



WINGS WorldQuest Awards Flag Carrier Grant to Meg Lowman
Conservationist Will Continue Her Work to Conserve Ethiopia's Forests

New York, NY (June 8, 2016) — WINGS WorldQuest today announced that it has bestowed a Flag Carrier grant to conservationist Meg Lowman, Ph.D. for an April 2017 expedition to Ethiopia to conserve the country's dwindling forest land.

For ten years, Margaret "Canopy Meg" Lowman has been working on the Church Forests Project, an initiative to conserve Ethiopia's remaining forests, after decades of over-harvesting.

Many of the forests that still remain exist around Orthodox Christian Churches, which have preserved them as sacred sites. The Church Forest Project is a partnership between conservationists and the local churches, and provides local communities the resources they need to build stone walls around their forests, thereby protecting the forests from stray cattle and plowing while simultaneously improving the agricultural yield in their fields.

Lowman's two-month long expedition will continue her diligent work in this region for over a decade. Her goal is to build 30 walls. So far, 15 have been built.

About Margaret "Canopy Meg" Lowman

Nicknamed the "real-life Lorax" by National Geographic and "Einstein of the treetops" by Wall Street Journal, Margaret "Canopy Meg" Lowman pioneered forest canopy exploration. For over 30 years, she has designed hot-air balloons and walkways to solve mysteries in the world's treetops, ranging from medicinal compounds in leaves to insect pests to sloth behavior. Meg is affectionately called the mother of canopy research as one of the first scientists to explore this eighth continent. She is also passionate about inspiring youth, especially girls, in science. She has worn many hats: research scientist, author, explorer, educator, small-business owner, and government advisor. She has explored not only forest canopies, but also coral reefs, Antarctic ice, mangroves, rocky shores, human microbiomes, and arid landscapes in over 15 countries, to better understand the complexities of biodiversity and how nature operates our planet. She won the coveted WINGS WorldQuest Woman of Discovery Award in 2009.

About WINGS WorldQuest's Flag Carrier Program

WINGS WorldQuest Flag Carriers are women leading original field research or documentation that focuses on investigating questions about the nature of our world and advancing conservation efforts on land, air and water through science and advocacy.

As part of their expeditions, all accepted Flag Carriers plan to write reports, make films, or otherwise formally share information about the findings and discoveries with the scientific community and the public. WINGS WorldQuest Flag Carriers are not associated with tourist trips or paying participants on tours.

WINGS Flag Carriers must submit a formal report, complete with high-resolution images, to WINGS so that the expedition findings can be shared with the greater public. These reports are posted on the WINGS website and published elsewhere as appropriate.

Since 2005, more than 50 women have flown the WINGS WorldQuest flag during expeditions across over 35 countries and all of the world's continents as they pursue groundbreaking discoveries.

The WINGS WorldQuest flag is recognized as a symbol of excellence in discovery and knowledge, and certifies the significance of its carrier's endeavor.

About WINGS WorldQuest™

WINGS WorldQuest™ is a registered nonprofit organization founded in 2003 to recognize and support extraordinary women in science and exploration. It is the only organization of its kind, awarding unrestricted funding to women in scientific field endeavors. WINGS' support knows no boundaries—women of all races, nationalities, ages, and cultures who show initiative, passion, and promise toward future scientific advancement have been granted funds that are often critical to seeing their ambitious ideas through. In return, they have become part of the WINGS community, and strengthen the organization's mission to inspire the next generation of intrepid explorers and global problem-solvers through various outreach programs. For more information, visit www.wingsworldquest.org.

###