



Charter

Mississippi Gulf Coast Bonsai Society



ARTICLE I Name

This organization shall be known as the “Mississippi Gulf Coast Bonsai Society”

ARTICLE II Definition and Purpose

Section 1. Definition

The Mississippi Gulf Coast Bonsai Society is declared a non-profit organization with the prime purpose of promoting the art of bonsai to its members and the general populace of the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Section 2. Purpose

- A. To encourage members to create, improve and exhibit their bonsai collections.
- B. To develop workshops, demonstrations and other programs to enhance the skills and experience of its members.
- C. To assemble and make available information on bonsai, its history, culture and practice through a club library, bulletins, handouts, website and a monthly newsletter.
- D. To communicate with other bonsai clubs and organizations to learn about new bonsai developments, techniques, opportunities and to share mutual experiences and interests.
- E. To make available to the public demonstrations, slide shows, lectures.
- F. To contact, when practical, local news media regarding upcoming meetings, exhibits or other functions that would appeal to the public.

ARTICLE III Membership and Dues

- A. Membership is open to any person interested in bonsai upon payment of dues.

- B. Active Members are those individuals whose dues are paid. Voting privileges shall be limited to Active Members only.
- C. Annual club dues are due on the 1st of April of each year.
- D. Dues may be raised/adjusted by a simple majority of Active Members.
- E. Dues shall be used for the purpose of and approved by vote for
 - Ordinary expenditures to run the club, stamps, paper, web expenses, etc.
 - Obtaining speakers
 - Maintaining and enriching the library
 - Purchasing supplies and equipment needed for shows
 - Demonstrations and workshops
 - X-mas party and the occasional BBQ
 - Any purpose deemed beneficial to and for the betterment of the Club

ARTICLE IV Meetings

- A. Regular monthly meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month.
- B. Due to programmed speaker or workshop schedules beyond the control of MSGCBS, the meeting dates and times may be altered by the Club President.

ARTICLE V Voting and Elections

- A. Active Members are entitled to vote at any meeting. Those Members unable to attend meetings may cast a proxy vote, in writing, dated and signed on hard copy, email or FAX. Proxy votes shall be sent to the Elections Chairperson or President. A simple majority of membership is required to elect officers or pass motions.
- B. Elections of officers will be conducted by the Election Chairperson at the May meeting. The President shall appoint an Election Committee Chairperson the previous month. In the event of an officer vacancy the President shall appoint an Active Member to that position temporarily.
- C. All officers are elected for a one year term.

ARTICLE VI Officers and Duties of Officers

- A. President shall conduct all meetings, appoint committee chairpersons, act as the Club Contact Person and coordinate good will among local and regional bonsai organizations. Oversee and encourage the betterment of our society, its purposes and direction. Publicize our exhibits, visiting bonsai masters and other events that

may benefit the public. The President is limited to serve no more than two successive terms.

- B. The Vice President, in the absence of the President, shall perform any and all duties of the President. The Vice President is limited to serve no more than two successive terms.
- C. The Program Director shall schedule meaningful, educational programs throughout the year coordinating as necessary with other individuals or organizations.
- D. The Treasurer shall collect all dues, fees, sales receipts and deposit said funds in a bank approved by the majority of elected officers. The Treasurer will make available to the club an accurate treasury report at each regularly scheduled meeting. Any and all financial records will be made available to club officers upon request.
- E. The Librarian will make available to the Members the club's books, DVD's, CD's, periodicals and other materials entrusted to the Librarian at each scheduled meeting.

ARTICLE VII Appointed Officers

- A. The Newsletter Editor, requiring set computer skills and some experience, shall be appointed by the President.
- B. The Webmaster, requiring an advanced knowledge and training in internet skills, shall be appointed by the President.

ARTICLE VIII Parliamentary Procedure

- A. Roberts Rules of Order shall be the authority governing all regular meetings and committee meetings of this society.

Note: This Mississippi Gulf Coast Bonsai Society Charter is approved by a majority of its Members on July 11, 2012