

## Meeting Minutes

Volume 54 Number 11

New Mexico Herpetological Society

November 3, 2016

We came together at the American International Rattlesnake Museum in Old Town Albuquerque. President Scott Bulgrin called our meeting to order and welcomed 15 herpers at 7:25 PM.

Scott asked Secretary Cosmos to read Draft Minutes of our October 6, 2016 meeting. He read a summary and will email the entire Minutes to anyone requesting them. The Minutes as read were approved by members present.

Scott asked Treasurer Letitia Peirce to report on the financial condition of the NMHS. She said that the balance in our Society's checking account as of November 3, 2016 is \$2,375.78. The Treasurer's Report a read was approved by members present.

### OLD BUSINESS

Scott told us that he had talked to Leland Pierce of New Mexico Department of Game and Fish about removing turtles from the pond at the Rio Grande Nature Center. Leland has requested that someone contact Heather at the Center and come up with plans for the final disposition of the turtles. Scott said that he will contact Heather. Will some be released into the Rio Grande? Given away? Euthanized? Studied for presence of leeches? Studies of that kind could involve students from Bosque School. Species include Red-eared Sliders, snappers, yellow muds, painted and soft shells. The Rio Grande Turtle and Tortoise Club have turtles they cannot give away. Scott cautioned that trapping and removal of the turtles must be well planned so as to avoid adverse publicity from news outlets and the Turtle Club.

Scott said that he had put down a deposit of \$400.00 at the Church Street Café in Old Town to reserve the great room for our December Banquet on the 10th from 6 to 9 PM. Scott said that the per-meal price will be \$25. He added that he decided that the first 40 people who make reservations will pay an incentive reduced price of \$20. Scott will keep track of the reservations. The room holds 60 guests. NMHS needs 40 paying guests at our Banquet to break even.

Scott said that consulting biologist Vince Scheidt of San Diego, California will be our presenter of the evening. He will narrate his slide show about a recent trip he and his wife took to Costa Rica. Scott told us that NMHS will pay for airfare, 2 days stay at a hotel and rental of a car for Vince and give him a gift card. Scott said that he will have the projector ready ahead of time.

Scott announced that Pat Maher no longer has the kingsnake for sale.

Scott said that the Pueblo of Sandia will make out a check to our Society in the amount of \$3,500.00 to pay Surveyors for the days they devoted to the 2016 Survey of Reptiles and Amphibians.

With consent of members present, Scott asked Treasurer Letitia to make out a check in the amount of \$100.00 to Bob Myers for hosting happy hour for us on December 10th.

#### OUTREACH

October 6 Scott said that he had put on a Creepy Crawly program for 16 alert seniors at Meadowlark Senior Center in Rio Rancho.

October 11th Tom Eichhorst reported that he had put on a program at Ghost Ranch near Abiquiu, New Mexico for 50 5th-grade students on a 3 days/2 nights field trip from the International School of Mesa Del Sol in Albuquerque. He said that they are sharp kids who knew, for instance, the difference in meaning between venomous and poisonous.

October Carolyn Newell said that she and Sparky had put on a program for jumping around seniors at Meadowlark Senior Center in Rio Rancho.

October Scott said that he put on a program about water conservation for 20 students in the 8th grade at the Corrales International Baccalaureate School.

November 6 Keith Crowe told us that Albuquerque BioPark Science Cafe' will present a program at Talking Drums in southeast Albuquerque at 6 PM about Trafficking of Wildlife.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Ted Brown asked us, who will show up with their critters on Saturday the 19th in the Visitors Center at the Festival of the Cranes. This annual event takes place at the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge south of Socorro and San Antonio, New Mexico from November 15th to the 20th. Tom Eichhorst said that he will be there on Sunday the 20th.

Sue Brown reported that attendance at the Festival of the Cranes was lower in 2015 than it had been in previous years.

Sue Brown said that a banner was needed to direct visitors to the NMHS display.

Jerry Tuttle said that tomorrow he will be in his fourth year in training more senior students at Bosque School how to handle and show snakes. Already he has 10 student Snake Wranglers signed up in the Teens Helping Teens program.

Scott announced that a lady contacted him and said that she will have 12-16 box turtles to give away in April 2017. Tom was quick to say that he has plenty, thanks, no thanks.

Our President Scott Bulgrin and Vice-President Josh Emms have said that they will not seek re-election in

December. Scott said that he will continue to present his programs in outreach and education.

Master of Elections Ted Brown said that only our current Treasurer Letitia Peirce and Secretary Cosmos have offered to stay on in their offices. He added that the NMHS Constitution of 1981 provides that the outgoing President shall appoint an Interim officer to serve until the next scheduled election.

Will Patrick Maher take on the job? He'll be back in Albuquerque on December 25th.

Bill Degenhardt noted that on this date in 1793, impresario Stephen Fuller Austin was born in Wythe County, Virginia. Austin is known as the Father of Texas who founded the Texas Rangers.

BREAKTIME 8:14 until 8:22 PM

#### PROGRAM

Josh Emms narrated his show of stunning color Powerpoint slides entitled "5 Years, 4 Corners, 3 Kids, 2 Nations, 1 Goal: Find As Many Herps As Possible." He noted that there are few records for herps collected in the 4 Corners area of the states of Utah, Colorado, New Mexico and Arizona. Their trips took us to Canyonlands, Mesa Verde, Four Corners Monument, Arches National Park, Landscape Arch, Mesa Arch, Snake Ridge, Angel Peak, Copper Canyon Arch, McDonald Canyon near Cortez, Colorado, Montezuma Canyon near Monticella, Utah, Newspaper Rock, Animas River in Farmington, New Mexico, Gold King Mine spill, San Juan River near Navajo Dam, Navajo Agricultural Products Industry (NAPI), Island in the Sky, Denny Lake,

to see Utas, Sceloporus, Prairie Rattlesnakes, California Kingsnake, Collared Lizard, whiptails, Glossy Snakes, Striped Whipsnake, Woodhouse Toads, Desert Spiny Lizards, Sagebrush Lizards, Gopher Snake, gartersnake, Midget Faded Rattlesnake, New Mexico Spadefoot Toad, Mesa Verde Nightsnake, Long-nose Leopard Lizard, Red-spotted Toad, Canyon Tree Frogs, Great Plains Ratsnake, Wandering Gartersnake, Utah Milksnake, Tree Lizards, Hopi Rattlesnake, kingsnake with mustache, Raven, chipmunks, rabbits, squirrels, scorpion, Pavement Ants, Coyote, and bighorn sheep,

We ADJOURNED at 9:15 PM or thereabouts with a reminder from Scott that we will meet again on December 10th.

The Meeting Minutes of November 3, 2016 are submitted by NMHS Secretary Cosmos.

Thank you very much Bob and Lorraine Myers for hosting our meeting in your American International Rattlesnake Museum in Old Town Albuquerque.

#### NMHS OFFICERS

President Scott Bulgrin

Vice-President Josh Emms

Secretary Cosmos

Treasurer      Letitia Peirce

REACTIVITY CHECK

Sea ice extent in Arctic and Antarctic reached record lows in November 2016. Arctic sea ice retreated just before the cold of winter. Areas of Arctic have reached 36 F warmer than usual. Arctic sea ice extent averaged 3,510,000 sq. miles, down from long-term average of 4, 253,000 sq. miles. Areas of Antarctic were 3.6 F to 7.2 F warmer than normal. Antarctic sea ice averaged 5,610,000 sq. miles, down from its long-term average of 6,309,000 sq. miles. [www.guardian.com/climate](http://www.guardian.com/climate)

While the North Pole flirts with melting temperatures, Siberia is shivering in off-the-charts cold.

The Siberian cold, up to 60 degrees below normal, has persisted for weeks. On Nov. 15, it manifested itself in more than 12 cities registering temperatures to minus-40 degrees or colder, the Weather Channel said.

The Moscow Times reported that schools in central Russia were forced to close after temperatures plummeted to minus-33 degrees (minus-36 Celsius) this week.

“Astana, the capital of Kazakhstan, has failed to see high temperatures rise above 0 degrees Fahrenheit (about -17.8 degrees Celsius) since Nov. 14,” the Weather Channel reported. “Their average November high temperature is about 28 degrees Fahrenheit.”

NOAA’s daily weather records database shows 138 new daily record low temperatures set across Russia since Nov. 1. Dozens of locations saw their previous cold records smashed by more than 10 degrees – some even by 15 to 20 degrees or more.

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/capital-weather-gang/wp/2016/11/18/while-the-north-pole-warms-beyond-the-melting-point-its-freakishly-cold-in-siberia/?utm\\_term=.cbb11fef39e9](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/capital-weather-gang/wp/2016/11/18/while-the-north-pole-warms-beyond-the-melting-point-its-freakishly-cold-in-siberia/?utm_term=.cbb11fef39e9)