



The Wild News

Wild Friends Website: <http://wildfriends.unm.edu> **Spring 2007**

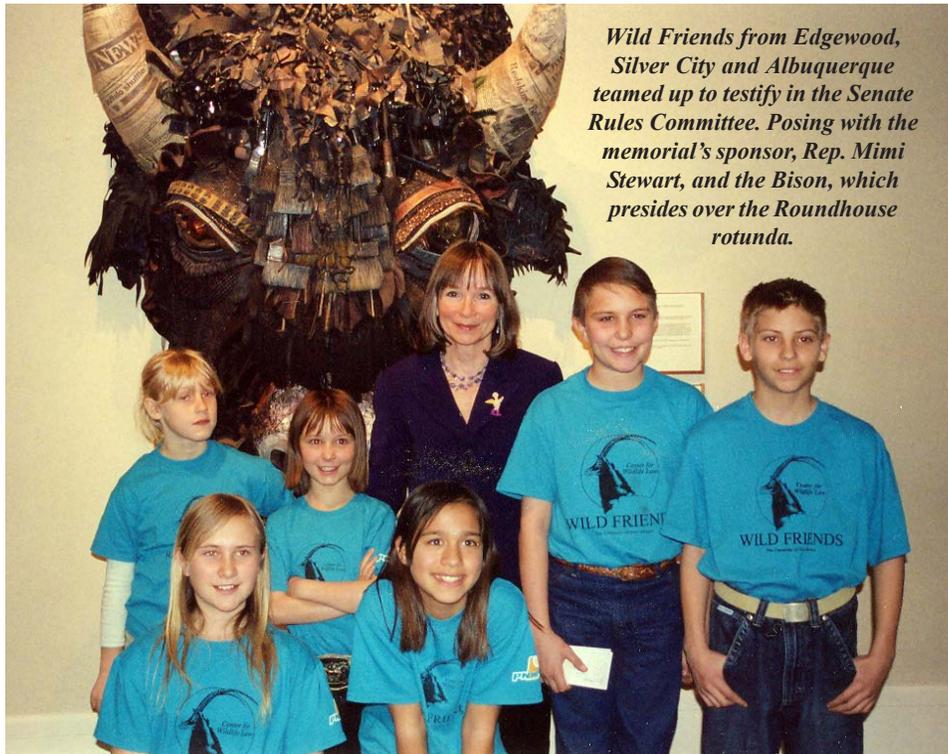
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Wild Time for Wild Friends Memorial in 2007

“Not only do I support your memorial, I will FIGHT for your memorial!” This from the new representative from Bernalillo County Antonio “Moe” Maestas who became an instant hit with Wild Friends as they took on the 48th legislature.

2007 marks Wild Friends’ 15th year of field trips to the legislature and this one might be the most exciting yet. More than 400 students

from around the state participated in a total of 18 field trips to the Capitol to meet legislators. Students unable to make the trip contacted legislators by fax and phone while Wild Friends at the Capitol shook dozens of hands with their right hands while holding up CFL



Wild Friends from Edgewood, Silver City and Albuquerque teamed up to testify in the Senate Rules Committee. Posing with the memorial’s sponsor, Rep. Mini Stewart, and the Bison, which presides over the Roundhouse rotunda.

light bulbs with the left. Some of the students also testified in House and Senate committee hearings on behalf of the memorial. Legislators may have been surprised this year to see those light bulbs. Wild Friends have been known to approach them dressed as

butterflies, fish, whooping cranes and other assorted fins, feathers and fur. This year, every group of Wild Friends carried a spiral light bulb to help make the connection between the perils wildlife face as the planet heats up and humans’ responsibility to reduce greenhouse gases.

House Joint Memorial 12, the Wild Friends students’

memorial about climate change, almost made it through, but time ran out before the full Senate could vote. It was a smooth trip through the House, passing 57-7, and a slower road through the Senate where it got held

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Global warming is so global that it’s hard for an average person to imagine what the solution might look like. The Wild Friends made the connection that polar bears, trout, birds and other wildlife are being affected by earth’s temperature variations. They chose a simple consumable item to represent a practical solution to save the wildlife, save the world – a light bulb. It’s the CFL, or compact fluorescent light bulb, commonly called “the swirl,” that uses 75 percent less electricity than incandescent bulbs, and lasts 10 years. That translates into billions of tons of saved energy and what otherwise would be greenhouse gas emissions that are plaguing our planet right now. The little swirl is not just a symbol. It’s a solution. Make sure that they are disposed of properly though, because they contain small amounts of mercury.

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up in committee and didn't make it out in time for a final vote on the floor where, we were assured, it would have passed. In fact, early in the session, the students' project was commended by the Senate Majority Leader during a public radio interview.

But, sensing that this might happen again (it happened two years ago in the same way), the memorial's sponsor, Rep. Mimi Stewart, had a surprise up her sleeve for the students. She introduced a word-for-word copy of the joint memorial as House Memorial 64 in the House of Representatives where it quickly passed unanimously. So the memorial is enrolled and engrossed, which means the memorial is official and is being sent to state agencies asking them to take actions outlined in the memorial. For example, the Department of Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources is asked to conduct the "Get a Bright Idea Campaign" to educate consumers about Energy Star products and other ways to conserve energy.

To add to the students' success with the memorial, the legislature gave the Wild Friends Program a much-needed funding increase, thanks to the tireless efforts of Rep. Stewart and other key legislators.

Girls rule! Girls from several schools spent a Sunday waiting to testify before a committee that didn't meet, so they ferreted out the senators to ask for their votes.

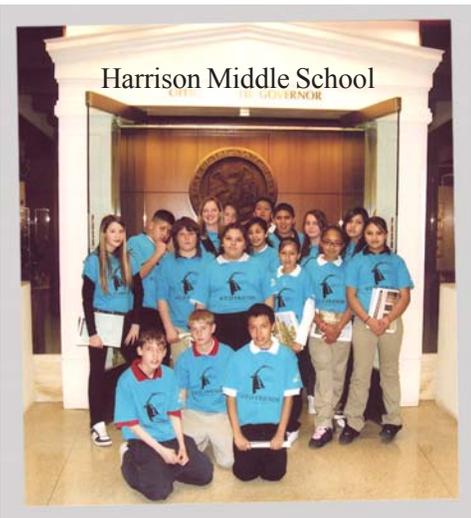


The Center for Civic Values and the Mumford Foundation provided transportation grants so that Wild Friends could board school buses to get to the legislature. Thank you, CCV and Mumford!!

Rep. Kathy McCoy from Cedar Crest has been a great role model for the Wild Friends.

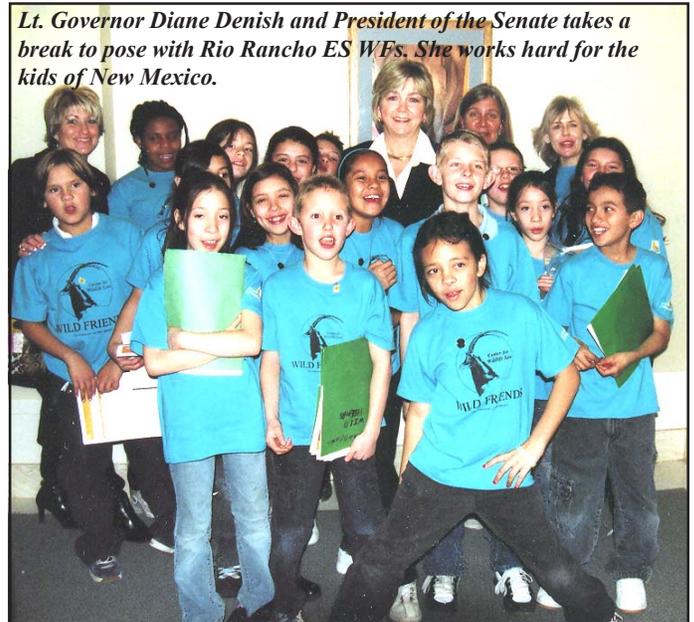


Budding lawyers at the law library



Harrison Middle School

Lt. Governor Diane Denish and President of the Senate takes a break to pose with Rio Rancho ES WFs. She works hard for the kids of New Mexico.



Since 1996, the Public Service Company of New Mexico has donated funds for T-shirts for the growing number of Wild Friends. The students are instantly recognizable at the legislature in the signature T-shirts. Thank you, PNM!

Overheard

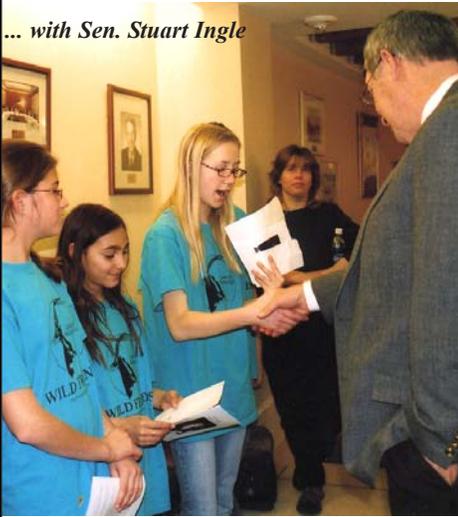
The executive director of the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair 2007 was sitting in the audience during one of the hearings. Afterwards, he made a point of saying how impressed he was with the Wild Friends and their testimony.

Coming Soon

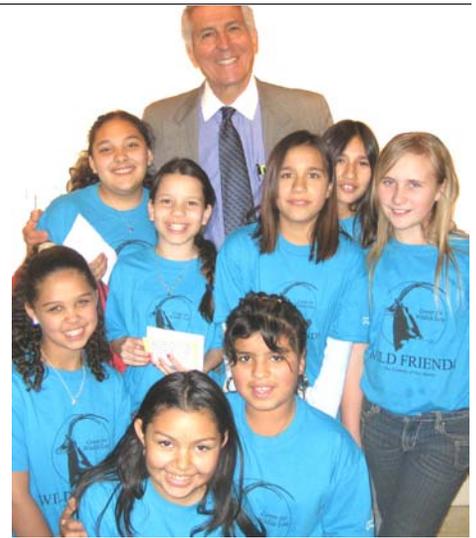
Thanks to a grant from the Dorr Foundation, updated science-based teacher kits will be going out to the schools soon.

Shaking Hands ...

... with Sen. Stuart Ingle

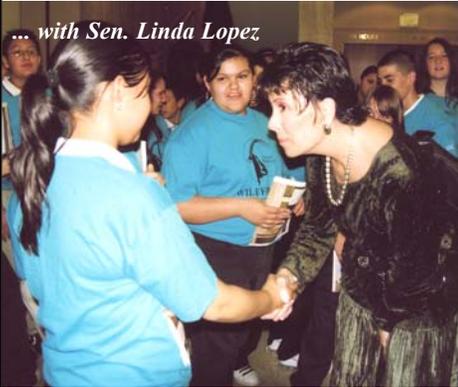


Horizon Academy West 5th-graders were the first to testify during the session.



Rep. Kiki Saavedra with Polk MS future voters. A former teacher himself, Rep. Saavedra has been meeting WFs since 1991.

... with Sen. Linda Lopez



Chief Justice of the NM Supreme Court Edward Chavez was impressed with the Silver City WFs' knowledge of lawmaking.

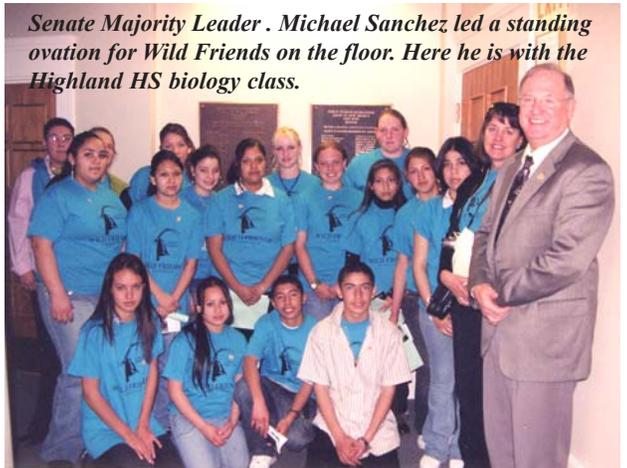
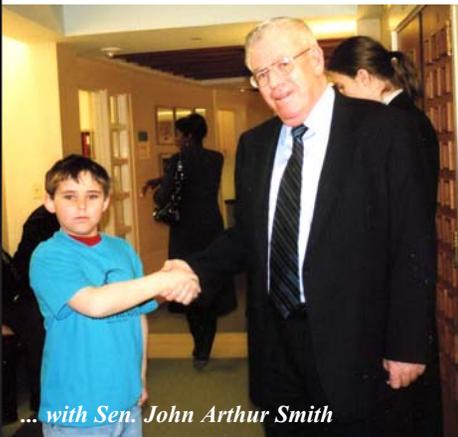
THANKS! Ever wonder why you never see WFs lugging around coats, backpacks and lunches? The wonderful staff in the Administrative Office of the Court and Secretary of State's Office provide the space.

Participating Schools:

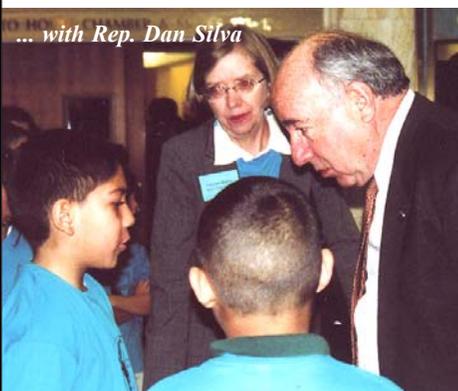
- Academia de Lengua y Cultura
- Carlos Rey ES
- DeVargas MS
- Guadalupe Montessori
- Harrison MS
- Highland HS
- Horizon Academy West
- Los Alamos MS
- Los Puentes HS
- Polk MS
- Raymond Sarracino MS
- Rio Gallinas
- Rio Rancho ES
- Sandia HS
- South Mountain ES
- Tome ES

Senate Majority Leader . Michael Sanchez led a standing ovation for Wild Friends on the floor. Here he is with the Highland HS biology class.

... with Sen. John Arthur Smith



... with Rep. Dan Silva



Academia de Lengua y Cultura at the State Land Office. The SLO is a favorite way station for the WF year after year.



Hybrid Critters Contest Winners

Best Overall: Cuauhtemoc Delgado, Academia de Lengua y Cultura, for the Red-tailed Mountain Lion

Academia de Lengua y Cultura

- 1st: Raymond Holland for the Ridgenosed Rattlehawk
- 2nd: Jesus Solis for the Reagle
- 3rd: Lamont Davis for the Bioty

Carlos Rey ES

- 1st: Rikki Martinez for the Beagle
- 2nd: Esmeralda Terrazas for the Bathorn Sheep
- 3rd: Ashley Torres for the Jaghawk,
- 3rd: Pam Rivera for the Batfruit Wolf
- 3rd: Kevin Mazariegos for the Rattlebat

Harrison MS

- Ms. Crowder's class
- 1st: Gloria Tesillo for the Skunkrunner
- 2nd: Tophia Slydell & Andrew Lueras for the Ringer
- 3rd: Dominic Padilla & Lupe Saenz for the Monkeylion
- 3rd: Salvador Campos & Gabriel Griego for the Scorm

Ms. Penfold's class

- 1st: Elicia Garcia for the Dinca Wovepecker
- 2nd: Emmanuel Villa for the Bald Falcon
- 2nd: Javier Portillo for the Thamnophis Constrictor
- 3rd: Grant Bell for the Northern Tileopard Salatoad

Horizon Academy West

- 1st: Kassandra Uribe for the Vagrant Ring
- 2nd: Justine Garcia for the Red-tailed Hawk/ Meadowlark
- 3rd: Jessica Guajardo for the Elfox

Rio Rancho ES

- 1st: Marci Jones for the Blue Fox
- 1st: Arianna Jones with the Rabmo
- 2nd: Brandon Weis for the Froger
- 3rd: Taylor Isham for the Bear Cat
- 3rd: Jean Burns for the Snarantula

Jane Goodall visits New Mexico

Roots & Shoots Wild Friend Ella Bell meets Dr. Jane at the Albuquerque Open Space Visitor Center



Wild Friends attended Jane Goodall's lectures in Albuquerque and Santa Fe. Dr. Jane went to Africa as a young woman to observe chimpanzees and discovered her life's work. Then, in 1991, she helped some teenagers to form a group that grew into an international youth organization called Roots & Shoots and today involves tens of thousands of youth in 100 countries, all working on local and global community service projects. Ray Powell, longtime friend of the Wild Friends and the regional Roots and Shoots director, brought Dr. Jane to New Mexico to encourage youth in

their wildlife projects. Attending the Santa Fe event were Linda Marple & Santa Fe HS students; Natalie Martino & DeVargas MS students, John McCloud and Rio Gallinas students from Las Vegas, and WF legal educator Judy Flynn-O'Brien. WF 6th-grader Osha Bailey from Rio Gallinas was one of the student speakers. In Albuquerque were Cheryl Haynes & Horizon Academy students, Roots & Shoots WF leader Dana Bell and students, WF legal educator Sue George, and WF senior mentor Jack Pickering. Long-time Wild Friend Simon Scarpetta, now a

9th-grader, is e-mailing with Dr. Jane about his work to save salamander habitat.

Help New Mexico Chimps

A facility in New Mexico is home to 193 chimps who are no longer used for research, but have no place to go. Save the Chimps is an organization dedicated to placing these chimps in a retirement home in Florida. While the chimps are waiting, Wild Friends can help now by donating toys, blankets, and other items from the list on the Save the Chimps website: www.savethechimps.org/give_wishlist.asp

Got Bus?

New Mexico teachers can apply for a bus grant to visit a state park, wildlife area, refuge or nature center, thanks to the NM State Parks "Kids N Parks" program. For information, call Christy Tafoya at (505) 476-3384 or email christy.tafoya@state.nm.us



Natalie Dawson, who is a Ph.D. candidate in biology and a Wild Friends volunteer, included the Wild Friends project in an interview in the March issue of the *Journal of Mammalogy*.



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>.
 Newsletter Staff: Carolyn Byers, Camy Condon, Judy Flynn-O'Brien, Kathy Grassel, Daisy Morgan

