

January – April 2006 Newsletter

Volume 40 (1)

New Mexico Herpetological Society's Annual Potluck meeting

24 June 2006



This year's July potluck meeting has been moved up to June and will be at the home of:

Letitia Peirce 4264 Indians Springs Ave. NE* Albuquerque, N.M.

Phone - 255-7029

*see the map insert, page 3

Upcoming Events

May to September - Sandia Pueblo Herp Survey in the Bosque on the Sandia Reservation. As we did last year, the NMHS is once again performing a survey of the herps on specified lands on the Sandia Reservation. Volunteers dug and set up about 20 pitfall traps in early May and will check these traps every Tuesday and Saturday morning. If you would like to help (it only takes a couple of hours), call Scott Bulgrin at 505-332-9672. Any help is most welcome and the Sandia Pueblo pays the NMHS for this service.

24 June - Annual Potluck at the home of Letitia Peirce, 4264 Indian Springs Ave., N.E., Albuquerque. This year's July potluck is in June and will start at 6:00PM at Letitia's. Bring a chair, drinks, and something to share food wise. We will have a short meeting and then a presentation by President Ted Brown (it is becoming a tradition). These are always interesting and fun events, see you there. Questions, call Letitia at 255-7029. A map to Latitia's is on page 3.



Dues Time! If you haven't paid those 2006 dues, it is time to dig into your wallet or purse and get that money into Garth Graves at:

Garth Graves NMHS Treasurer 1709 37th St. Rio Rancho, NM 87124

You can also send in your \$10 (adult and family membership or \$5 for juvenile under 13) to the address on this newsletter or bring it to any meeting.

No July Meeting – the potluck (in June) is our July meeting.

3 August – Meeting at 7:00PM at the American International Rattlesnake Museum in Old Town.

7 September – Meeting at 7:00PM at the American International Rattlesnake Museum in Old Town.

5 October - Meeting at 7:00PM at the American International Rattlesnake Museum in Old Town.

7 October – Herp Day at the Rio Grande Nature Center. This is the 10th annual Herp Day that we have co-sponsored with the Rio Grande Nature Center. As before, doors will open to the public at 10:00AM with setup at 9:00AM. We will close it down at 5:00PM. Tables and chairs are provided, but help setting up and tearing down is always appreciated. Any herps are a welcome display, but especially native New Mexican herps.

2 November - Meeting at 7:00PM at the American International Rattlesnake Museum in Old Town.

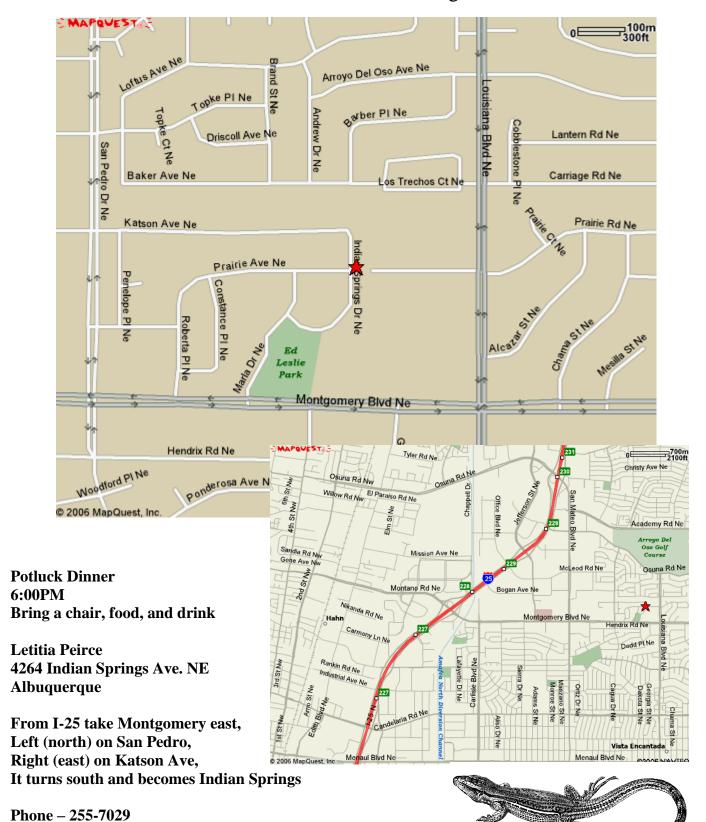


18 – 19 November – Festival of the Cranes at Bosque del Apache Wildlife Refuge south of Socorro, N.M. Once again we will set up with herps and the patience needed to educate the throngs that attend this annual event. Setup time is from 9:00AM to 10:00AM on Saturday the 18th. Herp setups can be left in place overnight (the room is locked). Some folks choose to spend the night in Socorro – one of the state's unsung spots for nightlife and fun (we were talking road cruising for herps, right?). The event runs from 10:00AM to 5:00PM both days. There are

generally over 5,000 visitors each day and when you get a break from answering herp questions there are lots of other booths with arts, crafts, and other animals. The raptors on display are usually worth the drive by themselves. Even if you do not choose to join us behind the display table, come on down and say hello.

December - Christmas Banquet time and place to be announced.

Potluck Dinner/Meeting



Meeting & Activity Notes

11-12 March – Herp Expo at the Howard Johnson's on Eubank. We again sponsored a raffle table along with the Rio Grande Turtle and Tortoise Club. The word really got out this time and there were easily twice as many people at this event than we normally have. A lot of the visitors were first time "just looking" types, but they will be back. We raffled off just about every prize we had and were supported very well by the various vendors. It was a great success.

22 April - Snake Awareness Day at the Wildlife Rescue Center in Arroyo Seco, New Mexico (just south of Española). Several NMHS volunteers showed for this event and had the chance to talk herps with center personnel as well as visitors. The rescue center is a non-profit agency that provides rescue services for native animals in coordination and with the approval of the New Mexico State Game and Fish Department. Located in what was once an open-air building for the county fair, the center now has a large climate-controlled facility with a full time staff and both indoor and outdoor facilities for rescued animals. Part of their mandate is to provide public out-reach and education, provided on this day by the NMHS.

6 May – Earth Awareness Day in Rio Rancho and 27-29 May - This was the second annual Earth Day Awareness held by the city of Rio Rancho. As last year, we were invited to participate and, of course, bring our herps. We set up under a tent on a couple of tables and talked herps all day to a variety of visitors. It was a pleasant day with just enough of a breeze to keep things pleasant. Exhibits included alternate energy, xeriscaping, plumbing improvements, and of course live bands and kid's activities.

27–29 May - Memorial Weekend Fieldtrip at The City of Rocks State Park. The Memorial Day fieldtrip was to City of Rocks and should have been quite a trip (I was unable to attend). We will hear about it at the upcoming potluck.

