

Draft Meeting Minutes

Volume 51 Number 9

New Mexico Herpetological Society

September 4, 2014

American International Rattlesnake Museum

President Scott Bulgrin presided over our September meeting attended by 18 avid herpers starting at 7:10pm.

Secretary Cosmos read Minutes of our NMHS meeting held on August 7. The Minutes were approved with additions and corrections.

Treasurer Letitia reported a balance in the Society's bank account of \$2518.54. Scott said that the balance would be increased by \$3800 coming from Sandia Pueblo and \$? from the silent auction in December and decreased by \$500 going to Ted Brown and Cosmos for preparation of Sandia Pueblo Survey Reports.

#### OLD BUSINESS

Guidelines for displaying native venomous reptiles in public still are needed. Scott mentioned that: the NMHS Vision cages are being used by Kelley (2) and Dan Carroll (1); Jerry Tuttle has Neodesha reptile display cages; and a South American Bushmaster (Genus: Lachesis) was among several snakes left behind by a collector. Organized by our New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, New Mexico Outdoor Expo was held August 15-16-17 in 3 buildings at the Albuquerque Shooting Range Park located 2 miles west of Atrisco Vista, NW. Jost Emms was there for NMHS. Jaimee reported that on Saturday 2,500 visitors came to the Expo. Total attendance was 4,183. Those looking at our snakes saw beautiful displays and showed great respect toward the herps. Some 100 visitors came to the Environmental Day at the Pueblo of Isleta located south of Albuquerque On July 19<sup>th</sup> and were greeted by NMHS's Olivia and partner Jason. Josh, Nikki and Chloe Emms appeared with herps on local television Channel 4. Jaimee told us that she would like to do event preparation so that NMHS presents a unified message to the public. Scott noted that event preparation calls for signage, a variety of species of docile animals and hand sanitizer or soap for visitors to use after they come in contact with the herps. Jason brought the banners and posters. Travis and Jerry Tuttle also were at Isleta Pueblo. On August 16 Scott and 60 visitors attended Open House at Albuquerque's Valle De Oro National Wildlife Refuge located along South Second Street near Rio Bravo Boulevard, SW. On August 23 NMHS was at Santa Ana Pueblo's Environmental Day with frog, toad and lizards. 60-70 visitors came to the NMHS displays. Coronado State Monument has invited NMHS to display at their environment day in 2015. Tom Eichhorst and herps journeyed to Ghost Ranch near Abiquiu on September 2nd to show and talk about snakes and turtles to 40 5<sup>th</sup>-grade students from Albuquerque's Mesa del Sol International School. Everybody including 8 chaperones got together in the Long House. NMHS participated in the Pueblo of Sandia annual Environment Fair. On August 31 Dave and Jean Burt and Chloe, Nikki and Josh Emms surveyed the Valle de Oro NWR and found three species of whiptail lizards (neomexicana, spotted and velox), Uta and a Bullsnake.

The manager of Valle de Oro NWR Jennifer Owen-White is interested in identifying herps living on the Refuge. Scott suggested to her that NMHS conduct a survey of herps. He and son Logan and Garth Graves explored some of the 577 acres making up the refuge and located herps. Waste water from Albuquerque's treatment plant will fill the wetlands.

Josh received a pitiful 2 responses from members regarding a proposed NMHS Labor Day Roadtrip so that was called off in advance.

At Bitter Lakes NWR Friends of Bitter Lake Dragonfly Festival-2014 held on July 5 and 6th our own NMHS Jerry Tuttle and Scott Bulgrin co-presented on Friday evening and manned their herp display on Saturday.

Ben Scheidt will be the featured speaker at our NMHS Banquet on December 13th. He is: published; in the International Herpetological Society; a breeder residing in San Diego, California. His topic will be herping in Baja California and South Africa and our honorarium to him will be \$500. We haven't settled on a restaurant. Will it be Monroe's, Garcia's, Golden Corral, our own potluck, Bistro, Luigi's, Sadie's, La Hacienda, Church Street Café?

#### NEW BUSINESS

Any news about Doug Hotle? He's been on administrative leave since March 10<sup>th</sup>.

[Doug Hotle Critical Species Biologist Native Species Recovery Program TX/NM/AZ/Mexico

361.960.2281]

Jaci told us that the manager of the Petco Store in Albuquerque's Far North Shopping Center is into herps.

In herp news: a monitor lizard and a python ate several house cats. Jaci told us that Charlie Painter goes out in the field and has stopped chemotherapy. Jim Stewart said that Charlie could not be our Banquet speaker. Jim's parents gave away 40 box turtles. 3 females went to Charlie Painter. Scott made a motion that NMHS give a gift certificate of \$100 to Charlie. Tom seconded the motion.

A celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Wilderness Act will be held in Albuquerque in mid-October and organizers are asking \$100 per exhibitor space, \$100 per rent a tent and will waive \$100 if our herp display is "hands on" on October 18 from 2-10pm.

Members are selling or giving away animals: Red-Eared Slider Turtle along with tank; a 4' Bullsnake along with a 30-gallon tank; a small Bullsnake. Shonda gave away a pair of Corn Snakes along with a 30-gallon tank. Those snakes were passed on from Scott's mother-in-law to Scott in 2005, on to Pat, then to Shonda and then back to Scott. Others offered are a Banana Kingsnake and a Pyro.

On September 27 Valle de Oro NWR will celebrate its first birthday. NMHS will be there with a display from 9am to noon.

Our guest Sandy T. Barnett introduced herself and husband. She retired as a herpetologist in Baltimore, Maryland, studied neotropical lizards, and box turtles of the U.S. and Mexico. She kept track of 550 marked box turtles in a sanctuary in Maryland. Sandy agreed to present her work at a NMHS meeting.

BREAK TIME

PRESENTATION at 8:45

Tom Eichhorst showed lots of his own most interesting slides in telling us about his trip to Wilmington, North Carolina, the "Gateway City," for the Conchologists of America Convention held August 9-15 in two 10,000 square-foot halls in the convention center at the Hilton Wilmington Riverside. He remarked that fishermen sell conchs to dealers, there are internet auctions of shells, and Taiwanese fishermen are stripping sea beds. Tom also toured the largest reptile zoo in North Carolina, the privately-owned Cape Fear Serpentarium. Occupying the old Wilmington Iron Works, this zoo was established in 2001 and has 80 species of indigenous and exotic reptiles.

Our meeting adjourned before 9:30.

Draft Minutes of our NMHS meeting on September 4, 2014 are submitted by Secretary Cosmos

Many thank yous to Bob and Lorraine Myers for hosting us in their Museum.