

Approved Meeting Minutes Volume 51 Number 1

New Mexico Herpetological Society (NMHS)

January 9, 2014

Gathered at American International Rattlesnake Museum

President Scott Bulgrin opened the meeting at 7pm attended by 18 adults and 1 toddler herper. He welcomed all present and announced that the evening's presentation would come first followed by a refreshment break and then the business meeting.

#### Program

Nancy Bush introduced our speaker Jennifer Stabile who is Senior Keeper/Amphibian Conservation Coordinator in the Department of Herpetology at the Albuquerque Bio Park Zoo and her presentation "Building Captive Assurance Colonies and Ex Situ Conservation Strategies." With a series of 45 PowerPoint images and her sexy voice Jennifer emphasized the need to bring some endangered species into captivity for genetic banking, for example, to have a sense of personal responsibility toward a species, a scientific and lay community support network with the depth and breadth needed to engage in long term recovery plan of a species and to plan for unexpected success of the project. Her work has included bringing into captivity the Mona Coqui Frog (*Eleutherodactyls monensis*) from Puerto Rico's 4mi. x 7mi. Mona Island. Please contact her at [jstabile@cabq.gov](mailto:jstabile@cabq.gov).

Herpers enjoyed spirited conversation, apple juice and three species of cookies. NMHS Secretary-elect was hand-served two cookies while at the secretary/treasurer desk by toddler herper Chloe Emms.

At 8:30 President Scott Bulgrin thanked Jennifer for presenting this evening. Secretary-elect Cosmos read the minutes of our November 7, 2013 meeting that retired Secretary Jean Burt had taken. Retiring Treasurer Garth Graves reported a current bank balance of \$2657.54 in an account which Treasurer-elect Letitia Peirce had set up years ago. Scott said that Steve Stocking had donated back to NMHS the check he had received for surveying on Sandia Pueblo.

#### Old Business

Scott thanked Josh Emms for creating the NMHS 50th Anniversary DVD and assured us that more copies are available. At the Festival of the Cranes held at Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge, NMHS entertained 309 visitors and sold T-shirts, scarves and books, some obtained from Albuquerque's Main Library. Scott thanked Josh, Nikki and Chloe Emms and Ted and Sue Brown for being there the one day and recommended that each group be paid \$25 toward expenses.

Scott thanked an absent Jaci Fischer for arranging to have the Holiday Banquet at Garcia's Restaurant on Central Avenue and then asked for opinions of Garcia's. Minuses pointed out were cold-when-served food and seats facing away from the projection screen. Other restaurants were suggested: the Quarters on Yale Boulevard, SE because the Albuquerque Coin Club had good experience there with

adequate meeting area and excellent food; a similar recommendation for the Church Street Cafe' in Old Town; and Little Anita's was shot down because of disagreeable experience by NMHS in the past.

Scott again congratulated our hosts Lorraine and Bob Myers for getting married on November 24, 2013 at a small ceremony with family.

#### Upcoming Events and New Business

June 28 Ted and Sue Brown will put on a one-hour herp show in the garage of the Visitor's Center at Villanueva State Park located southeast of Las Vegas and site of the year 2006 big flood of the Pecos River.

Scott thanked officers who had paid their dues in serving and new officers for volunteering to serve. He announced that teacher Lynn Schuler requested speakers/presenters for her class at Truman Middle School, 4500 Benavides, SW (at 98<sup>th</sup> St.) Scott expressed concern that NMHS needs a guidance and protocol for the exhibiting of native venomous reptiles to the public. Our New Mexico Department of Game and Fish has no such guidelines. He recalled that some herper had displayed to the public a Gila Monster in a cat carrier which lacked the needed fine mesh screen. Sue Brown pointed out that out of concern for liability NMHS should remain separate from and unaffiliated with individual herpers who, at an event attended by both, display venomous reptiles to the public. Lynn pointed out the long-talked-about need for NMHS to achieve IRS 501 (C) 3 tax-exempt status. Nancy Bush said that she and August Breithaupt had done the necessary 501 (C) 3 paperwork for their organization in a short time and without the assistance of a lawyer. Scott asked for a motion that NMHS adopt guidelines on display of venomous native reptiles. The motion was made and seconded. Scott said that a draft policy will be presented at our next meeting on Thursday February 6th and volunteered Josh Emms to help with the drafting.

Scott obligated NMHS to pay \$104 to adopt a Banded Rock Rattlesnake and a Mottled Rock Rattlesnake for the year at the Albuquerque International Rattlesnake Museum. The motion was carried and passed and Leticia cut the check.

Horny Toad Man Tom McCain announced that a 17th species had been added to the horned lizard line-up: *Phrynosoma sherbrookeii*, Sherbrook's Horned Lizard, recently reported to inhabit Guerrero, Mexico. And he showed us his own life-size (70mm S-V) cast metal replica of the lizard. Tom and Ted Brown were together in Boy Scouts in the 1950s.

The meeting adjourned around 9:40.

Submitted by Cosmos, Secretary, NMHS