

THE GARDEN CLUB OF CORAL SPRINGS, INC.

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I--NAME

The name of the Corporation is: The Garden Club of Coral Springs, Incorporated, and hereafter referred to as GCCS.

ARTICLE II--OBJECT

The general nature of this non-profit Corporation shall be:

To organize itself into a non-profit association for the purpose of engaging in activities that are charitable, educational, and scientific within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Specifically, the purposes of the association are as follows:

- a. To further the education of the members and the public in the areas of gardening, horticulture, botany, landscape design, environmental awareness through the conservation of natural resources, civic beautification, nature studies and to instill in our youth the love of gardening and the respect for and protection of the environment.
- b. To perform all acts necessary to carry out the purposes of this Corporation as a not for profit in accordance with the law in such cases made and provided.

ARTICLE III--MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership of this association shall be unlimited and will include Active, Student, and Lifetime Members. A Lifetime Member is defined as follows: a member that has been active in the GCCS for 20 years, has a history of outstanding service to the GCCS and is approved by the Executive Board. We are a member of the National Garden Club, Deep South Garden Club, Florida Federation of Garden Clubs and District XI Garden Club.

Section 2. The GCCS encourages Coral Springs residents to join and welcomes Florida residents not residing in Coral Springs to apply for membership.

Membership in the Garden Club of Coral Springs is open to all regardless of gender, age, race, ethnicity or religious affiliation.

Section 3. The Duties of Membership: All members are expected to participate in GCCS functions and community volunteer activities. Attendance will be a primary consideration for Active Membership with a minimum attendance of five meetings or GCCS events per year. The meetings have either a gardening, horticultural or environmental program with an expert speaker or involve field trips to a botanical garden, nursery or nature park. Members are required to sign-in at each meeting. Guests may attend a maximum of two meetings per year.

Section 4. Dues: Annual dues will be determined by the Executive Board after the annual budget review. Lifetime members will not be required to pay dues.

Section 5. Special Funds established by contributions, donations and fundraising:

- a. The GCCS Scholarship and The Future Steward of the Environment Award in honor of Vince Cebert (established in 2002). A sum of not less than \$500 shall remain in this fund.
- b. The GCCS Scholarship and The Future Steward of the Land Award in honor of Bonnie Brossard (established in 2010). A sum of not less than \$500 shall remain in this fund.
- c. The Marcy DiMare College Scholarship Fund (established in 2016). A sum of not less than \$500 shall remain in this fund.

ARTICLE IV--OFFICERS

Section 1. The Officers shall be elected for a term of two years by ballot at the April meeting. They shall take office at the May installation.

Section 2. A nomination committee shall be appointed in February by the President and shall consist of a chair and two other members. The nomination committee chair shall call as many meetings as necessary to prepare a slate of nominees to be presented at the March meeting. Nominations may be made from the floor provided the nominee has previously given consent.

Section 3. Meetings of the Executive Board shall be held a minimum of three times a year. Board members shall receive notice of Executive Committee meetings at least three days prior to the meeting date.

ARTICLE V--DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. The President shall have general supervision of the affairs of the GCCS, shall preside at all meetings of the organization and the Executive Committee (Board), may call special meetings and serve as ex-officio member of all committees except the nomination committee and shall appoint, before the September meeting, such chairpersons as required to carry out the GCCS activities and projects. The President shall be authorized to sign checks and make bank deposits.

Section 2. The Vice-President shall serve as Program Chair and shall, in the absence of the President, perform the duties of that office. In the event of a vacancy in the office of the President, the Vice-President shall succeed to that office for the remainder of the term.

Section 3. The Recording Secretary shall keep a record of all meetings and be custodian of all records.

Section 4. The Corresponding Secretary shall send such correspondence as the President requests.

Section 5. The Treasurer shall collect all dues and shall be responsible for the notice of dues that have not been paid. She (he) shall be authorized to sign all checks and make bank deposits, subject to the approval of the Executive Committee, keep an account opened in the name of the Garden Club of Coral Springs, Inc., segregate the funds of the GCCS by bookkeeping entry showing the income from dues and the income from fundraising, donations and other sources and send the required, yearly membership dues to the Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. The

Treasurer will prepare and submit a year-end financial statement for audit no later than August 15 as the GCCS's business year ends on June 30. Whenever there is a change with this office there will be a committee audit of the books.

Section 6. The Executive Committee shall consist of all the officers of the GCCS and the immediate past president. They shall meet a minimum of three times a year, and in addition to the duties prescribed by the Constitution, shall conduct the affairs of the GCCS between meetings and may call special meetings of the GCCS when deemed necessary.

Section 7. A Board member's position shall be declared vacant if the Board member is unable to perform the duties outlined in ARTICLE V, DUTIES OF OFFICERS.

Section 8. If a vacancy occurs on the Executive Board, the position shall remain vacant until the next regular or special meeting of the Board, at which time the Executive Nominating Committee may recommend as successor for the Board to elect to serve the remainder of the term.

Section 9. The Executive Board shall adopt an annual budget. Any expenditure within a given budget category which exceeds the budgeted amount by more than \$1,000.00 must receive prior Executive Committee approval.

Section 10. Members of the Executive Board may not be compensated for their services. Board members may be reimbursed for approved expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. If any instance where a contract or agreement is to be executed, such documents shall specifically provide that no member of the Board is a participant with the provider of such services or products, nor is any such member due compensation.

Section 11. The President of the Board shall be reimbursed for travel and attendance expenses to represent GCCS at the annual FFGC Convention

Section 12. Members of the Board will not be held personally liable for and shall be held harmless regarding any claim or lawsuit resulting from or relating to their functions as Members of the Board or arising out of any activities of the GCCS.

ARTICLE VI--MEETING

The Garden Club of Coral Springs shall meet monthly. A quorum is fifty-one percent (51%) of the regular membership present at any regular meeting. The President shall deliver a report for the year and turn this report over to the Recording Secretary. At the May meeting we will present our annual environmental scholarships.

ARTICLE VII--RULES

The rules contained in *Roberts Rules of Order, Revised* shall govern GCCS procedures.

ARTICLE VIII—DISSOLUTION OF ASSETS

In accordance with the State of Florida Provision 617.1406, upon dissolution of the GCCS after all liabilities and obligations of the corporation are paid and discharged, any remaining assets will be distributed to the Sawgrass Nature Center and Wildlife Hospital, Coral Springs, FL, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation.

ARTICLE IX—NONPROFIT STATUS

As a nonprofit organization, in order to seek and maintain exempt status as a 501(c)(3), the GCCS, requires that a ban against inurement of income to any private individual or shareholder be enforced.

ARTICLE X—DECLARATION OF INCORPORATION

In adopting these by laws, it is the express intent of GCCS to preserve all rights conferred upon it under its "Declaration of Incorporation" filed in the Office of the Secretary of the State of Florida on the 30th day of November 1999, and as amended from time to time.

ARTICLE XI—AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS

These stated bylaws may be amended, altered or repealed at any time by the affirmative vote of a minimum of two-thirds of the Executive Board. A majority vote of the membership is needed to change the membership's vote for the election of the Executive Board (see Article IV of the Constitution), change the number of Officers or their Tenures or change the purpose of The Garden Club of Coral Springs.