

CONSTITUTION GWINNETT COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION

ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Gwinnett County Master Gardeners Association hereinafter referred to as "GCMGA."

ARTICLE II – MISSION

The mission of GCMGA is to serve as stewards of the environment, working to educate our members and the public about horticultural practices that will foster beautiful gardens, a healthy environment and to operate in cooperation with the University of Georgia, College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences and the Gwinnett County Extension Service.

ARTICLE III – POLICY

The policies of GCMGA shall not reflect any political partisanship or any preference, discrimination or limitation based upon age, sex, race, or religious affiliation.

ARTICLE IV – PRIVATE INUREMENT

GCMGA is not organized for and shall not be operated for pecuniary gain or profit. No part of the property or net earnings shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to, its members. However, GCMGA shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable reimbursement of expenses for furtherance of the mission set forth in Article II.

ARTICLE V – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: Master Gardener. Individuals who are certified Master Gardeners as defined by University of Georgia Extension Service and have paid current GCMGA dues are voting members and eligible to serve on the Board of Directors.

Section 2: Friend. Any individual showing an interest in the furtherance of GCMGA may become a Friend upon payment of current GCMGA dues. This is a limited membership without voting privileges. Friends are ineligible to serve on the Board of Directors.

Section 3: Honorary. Membership may be awarded to distinguished individuals selected by the Board of Directors. This is an appointment without voting or Board of Director privileges.

Section 4. No member shall use their position within GCMGA to further the manufacture, distribution, promotion or sale of any material, product or service for personal gain.

ARTICLE VI – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. The office of President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and the immediate Past President shall comprise the Executive Committee. The Board of Directors of GCMGA, hereafter referred to as the Board, shall consist of the Executive Committee and Committee Chairpersons. Each Board position will have one vote.

Section 2. The President and Vice-President shall be elected for a one-year term and be eligible for election of a second consecutive term. The Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected for a one-year term and shall be eligible for re-election. If any Director resigns or is unable to fulfill his/her term of office, the President, with consent and approval of the Executive Committee, shall appoint a Master Gardener member of GCMGA to fulfill said term of office.

Section 3. The management of GCMGA is vested in the Board. The Executive Committee shall conduct the business of GCMGA in the intervals between scheduled meetings of the Board. The Committee Chairpersons shall report the business of their respective committee.

ARTICLE VII – MEETINGS

Section 1. Membership meetings shall be held at such places and times as determined by the Board.

Section 2. Board Meetings shall be open to the general membership. A quorum of the Board must be present before a vote can be taken. A quorum shall be at least half the voting members of the Board.

Section 3. The President or any three Board members may call special meetings of the Board.

ARTICLE VIII – VOTING AND AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Election of Executive Committee slate shall be by the vote of a simple majority of members present at the membership meeting.

Section 2. When voting quorum is established, amendments to the Constitution shall require approval by two-thirds majority. The proposed amendment(s) to the Constitution must be submitted by the Secretary in writing to the members through a media available to members. Voting on the changes will be held at least 30 days

following the notification. Results of the vote will be certified by the Executive Committee and then published in a media available to members.

Section 3. The Bylaws may be amended by a simple majority vote of the Board provided the proposed amendment(s) have been submitted to the Secretary in writing and distributed to the Board members at least 30 days prior to the vote. Notice of the amended Bylaws shall be announced to the members in a media available to the membership.

ARTICLE IX – FUNDS

The funds of the GCMGA shall be expended only by approval of the Executive Committee. No member may incur any indebtedness in the name of the organization without the approval and authorization of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE X – DISSOLUTION

Upon the dissolution of the GCMGA, assets shall be donated to organizations with a similar mission as directed by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE XI – RATIFICATION AND AMENDMENTS

The Constitution was adopted and approved by Gwinnett County Master Gardeners Association in October 10, 1994.

Amended: November 15, 2004

Amended: August 30, 2007

Amended: November 16, 2009

Amended: June 1, 2016