Hart County Botanical Garden, Incorporated

BY-LAWS

(revised Jan. 21, 2020)

**Article I**

The organization shall be known as the Hart County Botanical Garden, Incorporated.

**Article II**

It shall be the purpose of this organization to:

        Promote public gardening education through an outreach program to groups, individuals and schools in the communities.

        Enhance and maintain the Hart County Botanical Garden.

        Promote better gardening and horticultural practices in our communities.

        Aid members in their gardening endeavors and provide continuing education.

**Article III**

Four (4) tiers of Friends of the Garden membership, with individual dues structures, shall be:  Individual, Family, Student, and Corporate.

**Article IV**

*Section I:*  The officers of this organization shall be:  President, President Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer.

*Section II:* The officers shall be elected by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the members present at the October Annual Meeting, with membership notified at the September meeting.

*Section III:*  The terms of the officers shall be two years,  January 1 – December 31.

*Section IV:* The regular membership meeting schedule shall be established by the Board and approved by the membership.  Robert’s Rules of Order shall govern the conduct of all meetings, regular, called and Board.  Application and interpretation of the rules of order shall be determined by the Board-appointed Parliamentarian.

**Article V**

*Section 1:* The Board of Directors shall consist of 11 members. Members will be all current officers (listed in Article IV), the two (2) Garden Co-Directors, the immediate Past President, one (1) Member-at-Large, one (1) Member from the Community, one (1) Education Director and one (1) Communications Coordinator. If the immediate Past President is also a current board member then two (2) Members-at-Large will be elected. Board of Directors shall serve for two (2) years. All elections shall be at the October meeting (Article IV, Section II).

Section II:  The Garden Co - Director positions shall be appointed by the board for a two year term. The two years will be staggered. Each year one co-director will rotate off and one will rotate on so that each director will serve with one veteran and then with one new director. Qualifications are determined by the Board.

*Section III:*  The Board shall meet a minimum of once a quarter.  Five (5) members present shall constitute a quorum.  The president shall serve as Board chairman.

*Section IV:*The Board reserves the right to recall and/or replace anyone in elected or appointed positions.

*Section V:*  The Board, by majority vote of those present, may expend funds up to $2,000, without membership approval, and conduct other business that may come before it.

Section VI: The Board will create a proposed budget for the upcoming calendar year at their October meeting. The budget shall be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the members present at the November Annual Meeting.

**Article VI**

It shall be the duty of each member to pay dues each calendar year.  The dues shall be dispersed for such expenses as the Board and membership shall direct.  The amount of annual dues for each tier of membership shall be determined, from time to time, by the Board of Directors and approved by the Membership.

**Article VII**

These BY-LAWS may be altered, amended or repealed in the following manner:  at any regular or stated meeting, after a 10-calendar-day notice to all members, by mail or email, and with two –thirds (2/3) majority vote of the members present.

**Article VIII**

Standing committees shall be appointed by the president with approval of the Board of Directors. Standing committees shall include but are not limited to: Publicity, Event Coordinator, Webmaster, Plant Sale Chairpersons.

**Article IX**

Pursuant to questions of liability, the following paragraph is hereby made part of this document:

The Georgia Recreational Property Act, enacted in 1965 and codified in Title 51 of the Georgia Code (Code 51-3-20 et seq., the "Act"), was passed to provide relief to landowners and occupiers who held their land open to the public, without charge, for recreational use.  It effectively causes any visitor to qualified recreational property to be treated as a licensee, and not an invitee.

Exhibits A & B outline the Georgia Laws that apply in our case.