

# 2020 WASHINGTON BIOLOGISTS' FIELD CLUB RESEARCH AWARDS COMPETITION

**Purpose:** The Washington Biologists' Field Club (WBFC), organized in 1900, annually provides competitive grants to support field research on the natural history of the Mid-Atlantic Region of the United States. The WBFC welcomes proposals that consider aspects of natural history, systematics, biodiversity, ecology, or environmental issues. Studies focusing on organisms occurring on Plummers Island, Maryland, and the Potomac River drainage typically have priority, but research projects throughout the Mid-Atlantic are considered. The WBFC is particularly interested in studies increasing knowledge of the biodiversity and natural history of poorly-known taxa. 2019 awards supported studies of nightcrawler identification; diversity of bluegill sunfish; effect of climatic change on phenology, agricultural pests, and parasitoids; coastal marsh to open pond vegetational transitions; peptide diversity in salamanders; effects of urban noise on catbird songs; taxonomic status of crayfish species; and fungal drivers of orchid evolution.

**Eligibility:** Applications are accepted from individuals qualified to perform the proposed research. Applicants who are not members of the WBFC are required to obtain a letter of sponsorship from a WBFC member. A list of sponsors is available at the club's web site (click on the link, "Research Awards Announcement"). The sponsoring member need not be involved in the applicant's research or the publication of results, but must be familiar with applicant's scientific abilities, credentials, and proposed research. The sponsor will serve as liaison between the grant recipient and the WBFC Research Committee during the term of the award.

**Financial information:** WBFC provides awards of up to **\$5000** for selected studies. Proposals requesting smaller amounts (\$50–\$3000) are strongly encouraged, because these permit WBFC to support a greater number and diversity of studies. Awardees are reimbursed for qualified expenses upon submission of receipts. Funds may be used for travel to study sites, actual field expenses, honoraria for assistants, and cost of specialized equipment and tests. Principal Investigator's salary, publication costs, and overhead or administrative costs are **not** supported. Requests for funds to cover publication costs of studies receiving WBFC funding can be made directly to the Board of the WBFC. Equipment purchased with WBFC funds becomes the property of the institution with which the researcher is affiliated at the time the proposal is funded.

**Duration:** Grants are officially awarded for **one year**, but applicants will have until **January 1, 2022**, to spend 2020 award funds. After that date, unspent funds revert to the WBFC.

**Application procedure:** An application consists of (1) a **description** of the project, including title, name and affiliation of applicant, and a concise ( $\leq 1000$  words) referenced explanation of the project that includes its scientific significance and relevance to the Mid-Atlantic Region; (2) a clear, itemized **budget** listing anticipated expenses and explanations of expenses; (3) a **time table** that includes the anticipated spending schedule and completion date; (4) a **curriculum vitae** of the applicant, including educational background and a list of publications; and (5) a **letter of support** from a sponsoring member. Items #1–4 should be sent as a single electronic file. The letter of support may be sent separately. **It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the letter of support arrives before the deadline.** Items #4 & 5 are not required for applications from WBFC members. Incomplete proposals will not be considered.

**Responsibilities:** A status report summarizing project activities is required by **1 February 2021**, and a **final report** must be submitted to the WBFC Research Committee chair before **1 February 2022**. Publications from studies supported by WBFC should acknowledge WBFC support, and PDFs of publications should be provided to the Chair of the Research Committee. **It is the responsibility of the grantee to obtain Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees approvals and all appropriate research permits. Voucher specimens should be deposited in an appropriate institution.**

**Submission:** Applications and letters of support should be submitted by email to:

Neal Woodman, Chair, WBFC Research Committee  
[woodmann@si.edu](mailto:woodmann@si.edu)

The deadline for submissions is **January 10 2020**.

You should receive an e-mail acknowledging that your application has been received. The committee anticipates reviewing applications immediately following the deadline, and applicants should receive notification of the status of their proposals by the end of **February 2020**.