

Meeting Minutes
New Mexico Herpetological Society
January 8, 2009

President Scott Bulgrin opened the meeting (attended by 13) by announcing the newly elected officers:

- President – Scott Bulgrin
- Vice-President – Ted Brown
- Secretary – Jean Burt
- Treasurer – Garth Graves
- Newsletter editor – Tom Eichhorst
- Parliamentarian – Bill Degenhardt

Jean Burt read the minutes from the November 2008 meeting; Garth Graves gave the treasurer's report.

Old Business

Ted reported on the NMHS participation at the Festival of the Cranes educational exhibit Saturday and Sunday November 22 and 23. NMHS members who participated both days: Ted and Sue Brown, Tom and Donnie Eichhorst, Jaci Fischer, and Dave and Jean Burt. Scott, Rebecca, and Logan Bulgrin attended on Saturday. Scott recommended that those who attended both days be reimbursed \$50 to go towards expenses (gas and/or hotel room). Members approved the recommendation.

Garth reported that Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park near Las Cruces is a definite possibility for a field trip. He visited the area in December. The park is mainly salt cedar, some cottonwoods, interesting wetlands, Chihuahuan desert habitat, sandy, and good for herps. Stan Ellis, the park manager welcomes a reptile/amphibian survey. It is 1 mile from Stahmann Farms, for those interested in touring the pecan tree orchards. They just completed a state-of-the-art visitor's center, but there is no camping at the park.

Scott located a place that will make postcards at a cost of \$299/3000 postcards. He suggested we have postcards printed with the NMHS logo and information. Scott will look into the cost for printing posters.

Members again discussed the need for a website. Rebecca Bulgrin has volunteered to be the NMHS web master. Scott will contact Paul Huang, the initial web master to determine a way to transfer html programming to us. If this is not possible, we'll start over. Discussion will continue at the next meeting.

Ideas for the 2009 spring field trip were again identified, including Randy Grey's ranch in Hillsboro, Mesilla Valley State Park, Rattlesnake Springs near Carlsbad (also no camping), Nara Visa school grounds (during annual alumni get-together). Jaci suggested trying to get access to the Bolson tortoises on the Armendaris Ranch – she will explore further.

Scott reported on additional funds that the Sandia Pueblo has this year for surveys to be conducted in 9 miles of the bosque and in the foothills. Examples of herps that Scott and his crew have seen include *Utas*, skinks, western diamondbacks, prairie rattlers, collared and leopard lizards, coach whips. There are fewer trees than in the bosque, no mosquitos, and more rocks. The current plan is to pay NMHS members \$11-12/visit to perform survey work. We will discuss this further at upcoming meetings.

New Business

Ted informed members that he received the NM Wildlife Federation newsletter in the e-mail that announced a meeting Saturday from 1:00 – 5:00 pm. The purpose of the meeting is to clarify game and Fish Department proposed rule change regarding trespassing and poaching penalties. Ted will forward the e-mail.

Members took a snack break and returned for a presentation by Ted on the Armendaris Ranch surveys conducted in 1998 and 1999 by NMHS members.

The meeting was adjourned.