

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

Volume 54 Number 9

September 1, 2016

New Mexico Herpetological Society

We convened at the American International Rattlesnake Museum in Old Town Albuquerque. President Scott Bulgrin opened our meeting at 7:20 PM and welcomed 12 herpers.

Scott asked Secretary Cosmos to read Draft Minutes of our August 4 meeting. He read a summary and will email the entire Minutes to anyone requesting them. The Minutes were approved as read by members present.

Scott asked Treasurer Letitia Peirce to read the financial condition of NMHS. She reported that the balance in the Society's checking account is \$2,454.78. The Treasurer's Report was approved as read by members present.

Scott that he is holding checks that were made out to volunteers to our Sandia Survey of 2015 and will not track down the people.

OLD BUSINESS

August 6 BioBlitz at Rio Grande Nature Center. Scott said that he, Rebecca and Logan set up a table of herps for a couple of hours. Scott led a walk at 1 PM.

New Mexico Department of Game and Fish was there and trapped a couple of huge snapping turtles. Nature Center said let them go in the river. Mortality of ducklings in the ponds is 100% due to the giant soft-shelled and snapping turtles. Visitors dump their turtles into the ponds:

Scott said that Sandy still has two leopard tortoises.

Scott said that the City of Albuquerque now has Scott's telephone number to give to callers who have herps to give away. A 3'-long iguana is available now from a lady who kept it in a closet. Another lady has two baby dumerol boa constrictors for sale \$50 each.

Scott reminded us that the Society needs a Newsletter Editor and Tom Eichhorst needs photos of snakes for the retractable banner.

Scott said that our December Banquet will be on the 10th at the Church Street Café and we will improve the way we carry out the raffle.

Scott said that we need to review the NMHS Constitution that has not been updated in 10 years.

Scott said that we will send a wedding present of \$50 and card to Max and Deanna who were married last Saturday.

Scott and Carolyn said that Jerry Tuttle and Jill Mansfield were involved in a car accident at Abiquiu.

Scott said that we need to decide on a speaker for our December Banquet. Maybe Vince Scheidt. Keith Crowe said that he will approach Kevin Fitzgerald who is on the Board of Directors of the Denver Zoo, a rattlesnake researcher and does stand-up comedy.

NEW BUSINESS

September 9 and 10 Bitter Lakes National Wildlife Refuge Dragonfly Festival near Roswell. Scott will present Friday evening and Saturday morning in the Visitors Center

September 17 Coronado State Historic Area in Bernalillo Scott will put on a program.

September 24 Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge 2nd Birthday party. Scott will put on a program.

October 6 Meadowlark Senior Center in Rio Rancho. Scott will put on a program about creepy crawlies including spiders, frogs, venomous reptiles, lizards and other arachnids.

Scott said that Bosque School will trap, mark and recapture turtles at the Rio Grande Nature Center. Scott suggested that the study include identification of leeches found on the turtles.

Lori King said that she had talked to Beth Dillingham at the Nature Center about the overpopulation of turtles and suggested having volunteers remove them using traps provided by New Mexico Department of Game and Fish. Scott said that he will contact Leland Pierce of the Department to arrange for getting traps to the Nature Center.

Scott introduced guests from Connecticut Kat and Steve Warren who had contacted Scott through our website. Scott took them road herping last night and will take them on our Sandia Survey tomorrow morning.

Lori said that she is trapping few herps on Kirtland Air Force Base.

Carolyn introduced her guests Manny and Dolores Herrera from Grand Rapids, Michigan. Carolyn, Dee and Manny went to college together and became Spanish teachers.

September 13 Keith Crowe announced that Science Café will be held at Red Door Brewery at 4th and Gold, NW in Albuquerque from 6:30 to 9. Topics are Sharks and Ocean Conservation. \$1 from each beer sold will be donated to Science Café Conservation Fund.

September 3 Vulture Awareness at our Albuquerque Zoo.

October Science Café will be held at Talking Drums African Restaurant on Central Avenue, SE. The topic will be animal trafficking .

Cosmos read a short reality check about global warming based on NASA and NOAA data.

ADJOURNED at 8:20 PM Thank you Bob and Lorraine Myer for hosting us!

These Draft Meeting Minutes are submitted by Secretary Cosmos.