

APPROVED Meeting Minutes

Volume 55 Number 1

New Mexico Herpetological Society

January 12, 2017

We came together at the American International Rattlesnake Museum in Old Town Albuquerque, New Mexico. Out-gone President and now meeting-runner Scott Bulgrin called our Meeting to order and welcomed eleven herpers at 7:36 PM.

Scott reminded us that in November 2016 he had resigned from the position of President of NMHS and will volunteer to run meetings until the Society has a new President. He said that Josh Emms also had resigned from the position of Vice-President at that same time. Scott asked Josh to send out an email announcement asking for members to volunteer to take on the two vacant positions.

Scott said that no formal program had been arranged for this evening but it so happens that Bob Myers has a special DVD on hand about salt water crocodiles aka salties that he's ready to show us. Scott added that before we get to that we have business to discuss including becoming a Limited Liability Corporation (LLC) and putting together the retractable banner showing herps of New Mexico.

Scott asked Secretary Cosmos to read the Minutes of December 10, 2016. Our Secretary responded that he also has Minutes of our November 3, 2016 Meeting to read. The Minutes of November were approved with one correction: Josh had photographed a Midget Faded Rattlesnake (*Crotalus oreganus concolor*). The Minutes of December were approved with an addition from Scott that the Bull Shark aka Nicaraguan Shark (*Carcharhinus leucas*) is found in Lake Nicaragua although the species is not a true freshwater shark.

Scott told us that Vince Scheidt said he had enjoyed staying in Albuquerque and putting on his program "Costa Rica: A Central American Travelogue" for us. Scott added that he counted 42 guests at our December Banquet. Our waiter said that he counted 44 guests. In the end, Church Street Cafe charged the Society for 42 guests.

Scott asked our Treasurer Letitia Peirce to present the financial status of NMHS. (8 PM). She reported that the balance in the NMHS bank checking account in November 2016 was \$2,375.78. Activity since then resulted in a balance on January 12, 2017 of \$4,261.17. Scott said that NMHS paid \$298 for Vince's airfare, rental of a car and meals and \$50 for his honorarium. The Treasurer's report was approved as read by members present.

OLD BUSINESS

Scott reminded us that any NMHS member who travels more than 60 miles for outreach and education events will be paid by the Society: \$25 if out for one day and \$50 if out overnight for two days. Scott urged that members who were at the Festival of the Cranes in 2016 receive checks to help pay for their gasoline: \$25 to Sparky and Carolyn Newell; \$25 to Josh Emms; \$25 to Scott Bulgrin; and \$50 to Sue

and Ted Brown. Scott's motion was approved.

Scott reminded us that NMHS sponsors three species of snakes on display at the American International Rattlesnake Museum: New Mexico Milksnake (in honor of Charlie Painter), Banded Rock Rattlesnake and Mottled Rock Rattlesnake. Letitia wrote a check in the amount of \$156.00 to the Museum and handed it to Bob Myers. That's \$1.00 per snake species per week for 52 weeks.

Scott said that NMHS still has fund-raiser items for sale: 8 soft-cover copies of AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES OF NEW MEXICO (\$20 ea.); 10 T-shirts dark gray with the pre-2016 snake skeleton (\$10 ea.); many T-shirts with the 2016 Zia design (\$14 ea., X-Lg \$16 ea.); 8 DVDs of our NMHS 50th Anniversary celebration (\$10 ea.); and many books about herps.

OUTREACH & EDUCATION

Scott said he put on two programs today for homeschoolers at the Episcopal Church in Rio Rancho, New Mexico: pre-K to 3rd grade (20 kids); and 4th grade to high school (20 kids). He shared the stage with Prairie Dog Pals.

Scott asked us whether Pat Maher is living in Albuquerque. Josh responded that Pat will move back to Albuquerque from Tucson at the end of the current school year.

Ted Brown said that attendance at the Festival of the Cranes at the Bosque del Apache NWR in November was 700-800. Many people from bus tours came to the Visitor Center on Sunday afternoon so Ted and Sue packed up at 4 instead of 2 PM as planned. Sue said that signage was better this year than last. Ted said that Jim Lommen, chief organizer for the Festival, is planning to have outdoor field trips on the Refuge for kids this spring. NMHS is invited to lead walks in quest of herps. Scott said that organizers of the Festival suggested that in 2017 NMHS present a lecture in addition to having displays of herps. Sue Brown asked whether camping will be allowed at the Refuge.

Ted Brown said that our conversation earlier at dinner at Monroe's Restaurant on Lomas Boulevard had turned to the subject of diatoms. Ted said that he had watched an episode of "Forensic Files" on television and found out that there are 3,000 species of diatoms in just the one country of Germany. A diatom is a photosynthesizing alga with a distinctive outer cell wall (frustule) made of two valves (thycae) composed of silicon dioxide hydrated with a small amount of water (SiO₂ + H₂O). Most species of diatoms are microscopic while some reach a length of 2mm. There are 200 genera and 100,000 species of diatoms.

Cosmos asked Scott whether he had contacted Heather at Albuquerque's Rio Grande Nature Center. Scott said that he will contact Heather as well as Leland Pierce, State Herpetologist of our New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, and Dan Shaw of the Bosque School's environmental program about trapping and removing turtles from the ponds at the Nature Center.

Keith Crow said that Jerry Tuttle had contacted him and asked whether NMHS would like to have the Permitting Officer at Game and Fish come to a meeting and talk about species that have been upgraded to Tier IV (NMDG&F Law Enforcement Division: Importation of non-domestic animals, birds and fish

[19.35.7 NMAC] Group IV). Scott suggested that Leland Pierce be invited to present on regulations. This could be as soon as our next NMHS meeting on February 2nd. Scott said that a collecting permit (commercial license) issued by NMD of Game and Fish required the collector to submit an annual report about animals collected. However, Game and Fish has not followed up by insisting that these annual reports be turned in.

BREAKTIME (8:30 PM). Cookies and juice provided by Sue and Ted Brown.

PROGRAM

Bob Myers showed a 2002 National Geographic Explorer DVD video titled ULTIMATE CROC that is full of facts: 23 species of crocodilians. Salty's large lungs control buoyancy. Its liver can move inside its body to shift its center of gravity. Its 4-chambered heart can control blood flow, sending oxygenated blood to exactly where it's needed most. In attack mode, a valve in the heart radically redirects blood flow through its body, sending all its blood to its tail and jaws. During digestion blood flow bypasses the lungs and goes to the stomach where CO₂ is used in the digestive process. The pH of hydrochloric acid in the stomach of crocodile is lower than in stomach of any other species of vertebrate animal. Inside the two-chambered stomach are fist-sized stones (gastroliths). In the laboratory Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus has been destroyed by the serum derived from gator blood. Crocodilians pitted skin creates a cloak of low pressure water, reducing drag and giving prey little warning of its approach. Saltys swim at speeds up to 12 mph

Scott told us that salty crocodilians have 27 vocalizations and that Argentine Black and White Tegu Lizards prey on alligator eggs in Florida's Everglades. Josh added that fire ants do also.

ADJOURNED (9:30 PM)

Thank you very much Bob and Lorraine Myers for hosting us in your American International Rattlesnake Museum in Old Town Albuquerque, New Mexico

NMHS OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

VICE-PRESIDENT

SECRETARY Cosmos

TREASURER Letitia Peirce

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

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REALITY CHECK

A very recent study published by a team of climate scientists, including Dr. Raymond Bradley and researcher Dr. Ambarish Karmalkar from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, looked at warming

in the future in the Northeastern United States. They found that this area will warm much more rapidly than the globe as a whole. In fact, it will warm faster than any other United States region. The authors expect the Northeast US will warm 50% faster than the planet as a whole. They also find that the United States will reach a 2 degrees Celsius warming 10–20 years before the globe as a whole.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/climate-consensus-97-per-cent/2017/jan/17/parts-of-unit-ed-states-are-heating-faster-than-globe-as-a-whole>

Scientists are forecasting ice-melting temperatures in the middle of winter for some parts of the [Arctic](#) for the second year in a row. And analysis shows such recent record temperatures there would have been virtually impossible without human greenhouse emissions.

The five-day forecast maximum temperatures over the Arctic from Tuesday 20 December 2016. Photograph: ClimateReanalyzer.org/Climate change institute, University of Maine

Over the coming days, some parts of the Arctic are expected to get gusts of warm air that are more than 20C hotter than usual for this time of year, some of which will tip over the 0C melting temperature of water.

Maximum temperatures in parts of the Arctic will be warmer than the maximum over most of Canada for the next five days, according the global forecasting system run by the US National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (Noaa).

The extreme temperatures predicted coincide with record low sea-ice levels in the Arctic, which have already been wreaking havoc with weather North America, Europe and Asia, [according to leading climate scientists](#).

A low pressure system near Greenland is pulling the warm air towards the Arctic, in a [similar pattern to that seen in 2015](#). And [a paper published this month](#) showed events like that, called “midwinter warming”, were occurring more frequently, and made more likely by the loss of winter sea ice – something itself caused by climate change. With less ice, warm air moved closer to the Arctic and could then more easily be swept over it, the scientists claimed.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/dec/22/ice-melting-temperatures-forecast-for-arctic-midwinter>