



# The Wild News

Wild Friends

UNM Center for Wildlife Law

<http://wildfriends.unm.edu>

Spring 2010

## Wild Friends are busy bees at the legislature *WF promote plants for birds, bats and butterflies*



*Lt. Gov. & Senate president Diane Denish with a 4th grade WF on the floor.*



*Rep. Mimi Stewart and her expert witnesses from Polk MS. Experts need a special letter from the Speaker to be admitted on the floor.*

The native birds, bees, bats and butterflies got a boost from the Wild Friends this year as they pushed through twin memorials in both houses that promote pollinator-friendly plants in landscaping projects. Rep. Mimi Stewart sponsored HM-4 in the House and Sen. Dede Feldman sponsored SM-9 on the Senate side. The memorials passed unanimously through their committees and on the floors. The usual tensions of running out of time (which didn't happen) turned into tensions about the weather, snow keeping four scheduled WF groups at home and another having to turn back. The weather may have stopped some students, but nearly 1,000 students worked on the project. The news of the passage of the memorials spread fast and was even reported by the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign. An email that went around the world said, "Way to go, New Mexico!" Pollinator Appreciation Week already has been announced for June 21-27 when the Governor's office will send the proclamation to the NAPPC. ❖



*Wild Friends going boldly forth to the Roundhouse.*



*Sen. Howie Morales gets to know his "constituents" from Silver City.*



*Sen. Peter Wirth (l) and Sen. Sue Wilson Beffort (r) meet Rio Rancho 4th graders..*



*Sen. Gerald Ortiz y Pino was the first lawmaker to meet the first WF group — Highland HS.*



### Memorials Fly through the Committees (some flies are pollinators—really)



*WFs from Bel Air ES, Jemez MS, and Sandia HS braved snow and ice and arrived in the nick of time to testify at the House Agriculture committee hearing. Bel Air students presented a poster (r.) featuring flies as pollinators. Committee Chrm. Andy Nuñez presides.*



*Harrison MS and Mission Avenue ES WF's had to race to the Roundhouse to make it to a very early morning Senate Rules Committee hearing. Committee member and memorial sponsor Sen. Dede Feldman cheered them on as they testified.*



*South Mountain ES had just settled into the committee room when they had to turn around and go back home because of bad weather. Thanks to their representative Rhonda King, they accomplished a lot in the one hour they were there.*



*Sen. Cisco McSorley takes time to explain the committee process to his constituents from Highland HS.*

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Wild Friends Schools 2010</b></p> <p>Atrisco Heritage Academy, Bel Air ES, Carlos Rey ES, Guadalupe Montessori, Harrison MS, Highland HS, Horizon Academy West, Jefferson MS, Madison MS, Mission Avenue ES, Moriarty MS, Polk MS, Rio Rancho Cyber Academy, Rio Rancho ES, South Mountain ES, West Las Vegas HS</p>
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*Rio Rancho ES students role-play being committee members. WF's visit committee rooms and hold mock hearings to prepare for the real experience of testifying before committees.*





### Upstairs Downstairs



*(L.) Sen. Bernadette Sanchez, chair of Senate Conservation takes a break from the floor to talk to eager WFs from Horizon Academy. (R.) Rep. Andy Nuñez, chair of House Agriculture listens to a Bel Air student why the committee should vote for the pollinator memorial.*



*Rep. Jeannette Wallace invites her Jemez MS constituents to contact her any time.*



*Rep. Danice Picraux high-fives the Wild Friends as they meet up in the hallway.*



*Bel Air students crowd around Rep. Rick Miera. He has a knack for putting young people at ease.*



*Wild Friends groups from several schools brought poster art depicting pollinator importance in human food crops and medicines. Horizon Academy West held up 20 original art drawings of plants and their pollinators for the lawmakers to see and study. The poster art showed that native plants provide superior habitats for native pollinators and that the decline of pollinators threatens global food and biodiversity. Mission Avenue ES Wild Friends have challenged New Mexico schools to create their own flower beds and cactus gardens and to plant native bushes on campus.*



*Rep. Moe Maestas heads The MoeJustice Law Office in his district where these Horizon Academy West students go to school.*



*Jefferson MS journalism students get the scoop from Asst. Dir. Pat Block of NM Game & Fish Dept.*



*Sen. Kent Cravens greets Harrison MS students. Harrison claims 225 Wild Friends!*



# VIPs meet WFs



*Every year the WFs get lucky and meet dignitaries that many New Mexicans never do.*

*At top left, Carlos Rey ES WFs run into NM Supreme Court Justice Petra Maes on filing for election day. At top right, then Chief Justice Edward Chavez shows Mission Avenue ES WFs the inner sanctum where the Supreme Court justices deliberate.*



*At mid left, Harrison MS WFs pose with Gov. Bill Richardson in his office, and several WF girls get a pep talk for success from Miss New Mexico on the floor.*

*At right, Sen. Mary Jane Garcia, the Senate Majority Whip, is always delighted to spend time with the WFs.*



*At right, Horizon Academy West WFs made sure they got to visit Hector Balderas, the NM State Auditor, after he visited them at their school in the fall.*



*At left, the Wild Friends trips to the legislature would not be complete without the smiling face of 94-year-old Jack Pickering. Here he is sharing old times with his pal Rep. Ed Sandoval.*

*Finally, SEE YOU IN 2011!*



Thank you ...

Wild Friends volunteers for everything -- Administrative Office of the Courts and Secretary of State's Office for coat and lunch space -- PNM for t-shirts -- Citi for bus money -- State Land Office for educational programs.



**WE WELCOME** new groups of Wild Friends. Call 505/277-5089 or email [cbyers@unm.edu](mailto: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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