

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

Volume 54 Number 6

June 2, 2016

New Mexico Herpetological Society

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

President Scott Bulgrin called our Meeting to order at 7:16 PM and welcomed 17 adult herpers present.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Scott asked Cosmos to read the Draft Meeting Minutes of May 4, 2016. The Minutes were approved with a correction (Memorial Day Field Trip instead of Labor Day) by members present.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Scott asked Letitia to read her Treasurer's Report. The balance in the NMHS checking account on May 5, 2016 of \$3342.10 was reduced by checks written to speakers Claire Wilkins \$25.00 and Tom Giermakowski \$25.00, and to the Chiricahua Desert Museum for the upcoming Charles W. Painter Barbeque and BioBlitz \$300.00. The balance as of June 2, 2016 is \$2,992.10. The Treasurer's Report was approved by members present.

OLD BUSINESS

Scott asked Jaci Fischer to show off the recently printed and delivered NMHS T-shirts and said that prices are \$12 for sizes up to X- LG, \$14 for 2X and \$15 for 3X. Scott will have the T-shirts and take orders via email. Herpers will take them to our events to sell.

Scott said that on May 21 he did a display of live animals at our Valle de Oro NWR Environmental Justice Day. There were 20 exhibitors and several hundred attendees. NWR staff said that NMHS has one of the best displays.

Scott reported on the NMHS Memorial Day weekend field trip. Bill Gorum, Scott and Logan Bulgrin and Delvin Jones camped out Friday and Saturday nights at the Socorro Nature Center off the Lemitar exit from I-25. Ted and Sue Brown came down from Santa Fe. Josh, Nikki and their children came down and stayed Saturday. The herpers explored the BLM Los Quebrados area in daytime and found Collared Lizard, Uta, whiptails, Sceloporus, and Woodhouse's Toad. Dale, Logan and Scott road cruised Friday and Saturday nights but didn't find anything. Bill Gorum returned to ABQ via the Valley of Fires and found atrox. Josh noted that San Lorenzo Canyon is nearby.

Scott recommended the Socorro Nature Center for a future NMHS outreach event such as a display and guided hikes around the area. Or it could be a daytrip herp society only event complete with a late afternoon potluck. Maybe on Labor Day or the week after. Bullfrogs are found in the pond.

Jerry said that he stopped in at the Capitan Smokey Bear Museum and talked to the ranger about having a NMHS event. Jerry said that he put on a program two weeks at Los Golandrinas. There were several hundred attendees (beardless gnomes and hobbits).

Tara Carstensen announced that Snake Days will be held at Sanderson, Texas June 3-5. www.snakedays.com

Josh Emms announced that COPARC will pay a visit to Southwestern Colorado to survey the Four Corners area. Uune 3 – 5 based in Montezuma, Colorado 80435.

Scott asked Keith Crow to report on CROC-tag meetings which Keith had not attended. Keith said that he had attended the chicken and beef taquito and ice creak dinner in the BioPark Bugarium complete with 6,000 leafcutter ants and well-attended Tequila Flight. Cosmos said that Matt Eschenbrenner will post proceedings on the CROC-tag website.

NEW BUSINESS

Scott reminded us that our NMHS Summer Potluck will be held at Jaci Fischer's on July 9th starting at 6 PM.

Scott brought up our plans for having retractable banner(s) made and the call for photographs of herps both nonvenomous and venomous. Must-haves are photos of New Mexico Whiptail Lizard, New Mexico Spadefoot Toad and Coral Snake Tom Eichhorst wants digi images of at least 350 to 400 dpi

Scott said that he will come up with the NMHS Mission Statement.

Josh said that he will email Bill Gorum and Eric McCormick and ask them for photographs.

Bill Degenhardt offered range maps left over from publication of his book.

Scott is pushing for a deadline for having the banners ready to use is the Festival of the Cranes.

EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH EVENTS

June 16 Rio Grande Nature Center - Scott

June 21 Santa Ana Pueblo Youth on Amphibians of New Mexico - Scott

June 21 Office of Environmental Technical Assistance for Native American High School Students on Reptiles of New Mexico (evening) - Scott

June 23 Native American Fish and Wildlife Society Camp at Rainbow Village near Taos on Reptiles and Amphibians of New Mexico - Scott

June 29 Esther Bone Library in Rio Rancho on Turtles - Scott

June 30 Rio Grande Nature Center - Scott

July 14 Rio Grande Nature Center - Scott

July 16 Pueblo of Isleta 3rd Annual Environmental Fair- Scott

July 16 Sandia Mountain Nature Center – Jerry Tuttle

July 16 Ute Lake State Park Prairie Fest – Sue and Ted Brown, Tara Carstensen

August 4 Rio Grande Nature Center (might sell T-shirts there?) - ?

August 13 Villanueva State Park Kids Day – Ted and Sue Brown

4-Week Summer Camp same presentation to 4 different groups of kids.

BACK TO OLD BUSINESS

Scott said that we need to continue to research incorporating and forming our own Limited Liability Corporation and come up with Procedures for Displaying Venomous Reptiles

Jerry said that he had requested guidelines on displaying herps from

Huachuca Area Herpetological Association

Safford, Arizona

Association

Wasatch Herpetological Society

Southwestern Herpetological Society

Jerry read a letter from the Southwestern Herpetological Society regarding their policy in displaying herps

Scott said that he will collect these emails forwarded by Jerry, scan them, and call a meeting to draft a display policy statement for NMHS. Until that time Scott said that NMHS will continue displaying herps as usual.

Lori King said that she will get copy of liability from the Chicago Herpetological Society.

Tom Eichhorst said that individuals and not the NMHS will be liable in case of injury to spectators.

Jerry repeated that the Southwestern Herpetological Society has a training session and

Scott said that his butt will be on the line until NMHS has incorporated and gotten liability insurance.

Tom said that a \$600 annual premium for liability insurance is peanuts when a kingsnake gets stupid enough to start eating somebody. Letitia recalled from her experience at the Albuquerque Zoo only a single incident that in modern times could have provoked a law suit. Instead a mother scolded her boy for poking his finger at a box turtle's face until he got bit and she did not threaten to sue the Zoo.

Lori King said that things are rolling along for the Chiricahua Desert Museum - CWP BioBlitz and that NMHS is welcome to guide hikes and set up a table and sell T-

shirtsthere is a Lodging link on the website. Caroline Newell said that she and Sparky had booked their room in Rodeo.

HERPS FOR SALE OR FREE

Scott said that a Red-eared Slider with 50-gallon tank is available..

Tara Carstensen said that the Santa Fe Childrens Museum would like to be given a local Bullsnake.

Josh said that SANTA FE NEW MEXICAN had a story "Last year's rains bring out more snakes" by Dan Schwartz on May 31st. It included quotes by Pat Maher and uncredited info from Josh.

http://www.santafenewmexican.com/news/local_news/last-year-s-rains-bring-out-more-snakes/article_4269b42a-e4f6-5181-a2b4-896a028019ef.html

Tara talked about a hamster display she will have at Meow Wolf in Santa Fe. One hamster will be running a generator and the other a StrandBeast advancing module. Tara added that a hamster turning a squirrel cage can power a phone charger too.

BREAK TIME at 8:30 PM

PROGRAM at 9:05 PM

Scott showed slides that Cosmos and Bob Myers had made of the April 9 road trip to the rattlesnake dens on the McKenzie Ranch east of Clines Corners. Morning fog in Albuquerque gave way to sunshine on the ranch. Malcolm McKenzie and Sandy led Bob and Lorraine Myers, Scott Bulgrin, Delvin Jones and Cosmos to an atrox den and then to a viridis den in rocky outcroppings along arroyos. Five or so snakes of each species were seen at or near each den and one Coachwhip in the atrox den. Lorraine released a viridis at the viridis den.

ADJOURNED

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

President Scott Bulgrin

Vice President Josh Emms

Secretary Cosmos

Treasurer Letitia Peirce

Newsletter Editor