

Meeting Minutes
New Mexico Herpetological Society
May 7, 2009

President Scott Bulgrin opened the meeting. Jean Burt read the minutes from the April 2009 meeting submitted by Ted Brown.

Garth Graves gave the treasurer's report. The final balance as of 5/8/09 is \$937.60.

Old Business

Field trip to Nara Visa – Memorial Day weekend - Scott will scan the map and critter list and put them on the web site.

Tom Eichhorst thanked Rebecca Bulgrin for a great job as web master of the NMHS new web site.

Scott will contact Charlie Painter and ask him to speak at the August meeting.

If/when meeting minutes are revised, Jean will send the revised version to Rebecca for posting.

New Business

Scott reported that the web site has gone live, with the domain name NMHerpSociety.org. There is a link to the Rattlesnake Museum, list of officers/contacts, meeting minutes, NMHS logo, and calendar/schedule of events. If anyone has any pictures of events, herps (either from events or just walking around) send them to Rebecca. Web pages currently under construction are New Mexico reptile page and NM amphibian page. Future plans include a "kids" page, brochures, and puzzles. Those in attendance discussed ideas for photos on the website including imbedded watermarks, size, format, etc. Tom will send a copy of the membership form to Rebecca for posting.

Scott was invited by the Museum of Natural History to participate in a field survey at the Rio Grande Nature Center (RGNC). Surveys were conducted by field scientists with public participation for the RGNC BioBlitz sponsored by NM State Parks Department, the RGNC, Museum of Natural History, and the Nature Conservancy. Scott provided an educational display including snakes and lizards and led afternoon walks looking for herps in the area. In spite of overcast and rainy weather, Scott and participants did find a couple of sceloporous. Jim Stuart trapped sliders, painted turtles, and mud turtles.

Tom reported on his participation in an educational display at the Bosque Prep School at Montano and Coors. School children were transported by bus to the bosque to perform open space surveys. Tom's participation included a display of snakes and turtles and he may be invited to participate next year.

Scott provided a presentation on May 6, 2009 to East San Jose Elementary school children in kindergarten and first grade and may present again this summer. The school is located near Broadway and Gibson.

NMHS members were asked to join the regular crew in setting up traps in the Sandia Pueblo bosque Saturday May 9. Participants will meet at the gate north of the Sandia Lakes entrance at 9:00 a.m. Ted Brown will have survey sheets and Scott will have permits for those who will continue to survey throughout the summer. The plan is to have 24 traps total; efforts to prepare for the 2009 survey will include putting in 12 new traps and refreshing 12 existing traps.

May 16 is Santa Ana Pueblo's Earth Day. NMHS needs booth volunteers to provide herp information in the form of brochures and posters and critter displays.

Sue Brown introduced an idea for the 2009 Holiday banquet. Bob Myers recommends Nick's Crossroads Cafe and Fresh Choices at the southwest corner of 4th and Central. The restaurant has a buffet with reasonable prices. They have two good sized rooms with many tables. Bob thinks that they might charge

more for a banquet group. Jaci Fischer volunteered to give them a call for more details. The question was raised regarding parking space and walking distance to the restaurant.

Evelyn Candelaria started a discussion of House Bill 669 regarding invasive species. The bill was defeated, but will be resubmitted or reintroduced in some other form. Evelyn asks those with internet access to keep up-to-date on the bills and inform her of any activity noted.

Ted Brown distributed Nara Visa information and map.

Scott mentioned that the Bosque Initiative Program Request for Proposals has been announced. NMHS has submitted an educational outreach proposal in the past. Scott asked if we should submit again this year. Members voted in favor of submitting.

Members took a snack break before viewing the video “From Gomek to Maximo – A Crocodile Story”. The video is about salt water crocodiles at the St. Augustine Alligator Farm Zoological Park in Florida. Members discussed the salt water crocodiles housed off-display at the ABQ Biopark. It was suggested Dale Belcher be contacted for a tour. The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Jean Burt, Secretary NMHS