

EXPLORERS CLUB WASHINGTON GROUP (ECWG)
Annual Report for calendar year 1 January 2015 – 31 December 2015

Prepared by Lonnie Schorer, MN98 - Vice-Chair ECWG

ECWG Board Members, nominated to begin in December 2014 as the class of 2017, were elected at the business meeting preceding the ECWG Gala on 6 December 2014. Officers, nominated to begin in January 2015, were elected by the Board of Directors at the December 17, 2014 Board Meeting.

ECWG Board Officers:

Chairman - Jack Williams, FN03
Vice Chair - Lonnie Schorer, MN98
Secretary - Bill Runyon, MN01
Treasurer - Bruce Blanchard, MED78
Program Director - Michael Max, FN05
Membership Director - Michael Wyrick, MN08
Immediate Past Chair - Craig Cook, MN01

Standing Committee Chairs:

Program Committee: Michael Max, FN05
Membership Committee: Michael Wyrick, MN08
Grants Committee: Polly Penhale, FN91
Public Relations and Outreach Committee: Craig Cook, MN01

Ad-hoc Nominating Committee: Craig Cook, MN01

ECWG Board Members (15):

<i>Class of '15</i>	<i>Class of '16</i>	<i>Class of '17</i>
Caroline A. A. Baker, FN04	Donald J. Gerson, FE78	Tony K. Meunier, FE84
Marilyn E. Livingood, FN03	Joyce M. Johnson, FN03	Linda Perry, FN13
Michael J. Manyak, MED92	Polly A. Penhale, FN91	Betsy Stewart, MN05
H. Joe Witte, FN98	Cynthia J. Steuart, MN13	Lee Talbot, MED57
Sarah K. Yeomans, FN07	Arnella Trent, MN10	Daniel B. Krinsley, FE64

On December 5, 2015, the following were elected to the ECWG Board as the Class of 2018: Caroline Baker, FN04, Charles Davidson, MN12, Daniel Gezari, FN07, Marilyn Livingood, FN03, Sarah Yeomans, FN07; Deborah Bell, FN14 was elected to fill a vacancy in the class of '17.

On December 15, 2015, all officers were re-elected by the new board of directors, effective January 1, 2016.

Board members meet at 11:30a.m. on the 3rd Tuesday of each month, excluding July and August, at the National Geographic Society in Washington, D.C. Minutes are on record for each Board meeting.

Membership:

In 2015 the ECWG Chapter welcomed 31 members, 21 members who relocated to the area and 10 new members. 12 members relocated out of the Washington area, and 4 members are deceased. Net gain: 15 members.

In 2015 the ECWG Membership Committee received 19 inquiries/requests for applications. 4 new applications have been submitted to Headquarters for consideration.

Our 2015 membership directory was filed with Club headquarters in November 2015. Total ECWG membership (2015-year-end): 291 members

Dinner/Luncheon with Speaker Meetings:

- Saturday, 17 January 2015. Cosmos Club. Speaker: Carl Hoffman. Title: Savage Harvest: The Disappearance of Michael Rockefeller.
Attendance: 64/36 members
- Saturday, 28 February 2015. Cosmos Club. Speaker: Michael Manyak. Title: Travel Health and Security: Key Points to Keep You Safe.
Attendance: 79/38 members
- Saturday, 14 March 2015. National Press Club brunch, Winners Room Fourth Estate Restaurant. Speaker: All attendees. Title: New members getting to know more experienced club members.
Attendance 25.
- Wednesday, 18 March 2015. Luncheon. DACOR House. Speaker: Alan Lukens ME78. Title: The Liberation of Dachau Concentration Camp.
Attendance: 27/21 members
- Saturday, 11 April 2015. Cosmos Club. Speaker: Harry Brooks. Title: The Unintended Consequences – Makin Coral Reef Survey: Bringing Home the Missing Marine Raiders.
Attendance 25/20 members
- Saturday, 16 May 2015. Cosmos Club. Speaker: Hans-Peter Plag. Title: Preparing for the Unknown: The Transition to the Post-Holocene.
Attendance: 35/20 members
- Saturday, 25 July 2015. ECWG Summer Picnic at the farm of Dr. and Mrs. Stephen W.J. Seager, FN95, The Plains, VA.
Attendance: 21/7 members

- Saturday, 19 September 2015. Cosmos Club. Speaker: Dr. Katherine D. Sullivan MED81. Title: Looking at Earth: From Astronaut Photos to Environmental Intelligence.
Attendance: 78/30 members
- Saturday, 10 October 2015. Grants Committee luncheon at the National Press Club cancelled by late notice from the NPC due to the date falling on Columbus Day weekend.
- Saturday, 21 November 2015. Cosmos Club. Speaker: Dr. Bruce Molnia FN80. Title: Using Repeat Photography to Document Alaskan Glacier and Landscape Change.
Attendance: 72/29 members
- Saturday, 5 December 2015. Cosmos Club. Speaker: Chris Palmer. Title: Confessions of a Wildlife Film Maker.
Attendance 86/44 members

ECWG Exploration and Field Research Grant Program Recipients:

Our student grant program is partially financed by those whose contributions are greater than the annual ECWG dues amount. Eighty-five members made special donations to the grant fund in the 2015.

The ECWG grant program received fourteen applications for 2015. Applications were reviewed by the Grants Committee, and grants were awarded to the following five applicants:

Grace Capshaw, University of Maryland, Biology
Hearing in caves: auditory evolution in cave-adapted lungless salamanders

Madeleine Gunter, William and Mary, Anthropology
Settlement stability and floodplain dynamism: A geoarchaeologic study of 'persistent places' in the Virginia Piedmont

Melanie Jackson, University of Maryland, Center for Environmental Science
Determining the effect of ammonium on algal community composition and physiology in the Anacostia River in Washington, D.C.

Chrisandra Kufeldt, George Washington University, Human Biology
Does dental microstructure carry a phylogenetic signal?

Joeva Rock, American University, Anthropology
Sankofa: utilizing traditional agricultural practice for modern development

FY 2015 Financial Report

Reported by Bruce Blanchard, Treasurer

As stated in the ECWG Articles of Procedure:

ECWG was granted tax-exempt status under sec. 501 ©(3) of the Internal Revenue Code in 1990, was incorporated in the State of Delaware, and received a certificate of authority to operate in the District of Columbia in 1994. It was granted tax-exempt status by the District in 1998.

The Short Form 990-EZ - Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax - for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2014 and ending June 30, 2015, was filed with the Internal Revenue Service and Club headquarters by ECWG Treasurer Bruce Blanchard on November 14, 2015.

As it has remained for 17 years, our annual ECWG base dues for 2015 were \$25.00 per person.

During fiscal year 2015, ending June 30, 2015, our net worth increased only \$736 this year. We transferred \$5,000 from our operations account to our exploration (student grant) account, and we bought a new Sony PXW-X70 camera for almost \$3,000. Overall, the end-of-year operations account decreased from \$10,532 to \$3,582. We awarded 5 grants, amounting to \$11,249 to graduate students in our area, and our grant account ended the year up \$1,946 for an end-of-year total of \$30,389. The provisional LTAD distribution, now amounting to \$39,976, is being held in a separate account pending recommendations from our Grants Committee concerning our intended payout schedule in the future.

As of June 30, 2015, we had 208 dues payers out of a total membership of 291 members (71%). This is a slightly smaller percentage than last year (73%).

Video Library: ECWG has 240 recorded dinner lectures on DVDs. The lectures, recorded from 17 October 1987 through 5 December 2015, have been transferred to DVDs. All DVDs were reviewed and verified by Board Members this year. The Board resolved to ensure that these DVDs are available for purchase. For a complete list, see explorersclubdc.org and click on “Buy DVDs of ECWG Speakers” in the top banner.

