

MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION OF LEON COUNTY

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ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

**ARTICLE I. NAME**

The name of this organization shall be the Master Gardeners Association of Leon County.

**ARTICLE II. NONPROFIT STATUS**

The Leon County Master Gardeners Association is a nonprofit, educational organization under the auspices of the Leon County Cooperative Extension Service and the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS). Any funds received for implementing its purposes shall not benefit individual officers or members.

**ARTICLE III. OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of this association shall be:

A. To encourage and maintain volunteer participation and interest of Master Gardeners after training has been completed;

B. To plan and implement opportunities for educational and volunteer activities for Master Gardeners who wish to participate;

C. To suggest opportunities for educational activities and volunteer participation to the Leon County Cooperative Extension Service horticulture program; and

D. To aid the community by disseminating the research-based information of the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) in partnership with the Leon County Cooperative Extension Service.

Projects adopted by the group must be approved by the Agent and by the Board of Directors.

**ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP**

The membership shall consist of Master Gardeners who have participated in the Master Gardener Program and wish to participate in the Leon County Master Gardeners Association. All members may attend meetings, participate in discussions, and work on projects. The Agent shall be an ex-officio member and advisor. Only members who have been issued a current Master Gardener card by the Agent shall have the right to vote and hold office.

**ARTICLE V. OFFICERS AND DUTIES**

The officers of this association shall be a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, who will be elected to serve a term of one year. Officers may be reelected for only one additional term in the same office, but may be elected to another office.

MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION OF LEON COUNTY

**A. The President shall preside at all meetings and shall perform such other duties as outlined in the bylaws or as directed by the membership. The President shall appoint chairpersons of standing and special committees, with the approval of the Board of Directors.**

**B. The Vice President shall perform the duties of the President when the President is absent and such other duties as outlined in the bylaws or as directed by the membership.**

**C. The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all meetings as well as taking care of all correspondence. The Secretary shall keep a current copy of the Articles of Association.**

**D. The Treasurer shall be custodian of all funds of the organization and shall disburse money upon proper authorization. All funds shall be deposited in the name of the Leon County Master Gardeners Association in an institution approved by the Board of Directors. All drafts upon the account shall be made by order of the Board of Directors and shall bear two signatures, the Treasurer and one other officer. The Treasurer shall present a report of receipts and disbursements at each monthly meeting as well as a complete financial report at the annual meeting. The annual financial report shall also be submitted to the Overall Extension Advisory Committee for review. The Treasurer shall also keep a current roster of the membership.**

**E. Vacancies in office shall be filled by the Board of Directors.**

**F. The initial slate of officers shall continue in office until July 1, 2004.**

**ARTICLE VI. BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**The Board of Directors shall consist of the officers and chairpersons of standing committees. The Agent shall act as Special Advisor to the Board of Directors. All projects in which any or all members participate in their capacity as Master Gardeners must be approved by the Agent.**

**ARTICLE VII. MEETINGS**

**A. Regular meetings of the organization shall be held in conjunction with the Leon County Extension Service in-service educational program for Master Gardeners. Members present at regular meetings shall constitute a quorum.**

**B. Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held monthly at a time and day to be set by the Board.**

**C. Special meetings of the organization may be called by the Board of Directors. Ten days prior notice of any such meeting shall be provided to members, in writing.**

**D. Annual meetings shall be held in May of each year to elect officers and for any other business that may arise. Officers will assume their duties on the first of July each year.**

**ARTICLE VIII. ELECTIONS OF OFFICERS**

**The Board of Directors shall appoint a Nominating Committee of three people to propose**

MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION OF LEON COUNTY

**nominations for officers to the annual meeting of the organization. Nominations for each position may also be made from the floor, provided that the person nominated is willing to have his or her name placed in nomination. Elections shall be by plurality vote and may be by a show of hands or voice vote.**

**ARTICLE IX. COMMITTEES**

**Standing and special committees shall be those deemed necessary by the Board of Directors to promote the objectives of the organization.**

**ARTICLE X. AMENDMENTS**

**These Articles may be amended at any regular meeting by a majority vote of members in attendance, provided the amendment was submitted in writing at the previous regular meeting or by notice to members prior to the meeting and provided the proposed amendment was submitted to the Agent for review and approval.**

**ARTICLE XI. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY**

**Roberts Rules of Order (current edition) shall govern the conduct of this organization's meetings.**

**ARTICLE XII. DISPOSITION OF ASSETS**

**Prior to dissolution of this association, the officers of the association are directed to assign all assets to the Leon County Extension Service Horticulture Fund.**

**ARTICLE XIII. DEFINITIONS**

**A. "Agent" as used herein shall mean the Leon County Extension Agent responsible for the Master Gardeners Program.**

**B. "Majority" as used herein shall mean a number of votes cast greater than half of the total number of votes cast.**

**C. "Plurality" as used herein shall mean the excess of the votes cast for one candidate or position over those cast for opposing candidates or positions.**

**D. "Quorum" as used herein shall mean the number of members who must be present at a meeting in order for those present to transact business in the absence of the other members.**