



# New Mexico Herpetological Society

June - December 2010 Newsletter

Volume 47 (2)

## Annual CHRISTMAS BANQUET

**Saturday 4 December 2010**

**Dinner 7:30 – 10:00 p.m. at Nick's Crossroads Cafe, 400 Central Ave. S.W. (on the southwest corner of 4<sup>th</sup> and Central). Our meal will feature a buffet with a number of different entrees (including bread, soup, pasole, a couple types of pizza, baked chicken, etc.). Beer, wine, or liquor will be extra. We will eat in a private room on the east side of the restaurant, next to 4th street. The buffet table will be in the next room.**

**Speaker – Dustin Rhoads will present a program about the "Rosaliae section" of the ratsnakes, titled, "The Natural History, Husbandry, and Genetic Variation of the Trans-Pecos Ratsnake and Baja California Ratsnake."**



Nick's Crossroads Cafe

**Cocktail Hour starts at 5:30 p.m. at the American International Rattlesnake Museum in Old Town. Drinks and snacks provided by the crew at the museum.**

**\*Cost is \$20 per person (\$10 per child) payable that night to Garth Graves.**

**We will have a Silent Auction with lots herp related material.**

**Bring your ballot for the election of 2010 NMHS officers.**

## Meeting & Activity Notes

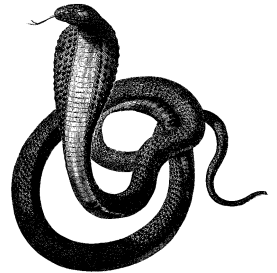


**20-21 November 2010 --The Festival of the Cranes** at Bosque del Apache Wildlife Refuge south of Socorro, New Mexico. Once again the New Mexico Herp Society will set up a display of live reptiles and even a few amphibians in a room in the main visitor's center. Times are generally 10:00am until 4:00pm, but plan on being there about 9:30am in order to set up. Electrical hook ups are available, but bring an extension cord or two. We will have posters, flyers, and small rubber herps to give away to kids, as well as a kid's tattoo table. This is always a fun couple of days, so even if you are not joining us to exhibit a herp, come on down to enjoy the arts and crafts and meet lots of friendly folks.



**4 December - NMHS Annual Christmas Banquet and Meeting.** This is our last meeting of the year and aside from great company, delicious food, superb speakers, we will also elect the officers for the year 2011. We will meet at 5:30 pm at the American International Rattlesnake Museum for drinks and chips. This event is once again hosted by Bob Myers and is your chance to check out his new herp-related books, figurines, wall hangings, etc. The perfect herper Christmas gift is in the museum store somewhere. The dinner and meeting will be from 7:30 to 10:00 pm at Nick's Crossroads Café on the corner of Central Ave. and 4<sup>th</sup> St. There is plenty of parking available.

Our speaker this year will be **Dustin Rhoades**, talking about *Bogertophis rosaliae* (Mocquard, 1899) (Baja ratsnake) and *Bogertophis subocularis* (Brown, 1901) (Trans-Pecos ratsnake). Note the new generic name that replaces the original *Coluber* and the later *Elaphe*.



**If you have a ballot insert in this issue it should be filled out and either mailed in or brought to the banquet.**

### Another Year of Herp Survey on the Sandia Pueblo Winds Up

The Sandia Pueblo herp survey for 2010 was moved from the Rio Grande Bosque to the East Mesa, between I-25 and the Sandia Mountains, north of the Sandia Pueblo Casino. At the beginning of the spring the New Mexico Herpetological Society laid out 32 traps - five gallon buckets buried with covering sheets of plywood propped up to let critters crawl under and then become trapped in the buckets. The traps were then checked regularly and the creatures found within were recorded and set free. Those participating in the survey also noted any animals observed in and around the traps or in the area of the survey. The survey



ended for 2010 at the end of October.

Generalized survey results for 2010:

- 1511 vertebrates recorded (959 in traps, 552 not in traps)
- 1423 lizards
- 22 snakes
- 19 toads
- 47 mammals

Number collected per trap ranges from a low of 6 to a high of 79, with an average of 29.9 per trap.

If you did not get a chance to participate and are curious about what went on, check out Josh Emms blogsite at <http://joshemms.blogspot.com/>. Josh has posted tons of photographs that include some documentation of the herp survey as well as both the Memorial Day and Labor Day weekend NMHS field trips to the Wind River Ranch in Mora County. There are also lots of pictures from other herp trips he, Nikki, and friends have accomplished as well stuff happening at home (hatching desert kingsnakes). Check out this blog, you will be glad you did. You should also be aware that Josh is on the ballot to be the next NMHS newsletter editor. With his many herp activities, excellence with a camera, and solid writing abilities, we ought to do quite well with a new fresh editor. **Thank you Josh for stepping up.** On the right is an example of a find that was not in a trap. In this case a juvenile roundtail horned lizard (*Phrynosoma modestum*). This individual is surrounded by a healthy growth of cholla cactus. Nice to take a picture here, but if you want to grab the lizard, you had better wait for better conditions.

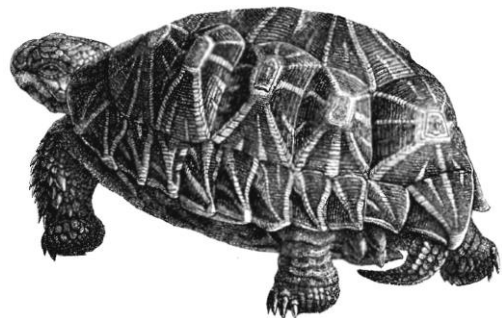


**Above: an example of a find that was not in a trap. In this case a juvenile roundtail horned lizard (*Phrynosoma modestum*). This individual is surrounded by a healthy growth of cholla cactus. Nice to take a picture here, but if you want to grab the lizard, you had better wait for better conditions.**

---

## \$ - DUES – DUES – DUES – DUES – DUES – DUES – DUES – DUES - \$

Yes, it is that time of year again. You can pay your 2011 dues at the Christmas banquet directly to Garth Graves, or send them in the mail. Dues are \$10 for adult or family membership and \$5 for junior membership (up to 13 years of age).



---

This newsletter is published for the edification and enjoyment of the members of the New Mexico Herpetological Society. Any opinions expressed here are those of the author and do not express or represent official NMHS policy. Questions, suggestions, and articles for publication may be submitted to the editor,

Tom Eichhorst  
4528 Quartz Dr. N.E.  
Rio Rancho, NM 87124-4908    thomas@nerite.com