



# The Wild News



Wild Friends

Website: <http://wildfriends.unm.edu>

Fall 2016

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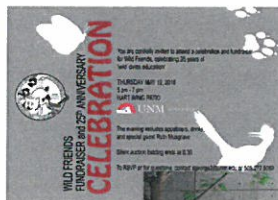
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Wild Friends New Mexico

## Wild Friends Celebrating 25 Years!

To help the Wild Friends Program celebrate 25 years, we held a fundraiser and celebration on May 19, 2016 at the UNM School of Law. We raised over \$2000 to help pay for buses and t-shirts!



Over 60 people attended, including students, legislators and teachers.

Wild Friends management team!  
(past and present)



Carolyn Byers, former Program Manager  
Sue George, Director  
Ruth Musgrave, Co-founder  
Judy Flynn-O'Brien, Legal Educator



## Bee Aware Day!

Wild Friends Memorial SM 103

As a result of the outstanding hard work and dedication of Wild Friends students, Gov. Susana Martinez declared June 15, 2016 as Bee Aware Day! KOAT TV 7 interviewed some of our Wild Friends students, Sonora Beivolny and Kendrick Johns. Check out the interview: <http://www.koat.com/news/bee-aware-program/40056436>



## Bees, Bees, we need more Bees!

Where are all the bees going? Honey and wild bees are arguably our most important pollinator. They are responsible for pollinating numerous food plants that make our diets more exciting and nutritious, including many fruits, vegetables and nuts. Bees usually die from season to season, typically around 17 percent annually. But in recent years, losses have been more than twice or three times as high. Threats from pesticides (neonicotinoids), as well as habitat loss and disease (PhD!) are all factors.

What can we do to help with the decline in our bee population? Here is an excerpt with a couple of helpful tips from an article written by Jessie Brown, NM Beekeepers Association:

1. **Provide a water source:** A colony of honeybees can consume almost a gallon of water every day during the hottest parts of the summer.
2. **Plant a garden :** of low water usage plants that bloom throughout the growing season: Honey bees need nectar and pollen during the spring, summer and fall to feed their young.
3. **Read pesticide labels and use accordingly:** or better yet reduce or stop the use of pesticides in the yard altogether.

Sources: earthsky.org, ABQ Journal, nmbeekeepers.org

Thank you to our Sponsors!



## State Habitat Improvement (Ballot Choice A) Bill

Wild Friends helped to pass a memorial in 2016 asking state agencies to use bee-friendly plants in their landscaping to help increase habitat for bees. This bill will make it a requirement, so that it is part of state statute.

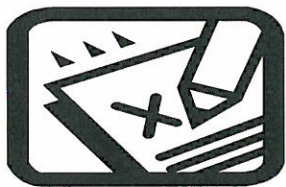


The NM Dept. of Transportation says that, as a result of the memorial, they have already increased their use of flowers that encourage pollination. A bill could expand this so that all state agencies are required to improve habitat for bees and other pollinators. After all, loss of habitat is the #1 reason why the Earth is losing wildlife species!

## Pollinator Friendly Labels (Ballot Choice B) Memorial

The experts say that, along with improving habitat, better education is needed about bees and other pollinators. Wild Friends has a unique opportunity to help in a BIG way by creating a “Wild Friends Approved” label for nursery plants that are pollinator friendly.

Most people who buy plants for their homes and offices don’t know how important pollinators are, and what plants can help them. We would work with the NM Dept. of Agriculture and local nurseries to create the label and help get this new program started so that anyone buying a plant will know which ones are pollinator friendly. A memorial from the legislature urging the creation of this program is the first step!



**Your Vote Counts!**

### Wild Friends Ballot

**Choice A:**  State Habitat Improvement

**Choice B:**  Pollinator Friendly Labels

**Students:** After voting, cut out ballot and give to your teacher. Your teacher will tally the votes and report the results to the Wild Friends office **by Sept. 16** phone 505-277-5089, fax 505-277-7064 or email: [sgeorge2@unm.edu](mailto:sgeorge2@unm.edu).