

# BYLAWS OF THE GAINESVILLE BROMELIAD SOCIETY

## ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of the organization is THE GAINESVILLE BROMELIAD SOCIETY, referred to herein as the Society. The Society is a non-profit organization affiliated with the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies, Inc.

## ARTICLE II - OBJECTIVES and POLICIES

Section 1. The objectives of the Society are:

- A. To educate the members regarding the culture, identification and hybridization of the plant family Bromeliaceae (Bromeliads) by exchange of information at regular meetings.
- B. To promote public interest in Bromeliads by participation in public horticultural events and presentations.
- C. To preserve Bromeliads by the cultivation of rare and endangered plants, to support habitat conservation and the eradication of non-native pests.

Section 2. The policies of the Society are:

- A. To be self-governing, non-profit-making, non-partisan and non-sectarian.
- B. To cooperate with the Bromeliad Society International, Inc. and with Florida bromeliad societies through membership in the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies.

## ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership is open to all persons who support the objectives of the Society upon the payment of established dues. Members sixteen years of age and under are exempt from the payment of dues.

Section 2. Classes of membership

- A. Regular members: Membership renewed annually through the payment of dues.
- B. Honorary members: Members who have made significant contributions to the Society and designated as lifetime members. They are not required to pay dues.

Section 3. All members shall have the right to participate in all meetings and activities of the Society, to vote on any manner of business and to hold office.

## ARTICLE IV - DUES

Section 1. Dues shall be proposed by the Executive Board at the November membership meeting and will be subject to the majority of the votes cast.

Section 2. Dues collection

- A. Dues shall not be pro-rated.
- B. Annual dues, payable in January, cover our fiscal year running from January 1 to December 31st. Dues for new members joining after July 1<sup>st</sup> cover membership through the following year.
- C. Visitors wishing to join the Society will be accepted as members upon payment of dues.

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## ARTICLE V - OFFICERS, ELECTIONS AND DUTIES

### Section 1. Officers

The Officers are President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer who are elected annually. The Executive Board consists of the Officers and one member who is elected annually.

### Section 2. Elections

The President shall appoint a Chairman and two members from the membership at the October meeting as the Nominating Committee.

- A. The committee shall select candidates for each office and the Chairman will present the slate at the November meeting. The President will also solicit nominations from the floor provided the consent of the candidate has been obtained. Candidates must be members in good standing.
- B. The final slate of candidates will be elected by voice vote at the November membership meeting and the newly elected Officers will begin service on January next, serving until the end of that fiscal year.
- C. Officers are limited to two contiguous terms unless they agree to serve longer terms.

### Section 3. Duties

- A. The President shall preside over all Executive Board and membership meetings, appoint the Chairman of all standing and special committees, and appoint an auditor from the membership at the end of the fiscal year.
- B. The Vice-President shall chair the Program/Education committee and assume the duties of the President, if absent.
- C. The Secretary shall keep the minutes of the Executive Board, regular and special meetings of the Society. He/She is the custodian of Society correspondence with the exception of the financial records.
- D. The Treasurer shall receive all money, issue all money in payment of the Society's obligations, notify delinquent members of their status in February and keep an appropriate ledger and accounts of all money received and disbursed. The Treasurer shall report on the financial condition of the Society at regular membership meetings. The Treasurer is authorized to pay, after satisfactory proof of debt, all bills up to \$150.00; except negotiations for speakers, which are over \$150.00.
- E. The Executive Board shall appoint a member to fill any vacancy on the Board.
- F. There shall be two representatives on the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies. The President and the immediate past President may represent the Society on the Council; if either of them desires not to serve, the Society may appoint or elect a representative.

## ARTICLE VI - MEETINGS

Section I. Location: The location for the membership meeting may be changed by the Executive Board provided members receive advance notice. The regular membership meeting shall be held on the fourth Sunday of each month, except for December, at a time and place announced in the monthly meeting notice.

Section 2. Quorum: A quorum shall consist of the majority of the members or officers attending a meeting.

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Section 3. The Executive Board must meet and approve payment of all bills incurred by the Society of more than \$150.00 except as defined in paragraph V.3.D above.

### ARTICLE VII - RULES OF ORDER

Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the proceedings of the Society only as needed to conduct an orderly meeting.

### ARTICLE VIII- AMENDMENTS

The Bylaws of the Society may be amended by two-thirds of the votes cast at any regular membership meeting; provided notice of the proposed amendment(s) were distributed at the previous meeting.

### ARTICLE IX - STANDING COMMITTEES

Section 1. Programs: The Vice-President is Chairman of the Program Education Committee and as such can request aid from the membership to assist him to carry out his duties.

Section 2. Hospitality: The Hospitality Chairman will be responsible to recruit contributors from the membership to bring refreshments for each regular meeting.

Section 3. Sales:

- A. The Sales Committee shall consist of a Chairman who will organize the annual GBS shows and sales setup. Also, the Treasurer is authorized to maintain separate accounts of money received during plant sales; sales tax payments; reimbursements to sellers; and profits due the Society. A Co-Chairman, selected by the Chairman, will verify sales and tax records made during the transactions.
- B. The following rules shall govern plant sales:
  - 1. Bromeliads only shall be offered for sale.
  - 2. Members only shall be permitted to offer plants for sale.
  - 3. Sale plants shall be clean and free of disease.
  - 4. Twenty percent (20%) of the membership sales will revert to the GBS treasury.

### ARTICLE X- DISSOLUTION

Section I. The Society may be dissolved by a two-thirds vote of the membership.

Section 2. Upon a vote to dissolve the Society, the physical assets will be sold after which the financial assets will be donated to the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies, Inc.