888-248-6866. Daniel Carroll said that he would like to exhibit his rattlesnakes. Scott will ask the Department about exhibiting herps at the Show.

Keith told us that there will be a Science Café at the Turtle Mountain Café on Southern Boulevard in Rio Rancho at 6:30 on Tuesday January 19th. The theme is “Turtles and Taps” and the topic is sea turtles, jelly fish, tortoises. As many as 120 beer drinkers have shown up at a Science Café event.

Scott brought up another herps in the news item and asked whether the species of sea turtle reported in the news bioluminesces or biofluoresces

Scott returned to herp news out of Florida: 1) a retention pond flooded an office building with two and a half feet of water. Tenants sued their landlord for return of rent. With alligators swimming in its parking lot tenants said they really couldn't get to their offices. 2) Proposed Florida legislation would forbid private ownership of venomous animals; 3) Hunters must take training classes and buy permits to hunt pythons in Everglades. 4) a 12' anaconda was killed in the St. John's River in Florida.

Scott asks us where we want to go on field trips this year.

Scott said that NMHS will sponsor 3 snakes in the Rattlesnake Museum: Banded Rock, Mottled Rock, NM Milksnake, \$52 per snake per year (\$1 per week) X 3 = \$156. Bill Degenhardt suggested that the Charlie Painter memorial snake should be willardii. Letitia will write the check to the Museum at our next meeting.

Carolyn Newell offered to put on their Exotics of the Rainforest show as a fundraiser for NMHS. They will need a large room, four 6'-long tables, a television with DVD player in presenting a video and 10 parrots and a lot of herps. A suitable place could be the Four Hills club house, Rio Bravo Canteen, a community center, public library and the Albuquerque Garden Center

Pat Maher told us that he will move to Tucson, Arizona in a few weeks. Scott said that members will choose a new Vice-President at our February meeting

Keith told us about success in breeding endangered species at the ABQ BioPark, Micronesian Kingfishers in Guam, Catafractus in Cote Ivoire, Silvery Minnows, Snow Leopards, and maintaining records of breeding in Stud Books

Mexico's Socorro Island Doves were last seen in the wild in 1972 and were declared extinct in the wild in 1980. 75 birds were shipped to Europe and were bred with other species of doves. Our Albuquerque BioPark specialists have outbred those hybrids to get 12 Socorro Island Doves in 2008 and 80 in 2015. The BioPark shipped 6 birds to Mexico's Africam outside Mexico City in 2013 and will ship 23 more as soon as federal permits are issued. The BioPark now has 80% of the North American population and half of world population of these doves, Mexico built a facility on Socorro Island and is getting rid of feral cats

Keith said that Croc Tag is coming up in early May for 3 days at the BioPark. 40 people who are in the Taxonomic Advisory Group will be there to see the catafractus on display, go on a field trip, take part in a Science Café and visit the Rattlesnake Museum

Scott noted that we need more field trips, had none in 2015.

Josh added the need for field trips to be planned and announced well in advance. Scott suggested more day trips starting in April on Saturdays and Sundays in addition to our Memorial Day field trip and to have on in July, maybe to Bosque del Apache NWR.

Scott said that botanist Jim McGrath, former president of nm native plant society, suggested herp surveys of 1) an area near Blue Hole near Santa Rosa and 2) an area in the Zuni Mountains near Grants that the plant society has surveyed

Daniel suggested going on field trips to Chupadera and Magdalena Mountain Ranges.

Scott asked whether we should continue our herp surveys on the Pueblo of Sandia and at Valle de Oro NWR. Daniel said that they have found snakes, lizards and Woodhouse Toads. Scott said that he is working on a report, pamphlet and PowerPoint presentation about herps found for Valle de Oro NWR

Garth suggested avoiding conflict with contract farmer, moving traps at Valle de Oro NWR from fields to the periphery, said he saw one prairie dog on the survey area. Daniel reported finding several crawdads near the trap closest to the irrigation ditch.

Scott suggested a walking survey of herps on the Whitfield Conservation Area located between Los Lunas and Belen.

Scott suggested surveying for herps on City of Albuquerque Open Spaces and on a Bernalillo County Open Space at Carlito Springs near Tijeras. A Sanitarium building and orchards are still there.

Daniel suggested a field trip to Quay County to abandoned houses along a dirt frontage road just off I-40 where he found skinks, Nightsnakes, Longnose, Hognose and Black-headed Snakes and tarantulas. He and his wife had been on their way to the Snake Days Festival in Sanderson, Texas.

Scott brought up NMHS education and outreach, said the Society does a good job and gets to Bitter Lakes and Las Vegas NWR.

Scott said he was at Las Vegas NWR where he put on two back-to-back programs for 40+ on Sunday November 2nd which means we hit most of the federal refuges in New Mexico.

Scott said we could do exhibition day at the state fair.

Bob Meyer said that NMHS could take his place at the state fair in the Natural Resources Building on a Saturday or Sunday 10 to 2 and wear Rattlesnake Museum tee-shirts.

Scott said he would like to update information in our handouts, lists and pamphlets

OTHER BUSINES.

Scott suggested that we combine our potluck with a day field trip in July, even have it as a herping event with the public invited where we would guide people in groups of five or six. Will waivers of responsibility be of importance?

Bob said that we could be invited to a rattlesnake den on ranchland near Santa Rosa around 1 April. Then began cross talk that took us to Tucson, Coral Snakes in water meter cans, a soggy Labor Day weekend in Rodeo, New Mexico, Chiricahua Leopard Frog, hunting bullfrogs with a .410 shotgun, fried bullfrog legs.

Tyler assured us that he will upgrade our website; Josh asked that species accounts be updated and completed; Josh asked for photographs for the website; Josh asked for text to put on Charlie Painter Memorial page, Garth said that he has a photograph of Charlie in the blacksmith's exhibit at NM State Fair. Josh said there were 50 hits on the membership request page. Josh said that Jim Stuart at NMDGF documented sightings of geckoes in the state.

Scott that he will bring up the field trip and recurring topics during our February meeting.

Bill Degenhardt reminded us that few go on field trips. Josh said to put field trips for the year on our calendar early on as do NAFHA North America Field Herpers Association and COPARC Colorado Chapter of Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation.

Bob thanked Daniel for rearticulating neck vertebrae and skull of a giraffe for display in the Rattlesnake Museum and then trying to pass off this wonder to customers as an ancient mega cobra. Bob said he has two 7'-long boa constrictors, "gentle giants," to give away. The third one is a biter with a bit of an attitude and not quite ready to be adopted out. All three came from the estate of a keeper at our zoo.

Scott thanked everyone for coming to the meeting which adjourned without incident into spirited hubbub at 9:12 PM

These NMHS Draft Meeting Minutes of January 7, 2016 are submitted by Secretary Cosmos on February 4, 2016