

APPROVED Meeting Minutes

Volume 55 Number 4

New Mexico Herpetological Society

April 6, 2017

We gathered in the American International Rattlesnake Museum in Old Town Albuquerque, New Mexico. Our former Vice-President Josh Emms called our meeting to order and welcomed 11 adult and 1 pre-teen herpers at 7:27 PM

PRESENTATION

Jerry Tuttle introduced Co-Director Dan Shaw and senior student Sarah Shibuya of the Bosque School Bosque Ecological Monitoring Program (BEMP) and gave background on this research project. The program began three years ago. Student scientists in their senior year collect data about who's afraid of snakes and why they're afraid of snakes and how their attitudes change when allowed to get close to and even touch snakes. This is followed by outreach and education about snakes. Jerry provided snakes used in the student projects.

Bill Degenhardt introjected that UNM Biology is the biggest department, has the most students and the largest physical plant within the university.

Sarah Shibuya presented "Students' Attitudes Toward Snakes and Ability to Retain Information Over Time with and without Live Snakes in Education Programs"

She showed the results of a research project undertaken by Katarina Heim and Sarah Shibuya within the Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program at Bosque School 4000 Bosque School Road, NW Albuquerque, New Mexico 87120

This all started with Gigi and Olivia's BEMP project on positive change in elementary students' attitudes toward snakes.

Olivia now is at UNM studying biology and Gigi is at Colorado State University studying environmental biology.

Claire Wilkins research project was a continuation of Gigi and Olivia's and studied the attitudes of high school students toward snakes.

BREAKTIME at 8 PM

Ted and Sue Brown brought a scrumptious cake and sweet drinks and we celebrated the April birthdays of Jaci Fischer, Ted Brown and Bill Degenhardt.

BUSINESS MEETING

Josh Emms asked Secretary Cosmos to read the Minutes of our NMHS Meeting on March 2, 2017. These were approved with minor corrections by members present at 8:33 PM.

Josh asked Treasurer Letitia Peirce to read the financial statement. Letitia reported that the balance in the NMHS checking account of \$3,581.67 as of March 2, 2017 was reduced by \$70.00 resulting in a balance of \$3,511.67 as of April 6, 2017

OLD BUSINESS

CALENDAR

April 29. 4th Annual Family Fun Day hosted by Rio Grande Chapter of Guardians of the Children at the Daniel Fernandez Park on Highway 314 in Los Lunas, New Mexico from 12 PM to 4 PM. Jerry will show his herps.

April 29. Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge's Field Day. A Wildlife Zone herp exhibit in the Visitor Center Building Lannan classrooms. Expect 48 kids (4 groups of 12) plus chaperones in the AM and many public in the PM.

May 4 NMHS Meeting. Program: FrogWatch presented by Josh and Katie from our Albuquerque Zoo'

May 7 - 13, 2017 Meeting of Herp Tag which is the Reptile and Amphibian Taxon Advisory Group of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums will be held in Albuquerque and hosted by our ABQ BioPark. Schedule: Sunday the 7th - Icebreaker at the Biopark Aquarium and Botanic Gardens 6 - 9 PM; Monday the 8th - Lizard TAG (LAG); Tuesday the 9th - Snake TAG (SAG); Wednesday the 10th - Amphibian TAG (ATAG); Thursday the 11th - Zoo Day at our ABQ BioPark; Friday the 12th - Chelonian TAG (CHAG); and Saturday the 13th - Crocodilian TAG (CAG).

Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) 8403 Colesville Road, Suite 710, Silver Springs, Maryland 20910-3314, Telephone: 301-562-0777; Fax 301-562-0888, www.aza.org

May 29 NMHS Memorial Day Field Trip

June 8 NMHS Meeting

June Regional Science Fair in Albuquerque.

June 15 Isleta Pueblo Environment Day

June 19 - 23 National Speleological Society Conference in Rio Rancho, New Mexico. The 76th Anniversary of the NSS is being celebrated in June of 2017, just beyond and west of the Rio Grande in the Santa Ana Star Center.

July 8 NMHS Potluck at Jaci Fischer's.

August Cancelled. NO Expo hosted by New Mexico Department of Game and Fish.

NEW BUSINESS

Josh reminded us that we must firm up our plans for our NMHS Memorial Day Field Trip. Suggestions were forthcoming: Pueblo Park SW of Reserve; Pueblo Creek in the northern part of

the Black Range; in the Clovis area; in the Portales area; Lake Sumner; Springtime Canyon on the east side of the San Mateo Mountain range; Jemez Mountain range; Luna Park campground.

Keith Crowe suggested that NMHS use GoogleGroups, an email-based modern version of ListServe and open up a FaceBook Page. GoogleGroups offers threads, for example, for trips, meetings, speakers, animals that need rescue, camping that will go to our email accounts. Keith said that he could set up a GoogleGroups for NMHS in a short time and will open up what has been a closed FaceBook Page.

Jerry Tuttle brought up the challenge of having a computer plus video projector ready for use at NMHS meetings. Keith suggested that our Society purchase a laptop computer to be used with our Epson video projector: 500 GB on the hard-drive, HDMI port, no DVD drive, bag to put it in, will need Office for PowerPoint. Tom Eichhorst made the motion that the Society purchase a laptop computer plus HDMI cable. Executive Secretary Cosmos seconded the motion and was speedily volunteered to purchase both items.

ADJOURNED at 9:11 PM.

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

These Minutes are submitted by NMHS Secretary Cosmos.

NMHS OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

VICE-PRESIDENT

SECRETARY Cosmos

TREASURER Letitia Peirce

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

PARLIAMENTARIAN William Degenhardt

HP - 15.6" Laptop - AMD A6-Series - 4GB Memory - 500GB Hard Drive – \$230 best buy