

THE SOUTHERN LEPIDOPTERISTS' SOCIETY CONSTITUTION

14 April 2019

(Founded 18 November 1978 in Gainesville, Florida)

ARTICLE 1: NAME

1. The name of this society shall be the Southern Lepidopterists' Society.

ARTICLE 2: TERRITORY

1. For the purposes of the Society, the "South" includes the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia.

ARTICLE 3: PURPOSE

1. The purpose of the Society shall be to help increase scientific knowledge and public awareness of the Lepidoptera of the South.

ARTICLE 4: MEMBERSHIP

1. Membership in this Society shall be open to any person or organization having an interest in the purpose of the Society. Membership will terminate upon (1) death, (2) receipt by the Secretary of a written resignation, or (3) failure to pay dues within six months of due date.
2. Application for membership should be made to the Treasurer and should be accompanied by dues for one calendar year.

ARTICLE 5: OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1. Five elected and four appointed officers as a group shall constitute the Board of Directors. The elected officers shall be: a Chairman, a Secretary, and three Members-at-Large. Appointed officers shall be: an Editor, a Treasurer, a Membership Coordinator, and a Website Manager.
Each appointed officer shall be approved by a simple majority vote of the Board, with term limits to be determined by the Board.
When vacancies occur in these offices, appointments shall be made by the current Chairman with the approval of a simple majority vote of the Board.

2. The Chairman shall biennially appoint a Nominating Committee of three members of the Society. The committee shall select at least one candidate for each office; obtain a written statement from the candidate of willingness to serve if elected; and submit a report of its work to the Chairman not less than 60 days prior to the annual meeting.
3. The officers shall be elected by ballot vote of the members in good standing, prior to the annual meeting, and shall serve from the following 1 January for two years.
 - a. The duties of the Chairman shall include:
 - (a) presiding at Board of Directors meetings and at the annual Business Meeting;
 - (b) soliciting agenda items and circulating an agenda to Board members prior to the annual Business Meeting;
 - (c) appointing special committees as needed, and specifying dates for reporting of their recommendations;
 - (d) biennially appointing a Nominating Committee to fill anticipated vacancies on the Board;
 - (e) biennially appointing an Abbot Award Nominating Committee;
 - (f) annually appointing a Field Coordinator;
 - (g) establishing, with the Membership Coordinator, a date for issuance of the Membership List;
 - (h) providing a biennial report to members about Society developments.
 - b. The duties of the Membership Coordinator shall include:
 - (a) overseeing the Society's efforts to increase and maintain its membership;
 - (b) periodically updating and publishing a Membership List, to include addresses, telephone numbers, e-mail addresses, and the interests of members;
 - (c) providing copies of a corrected Membership List to the Society's Treasurer and Editor annually, and updating these officers as changes occur.
 - c. The Field Coordinator shall:
 - (a) be appointed annually by the Chairman, to serve for one calendar year;
 - (b) arrange for the planning and execution of at least one annual field trip, including choosing of an appropriate locale, hosting or arranging for local hosting of the trip, procurement of necessary collecting permits, and publicizing of the trip.
 - d. The duties of a Member-at-Large shall include:
 - (a) participating in discussions of agenda items with other Board members;
 - (b) serving on committees as requested by the Chairman;
 - (c) assisting other Board members with organizational details.
4. Officers shall serve without remuneration.

5. The Board shall meet annually and at such other times as deemed necessary on call by the Chairman.
6. Quorum for the Board is four.
7. Vacancies in the Board developing between annual meetings may be filled by the Board.
8. Standing or ad hoc committees may be established by the Board; members thereof shall be appointed by the Chairman.
9. The Board shall appoint qualified members as State Coordinators to serve two (2) year terms.

ARTICLE 6: MEETINGS

1. The Society shall hold meetings at times and places selected by the Board of Directors. All meetings will be announced in the News and will be held not sooner than 30 days after the notice is mailed. There shall be an annual meeting. The Society's fiscal year will coincide with the calendar year.

ARTICLE 7: AWARDS

1. The Abbot Award is intended to recognize an individual or group which exemplifies the highest standards in lepidopterology, in academic work and/or service to the Society and advancement of its goals. The Award is conferred at irregular intervals, but typically no more than one time per year. Preference shall be given to candidates whose involvement in lepidopterology has emphasized the U.S. Southeast. Nominations shall be invited year-round from the Society's membership. For consideration in any particular year, names must be submitted no fewer than 90 days before the next-subsequent annual meeting of the Society. A person need not be a member of the Society to be eligible for the Award. Nominees shall be vetted by the Board of Directors and by a Nominating Committee, and one candidate shall be selected as the recipient. The recipient's name shall be announced at the annual meeting and in the News of the Society.
2. Additional awards may be presented to members for special efforts by action of the Board.

ARTICLE 8: PUBLICATIONS

1. The Society shall publish and distribute to the members the following:
 - a. Southern Lepidopterists' News (four times annually).

- b. Membership List (periodically).
 - c. Bulletin of the Southern Lepidopterists' Society (intermittent).
2. The publication program is the responsibility of the Editor.

ARTICLE 9: DUES

1. The dues for each year will be set by the Board for each class of membership.
2. Dues notices will be distributed with the last issue of each volume of the News for each calendar year.

ARTICLE 10: POLICIES

1. The Society and its members, in carrying out activities in support of its purpose, shall be guided by these policies:
 - a. The Society will cooperate with the Lepidopterists' Society.
 - b. The Society will encourage scientific publication by its members.
 - c. The Society shall function as a non-profit, non-political, educational organization.
 - d. The Society will encourage activity by members who are not professional entomologists.
 - e. Members of the Society are expected to follow ethical guidelines relative to collecting as developed by the Lepidopterists' Society ("Statement on collecting Lepidoptera", adopted 13 June 1996).
 - f. Members are encouraged to develop information on Lepidoptera and forward this to the State Coordinator for compilation and publication.
 - g. Members are encouraged to establish affiliations with museums and educational institutions for the deposit and preservation of specimens.

ARTICLE 11: AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended by motion made, seconded, and passed by a majority vote of the members present at the annual meeting and concurred in by a 3/4 affirmative vote of the Board.

1. In order to mitigate specific disruptions which may arise in the life of the Society, the Board shall have the authority to establish, by simple majority vote, measures intended to protect the Society's members and to ensure its continuity of governance, specifically by:
 - a. replacing officers who may be unable or unwilling to serve, and establishing terms of office for their replacements;
 - b. enacting policies intended to protect individual members or groups from harassment (verbal, textual, electronic, other).

ARTICLE 12: DISSOLUTION

In the event that this Society should cease to exist, all of its assets shall be liquidated as follows:

- a. All outstanding debts shall be paid promptly.
 - b. All remaining assets shall be given to the Lepidopterists' Society.
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