

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

## Volume 55 Number 2

New Mexico Herpetological Society

February 2, 2017

We came together at the American International Rattlesnake Museum in Old Town Albuquerque, New Mexico. Out-going-gone NMHS President and now veteran Meeting-runner Scott Bulgrin called our Meeting to order and welcomed eleven herpers at 7:20 PM.

Scott said that Keith Crowe and Richard Reams were thinking about becoming President and Vice-President but then decided they did not have enough time to devote to the duties. They did volunteer to get speakers for our meetings.

Scott said that he had contacted State Herpetologist Leland Pierce and invited him to speak at one of our meetings and Leland is looking at his calendar for a date. Scott said that Jerry Tuttle had contacted the Enforcement Officer at New Mexico Department of Game and Fish Samantha and invited her to speak at one of our meetings.

Scott asked our Secretary Cosmos to read Minutes of our NMHS Meeting held on January 9, 2017. These were accepted as read.

Scott asked our Treasurer Letitia Peirce to report on the financial condition of NMHS. She said that the balance in the NMHS checking account is \$3,756.67. The Treasurer's Report was approved as read.

Scott asked whether we want to again donate \$300.00 to the Charlie Painter Grant in Herpetology administered by the Chiricahua Desert Museum. Samantha Cordova, graduate student at the University of New Mexico received the grant in 2016. She will present her findings about the Jemez Mountains and Sacramento Mountains Salamanders at a Brown Bag Lunch on Wednesday March 29 in the UNM Biology Department. We agreed that a check from NMHS in the amount of \$300.00 will be sent to the Chiricahua Desert Museum.

### OLD BUSINESS

Scott said that he had left a message for Heather at our Rio Grande Nature Center to find out if she is serious about trapping turtles. Maybe NMHS will receive a donation for helping with the trapping and removal project. Scott said that he will contact Leland Pierce about coming and speaking about New Mexico Department of Game and Fish regulations pertaining to collecting and keeping herps.

Scott said that he had seen the sign for the thrift store Watermelon Ranch near NM-528 and NM-550. Maybe the store will help give away Red-eared Sliders? Scott jested that Turtle Man could help out. Scott said that he would be willing to get the trapping and removal of the turtles on Youtube complete with a soundtrack featuring Mark Ronson's song "Uptown Funk."

### NEW BUSINESS

Scott said that Bosque School will be put on its BEMP (Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program) Congress in the UNM (University of New Mexico) Student Union Ballroom B on March 7 from 4 to 7:30 PM. One of the students sampled water for pharmaceuticals in the Rio Grande from Bernalillo down to Valle de Oro NWR and found high concentrations of artificial sweeteners.

Ted Brown asked Scott whether the new Governor of Sandia Pueblo will approve our NMHS Survey Season – 2017. Scott said yes. We will put covers on our pitfall traps the last of April and start the Survey the first part of May.

Letitia asked about NMHS guided field trips on Bosque del Apache NWR. These will be for school kids from the Socorro area. Ted said that the Refuge Manager has not set dates for these. The months of April and May will offer the earliest opportunities.

Tom Eichhorst said that he has received zero photos from us herpers of New Mexico herps for the NMHS retractable banner.

Keith Crowe announced that there are some happenings at our Zoo aka ABQ BioPark. The reptile house will be closed for 2-3 weeks to redo ceilings, walls, renovating to get rid of the Sam's Club look. Closed also is Tropical America. New Johnson Aviary and tortoises will stay where they are. AZA Mid-Year Meeting will draw 700 – 1,000 participants from zoos all around the world for birds, hoof stock, carnivores. Also, hosting reptile and amphibian TAGS. Keith recommended anyone going to IHS in Rodeo, New Mexico should book rooms now.

Scott asked our guest to introduce himself. Ryan Jay Slater told us that he is shopping for a female Bearded Dragon for his male, been looking at Craig's List. Scott told him about NMHS meetings, survey, Potluck, Banquet. Ryan said that he might adopt one Red-eared Slider. Bill Degenhardt told Ryan that he'll have to take six.

Bob Myers said that he has a regular 10' – 12' Burmese Python that belonged to a teacher to give away. Bob was asked whether the python eats turtles, small turtles. Bob also has 6' boas to find homes for.

Ted asked whether NMHS will conduct surveys on Valle de Oro NWR. Scott said no, we don't have a volunteer to take on the twice-weekly checking of traps.

Scott said that we do not have a speaker or program this evening.

BREAK TIME

Barbara and Don Sais surprised us with guacamole and corn chips and Sue and Ted Brown brought treats for our dining pleasure and our meeting adjourned on a sweet note.

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March 7 BEMP 20<sup>th</sup> Birthday and the 2017 Crawford Symposium: "Green Trails for the Next Generation" held in the UNM Student Union Ballroom 4-7:30 PM, Dinner will be served at 5:45 Join scientists and students at the Crawford Symposium - "Green Trails for the Next Generation"

to continue and honor BEMP co-founder Dr. Crawford's legacy of pioneering a green trail for learning and achieving in science. In that spirit, the Crawford Symposium focuses on research and restoration along the Rio Grande, its bosque, and its watershed.

AND.....

It's BEMP's 20th birthday!  
Celebrate two decades of BEMPin' It Up!

*In 2016 BEMP Staff Kim Fike and Sean O'Neill worked with students from Rio Rancho Cyber Academy who presented about their findings of pharmaceutical concentrations in the Rio Grande.*

The Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program's (BEMP's) **Crawford Symposium: "Green Trails for the Next Generation"** is an annual conference held in honor of BEMP's co-founder Dr. Clifford Crawford. Dr. Crawford taught biology at the University of New Mexico for 46 years and in the last 14 of those years, he launched BEMP into the program you know today. Throughout his life, Dr. Crawford inspired students of all ages and catalyzed a growing body of research in the bosque. Moreover, he also radiated the work of students, fellow scientists, and professionals back into the community. We are honored to continue this tradition by gathering each year to share and learn about the bosque ecosystem of the Rio Grande. <http://bemp.org/unm/>

**[bemp.org/crawford-symposium](http://bemp.org/crawford-symposium) <http://www.bosqueschool.org/community-events-1.aspx>**

March 26-31, 2017 Mid-Year Meeting of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) will be held in Albuquerque and hosted by our ABQ BioPark. Non-member Registration is \$370 - \$450. There will be an Icebreaker at the BioPark Aquarium and Botanic Garden on Tuesday, March 22 from 5:30 - 9:00 PM. Cost \$40.00. This working meeting features education, networking, and social events with more than 800 zoo and aquarium professionals from across the country. Peer-developed program meetings, roundtables, and workshops in an interactive format challenge attendees to collaborate with one another and promise ample opportunity to learn and discuss issues critical to your institutions.

<http://midyear.aza.org/2017/about.cfm>

March 29 Wednesday Samantha Cordova, graduate student at the University of New Mexico, will present her findings about the Genetics of the Jemez Mountains and Sacramento Mountains Salamanders at noon at a Brown Bag Lunch in the UNM Biology Department – Castetter Hall 100. Samantha received the Charlie Painter Grant in Herpetology in 2016.

April. Every year BEMP holds two Student Congresses during the last week of April, bringing together the students who have been collecting data as citizen scientists throughout the school year. Students bring their research, stories, and artwork to share with each other while they learn and celebrate New Mexico's waterways.

April 26, BEMP/Watershed Watch 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade Congress We'll gather at El Rancho de las Golondrinas, near Santa Fe, NM. Students will have a chance to present their scientific stories and

research to one another throughout the day. There will also be guest speakers, like the New Mexico Herpetological Society, Bachechi Open Space, BioPark Zoo, to name a few, and many others from the wider environmental education community of New Mexico who will present exciting programs to students throughout this fun-filled day.

Students in grades 7 through 12 who work with BEMP and Watershed Watch attend Congress at Bachechi Open Space – near Alameda Bridge. Students present posters and powerpoints on their research in the Rio Grande watershed and hear from The New Mexico Herpetological Society and Avian Ambassadors.

BEMP monthly monitoring teachers and Watershed Watch teachers who are interested in attending congress should contact Kelly Steinberg at [kelly.steinberg@bosqueschool.org](mailto:kelly.steinberg@bosqueschool.org)

April 28, BEMP 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Grade Congress

BEMP monthly monitoring students in grades 4 through 6 attend BEMP Congress at Bosque School in Albuquerque. Students interview each other about their BEMP research and participate in activities presented by guest speakers including Avian Ambassadors, the Albuquerque BioPark and Albuquerque Open Space.

The BEMP Congress is an annual event where students who participate in BEMP's Monthly Monitoring gather to present their monitoring data findings to one another. This year, on Friday, April 28th, we'll gather at Bosque School's campus to share scientific stories and research throughout the day. There will also be guest speakers, like the New Mexico Herpetological Society, Bachechi Open Space, BioPark Zoo, to name a few, and many others from the wider environmental education community of New Mexico who will present exciting programs to students throughout this fun-filled day. <http://bemp.org/events/>

**April 29.** Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge's Field Day. A Wildlife Zone herp exhibit in the Visitor Center Building Lannan classrooms. Expect 48 kids (4 groups of 12) plus chaperones in the AM and many public in the PM.

April 29. 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Family Fun Day hosted by Rio Grande Chapter of Guardians of the Children at the Daniel Fernandez Park on Highway 314 in Los Lunas, New Mexico from 12 PM to 4 PM. Jerry will

May 7 - 13, 2017 Meeting of Herp Tag which is the Reptile and Amphibian Taxon Advisory Group of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums will be held in Albuquerque and hosted by our ABQ BioPark.

Schedule: Sunday the 7th - Icebreaker at the Biopark Aquarium and Botanic Gardens 6 - 9 PM; Monday the 8th - Lizard TAG (LAG); Tuesday the 9th - Snake TAG (SAG); Wednesday the 10th - Amphibian TAG (ATAG); Thursday the 11th - Zoo Day at our ABQ BioPark; Friday the 12th - Chelonian TAG (CHAG); and Saturday the 13th - Crocodilian TAG (CAG).

Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) 8403 Colesville Road, Suite 710, Silver Springs, Maryland 20910-3314, Telephone: 301-562-0777; Fax 301-562-0888, [www.aza.org](http://www.aza.org)

July 19 - 22, 2017 40th International Herpetological Symposium (IHS) will be held and hosted at the Chiricahua Desert Museum in Rodeo, New Mexico. Keynote Speaker Wade Sherbrooke will present "Horned Lizards: Report from a Biological Scout." Banquet Speaker will be Mark O'Shea. Bob and

Sherri Ashley own the Museum and Ecouniverse. Bob is the IHS Vice-president and 2017 Program Chair.

Chiricahua Desert Museum NM-80 at Portal Road, Rodeo, New Mexico, Telephone 575-557-5757 or 575-545-5307, Fax 575-557-7576

September or October The International School (International Baccalaureate) at Mesa del Sol in Albuquerque will have its Multi-Day Trip for 5<sup>th</sup> Grade at Ghost Ranch in Abiquiu, New Mexico. Tom Eichhorst will put on a program about reptiles and amphibians

### **5<sup>th</sup> Grade Ghost Ranch Learning Experience**

A 3-day trip to Northern New Mexico to explore the Art, Ecology, Paleontology and Archeology of New Mexico. This serves as the kick-off for the 5th Grade Exhibition.

At the beginning of the 5th grade, the final year of the Primary Years Programme, students participate in a 3-day field research trip to Ghost Ranch, near Abiquiu, NM. This interdisciplinary study includes explorations in NM History, anthropology, geology, ecology, paleontology, and visual and literary arts. The students learn team work skills as they explore the environment through hikes and facilitated teamwork exercises. They form the bonds of friendship and collaboration having fun and working together. The learning community that develops supports them through the end of the year in the Primary Years Programme culminating experience, the [Exhibition](#).

Through our inquiry into Ghost Ranch's history, students examined how the geographic circumstances influenced the lifestyles of early New Mexico peoples. They also made connections to how perceptions, adaptations, and choices shape our understanding of what it means to be human.

Some of the NM Social Studies performance standards covered include:

1. describe the characteristics of early societies, including the development of tools and adaptation to environments
2. describe human and natural characteristics of places
3. explain how the four provinces of New Mexico's land surface (plains, mountains, plateau, basin and range) support life.
4. understand how resources impact daily life.
5. TIS students are now a part of BEMP! <http://tisnm.org/bemp/>
6. The Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program (BEMP) involves K-12 students in the hands-on collection of long-term scientific data. Each month, students visit the bosque to conduct ecological research along the river. The information collected is used with data from 29 other sites to inform land and resource managers about the bosque. Students learn about the bosque, the river, and their watershed. In the field, they study groundwater and its connection to river flow, precipitation, native and exotic plants, and arthropod activity (bugs!). Students can compare the data they have collected to other

sites along the river, and in the spring, they present their data at the BEMP Student Congress to other BEMP participants. Time spent in the forest monitoring, journaling, and exploring helps students to understand the local ecosystem and develop a sense of stewardship. The hands-on experiences also increase their understanding and appreciation of science.

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8. The International School 2660 EASTMAN CROSSING SE ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87106  
PHONE: 505.508.3295 FAX: 505.508.3328 EMAIL: INFO@TISNM.ORG IN AN  
EMERGENCY, CONTACT: 505.263.4535

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**REALITY CHECK**

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/feb/25/half-all-species-extinct-end-century-vatican-conference>

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/feb/26/australias-summer-heat-hints-worse-compare-el-nino-weatherwatch>

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/feb/24/drastic-cooling-north-atlantic-beyond-worst-fears-scientists-warn>

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/feb/23/deep-ocean-life-dark-future-warming-food-shortages-study>

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/february-heat-waves\\_us\\_58afbb53e4b0780bac2808f7?section=us\\_green](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/february-heat-waves_us_58afbb53e4b0780bac2808f7?section=us_green)