

APPROVED Meeting Minutes

Volume 55 Number 5

New Mexico Herpetological Society

May 4, 2017

We met up at the American International Rattlesnake Museum in Old Town Albuquerque, New Mexico. At 7:13PM Keith Crow introduced our presenters of the evening, Katie Anderson and Josh Davis, to our audience of 14 adult and one pre-teen herpers. Josh and Katie work in the reptile department at our Albuquerque BioPark and spearheaded formation of a FrogWatch chapter there.

PROGRAM

Katie and Josh explained that FrogWatch is national program in citizen science run by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. [email from Arslan Ahmad at AZA: FrogWatch USA began in 1998 at the United States Geological Survey (USGS). Ownership of the program moved to us, the Association of Zoos & Aquariums, in 2010. You can read more on our website: <https://www.aza.org/frogwatch!>] This the second year for the Albuquerque chapter. In 2016 13 participants became certified volunteers, in 2017 22. The program allows adults and children to learn about wetlands in or near their communities and report data about frog and toad species found in those wetlands. Participants learn to identify toads and frogs from the males' calls and to record information about the calls on data sheets or onto the Field Scope website. <http://aza.org/frogwatch-monitoring-protocols>

Field Scope is a nation-wide online database powered by Biological Sciences Curriculum Study (BSCS). Field Scope lists frog and toad species, wetland sites and temperature/precipitation and enables users to create graphs, maps and charts pertaining to frog and toad species and where and when found. All FrogWatch information will be entered onto the Field Scope website. <http://frogwatch.fieldscope.org/v3>

Chapter Coordinators at the ABQ BioPark FrogWatch Chapter are: Josh Davis jjdavis@cabq.gov Katie Anderson katieanderson@cabq.gov and Cheri Vogel cvogel@cabq.gov

The Albuquerque Chapter has two training sessions and a make-up day followed by an exam and field trip. Here are the FrogWatch Monitoring Guidelines for the 23 species of toads and frogs found in New Mexico. "1) Monitoring must begin 30 minutes after sunset and conclude at 1 AM. When you get to your monitoring site you must sit, relax and remain quiet for 2-5 minutes to allow the wildlife to settle back into its routine (get comfortable). 2) Begin monitoring for 3 minutes at a time: take note of the frogs/toads you hear; how many you frogs/toads you hear; their call intensity; weather conditions including temperature; and time. 3) Once the 3 minutes are over record your findings. 4) Repeat Steps 1-3."

Katie and Josh showed slides of and played audio recordings of the calls of all 23 species of toads and frogs found in New Mexico. The recordings of the calls came from the book THE FROGS AND TOADS OF NORTH AMERICA: A Comprehensive Guide to Their Identification, Behavior and Calls written by Lang

Elliott, Carlos Davidson and Carl Gerhardt (2009). Josh shared his own descriptions of their calls.

Thank you very much, Josh and Katie for letting us herpers know about your important organization and your work.

Scott Bulgrin called a 10-minute BREAKTIME

BUSINESS MEETING

Scott asked Secretary Cosmos to read the NMHS Draft Minutes of our April 6, 2017 meeting. The Minutes were approved with a correction by Keith Crow that the Facebook Page was set up by Josh Emms and merely has to be opened.

Scott asked Treasurer Letitia Peirce to report on the financial condition of our Society. Letitia reported that the balance in our checking account is \$3,498.67. The Treasurer's Report was heard and approved by members present.

OLD BUSINESS

Scott asked our Secretary to report on his purchase today at BestBuy of a computer for use by NMHS for PowerPoint presentations. Cosmos showed the computer and HDMI cable to members. Josh and Keith offered to get the computer up and running before our next meeting. Scott reminded Cosmos to submit the purchase receipt to Letitia for reimbursement.

Scott noted that one of our NMHS banners is missing. Perhaps Daniel Carroll has one. Scott suggested having a new banner (30" x 60") made on dark ground with the new NMHS logo. Josh suggested keeping the banners in the Rattlesnake Museum. Josh attempted to reach Daniel by telephone during this discussion but got no answer.

The topic switched to Jerry Tuttle and his collection that he might be disposing of.

OUTREACH

April 19. Wilson Middle School in Albuquerque. Scott presented to 6 classrooms (180 students) during the day.

April 21 Environmental Day at Sandia High School in Albuquerque. Scott displayed. Some 2,000 students came by Scott's table. At the end of the day a couple of toughs almost got into a fistfight at Scott's table in what Scott described as "a unique situation." As a bonus Scott met a biology teacher who had attempted to pick up a small Prairie Rattlesnake and got envenomated in his ring finger and who will be Logan's (Scott's son) teacher this fall.

April 26. BEMP DAY (Bosque Environmental Monitoring Program) at Los Golandrinas near Santa Fe. Ted Brown and Tom Eichhorst and Tom's friend Jack displayed their herps including salamanders and a big Bullsnake under heat lamps. 163 kids and adults came by on a beautiful sunny day.

April 29. Field Day at Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge near Socorro. Heavy rain the day

before muddied trails so much that the kids had to stay around the Visitor's Center. In the afternoon 131 kids visited the herps on display brought by Ted and Sue Brown and Tom Eichhorst: Tiger Salamanders, Milksnakes, gartersnake, Ring-necked Snake, Hook-nosed Snake, turtles and toads.

Scott reminded us that our NMHS Memorial Day Field Trip is coming up on June 3-4 and asked Cosmos to read off the list of destinations suggested at our April meeting. Cosmos then chanted "Jemez, Jemez, Jemez" and Jemez became the location for our Field Trip.

Our meeting adjourned around 9 PM.

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

APPROVED NMHS MEETING MINUTES of May 4, 2017 are submitted by Secretary Cosmos.

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