

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

Volume 55 Number 8

New Mexico Herpetological Society

August 3, 2017

We met up at the American International Rattlesnake Museum in Old Town Albuquerque, New Mexico. Scott Bulgrin welcomed 11 adult and 1 pre-teen herpers.

Setting up for a PowerPoint presentation proved impossible. Meanwhile informal talk within the audience pertained to the state of Florida, its exotic species, chameleons in avocado groves, low elevations including Possum Pass – 3', SkunkApe Museum, plenty of flowering plants, dearth of bees and swarms of mosquitos.

BUSINESS MEETING

Scott called our meeting to order and asked our Treasurer to give her report. At 7:25 pm Letitia responded that the balance in the NMHS checking account is \$3,166.17.

Scott asked our Secretary to read the DRAFT Meeting Minutes of May 4, 2017. Tom Eichhorst requested that an addition be made to the Minutes. He reported that on April 27 he and Jerry Tuttle took their herps to the Bosque School in Albuquerque for the BEMP senior class day. Tom said that he and Jerry displayed kingsnakes, box turtle, bullsnakes, Gila Monster and Beaded Lizard. The Minutes were approved with this addition by members present.

Scott asked whether anyone went on the NMHS Memorial Day Trip to the Jemez. Bill Gorum said that he took part in it and saw 4 species: Tree Lizard, Fence Lizard, Western Chorus Frog (*Pseudacris triseriata*) tadpoles and Wandering Garter Snake. Tom Eichhorst said that he unsuccessfully attempted to reach the Jemez destination via the closed Gilman Tunnels road and instead went south to the Ojito Wilderness where he saw a diamondback rattlesnake.

Scott asked about the Annual NMHS potluck held at Jaci Fischer's. A quick response was that a good time was had by all and that Ted Brown showed slides of the Memorial Day Field Trip to Cebollo Creek in the Jemez and our Survey on Sandia Pueblo.

Scott asked about the International Herpetological Symposium. Lori King said that this year it was held at the Chiricahua Desert Museum in Rodeo, New Mexico and included 60 presentations. Carolyn and Sparky, Patrick Maher and Lori were there. Gordon Schuler gave a presentation about parthenogenesis and said that early on herpetoculturists had advanced the research. Banquet Speaker Mark O'Shea encouraged the audience to report unusual behavior observed among captive and free-roaming herps to Herp Review. Many young people were there. Two years ago IHS through Russ Gurley started a Junior Herpetologists program. Twelve-year old Andrew Gonzalez presented "Super Hero Lizard Uta" and shared that Uta has a substance in its blood that prevents ticks from

spreading Lyme Disease to humans. Andrew got a grant for his project from the Walt Disney Company. Jim Rohrbach was there. His book about herps of Sonora has been published. IHS will be held in Houston in 2018 and in Belize in 2019.

Lori said that the Massassauga Survey on Kirtland Air Force Base in Albuquerque included cannibalism within a funnel trap by a Coachwhip of its littermate, an incident that will be written up and submitted to the Herp Review.

NEW BUSINESS

Lori said that the Charles W. Painter Grant in Herpetology fund-raiser BioBlitz and Bar-B-Que will be held at the Chiricahua Desert Museum on Friday August 18 and Saturday August 19, 2017. NMHS will give a check for \$300 to the Grant which funds scholarships in herpetology. Scott said that he has NMHS T-shirts to donate to the fund-raiser.

Scott asked about the whereabouts of NMHS banners. Josh Emms said that one is at Daniel Carroll's parents in Albuquerque. Scott said that he has two. Tom Eichhorst said that he will need one for his presentation in September at Ghost Ranch.

Letitia said that Jerry Tuttle had inquired about reimbursement for trips he had made. Scott said that he will talk to Jerry and find out if his trips involved NMHS business.

Scott told us that he will be putting on programs, including venomous snakes, at the Dragonfly Festival at Bitter Lakes National Wildlife Refuge near Roswell, New Mexico on September Friday 8 and Saturday 9. For displaying rattlesnakes Scott recommended selling off our Society's VisionCages which cost ~\$120 each and replacing them with 24" and 36" NeodashaCages which cost ~\$300 each. Scott said that Bob Myers will end up with one of the VisionCages.

Any suggestions for locations for the NMHS Labor Day Field Trip? Tom chanted Jemez, Jemez, Jemez. Scott suggested a potluck cookout wherever we end up.

Scott said that he had received a complaint about our NMHS website, that it did not help with identification of herps. Josh said that the Critters of New Mexico - Facebook group with 2,000 to 3,000 members refers inquiries to our NMHS website.

Scott asked us to suggest a location and a speaker for our December Banquet.

BREAKTIME Barbara and Don Sais brought a platter of cheese and fruit. Cosmos brought sweet drinks and cookies.

Our meeting adjourned before 9 PM.

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

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