

Georgia Botanical Society Bylaws

Article I: Name

The Name of this organization is the Georgia Botanical Society, Inc., hereinafter called the Society.

Article II: Purpose

Section 1 The purposes of the Society are to:

1. Promote the understanding and appreciation of **native** plants and their relationship to the environment, as well as the study of botanical sciences.
2. Undertake or support the setting apart of appropriate areas in Georgia for the preservation of native flora for enjoyment by the public.
3. Encourage the protection of rare and endangered plant species and significant botanical habitats.
4. Encourage nurserymen and horticulturists to propagate and use native Georgia species in landscaping and other cultivated areas.
5. Encourage youth to study and practice botany.
6. Promote the conservation of botanical resources and encourage the practice of a conservation ethic.

Section 2 The Society publishes a magazine entitled Tipularia and a newsletter entitled The Georgia Botanical Society Newsletter. The newsletter is published at least bimonthly, and Tipularia at least once each year. Other publications are issued as finances and materials permit.

Section 3 Notwithstanding any other provisions of these Bylaws, the purposes for which the Society is organized are exclusively religious, charitable, scientific, literary, and educational within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue law.

Article III: Membership

Section 1 Membership in the Society is open to any person or institution who subscribes to the stated purpose of the Society upon payment of the appropriate dues for the class of membership desired. Application for membership is submitted to the Membership Chairman.

Section 2 There are eight classes of membership with the following dues:

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| 1. Individual | \$25.00 per year (add \$10 for printed Newsletter) |
| 2. Student | \$10.00 per year (electronic Newsletter only) |
| 3. Family/Group | \$30.00 per year (add \$10 for printed Newsletter) |
| 4. Donor | \$100.00 per year |
| 5. Patron | \$1,000.00 per year |
| 6. Life | \$350.00 one-time payment |
| 7. Honorary | Persons chosen for service to the Society and/or the science of botany, who pay no dues. |

Annual dues are payable by January 1.

A Tipularia Associate is an institution or an individual who pays the current subscription price and receives an issue of Tipularia. Tipularia Associates have neither membership rights nor privileges.

Section 3 Members have the following privileges:

1. All members receive all regular publications of the Society.
2. All members can attend programs or present at meetings.
3. Individual members over 18 years of age can vote. Two adults in a family membership shall each be entitled to a vote. Groups shall be entitled to one vote.
4. Any voting member in good standing can hold any elective office or appointive office in the Society.

Section 4 Members more than 30 days delinquent in the payment of annual dues will be dropped from membership. In addition, the executive committee can, by a three-quarters vote, remove any member or chapter whose acts are contrary to the purposes of the Society, or otherwise makes improper use of Society membership.

Section 5 A member can resign at any time upon written notification to the Membership Chairman.

Article IV: Officers

Section 1 The officers of the Society are a President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer, as described below. The term of each office is two years. These officers perform the duties prescribed by these Bylaws, and by the parliamentary authority adopted by the Society. No person can hold more than one office, and each office must be filled by a single person. These officers plus others who may be appointed form the **Board of Directors (hereinafter called the Board)**. Six directors constitute a quorum for transacting business at a meeting of the Board of Directors.

Section 2 The President presides at meetings of the membership and the Board of Directors, appoints members of the Society to special committees as necessary, and is authorized to sign contracts and agreements for the Society subject to the approval of the Board.

Section 3 The Vice-President performs the duties of the President in his or her absence, succeeds the President in the event of a permanent absence, and arranges for the Annual Wildflower Pilgrimage.

Section 4 The Secretary serves both as corresponding and recording secretary.

Section 5 The Treasurer maintains accurate records of receipts and disbursements of the Society, administers the finances of the Society, and publishes an annual financial report. The Treasurer may be required to give bond. Records are available for inspection by the Board.

Section 6 The Board transacts business for the Society, fills vacant offices, and authorizes all disbursements by the Treasurer.

Section 7 An election is held at a meeting during the third quarter of the calendar year (i.e., the months of July, August or September) of even-numbered years. At least four months prior, the President appoints a nominating committee of five voting members, which must be approved by the Board. The nominating committee prepares a slate of officers. The chairman of the nominating committee advises the Newsletter Editor, who sends the slate to all voting members at least ten days before the election. During the election, additional nominations from the floor are permitted. In case of competition for any office, voting is by written ballot by members present at the meeting. The candidate receiving the highest number of votes is elected. In the event of a tie, the Board casts the deciding vote. Elected officers assume their duties following their election.

As soon as practically possible after assuming office, the newly elected President calls a meeting of all the Officers and proposes a slate of at least two board members. The Officers then vote to accept or reject the slate of other board members until at least two are added.

Section 8 Other members of the Board may include:

1. The Field Trip Chairman arranges for field trips, sends notices of future field trips to the Newsletter Editor, and arranges for reports of each field trip to be submitted to the Newsletter Editor.
2. The Newsletter Editor is responsible for publishing the newsletter and maintains an archive of Newsletters.
3. The Chairman of the Board of Editors of Tipularia is responsible for recruiting a Board of Editors of not less than four people, including the President, who shall be responsible for publishing Tipularia, including securing an Editor who shall be responsible to the Board of Editors.
4. The Membership Chairman receives and registers all membership applications, maintains the membership mailing list, sends periodic updates of the membership to the Newsletter Editor, and makes available, upon request, an electronic copy in pdf format of the membership directory to any member. During the membership renewal process, members may elect to suppress specific contact information in this directory.
5. The Publicity Chairman places notices of Society activities in newspapers and other appropriate places for reaching the public.
6. Other possible Board members include a Conservation Chairman, a representative to the Georgia Environmental

Council, the immediate past President, an Archivist, a Parliamentarian, or any other position created by the Board.

Article V: Field Trips

Field Trips are offered by the Society for botanical education, and enjoyment, and to inventory Georgia's flora. A field trip report is sent to the Newsletter Editor.

Collecting specimens must follow the Conservation Guidelines published by the Plant Conservation Roundtable (see attached) for placement in recognized herbaria.

Article VI: Local Chapters

Section 1: Twelve or more Society members can form a chapter of the Georgia Botanical Society. The chapter will select an appropriate name. Society members may join only one chapter, or none

Section 2: Each chapter will elect a representative who will serve on the Society Board. The chapter can elect or appoint other officers (if desired) to facilitate local chapter business.

Section 3: The chapter can schedule field trips, talks, plant surveys or other activities which support the purposes of the Georgia Botanical Society as described in Article II, Section 1. Society members can attend any activity from any chapter.

Section 4: The chapter will submit a projected budget (income and expenses) for local programs at the beginning of each fiscal year to the Society Board for approval. The chapter can request additional program funds during the year from the Society Board. The chapter will submit bills for local programs to the Society Treasurer for reimbursement. Any pre-approved amounts not spent each fiscal year will remain in the Society treasury. Any amounts spent over the approved budget will be paid by the local chapter (e.g., through a fund raising event). Chapter fundraisers must be consistent with Society purposes.

Article VII: Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order* govern the Society in all cases to which they are applicable, and in which they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws and any special rules of order the Society may adopt.

Article VIII: Amendments

These bylaws can be amended at any meeting of the Society by a two-thirds vote of the members present, provided that the amendment has been submitted in writing. Proposed amendments are published in the newsletter prior to the meeting.