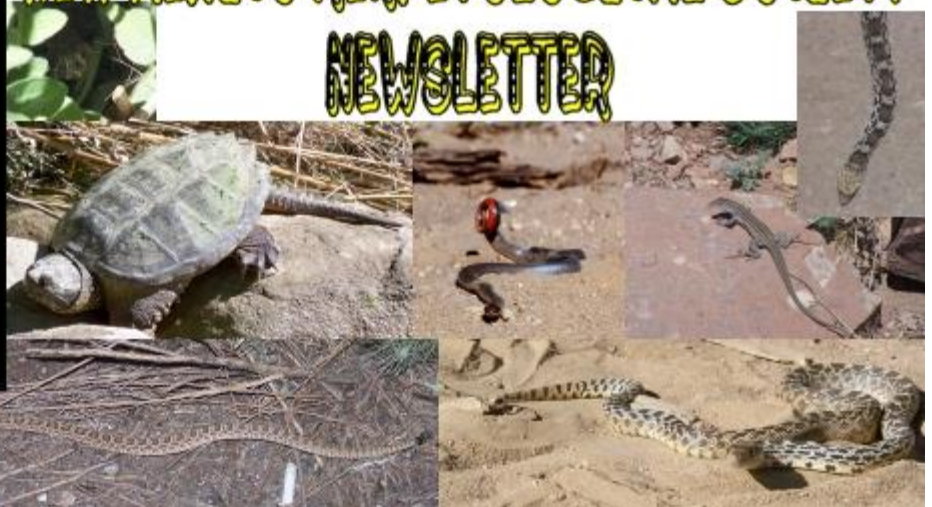


NEW MEXICO HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



September - December 2013 Newsletter

Volume 50 (3)

SANDIA PUEBLO HERP SURVEY 2013



Members of the New Mexico Herpetological Society have diligently checked traps all summer and closed them out in November. They checked through droughts and deluges. Hiking amongst the drooping chollas produced parched lizards and every once in a while a snake! Herpers young and old helped to count, measure and mark many specimens. A lot of fun was had by all! This year produced many specimens and we even got a garter snake!



Clockwise from upper left: Prairie Rattlesnake (*Crotalus viridis*), Hernandez's Short-horned Lizard (*Phrynosoma hernandesi hernandesi*), Josh Emms flipping "Josh's Board", Western Black-necked Gartersnake (*Thamnophis cyrtopsis cyrtopsis*), Spadefoot pond above the berm in area D, New Mexico Whiptail (*Aspidoscelis neomexicana*), Sandias from the survey site.



WATER CANYON FALL FIELD TRIP REPORT



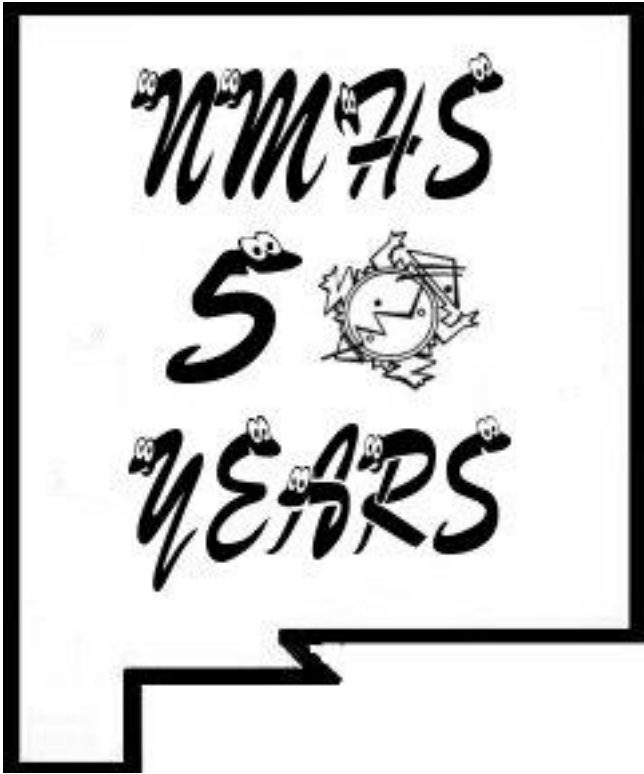
Our trip this fall was to Water Canyon. Water Canyon is situated in the Magdalena Mountains west of Socorro. We reserved the group campground. It is a very beautiful campground with pit toilets picnic tables and a pavilion. The pavilion was great to hang around and cook food and visit with everyone. It was also a great shelter from the rain. Dave & Jean Burt observed bats flying in under the pavilion after dark to catch insects. The trip was attended by 14 people of all ages. The group found 130+ specimens of 28 species. Members from the group hiked the local canyons and also cruised many of the roads around Socorro. Each night was finished by a nice sit around the warm campfire.



Clockwise from upper left: Schott's Tree Lizard (*Urosaurus ornatus schotti*), Mormon Cricket, Prairie Rattlesnake (*Crotalus viridis*), Wandering Garter Snake (*Thamnophis elegans vagrans*), Mountain Patch-nosed Snake (*Salvadora grahamae grahamae*), Great Plains Toad (*Anaxyrus cognatus*), Couch's Spadefoot (*Scaphiopus couchi*), Speckled Earless Lizards (*Holbrookia maculata approximans*), Turantula, Black-tailed Rattlesnake (*Crotalus ornatus*), Western Longnose Snake *Rhinochelus lecontei*)



NMHS 50TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY



Several members gathered to celebrate herping fifty years in New Mexico. We gathered for a potluck dinner with several dishes and even a cake. We lit the candles and two founding members (Ted Brown and Bill Degenhardt) blew them out and we feasted on the cake! After that we watched a video/slideshow that was put together for the occasion. Copies of the slideshow will be available for purchase on DVD at the Holiday Banquet for \$10.00.

Many members brought some of their animals to share with everyone. Steve Stocking brought some of his chameleons. Dave Burt brought his Cornsnakes that he

hatched out this year. Josh Nikki & Chloe Emms brought baby Cornsnakes, baby Longnoses, a Gophersnake, a California Kingsnake and Nikki's favorite Desert Kingsnake. Scott Bulgrin brought a Gophersnake. Jerry Tuttle went home with a California Kingsnake and Ted Brown went home with a Cornsnake and a Longnose.

Some other people brought some cages and hides and water dishes and many people went home with things they needed to take better care of their herps.

Thanks to everyone who helped to make the party a great success.

MEETING & ACTIVITY NOTES



December 14 – Back Area Tour of the reptile building at the zoo. Meet out side the front of the zoo at 2:30pm.

December 14 – Holiday Banquet. There will be a gathering at the Rattlesnake Museum with appetizers and drinks at 5:30pm. We will gather at Garcia's afterwards for dinner, silent auction and a presentation. See article below for more information.

January 2 – Monthly Meeting 7:00pm at the Rattlesnake Museum, speaker to be determined.

February 6 – Monthly Meeting 7:00pm at the Rattlesnake Museum, speaker to be determined.

March 6 – Monthly Meeting 7:00pm at the Rattlesnake Museum, speaker to be determined.

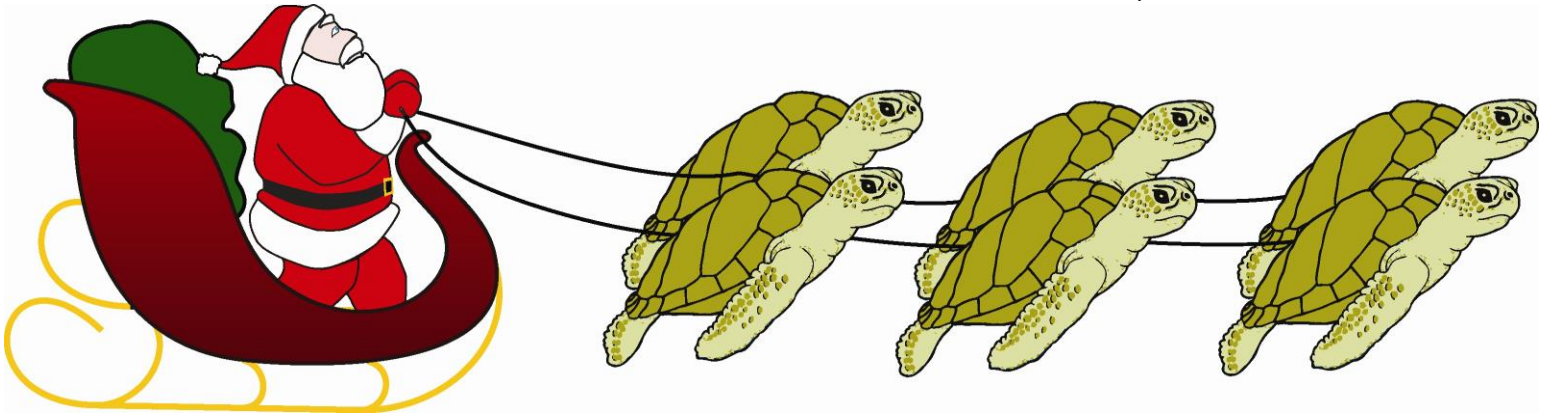
April 3 – Monthly Meeting 7:00pm at the Rattlesnake Museum, speaker to be determined.

May 1 – Monthly Meeting 7:00pm at the Rattlesnake Museum, speaker to be determined.



HOLIDAY BANQUET 2013

This year's banquet will be held on December 14th. We will start at 5:30pm at the Rattlesnake Museum with drinks and appetizers. Dues (\$10.00) can be paid at this event and you can also pay for dinner (\$19.00). We will socialize and then move on over to Garcia's (1736 Central Ave SW - Albuquerque, NM 87104) for dinner at around 6:30pm. There we will hold elections and have the silent auction. After dinner we will here form our guest speaker, Dante Fenolio of the San Antonio Zoo. His topic will be "Endangered Chilean Amphibians." There will also be a back tour of the reptile building at the zoo. Meet at the front entrance of the zoo at 2:30pm.



DANTE FENOLIO

The following is taken from Dante's website:

Fieldwork has always been my greatest passion. Never one for suits, ties, or big cities, I find myself most comfortable, and happiest, far away from the grind of modern society. Most people will never experience the energy and feel of a primary rainforest on a misty night. I couldn't envision life without it. I have been fortunate in that I can combine my academic field work with another love, wildlife photography. As a photographer, I work to capture images of wildlife that isn't commonly observed. Often, I seek the smallest forms of life, things overlooked by the masses. Mainstream wildlife photography is obsessed with pandas, bald eagles, bears, and wolves. I'd rather shoot cave diplurans in the Ozarks, cryptic geckos in the forest canopies of Madagascar, or freshwater rays in south-central Brasil.

My aim has always been to bring the forest to those who can't see it in person. I have a fondness and immense appreciation for nature's detail. I often find myself engrossed by things like the subtle nuance of mimicry, highlights at the edge of a sleeping butterfly's wing, or the pearlescent skin of a blind cave salamander. I hope that you enjoy the images I have placed in the slide shows. If I've done my job, they might inspire you to visit one of the last great wild places before they are gone.

<http://www.anotheca.com/photograph.html>

NEWS IN THE WORLD OF HERPS

Finding of Rare Gartersnake Underscores Need to Protect New Mexico's Gila River

Until [this find](#), scientists had suspected that the rare snake was extinct in the state.

Northern Mexican gartersnakes (*Thamnophis eques*) live in wetland areas alongside rivers, where they hunt for tadpoles and minnows. Over 90 percent of their riverside habitats have disappeared in the last century due to overgrazing, water diversions, wildfires and drought.

The new discovery of the endangered snake lends more import and urgency to the protection of the Gila River, the last undammed river in New Mexico. In recent years, the river has come under [threats of a diversion](#) to supply water to towns in the region.

<http://newswatch.nationalgeographic.com/2013/07/15/finding-of-rare-gartersnake-underscores-need-to-protect-new-mexicos-gila-river/>



Biologists find oldest Jemez salamander



Species Act.

<http://www.kob.com/article/stories/s3104316.shtml#!prettyPhoto>

LOS ALAMOS, N.M. (AP) - State wildlife officials say biologists have made a startling discovery in the Jemez Mountains.

The biologists were participating in a training workshop just east of the Valles Caldera National Preserve this week when they came across what is believed to be the longest living Jemez Mountains salamander. It's estimated to be at least 17 years old.

New Mexico Game and Fish Department biologist Mark Watson says the salamander was identified as one captured and tagged in 1998 by the department's herpetologist.

Watson says this week's discovery was an exciting and surprising find. Experts believed the salamanders live a long time.

They just didn't know how long.

The Jemez Mountains salamander is on the state endangered species list and is a candidate for protection under the federal Endangered

Snake-handling Appalachian preacher vows to defy law, continue taking up venomous serpents

As beads of sweat slithered down his temples, Andrew Hamblin stared in wide-eyed wonder at the three-foot timber rattlesnake he had thrust towards his congregation. "I am a soldier in the army of the Lord," he boomed in a thick southern drawl, stomping a foot on the hardwood floor. "And the enemy has been fighting me this week harder than ever before."

In this shed tucked into a dark valley of the Appalachian Mountains, before 60 adoring followers speaking in tongues, throwing up their hands and dabbing tears from their eyes, Mr. Hamblin was breaking the law.

<http://news.nationalpost.com/2013/11/25/snake-handling-appalachian-preacher-vows-to-defy-law-continue-taking-up-venomous-serpents/>



New Mexico Herpetological Society

Ballot for officers for 2014

Please vote for one person for each office. You may write in the name of a member if they have agreed to run for that office. Return your ballot to NMHS by mail or e-mail no later than 12 December 2013 or bring it to the December Banquet on 14 December 2013 and give it to a member of the nominations committee.

PRESIDENT

___ **Scott Bulgrin**

(write-in) ___

VICE-PRESIDENT

___ **Nancy Bush**

(write-in) ___

SECRETARY

___ **Zane Dohner**

(write-in) ___

TREASURER

___ **Letitia Peirce**

(write-in) ___

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

___ **Josh Emms**

(write-in) ___

PARLIAMENTARIAN

___ **Dr. William G. Degenhardt**

(write-in) ___

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. If you would like a color digital copy of this newsletter, please email me!

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