

Georgia Chapter of The Wildlife Society established April 30, 1973.

These are our amended bylaws Version dated **February 1, 2011.**

(Incorporated in 1948 under the laws of the District of Columbia)

ARTICLE I – NAME, AREA, and AFFILIATION

Section 1 – The name of this organization shall be the Georgia Chapter of The Wildlife Society.

Section 2 – This Chapter shall have as its area of organization the State of Georgia.

Section 3 – The Georgia Chapter shall conform to Bylaws, Code of Ethics, objectives, policies, and positions as adopted by The Wildlife Society, Inc. (Hereinafter The Wildlife Society, Inc., may be referred to as the parent Society.)

ARTICLE II – OBJECTIVES

Section 1 – Consistent with the objectives of the parent Society, the Chapter objectives are:

- a. To develop and promote sound stewardship of wildlife resources and of the environments upon which wildlife and humans depend.
- b. To undertake an active role in preventing human-induced environmental degradation.
- c. To increase awareness and appreciation of wildlife values.
- d. To seek the highest standards in all activities of the wildlife profession.
- e. To advise policy-makers on the formulation of conservation legislation.
- f. To facilitate interagency communication.
- g. To be independent of state or federal agency policy.
- h. To be a voice for field personnel opinions.
- i. To promote conservation education.
- j. To formulate position statements.

Section 2 – Implementation – To aid in the achievement of these objectives, this Chapter proposes to:

- a. Provide opportunities for better liaison between the individual member, his/her administrative and operating sections, and the parent Society.
- b. Evaluate the principles involved in proposed or enacted societal actions that could affect wildlife.
- c. Recognize and commend outstanding achievement in the wildlife environment.
- d. Focus the aims and objectives of the parent Society and operating section upon professional wildlife needs, problems, and events on the local scene.
- e. Encourage communications between members and non-members to create a working environment under which resource management tools will be used effectively.

ARTICLE III – CHAPTER YEAR

The chapter operating and fiscal year shall begin January 1.

ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 – Voting Membership – Voting membership in the Georgia Chapter shall be available to any member of The Wildlife Society who resides within the boundaries of the chapter as defined in Article I, Section 2. Only voting members may hold elective offices in the Chapter; vote on matters affecting the parent Society; and represent the Chapter or Section on parent Society business.

Section 2 – Dues – Annual dues of \$15.00 for non-students and \$10.00 for students (subject to change by the Executive Committee and approved by membership vote) shall be payable by each member to the Treasurer no later than February of each calendar year. Members who have not paid chapter dues within the grace period stipulated by parent Society Bylaws shall lose their voting membership status in the Georgia Chapter.

Section 3 – Resignation – Members may resign at any time by giving notice to the Chapter’s Secretary. Dues are not refundable to a member who resigns during the year.

Section 4 – Reinstatement – Persons who are dropped from the rolls of the Chapter for non-payment of dues may be reinstated into membership in this Chapter upon reapplication and payment of current annual dues.

Section 5 – Charter Member – Voting and affiliate members in good standing on the membership rolls as of February 28, 1974, shall be considered Charter Members.

Section 6 – Honorary Member – Honorary members of the Georgia Chapter shall be persons who, by a majority vote of all members present at any regular chapter meeting, have been thus recognized for their achievements. An honorary member is exempt from paying chapter dues.

ARTICLE V – ELECTIONS and OFFICERS

Section 1 – Nominating and Elections Committee – The three-member Nominating and Elections Committee, representative of at least 3 agencies and selected by the Executive Board (See Article 7, Section 1) of the Georgia Chapter, shall prepare a slate of two candidates for each of the elective positions, namely: President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and two additional Executive Board members from the voting membership of the Chapter, and it will require a quorum of three to transact the business.

- a. Prior approval shall be obtained from said candidates.
- b. Voting can be conducted electronically by email or other means at the discretion of the Executive Board. Members will have 10 days for electronic voting.
- c. At least 30 days prior to mail balloting or the annual meeting, said nominations slate shall be submitted to the membership.
- d. Additional nominees may be added to the Nominating and Elections Committee’s slate upon the signed support of six (or more) members.
- e. No member may serve more than two consecutive terms in the same elected position.
- f. All elected officers must be current members of parent Society.
- g. Those nominating need not be members of the parent Society.
- h. Term of office for all elected officers and board members shall extend from the conclusion of the business meeting held at the time of the Annual Meeting (Article VI, Section 1a.) and continue for two (2) years (or 24 months or until the time of the second Annual Meeting following their election.
 - i. For years 2011 and 2012, the term of office shall begin on January 1, 2011 and extend until the conclusion of the 2012 Annual Meeting (Article VI, Section 1, Clause A).
 - j. Balloting – Written or electronic ballots shall be received from the members by the Secretary and shall be counted by the Nominating and Elections Committee. For ballot- counting purposes, the President shall appoint a replacement for any member of the Nominating and Elections Committee who has been nominated for an office by the membership.
 - j.1. Members in arrears of dues shall forfeit their rights to vote during the period of their delinquency.

- j.2. An absentee ballot (proxy) may be submitted to the Secretary by a member prior to the scheduled time for counting ballots.
- j.3. Declaration of election shall occur for each candidate receiving the largest number of votes (a plurality) on the written ballot. No one may hold two elective positions simultaneously.

Section 3 – Officers – Officers of the Georgia Chapter shall consist of a President, President-Elect (who shall serve as Vice-President), Secretary, and Treasurer. Their duties are:

- a. President – The President shall have general supervision of the chapter officers. The president shall appoint, with the advice of the Executive Board, a chairperson of all regular and special (or Ad-hoc) committees, and shall preside as Chair at meetings of the Executive Board and shall be ex-officio, a member of all committees except the Nominating and Elections Committee. The president may represent the chapter or appoint alternate representatives to other chapter, section, or parent Society boards, committees or meetings.
- b. President-Elect – The President-Elect shall assume the duties of the President in his/her absence or upon his/her inability to serve, and shall perform any duties assigned by the President. (Such duties might include chairmanship of the membership or program committee.) In the event the President-Elect cannot serve in the President's absence, the Executive Board shall appoint a President, pro tempore. The president-elect shall be responsible for arranging the program and agenda of all annual and regular meetings in consultation with other Executive Board members. The Executive Board has final approval of meeting agenda.
- c. Secretary and Treasurer – The Secretary shall be responsible for files, records, minutes, membership rolls, correspondence, notices. The Treasurer shall be responsible for funds, financial reports, receipts and disbursements. The Treasurer shall receive the membership rolls from the parent Society and supply the rolls to the Secretary and Executive Board upon receipt from the parent Society.
- d. Past-president – The Past-president shall serve as the social chair.
- e. Executive Board – The above named officers, with the Past-President, the duly elected Board member(s), and possibly others as described in Article VII, Section 1 shall make up the Executive Board which shall act as the governing body for the chapter.

Section 4 – Term of Office – The officers and elected board members must be members of the parent Society, serve for approximately two years, be installed at the Annual Meeting (as defined in Article VI, Section 1), take office immediately following the Annual Meeting, and, unless reelected, terminate their duties at the conclusion of the next election and installation of new officers, or at such time as their successors are elected and installed.

Section 5 – Vacancies – If the office of the President is vacated for any reason, the President-Elect shall assume the duties of the President for the balance of the unexpired term of the President. All other vacancies in any unexpired term of an elective office shall be filled through appointment by the Executive Board.

ARTICLE VI – MEETINGS

Section 1 – Regular Meetings – Regular membership meetings shall be held at such times and places as determined and published by the Executive Board.

- a. Meetings – The chapter shall hold at least one general meeting per year. This meeting will be called the Annual Meeting. The Annual meeting will generally be scheduled as an overnight meeting (that is, beginning on day 1 and concluding the following day) – subject to scheduling conflicts and availability of officers to organize and host a meeting. The Annual Meeting should

be held in summer or early-fall. The agenda of meetings, location, cost, accommodations, and other meeting details will be the responsibility of the President-elect in consultation with the Executive Committee. A second meeting may be scheduled at the discretion of the Executive Committee. This meeting will generally be scheduled to not exceed one day (8-9 hours in length) and will generally be held in the winter.

- b. Meeting Notice – The members must be notified of the date and location of a meeting at least 30 days prior to the meetings and two weeks prior to special meetings (as defined in Article VI, Section 2)
- c. Quorum – The quorum for the annual meeting of the Chapter shall be over fifty percent of the membership or ten members in good standing, whichever is less; and for Executive Board Meetings, four members of the Board.
- d. Meeting Rules – The rules contained in the latest revision of *Roberts Rules of Order* shall govern meetings in all cases to which they are applicable, and in which they are consistent with the bylaws and/or other special rules of the Chapter and the parent Society.
- e. Bylaws – The Bylaws of this organization shall be available for inspection during every meeting.

Section 2 –Special Meetings – Special Meetings may be called by the Executive Board at any time, provided due notice (see Article VI, Section 1b) and the purpose of the call is given.

- a. Only those items listed in the call for a special meeting shall be acted upon at the special meeting.
- b. All clauses under Section 1 of this Article apply as well to special meetings.

ARTICLE VII – MANAGEMENT and FINANCE

Section 1 – Executive Board – The Georgia Chapter shall be governed by an Executive Board composed of its officers, the immediate Past-President, and two voting members of the Chapter duly elected to the Board.

- a. Conduct – The Executive Board shall conduct its affairs in conformance with the provisions of these Bylaws, and those of the parent Society. The Board is authorized to act for the chapter between meetings and shall report its interim actions to the members at each succeeding regular meeting. Any action of the Board may be overridden by a two-thirds vote of the voting members attending a meeting.
- b. Attendance – Members may attend Board meetings, but may participate therein only when asked to do so, and they may not vote at such meetings.

Section 2 – Finance – Funds of the Georgia Chapter shall be under the supervision of the Executive Board, and shall be handled by the Treasurer.

- a. The Treasurer need not be bonded.
- b. Funds shall be derived from dues, special assessments, fund-raising events, work projects, and contributions.
- c. Funds shall be placed in a federally-insured bank.

Section 3 – Reports – Within ten days after an election or other official action(s) the Secretary shall report such action(s) to the Executive Director of The Wildlife Society, and to the Section Representative. Annual financial statements and activity reports from the Treasurer shall be forwarded to these same parties. A statement of calendar-year income and expenses, together with starting and ending balances, must be submitted to the Executive Director in January of each year for federal tax reporting.

Section 4 – Files – The Chapter shall maintain a file containing: Bylaws of The Wildlife Society and of the Chapter, minutes of all regular and special meetings of the membership and of the Executive Board, correspondence pertinent to Chapter affairs, all committee reports, financial statements and

records, and all other material designated as pertinent by the Executive Board. For the guidance of each succeeding GATWS member and executive board leader to continue to keep track of important basic information and use it with the best of intentions for improving integration of native, natural wildlife resources within the full spectrum of societal needs and desires, the summary file of "The History of the Georgia Chapter of The Wildlife Society" shall be updated with concise completeness and posted to the Chapter's website by the Secretary during and by the end of every January. Per chapter meeting, the summary shall include program date, location, theme, list of agenda topics, description of social, photos, executive board and committee chair members, and per end of each calendar year it shall include total membership, total treasury amount, annual dues per member, and list of other accomplishments. Full program agendas and business meeting minutes shall also be uploaded to the website, but separately. A chapter "Operations Manual" provided by the parent Society will be maintained by the President of the Chapter and a written record of transfer of this manual to the incoming President will be maintained and the parent Society will be notified of each such transfer.

Section 5 – Resolutions and Public Statements – Any two (or more) members may submit actions (resolutions or statements) for consideration by the Chapter's Executive Board. These shall be accepted or rejected by the Board (or by a committee established for that purpose), and, if involving new policy, prepared for submission to the Chapter membership. Such new items must be approved by two-thirds of the Chapter membership voting and must be transmitted to the Council. Actions falling within previously established Chapter policies may be carried out by the President or Secretary upon unanimous approval of the Executive Board. Furthermore, the Georgia Chapter may publish statements pertaining to issues in its locale:

- a. in the absence of existing parent Society position statements; and
- b. where the content of the statement falls within the established policy of the parent Society. It will not publish statements which may be in conflict with the policy of the parent Society without prior approval of the Society's Council.

ARTICLE VIII – COMMITTEES

Section 1 – Appointments – The President shall consider suggestions of the Executive Board in appointing chairmen of all regular standing committees [except the Nominating and Elections Committee (See Article V, Section 1)] and special committees such as audit, awards, membership, and hospitality. Committee chairmen shall complete their committees with assistance of the President.

Section 2 – Duties of Standing Committees:

- a. Nominating and Elections – (See Article V, Section 1).
- b. Education and Information and Publicity – This committee shall seek and employ methods of informing the public of basic concepts of wildlife management and of chapter and Society activities and interests.
- c. Resolutions and Public Statements – This committee shall receive proposed resolutions or public statements from members at any time, and, shall prepare, submit and recommend action on such items to the Executive Board in accordance with Article VII, Section 5.

Section 3 –Accountability – All committees shall be accountable to the Executive Board, under general supervision of the President.

Section 4 - Tenure – All committees shall serve until new committees are appointed in their stead or until the duties assigned to the committee have been discharged.

ARTICLE IX – DISSOLUTION

Upon dissolution of the Georgia Chapter of The Wildlife Society, its Executive Board shall transfer all assets, accrued income, and other properties to the Council of the parent Society with a request that said assets be held for a period of not more than five years from the date of dissolution of the chapter, for distribution to another chapter that may be established in approximately the same geographical area within said five year period. If another chapter is not established within said area and period of time, the parent Society Council may use or distribute all assets, accrued income, and other properties as determined best by the Council in accordance with Society Bylaws.

ARTICLE X – AMENDMENT TO BYLAWS

Section 1 –Procedure – These Bylaws may be altered or amended by a majority of the members voting at any Annual or special meeting if due advance notice of the proposed changes per Article VI, Section 2, of the Bylaws is followed. A member who will be absent from the meeting may proceed as under “Balloting” in Article V, Section 2, Clause B.

Section 2 – Conformance – No amendment to these Bylaws shall be enacted which results in conflict with the parent Society Bylaws.

- a. Members agree to give the Executive Committee authority to make minor editorial changes to these By-laws as needed and in consultation with or to conform to Parent Society regulations and by-laws. This authority shall expire one year from date of approval by the Georgia-TWS chapter at which time normal amendment procedures (Article X, Section 1) will resume.