

The Dixie Pierson 2023 Scholarship Awards and Request for Donations

Dr. Elizabeth (Dixie) Pierson was one of the core founding members of the Western Bat Working Group. She was a member of the team that developed the Townsend's big-eared bat Conservation Strategy in 1993 and 1994 that eventually led to the formation of the Western Bat Working Group in 1996. Dixie's leadership promoted more effective bat conservation efforts across the western United States. She inspired and provided training and field experience to many students and agency biologists.

Following her death in 2014, the Dixie Pierson Memorial Fund was established by her husband, Dr. Bill Rainey, and colleagues at the Western Bat Working Group. Donations are now being accepted for 2023 Scholarship awards and can be made via <http://wbwg.org/donations/>. The goal is to offer two \$500 awards prior to the biennial meeting of WBWG, which will next convene **April 19-21, 2023** in Victoria, British Columbia. The goal of these awards is to defray travel costs and provide the opportunity for biologists to present their papers or posters at the biennial meeting of the WBWG, where they can network with other biologists across western North America. Registration fees for the meeting will also be waived for the award participants.

Proposals are now being accepted for the Dixie Pierson Scholarship Awards. Proposal application deadline is **February 15, 2023**, and the winning recipients will be announced by **March 1**, before the WBWG deadline for submission of abstracts on **March 15, 2023**. Prior recipients of the Bob Berry Scholarships are eligible to apply.

Please limit proposals to 3 pages including a **cover page** with the title of the presentation, the applicant's name, affiliation, and physical and email addresses; an **abstract** of the oral or poster presentation; and a **narrative** addressing the award criteria listed below. These should be submitted electronically by February 15, 2023 to Bill Rainey (weredp@aol.com) and cced to Pat Brown (patbobbat@aol.com) with the message subject "Pierson WBWG Award Proposal". Receipt will be acknowledged.

A committee of five representatives of WBWG will judge the proposals based on the following criteria:

1. Paper addresses a relevant conservation issue for western bats.
2. Paper demonstrates a sound scientific approach to the conservation issue.
3. Applicant demonstrates financial need (conference attendance could be compromised without this award).
4. The contents of the presentation will be distributed or made publicly available through publication/report.