

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

Volume 54 Number 8

August 4, 2016

New Mexico Herpetological Society

We convened at the American International Rattlesnake Museum in Old Town Albuquerque. President Scott Bulgrin opened our meeting at 7:55 PM, thanked Bob Myers for hosting us and welcomed guests: 16 adults, 1 teen and 1 toddler.

Scott asked Secretary Cosmos to read Minutes of the June and July meetings. Cosmos read only abbreviated versions of these Minutes and offered to email complete Minutes to members. Minutes were approved as read.

Scott asked Treasurer Letitia Peirce to read the financial Report. She said that the balance in the NMHS checking account is \$2757.57, The Treasurer's Report was approved as read by members present.

OLD BUSINESS

Scott said that today someone at the Junior Ranger program at our Rio Grande Nature Center in Albuquerque had asked him about box turtles: does the dominant turtle come to food first? Tom Eichhorst said that the turtle closest to the food put out will be the first to feed.

The topic of inquiries about critters took on a life of its own. Letitia added that she saw on Facebook that artists in Florida have been painting scenes on the carapaces of gopherus turtles

Scott said that on the news was an account of a Missourian wearing flip-flops who was playing Pokemon Go and walked up on a Copperhead and was hit.

Scott said that people have been sending digi-photos of herps, "mystery reptiles," to him for him to identify including a Coachwhip, Gopher Snake, Black-headed Gartersnake and a 2 and a half foot long Sceloporus making the earth shake down near Mogollon.

Letitia joined in: a man reported a spider as big as a fist that was on his garage door. He said it was not a Tarantula. Letitia noted that people tend to exaggerate the size of critters.

Scott said that inquiries about herps come in to the NMHS website and Josh Emms' website.

Scott that we have a selection of NMHS tee shirts and that he will be taking them to the Festival of the Cranes at Bosque de Apache NWR in November (15th-20th).

Shana and Germaine who work for Caroline and Sparky would like to buy tee shirts one X-LG and one LG.

Scott said that he was at the Rio Grande Nature Center for the Junior Ranger Camp today.

We had our Annual Summer Potluck on July 9th. Many thanks to Josh, Ted and Bill for showing their slides and to Jaci Fischer for hosting us.

This past weekend the Charlie Painter First Annual Bioblitz and Fundraiser was held at the Chiricahua Desert Museum near Rodeo, New Mexico thanks to Bob and Sheri Asheley..

Pat Maher and Caroline and Sparky Newell were there.

Lorie King said it was super successful. Dr. Howard Topov gave a presentation about the Boot Heel region of southwest New Mexico between the Peloncillo and Chiricahua Mountain ranges which includes low desert, part of the Sky Islands and wildlife corridors

Lori said that 27 to 54 per cent of all wildlife species found in the US occur in the Boot Heel. In a total of 475 species recorded during the BioBlitz are 121 of birds, 23 of mammals including Mountain Lion, Bobcat, Black Bear, Badger and rodents, 286 of plants, 19 of insects, and 26 reptiles and amphibians including Gila Monster, Tiger Rattlesnake in Arizona, and scutulatus.

The Conference Center holds an audience of 300. The Museum and all had been blessed by Chiricahua Apaches. Lori said that there was more than enough food for every herper. Their bodies came from Australia, Texas, England, New York, South Carolina, California, Illinois, Arizona and Colorado.

Lori said that everybody was out herping Friday evening and night. The auctions and all raised \$6,000 for research grants. Cuts in state budgets for wildlife conservation call on us in the private sector to make up for shortfalls in funding. Lori recalled that Charlie Painter said that people's voices are more powerful than they think. Let our voices be heard loud and clear when it comes to demanding adequate funding for conservation.

Not many people camped in the 100 degrees plus heat. Besides, there were scutulatus everywhere.

Steve Carey will be at the BioBlitz next year and tell us even more about butterflies in New Mexico. So will Peg Abbott owner and head guide of Naturalists Journeys, LLC of Portal, Arizona. She will talk about hummingbirds. Andy Holycross will talk about herp work in Animas Mountains with Charlie.

Scott suggested that NMHS will help in a bigger way next year.

Bob Ashley had contacted NM and AZ Game and Fish Departments months ago to get permission for herping without collecting during the BioBlitz.

Scott suggested bringing a herp display from Albuquerque next year. Lori said that Bob has a large herp collection.

Next year taxa experts will be on site indoors to identify any critters photographed or brought in from the field.

Bill Gorum said that he put on a program in Phoenix, Arizona. 24 were in the audience for his "A Year of Herping in New Mexico."

Ted Brown said that he and Sue were at Ute Lake for their Annual Prairie Fest on July 16. They took 4 snakes and a few lizards to show in the Visitor Area during day while the temperature outdoors was 108. That evening in the lakefront picnic area 40-50 people were on hand to see Bob the Bullsnake and the Great Plains Ratsnake that the Ranger called the chocolate silver snake. Road cruising just outside of Logan, Sue and Ted found a small Prairie Rattlesnake. Ted said that in the town of Nara Visa the schoolhouse and most of the houses are still standing and there was Mule Deer among them. Rain had fallen a couple of days earlier.

Sue Brown said the high point at Ute Lake was when a kid saw her holding a snake and exclaimed, "Can you believe it? Girls with snakes!"

Lori added that more women are in herp studies now and to keep your eyes on Samantha Cordova of the University of New Mexico. She is sharp.

Scott said that he and Logan put on a display on July 16 at the Pueblo of Ysleta 40 exhibitors and 200 guests

Scott said that Jerry Tuttle put on a program at the Sandia Mountains Natural History Center on July 16th

NEW BUSINESS

Scott said that Sandy Jackson, a once upon a time member of the Rio Grande Turtle and Tortoise Club contacted him. She has a Sulcata (80 lbs) and two Leopard Tortoises (50 lbs each) and 4' X 6' barn to give away.

Scott said that he will be:

September 8 and 9 at the Dragonfly Festival at Bitter Lake NWR on for a talk on Friday and display on Saturday. 126 species of dragonflies have been found on the Refuge.

September 5 and 6 at the Rio Grande Nature Center BioBlitz leading a walk from 12 to 1 PM

September 17 at Coronado State Historic Monument in Bernalillo

Upcoming are:

August 14 Santa Ana Pueblo Environment Day.

August 20 NM DG&F Outdoor New Mexico Expo at Shooting Range Park on Albuquerque's west side.

Scott said that we need to be thinking about where we want to have our December Banquet. Church Street Café"? Should we hold the auction online? Should we have Vince Scheidt as speaker? Which date? Saturday. December 10th?

Scott wanted to know more about the Turtle Races held in Las Cruces. Issues: painting on carapaces, turtles that are removed from the wild are not returned to where they were picked up.

Scott said that the NMHS Constitution of June 1981 should be looked at and he will email it to members.

Jaci announced that her son Max will be married on August 27. NMHS will give \$50 and a card. Tom Eichhorst suggested giving them an Amazon Gift Card.

Scott asked guests to introduce themselves. The woman from Paraguay has a python. Sparky introduced friends Ali, Mike, Elisa French

Tom said that Jerry had sent photos to Tom to use on the retractable banner.

REALITY CHECK read into the Minutes

NASA and NOAA report that July 2016 was the warmest month since record keeping began in the 1880s with each month since October 2015 setting a new record. In 2016 the average global temperature is 1.38 degrees C above levels present in the 19th century.

Earth's biosphere is warming a pace not experienced in the past 1,000 years. Gavin Schmidt, Director of NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies predicts that 2016 will be the hottest year on record so far.

NOAA adds that global temperature typically rose between 4 to 7 degrees C over the period of 5,000 years as the biosphere rate of warming moved out of ice ages. The rate of rise over the 20th century was 10 times faster than the previous

Our next meeting will be on September 1.

ADJOURNED 8:30 PM or later

These DRAFT Minutes are presented to NMHS members on September 1, 2016 by Secretary Cosmos

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

NEW MEXICO HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY

President Scott Bulgrin

Vice-President Josh Emms

Secretary Cosmos

Treasurer Letitia Peirce

Newsletter Editor