

NEW MEXICO HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



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SANDIA PUEBLO HERP SURVEY 2013



Members of the New Mexico Herpetological Society headed out on April 27th to set up pitfall traps for the 2013 herp survey for Sandia Pueblo. This year we only had to open the traps that were already in the ground. A lot of fun was had by all. Some lizards were spotted and captured and a rattlesnake was found. Afterward, several members met up at El Pinto for some good eats.



Clockwise from upper left: Prairie Rattlesnake *Crotalus viridis* found by Scott Bulgrin next to a funnel trap; Chloe & Nikki Emms, Garth Graves & August Breithaupt with the rattlesnake; the whole crew that opened the traps; Side-blotched Lizard *Uta stansburiana*; Short-horned Lizard *Phrynosoma hernandesi*



HERPER SPOTLIGHT: AUGUST BREITHAUPT



Above: August & Nancy with their pets
Below: August working a Western Diamondback



seen a venomous snake exhibit? A Forest Cobra caught a rodent midair and a Gaboon Viper ate a rodent sideways. The Gaboon started in the middle, forced the rat into a U shape, worked its mouth around the rat, and swallowed it. They have huge mouths.

What species would you like to work with in the future? I am not actively looking for herps to keep.

How did you get into herping? As a two year old, I had a rubber snake I would take everywhere. When I was three I got to watch a *Boa constrictor* constrict a rodent and then swallow it. From that point, I was fascinated with the behaviors snakes utilize to survive.

When did you start keeping herps? When I was ten years old, I joined the Iowa Herpetological Society. I also went to the library and checked out all the books I could find pertaining to herpetology. Unfortunately, my parents felt this was not sufficient. I had to get an afterschool job as a freshman in high school maintaining a herp collection for a science museum before my parents allowed me to keep herps at home. By the time I graduated from high school, I was keeping a Black Pine Snake, two Gopher Snakes, a six inch Alligator Snapping Turtle, and a Savannah Monitor Lizard. I had to find homes for all the herps before I went to college. This is when I learned: What do you do with reptiles you can't keep anymore?

What was your most memorable event as a young herper? When I was fifteen, my supervisor and I went herping for Timber Rattlesnakes *Crotalus horridus* in Madison County, Iowa. We found and collected a 3 foot female that we brought back for display. That was the first venomous snake I found and got to work with. That day, I learned the public's perception of venomous snakes is horribly inaccurate.

How long have you been working with venomous reptiles? Since 1991.

Have you been bitten? I have never had a fang touch any part of my body.

What is your favorite herp to work with? The most interesting species I have worked with are Forest Cobras *Naja melanoleuca*. They are fast and agile enough to catch birds. They are also very alert and curious. Jim Harrison said it best, "They are as close to mambas as cobras get."

What memorable behaviors have you

seen a venomous snake exhibit? I realized when I was young, they are my responsibility. That means a mouth to feed and an enclosure to clean for twenty or thirty years.

What advice do you have for someone interested in venomous reptiles? Find a mentor who can show you how to work with venomous reptiles safely. Be respectful of their abilities. Learn from other's mistakes.

Are you interested in other wildlife? I have always had an interest in the behaviors wildlife utilize to survive. This ranges from ants to whales. I also enjoy orchids. Unfortunately, I do not have a greenhouse. Nancy said I could build one though.

Next newsletter will feature a spotlight on Charlie Painter. If you have any questions you would like to ask him, email me at:

joshemms@hotmail.com



Above: August working a Timber Rattlesnake
Below: Timber Rattlesnake



August & Nancy with their Snapping Turtle



August with Picasso. August is a permit holder for Gila Monsters.

LOWER GALLINAS SPRING 2013, MAY 24-27



The Gila National Forest is one of the most beautiful places in New Mexico! There are many places to herp and some very cool animals to find! Lower Gallinas

Campground is situated along Gallinas creek. There are 12 campsites, pit toilets and fire rings. RV's are not able to make it in, but there is availability up the road at the Upper Gallinas Campground. There is no water

available, so you will need to bring it in, or bring water purification supplies. This should be a very fun trip!

Directions:

From I-25, take Highway 152 west through Hillsboro and Kingston past Emory Pass and look for the signs! You will come to Upper Gallinas first, then a couple miles later, Lower Gallinas!



Possible Species List for Grant & Catron Counties, NM:

Scientific	Common
Amphibians	
<i>Anaxyrus cognatus</i>	Great Plains Toad
<i>Anaxyrus debilis insidiosus</i>	Western Green Toad
<i>Anaxyrus Microscaphus</i>	Arizona Toad
<i>Anaxyrus punctatus</i>	Red-spotted Toad
<i>Anaxyrus woodhouseii australis</i>	Southwestern Woodhouse's Toad
<i>Hyla arenicolor</i>	Canyon Treefrog
<i>Hyla wrightorum</i>	Arizona Treefrog
<i>Pseudacris triseriata</i>	Western Chorus Frog
<i>Lithobates catesbeianus</i>	American Bullfrog
<i>Lithobates chiricahuensis</i>	Chiricahua Leopard Frog
<i>Lithobates yavapaiensis</i>	Lowland Leopard Frog
<i>Scaphiophus couchii</i>	Couch's Spadefoot
<i>Spea bombifrons</i>	Plains Spadefoot
<i>Spea multiplicata stagnalis</i>	Chihuahuan Desert Spadefoot
<i>Ambystoma mavortium mavortium</i>	Barred Tiger Salamander
Turtles	
<i>Terrapene ornata luteola</i>	Desert Box Turtle
<i>Kinosternon sonoriense</i>	Sonoran Mud Turtle
<i>Apalone spinifera emoryi</i>	Texas Spiny Softshell

Lizards	
<i>Elgaria kingii nobilis</i>	Arizona Alligator Lizard
<i>Crotaphytus collaris</i>	Eastern Collared Lizard
<i>Gambelia wislizenii</i>	Long-Nosed Leopard Lizard
<i>Coleonyx variegatus bogerti</i>	Tucson Banded Gecko
<i>Heloderma suspectum suspectum</i>	Reticulate Gila Monster
<i>Cophosaurus texanus scitulus</i>	Southwestern Earless Lizard
<i>Holbrookia maculata approximans</i>	Speckled Earless Lizard
<i>Phrynosoma cornutum</i>	Texas Horned Lizard
<i>Phrynosoma hernandesi hernandesi</i>	Hernandez's Short-horned Lizard
<i>Sceloporus bimaculosus</i>	Twin-Spotted Spiny Lizard
<i>Sceloporus clarkii clarkii</i>	Sonoran Spiny Lizard
<i>Sceloporus cowlesi</i>	Southwestern Fence Lizard
<i>Sceloporus magister magister</i>	Purple-backed Spiny Lizard
<i>Sceloporus poinsettii poinsettii</i>	New Mexico Crevice Spiny Lizard
<i>Urosaurus ornatus schotti</i>	Schott's Tree Lizard
<i>Uta stansburiana stejnegeri</i>	Eastern Side-blotched Lizard
<i>Plestiodon multivirgatus epipleurotus</i>	Variable Skink
<i>Plestiodon obsoletus</i>	Great Plains Skink
<i>Aspidoscelis exsanguis</i>	Chihuahuan Spotted Whiptail
<i>Aspidoscelis flagellicauda</i>	Gila Spotted Whiptail
<i>Aspidoscelis inornata llanuras</i>	Plains Striped Whiptail
<i>Aspidoscelis marmorata marmorata</i>	Western Marbled Whiptail
<i>Aspidoscelis neomexicana</i>	New Mexico Whiptail
<i>Aspidoscelis sonora</i>	Sonoran Spotted Whiptail
<i>Aspidoscelis uniparens</i>	Desert Grassland Whiptail
<i>Aspidoscelis velox</i>	Plateau Striped Whiptail



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Snakes	
<i>Arizona elegans philipi</i>	Painted Desert Glossy Snake
<i>Coluber bilineatus</i>	Sonoran Whipsnake
<i>Coluber flagellum linneatus</i>	Lined Coachwhip
<i>Coluber flagellum piceus</i>	Red Racer
<i>Coluber taeniatus taeniatus</i>	Desert Striped Whipsnake
<i>Diadophis punctatus regalis</i>	Regal Ringneck Snake
<i>Gyalopion canum</i>	Chihuahuan Hook-nosed Snake
<i>Heterodon kennerlyi</i>	Mexican Hog-nosed Snake
<i>Hypsiglena jani texana</i>	Texas Nightsnake
<i>Lampropeltis getula splendida</i>	Desert Kingsnake
<i>Lampropeltis pyromelana pyromelana</i>	Arizona Mountain Kingsnake
<i>Pituophis catenifer affinis</i>	Sonoran Gopher Snake
<i>Rhinocheilus lecontei</i>	Western Long-nosed Snake
<i>Salvadora grahamiae grahamiae</i>	Mountain Patchnose Snake
<i>Salvadora hexalepis deserticola</i>	Big Bend Patchnose Snake
<i>Sonora semiannulata semiannulata</i>	Variable Ground Snake
<i>Tantilla hobartsmithi</i>	Smith's Black-headed Snake
<i>Tantilla nigriceps</i>	Plains Black-Headed Snake
<i>Thamnophis cyrtopsis cyrtopsis</i>	Western Blackneck Garter Snake
<i>Thamnophis elegans vagrans</i>	Wandering Garter Snake
<i>Thamnophis eques megalops</i>	Brown (Mexican) Garter Snake
<i>Thamnophis marcianus marcianus</i>	Checkered Gartersnake
<i>Thamnophis rufipunctatus</i>	Narrow-Headed Garter Snake
<i>Trimorphodon lambda</i>	Sonoran Lyre Snake
<i>Crotalus atrox</i>	Western Diamond-backed Rattlesnake
<i>Crotalus lepidus klauberi</i>	Banded Rock Rattlesnake
<i>Crotalus molossus molossus</i>	Northern Black-Tailed Rattlesnake
<i>Crotalus viridis</i>	Prairie Rattlesnake
<i>Micruroides euryxanthus euryxanthus</i>	Arizona Coralsnake
<i>Leptotyphlops dissectus</i>	New Mexico Blind Snake
<i>Leptotyphlops humilis segregus</i>	Trans-Pecos Blind Snake



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Texas Lyresnake
Trimorphodon vilkinsoni

United States

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MEETING & ACTIVITY NOTES



May 25-28 – Spring Field Trip to Lower Gallinas campground. See above article.

July 8-10 – Southwest PARC The 2013 annual meeting is scheduled for 9th and 10th of July at the main campus of [The University of New Mexico](#) in Albuquerque, New Mexico (with an evening BBQ on the 8th). This meeting is back-to-back with the [2013 Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists](#) happening in Albuquerque between July 10th and 15th. Save the date!

July 10-15 - Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists We extend our warmest invitation to the 2013 Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists (JMIH) in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The meeting will take place at the Albuquerque Convention Center in downtown Albuquerque, July 10 – 15. The 2013 JMIH includes the 29th annual meeting of the American Elasmobranch Society, the 56th annual meeting of the Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles, the 71st annual meeting of the Herpetologists' League, and the 93rd annual meeting of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists. It also coincides with the 100th anniversary of Copeia.

July 20 – Annual Summer Potluck will be at 6:30pm at Jaci's house. Her address is 217 Tornasol. Bring your favorite dish!



NEWS IN THE WORLD OF HERPS

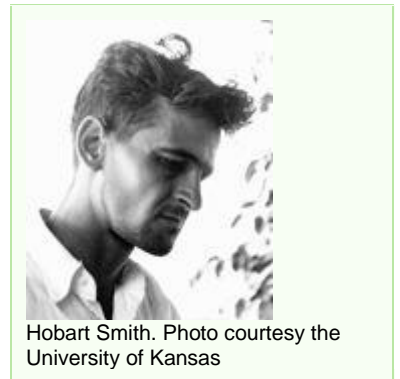
Hobart Muir Smith, Titan in American Herpetology Dies at 100

During a more than 75 year career, Smith wrote more than 1,600 publications on herpetology.

March 8, 2013

Hobart Muir Smith, an American herpetologist who has been credited for describing more than 100 new species of reptiles and amphibians, has died. He was 100 years old. Smith started his career in 1932, graduating from Kansas State University with a bachelor's degree in science. He then went on and earned a master's degree and a doctorate at the University of Kansas where his thesis was a revision of the lizard genus *Sceloporus*.

In 1936, Smith and his colleagues wrote and published *The Mexican and Central American Lizards of the Genus Sceloporus*. In 1937, he was awarded a fellowship by the Smithsonian Institution which was used to collect animal specimens in Mexico. He served as a zoology professor at the University of Rochester in New York during WWII, returning to the University of Kansas in 1945. Serving at the university as an associate professor, Smith wrote the *Handbook of Lizards, Lizards of the US and of Canada*. The following year Smith went to Texas A&M University, where he wrote *Checklist and key to snakes of Mexico* and *Checklist and key to amphibians of Mexico* alongside Dr. Edward Harrison Taylor, his former professor at the University of Kansas.



Hobart Smith. Photo courtesy the University of Kansas

His longest professional stint at a university occurred between 1947 and 1968, when he served as a professor of zoology at the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign. In 1968 he retired from the university and moved to Colorado and became a biology professor at the University of Colorado and in 1972, became chairman of the university's Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. He retired again in 1983, becoming professor emeritus. During his professional career, he authored more than 1,600 papers, and 29 books.

<http://www.reptilechannel.com/reptile-news/2013/03/08/hobart-smith-dies-at-100.aspx>

Alligator Helps Florida Police Nab Suspect

By Charlie Campbell May 13, 2013

A suspect fleeing from police in Florida was finally apprehended after being attacked by an alligator.

Bryan Zuniga was pulled over in Pinellas, Fla., at 2:47 a.m. on May 9 after his 1995 Nissan SUV was seen weaving on the road. He ran from the scene after stopping the vehicle and jumping out of the passenger-side door, [reports the Tampa Bay Times](#).

The 20-year-old kicked a hole in an adjacent fence and hid in a nearby water treatment plant, only to find something scarier than the law waiting for him inside. The fierce reptile reportedly bit Zuniga on the face and arm, causing him to seek medical attention at St. Petersburg General Hospital.

"Zuniga was found a few hours later at a local hospital where he was being treated for multiple puncture wounds to his face, arm and armpit area," read a [report](#) on the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office website.



He was discharged from the hospital later on Thursday but had to book straight into Pinellas County Jail on charges of damaging fences, eluding arrest, driving with a suspended or revoked license and resisting an officer without violence.

Zuniga initially lied about how he sustained his injuries and simply told a St. Petersburg police officer that he was bitten by the animal after falling into the water. But he later confessed all after the Pinellas Sheriff's deputies arrived.

"He just said he was attacked by the alligator," sheriff's spokeswoman Cristen Rensel [told the Times](#). "It's still unclear how he got [to the hospital]." Millions of alligators are believed to live in the swamps, wetlands, rivers and lakes of Florida and attacks are [relatively commonplace](#).

Read more: <http://newsfeed.time.com/2013/05/13/alligator-helps-florida-police-nab-suspect/#ixzz2Tlf205Je>

Rio Grande Del Norte Now A National Monument

By [Mónica Ortiz Uribe](#)

Monday, March 25, 2013

President Barack Obama will designate the [Rio Grande del Norte](#) in northern New Mexico as a national monument today. Supporters say the designation will help draw in more visitors while also protecting the land.

The Rio Grande del Norte is an impressive expanse of more than 200,000 acres below the Colorado state line. The landscape, originally inhabited by Native Americans and Spanish settlers, is loved for its natural beauty. It includes a massive gorge below the headwaters of the Rio Grande River. There is abundant wildlife and archaeologic sites.

A study generated by the firm BBC Research & Consulting finds visitors to the newly created national monument will generate more than 200 jobs and boost the regional economy by \$15 million.

The president will also designate other sites in Delaware, Maryland, Washington and Ohio as national monuments.

<http://www.fronterasdesk.org/news/2013/mar/25/rio-grande-del-norte-now-national-monument/>

Snake's ultra-black spots may aid high-tech quest

PARIS — Scientists have identified nanostructures in the ultra-black skin markings of an African viper which they said Thursday could inspire the quest to create the ultimate light-absorbing material.

The West African Gaboon viper, one of the largest in Africa and a master of camouflage, has dark spots in the geometrical pattern of its skin that are deep, velvety black and reflect very little light.

Interwoven with white- and brown-coloured scales that are very reflective, this creates a high contrast that renders the snake difficult to spot on the richly-patterned rainforest floor.

A team of German scientists set out to find the secret behind the black spots' ultra darkness, and found that the scale surface was made up of tightly-packed, leaf-like microstructures covered in turn with nanometre-sized ridges.

One nanometre is equivalent to a billionth of a metre.

Writing in the Nature journal Scientific Reports, the team theorised that the micro- and nanostructures, which protrude at slightly different angles, scatter and trap incoming light.

"The structure based velvet black effect could also be potentially transferred to other materials," the scientists wrote.

The search for a high-absorbing, low-reflecting artificial material is highly prized in science for its potential use in specialised optical systems or solar heat capture, for example.

Some artificial ultra-black surfaces are already darker than the snake's spots, study co-author Marlene Spinner of the University of Bonn's Institute of Zoology told AFP.

But introducing the snake's nanotechnology could potentially enhance their light absorbancy even more.

"The micro-ornamentation on the snake's velvet black scales is a further example that the same physical law applies to both nature and technology and leads consequently to similar constructions," wrote the team.

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http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5ifn1MbrwM4pyb_68IwEDH6Q5R1ZQ?docId=CNG.c12c072a96e77006f63e53f23be44b14.3c1

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