



The Wild News

Wild Friends

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

Spring 2006

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Wild Friends Win Big in 2006

Desktop hunting sounds like an oxymoron, but a man in Texas made a business of it. For a fee, the cyberhunter could shoot a faraway animal in real time with a mouse click. People in many states have been appalled by the practice and state after state is outlawing it. Thanks to Wild Friends, who wrote a bill which became Senate Bill 157 and worked it to unanimous passage in both houses, cyberhunting will now be illegal in our state. Some 380 students from 16 schools boarded buses and went to Santa Fe to ask



Los Puentes HS Wild Friends were the first group to hit the hallways. For some, it was the first trip to Santa Fe ever. James, front, said he would give up a day of work for this experience. Senator Michael Sanchez, SB 157's sponsor, was on the scene. Teacher Chris Bonahoom is upper left.

their legislators to vote for their bill. Many other WF students wrote letters and phoned in messages. Governor Richardson signed it into law on March 6, 2006. Cyberhunting is such a new phenomenon that many people, including many legislators, had been unaware of this practice before the session.

As Wild Friends know, bills and memorials, no matter how worthy, are not necessarily a slam dunk. For the last two years, time has run out in the

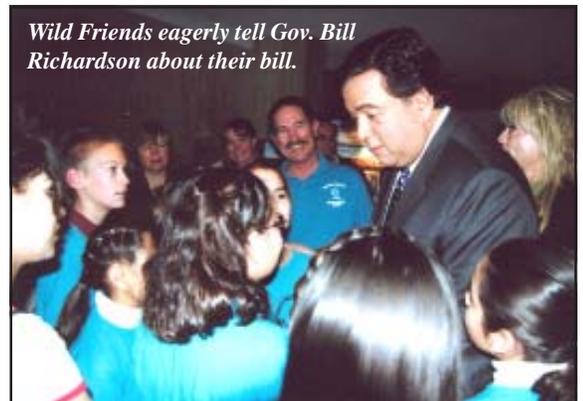
final stages and Wild Friends had to figure out some strategy to work around this problem. Heeding the good advice of loyal Wild Friend supporter Rep. Mimi Stewart, Wild Friends started their legislation on the Senate side this year. They took their case to Majority Floor Leader Sen. Michael Sanchez, who liked the legislation and agreed to sponsor it. Rep. Don Tripp from Socorro was eager to help, thanks to his Wild Friends in the Raymond Sarracino Middle School, so he dropped in an identical bill on the House side after its introduction in the Senate.

Because this was a short session and the bill wasn't a money request, it had to be placed on the Governor's "call." That means if a bill doesn't concern spending money, the Governor has to direct the legislature to add it to the agenda.

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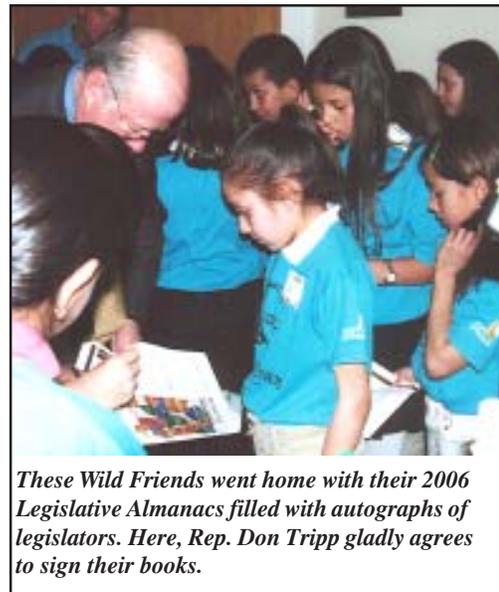
Carlos Rey 4th graders with Rep. Mimi Stewart. Wild Friends are grateful for her last minute success in getting a one-time boost in funding for the program. It wasn't close to Easter, but she sure pulled a rabbit out of the hat. Thank you, Rep. Stewart!



Wild Friends eagerly tell Gov. Bill Richardson about their bill.

Continued from page 1

Gov. Bill Richardson was already familiar with the cyberhunting bill from being showered with hundreds of letters that came his way from students asking him to put the bill on his "call." The pre-session work didn't stop with the letter-writing campaign. Wild Friends had to get the owners of New Mexico game parks on board. NM Game and Fish Law Enforcement Chief Dan Brooks facilitated a December meeting in Albuquerque, bringing the game park owners and Wild Friends delegates together for an information-gathering session. People came from all over the state and the meeting room was packed. The Q&A session was lively and the game park owners agreed that cyberhunting was not the kind of activity they would want in New Mexico.

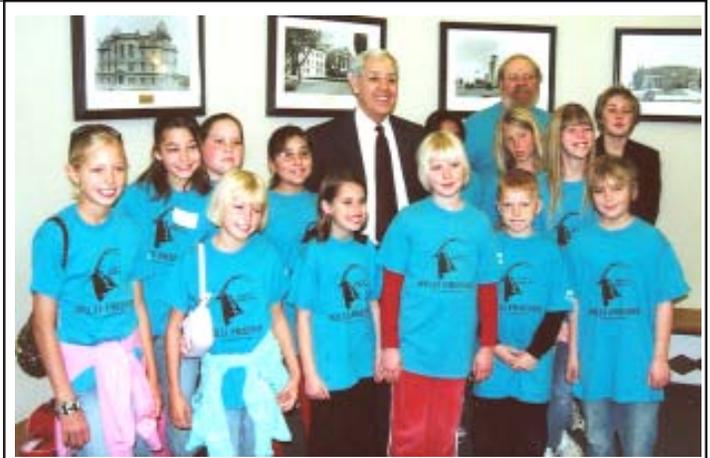


These Wild Friends went home with their 2006 Legislative Almanacs filled with autographs of legislators. Here, Rep. Don Tripp gladly agrees to sign their books.

So, all the groundwork was laid when the legislative session started. The bill was heard in three committees in the Senate and one committee in the House. Apart from minor amendments, the bill was passed out of the committees and onto the floors for vote. The votes were unanimous: 22-0 in the Senate and 58-0 in the House.

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Sen. Ben Altamirano, President Pro Tem, treated his Silver City Guadalupe Montessori WFs to pizza at Upper Crust down the street from the Round House. Teacher Bob Anderson is upper right.



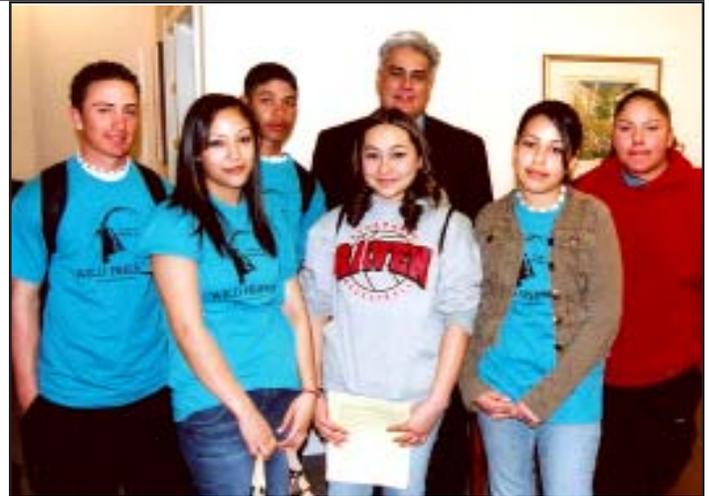
Lt. Gov. Diane Denish invites Rio Rancho ES Wild Friends into her office. The Lt. Gov. worked very hard in the legislature to pass bills benefiting young people.

Public Service Company of New Mexico once again footed the bill to deck out the Wild Friends in signature T-shirts. Wild Friends are instantly recognizable at the legislature. Thank you, PNM!

Harrison MS put on a spirited reenactment of the Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on the cyberhunting issue. Veteran Wild Friend Andrew Lucero played Cisco McSorley's role of chairman. WF "senators" bb grilled the Wild Friends about how cyberhunting works, who the users are, why lawmakers should pass a law against it, and how would it be enforced. The WF experts were well prepared and fielded the questions easily.



The Center for Civic Values provided a transportation grant so that Wild Friends could get to the legislature. The buses wouldn't have rolled without CCV's help. Thank you, CCV!



Rep. W. Ken Martinez, House Majority Leader, with Rio Grande HS students. The House acted quickly to pass SB 157 before the end of the session.



Mark Birkhauser of NM Game and Fish Dept, in charge of hunter education, talks to 6th grade Wild Friends at South Mountain ES about ethics and safety issues related to cyberhunting. Many of the students come from hunting families. Below are the same students three months later at the legislature. Sen. Pete Campos (right) can be proud of his young constituents.



Madison MS students with teacher Nick LaRue in the Walter K. Martinez Memorial Walkway at the Capitol. The corridor was named for Ken Martinez's father. Nick teaches New Mexico history and wanted his students to visit the Dia de los Muertos exhibit.



Veteran Wild Friends Stephanie Sanchez (Polk MS and Rio Grande HS, now UNM grad student), Laura Finley (Jefferson MS and Sandia HS), and Joseph and Lisa Chavez (Jefferson MS and Public Academy for Performing Arts Charter School), all in the upper right, have 26 combined years of experience in Wild Friends. They shared their expertise with the five Polk MS delegates at left. Rep. Roberto "Bobby" Gonzales from Taos often invites WF students to raid his office refrigerator for refreshments. UNM conservation biology major Daisy Morgan (bottom right) has been our right-hand assistant for the last two years.



Guadalupe Montessori WFs from Silver City with NM Supreme Court Justice Petra Jimenez Maes (c.) in her conference room.



Carlos Rey ES Wild Friends share the bench with NM Supreme Court Justice Patricio M. Serna.

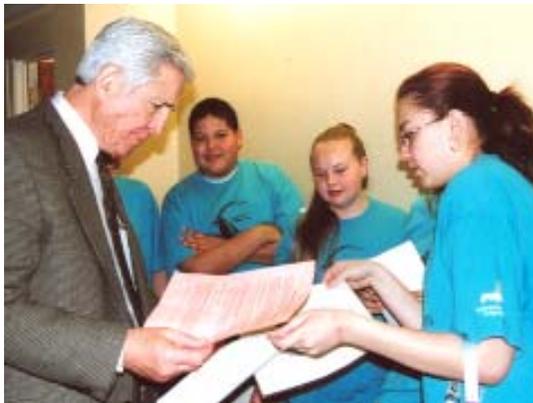
Working the Halls for SB157



Sen. Bernadette Sanchez with Horizon Academy WFs



Rep. Jane Powdrell-Culbert with her Montessori on the Rio Grande Charter School constituents



Rep. Henry "Kiki" Saavedra with Polk MS Wild Friends



"Leave No Trace" say Joe Marz and Eleanor Nestlerode of the State Land Office. Every year the SLO hosts groups of WFs as part of the fun of a field trip to the legislature.



Rep. Justine Fox-Young with Madison MS Wild Friends



Rep. Rick Miera with his Longfellow ES Wild Friends



Sen. Michael Sanchez with his constituents from District 29. These are the parents of Wild Friends from Dennis Chavez ES. Parents are sometimes invisible in the sea of children, but they are a vital part of the smooth functioning of the program, especially at the time of the legislative session. They are shepherds, cheerleaders, motivators, chauffeurs, the fans in the stands, and role models. Teacher Lynn Sanchez, spouse of the Senator, stands at right.



The Senator with the next generation of leaders. These are the Dennis Chavez ES Wild Friends. Parents at left.



Rep. Dan Silva with his Wild Friend constituents from Rio Grande High. They just missed the final vote. The bus couldn't wait.



Sen. Michael Sanchez with Highland High students. They were set to testify for SB 157 in the Conservation Committee hearing, but the committee passed it out right away.



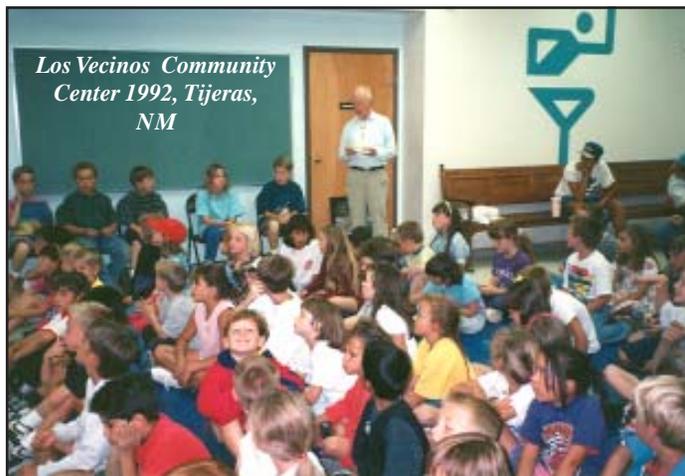
Teacher Cheryl Haynes (r.) and Horizon Academy West students with NM Game & Fish director Bruce Thompson. Game & Fish stood with WFs at hearings to answer questions. Jack Pickering appears top left.



Cheering fans in the gallery for the unanimous vote! Harrison MS has been a steady presence at the legislature since 2001. The Wild Friends program keeps growing at the school, thanks to the enthusiasm and support of science teacher Christine Penfold (top center, waving).

Jack's Early Years with Wild Friends

The Wild Friends newsletter has been heralding Jack's birthday on April 25 for some years now. This year, as he celebrates year 90, is no exception. Jack's first foray into the world of Wild Friends was helping students learn the value of writing letters and how to write them. Jack teaches that the pen is mightier than the sword. Jack is also the first card-carrying Wild Friends member. He carries Card Number 001. We estimate about 8,000 students have participated in the Wild Friends program, and Jack has met many of them.



It was a dark and stormy night. Carolyn Byers, co-founder of Wild Friends and Program Director, remembers the summer 1995 camping trip to the Jemez Mountains. Crazy lightning, booming thunder and torrential rain made for a dramatic opening night. Tents flapped in the gale winds. Meanwhile, Jack slept peacefully on the ground without even a tent.

16 May 1992

Ruth S. Musgrave
 Director, Center for Wildlife Law
 School of Law, University of New Mexico
 Albuquerque, NM 87131

Dear Ruth,

I found the Wild Friends mentoring Presentation on May 4, led by Dean Renee Barnett, quite valuable. Although I've been working with young people for more than 60 years (since I was a teenager), I gained some new insights from the discussion under her leadership. The main point that arose was the power of a mentor's influence by his or her very presence – even in the most casual remark or the most offhand gesture.

Let me know if you have any projects for me. I shall be in touch with some of my young friends at the centers.

Cordially,
 John M. Pickering

P.S. I hope you and your colleagues can help protect Tres Pistolas Canyon. I have informed our Congressional delegation of my position.

From his Army days, this was nothing to get excited about. A law student volunteer watched helplessly as her tent, with sleeping bag inside, blew into the river. It was the next morning that the search expedition, led by General Jack, found the tent downstream and fished it out. The rest of the three-day visit to the Jemez was sunny and delightful, as 30-plus middle schoolers hiked and learned about the Jemez environment and wildlife.



Jack with director of the Center for Wildlife Law and co-founder of Wild Friends Ruth Musgrave. Kent Clegg (r.), who flew an ultralight ahead of whooping cranes from Idaho to New Mexico, has been an honorary Wild Friend since 1997.



Jack counsels the "future" director of the Center for Wildlife Law, Story Musgrave Warren. Sparky Newell of Exotics of the Rain Forest provides the live snake.



Wild Friends Salute Jack on his 90th Birthday Jack and WFs together since 1991

Jack's concern about wildlife began seven decades ago as an Eagle Scout who was active in wildlife protection projects. He was also

one of the nation's first Cub Scout leaders. "I have felt responsible for all creatures who need my help." He was a city boy, but he always spent holidays in the country. He had supportive parents who fostered his sense of guardianship and stewardship. He continued his activities into adulthood and all over the country in New York, California, and Pennsylvania before retiring to New Mexico in 1991. "I felt especially gratified by my small part in preserving Pennsylvania's Hawk Mountain and in providing wildlife sanctuaries on San Francisco Bay."

His concern about wildlife grew when he was in the Pacific with the Army during World War II when he saw the environmental damage. He spent 40 years in book publishing as an editor and a manager. After retiring he taught management courses at a university. As a child of the Great Depression, he knows firsthand what it means when people are hurt by economic forces. He had two jobs eliminated in corporate buyouts and had the hard task of finding other employment. "When people are hurt economically, we should try to help them," Jack says. "That goes for loggers, ranchers, farmers, fishermen, and others who are affected by environmental laws such as the Endangered Species Act. But we should not delay protecting our national heritage while calculating the cost to

individual citizens."

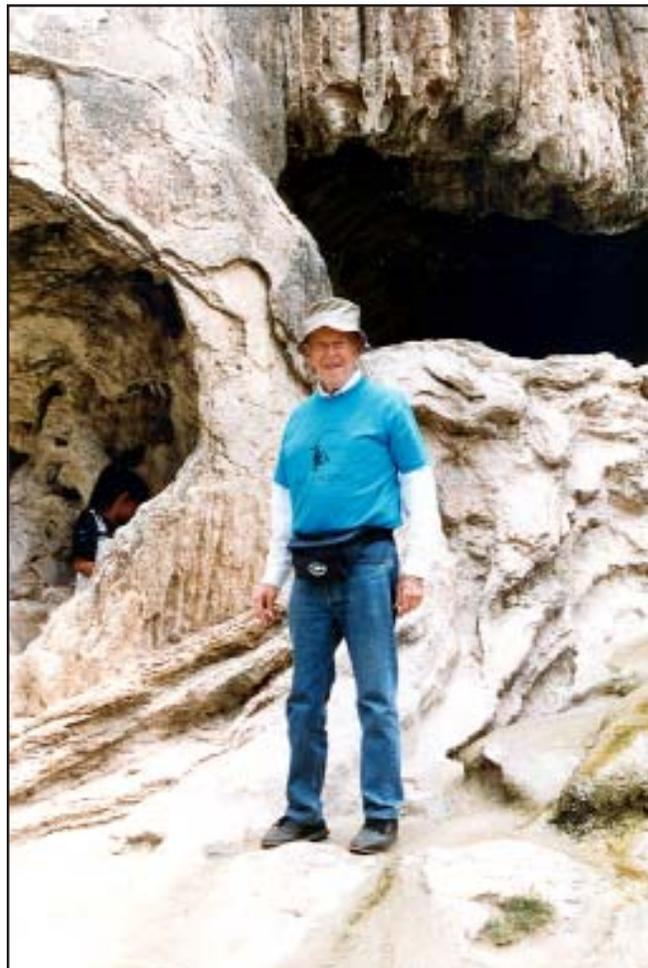
Jack has been a Wild Friend mentor since the program's beginning in 1991. Working with Wild Friends these 15 years has enabled him to pass along his concerns about conserving wildlife and the responsibilities of being a good citizen. "I have so much faith and hope in these kids' ability to come up with solutions that have eluded our leaders," says Jack. He listens to young people and takes time with them, proving once again that there is a powerful relationship between an older and younger person working together for a common goal. His experience with these young people is that they are passionate in their advocacy, whether in speaking to legislators, writing to public officials, and brainstorming among themselves. "Wild Friends reassure me that our natural and civic heritages will be in strong hands among coming generations."

Jack and his wife Gundi were married for 51 years before her passing in 2003. The couple shared similar passions about supporting civic affairs, art and music, education, and animal protection.

In 2004, Jack received a personal letter and commendation from Gov. Bill Richardson, honoring his lifetime commitment to helping youth and wildlife all over the country. Jack is also a dedicated volunteer at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center and writes a column for its newsletter *Pueblo Horizons*. He also supports the Rio Grande Nature Center, where he has arranged many Wild Friends events.

For his 90th birthday, Jack will be spending a month in Poland and Hungary touring and visiting friends. Knowing Jack like we do, his friends there will have a hard time keeping up with him.

[Reprinted and updated from The Wild News, Spring 2001.]



Keeping Up with the Wild Friends

Five WF schools reported in about activities planned this spring: **Harrison MS's** Wild Friends under Christine Penfold's wings did a wall collage about the cyberhunting bill. They are studying New Mexico biomes and planning an end-of-school celebration and a field trip to Acoma Pueblo. Teacher Cheryl Haynes at **Horizon Academy West** plans field trips to the Aquarium, to Talking Talons museum, and a hike and barbecue. They hosted an Earth Day booth at the school, showcasing Wild Friends and they are also making environmental board games, creating a puppet show and flying kites. Teacher Nick LaRue and **Madison MS** Wild Friends talked about SB 157 with visitors to their Wild Friends booth on MMS Community Night. They are studying the Valle Vidal and planning a field trip later this spring to do stream-side resotation. Wildlife West Nature Park will be getting visits from Wild Friends from two schools: Michelle Fishburn's and Susan Walters' classes at **South Mountain ES** and Naomi Julian's after-school group at **Montessori on the Rio Grande Charter School**.

Law Day is May 1

In 1961, Congress passed a joint resolution proclaiming May 1 as Law Day. Every year, a different topic is chosen to be the focus of Law Day and this year the focus is the separation of powers in the government. Power is divided among three government branches, the executive, the judicial, and the legislative branches. Check out <http://www.abanet.org/lawday/>.

Millions Celebrate 36th Annual Earth Day

Wild Friends know that we have Earth Day to help raise awareness about keeping the earth healthy for future generations. Most people don't know that Earth Day took almost 10 years to establish, and then only by the persistence of one U.S. senator who saw that the earth was in Big Trouble. Rivers caught on fire. Cities were clogged with smog. Animals were going extinct. The senator's name was Gaylord Nelson. With the help of tens of thousands of young people, hundreds of events were planned all over the country. It all came together on April 22, 1970, and it was called Earth Day. Now, millions of people celebrate Earth Day. Because of increased awareness, we now have such environmental laws as the Clean Water Act and the Endangered Species Act. We can thank Earth Day for the words "ecology" and "watershed".

Smokey the Balloon Can Land Near You



This dry year looks to become another hot summer of wildfires. The Friends of Smokey Bear Balloon are available to bring fire prevention programs to

your location. There's a 25-ft. and a 7-ft. Smokey balloon, joined by local firefighters. The group got its start in New Mexico and has spread nationally. Since Smokey the Balloon first took off in 1993, more than 4,000,000 people have listened to Smokey's message. If teachers and other educators are interested in setting up a program, they should contact Laurie Yelin at 505-994-9454 or e-mail her at laurie@yelinmortgage.com.



Web-cams for Birdwatching

An educational use of cameras is to observe wildlife. Our t-shirt sponsor PNM still has a web-cam going for people to watch burrowing owls. See the article in the Fall 2005 issue of *The Wild News* and check out the site again at http://www.pnm.com/cam/reeves_1.htm. Web-cams are popping up all over the world to give us more up-close looks at the daily lives of birds. Two websites are http://www2.ucsc.edu/scpbrg/peregrine_cam.htm and <http://www.birdcam.it/>. From peregrine falcons to bald eagles to our own burrowing owls, the world of birds is waiting. In San Francisco, the Pacific Gas and Electric Company has a pair of peregrine falcons that first nested in the company's skyscraper and are now nesting across the street from it.

A big THANK YOU to our wildlife education funder, the Frances VR Seebe Charitable Trust!



WE WELCOME new groups of Wild Friends. Call 505/277-5089, or email cbyers@unm.edu if you are interested. Take a look at the **Wild Friends home page** at <http://wildfriends.unm.edu>.

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