

# ARKANSAS NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY BYLAWS

Revised 2025

## Article I - NAME AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Arkansas Native Plant Society (ANPS), a non-profit corporation, was formally organized September 20, 1980 in Mena, Arkansas. Regular meetings of the Board of Directors (Board) and General Membership (Membership) occur in the Spring and Fall each year over a weekend. Field trips are held the same weekends and throughout the year. The newsletter *Claytonia* is published in advance of the Spring and Fall Meetings. ANPS maintains a website, [www.anps.org](http://www.anps.org), which includes an archive of the newsletters and a copy of these bylaws.

## Article II - OBJECTIVES

ANPS promotes 1) the conservation, study, and enjoyment of the native plants of Arkansas, 2) the education of the public regarding the value of native plants and their habitats, and 3) the publication of related information.

## Article III - MEMBERSHIP AND MEETINGS

### Section 1. Membership and Dues

- a) Membership is open to any person interested in the native plants of Arkansas, upon their application and payment of dues. It is the Member's responsibility to keep the Membership Officer advised of changes to contact and mailing information.
- b) Membership Classes with annual dues are: Student (\$10), Individual (\$15), Supporting (\$20), Family (\$25), and Contributing (\$30). Individual Lifetime membership (\$300). Individual Lifetime membership for those 55 and older (\$150).
- c) Annual dues are paid for the calendar year. Family Membership is for two adults and children under 18. A general reminder regarding annual dues will be in each *Claytonia* and on the website.

### Section 2. Membership Meetings

- a) The membership meets during one weekend in the Spring and Fall. The date, time, and location of upcoming membership meetings are reported in the newsletter *Claytonia* and on the website.
- b) In the event an in-person Membership Meeting cannot take place as scheduled and a vote by the Membership is required to transact essential business, then the Board may call for an online vote by the members of the ANPS. A majority of members voting will decide the issue.

### Section 3. Quorum

The members attending the membership meetings constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Every act or decision by a majority of the members present at a Membership Meeting will be a valid act of the Membership.

#### **Section 4. Right to Vote**

Members are entitled to one vote. Each adult of a Family Membership is entitled to one vote. Absentee or proxy votes are not allowed.

### **Article IV – BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND MEETINGS**

#### **Section 1. Membership on the Board of Directors**

The Board of Directors shall be composed of the Elected Officers of ANPS. The Board of Directors shall have general supervision of the affairs of ANPS between its business meetings; act on behalf of ANPS Membership for business activities; make recommendations to the Membership at Membership Meetings; and conduct essential business during other times.

#### **Section 2. Meetings**

Regular Meetings of the Board are held during the month preceding each Spring and Fall Membership Meeting. Special Board Meetings may be called by the President or, in their absence or inability, by the President Elect. All members of the Board are to be notified of the date, time, location, and agenda for any meeting at least two weeks in advance. Online Meetings may be held to conduct essential business arising between Regular Meetings.

#### **Section 3. Quorum**

The presence of a simple majority of board members at a board meeting constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business. The same quorum is required for online decisions by the board. Board members serving in more than one board position are counted as one position and one board member for the purposes of a quorum. Every act or decision voted by a majority of the board members present at a board meeting or voted online, at which a quorum is present, will be a valid act of the Board.

#### **Section 4. Right to Vote**

Each board member is entitled to one vote on any motion before the Board. Board members serving in more than one board position represent one vote. Absentee or proxy votes are not allowed.

### **Article V – ELECTED OFFICERS**

#### **Section 1. Positions and Responsibilities**

##### **a) President**

The President oversees the work of ANPS. The President receives communications and responds accordingly. The President presides at Regular Meetings of the Board and Membership. The President prepares the agenda for Regular Meetings of the Board and Membership. If a membership vote is needed outside of the regular, in-person meeting, the President communicates to the Membership the issue/issues for which a vote is needed and will coordinate this vote. The president will communicate election results to the Membership. The President automatically assumes the duties of the Nominating Committee Chair at the end of the term of office.

b) President Elect

The President Elect is in training for President and performs duties of President in the President's absence. This Officer is responsible for the planning of the Spring and Fall Meetings. The President Elect selects the meeting site, identifies field trip leaders and locations, and arranges for evening programs. The President Elect automatically assumes the duties of President at the end of the term of office.

c) Vice President

The Vice President is in training for President Elect and performs duties of the President Elect in the President Elect's absence. The Vice President publicizes ANPS activities, such as conservation efforts and approved grants. At Membership Meetings, this Officer is in charge of field trip rosters. The Vice President automatically assumes the duties of the President Elect at the end of the term of office.

d) Secretary

The Secretary prepares and maintains the minutes of Meetings of the Board and Membership and records the results of Online Meetings. The Secretary records ANPS activities, work and accomplishments. The Secretary maintains a record of the board members' Terms of Office (Section 3 below) and Tenure (Section 4 below).

e) Treasurer

The Treasurer is the custodian of the funds of ANPS. The Treasurer receives, deposits, and disburses funds. The Treasurer or a duly appointed representative must receive all funds collected or received by ANPS. The Treasurer prepares the Annual Budget (Article VII, Section 2). This Officer prepares a Treasurer's Report in advance of the Spring and Fall Meetings and as otherwise requested by the Board. The Treasurer prepares an end-of-year report to close out each Fiscal Year (Article VII, Section 1). The Treasurer responds to audits requested by the Board (Article VII, Section 6). The Treasurer files the yearly "charitable organization" IRS report and the yearly Arkansas Annual Report for Nonprofit Corporation.

f) Editor

The Editor prepares and edits the ANPS newsletter, *Claytonia*.

g) Internet and Social Media Committee Officer

The Internet and Social Media Officer coordinates the online activities of ANPS and is responsible for the operation of the website at [anps.org](http://anps.org). This Officer provides an online presence for internet access to ANPS activities, publications and archival information. The Internet and Social Media Officer is responsible for the timely publication of pertinent documents, notices, and updates about ANPS activities and also provides access to appropriate social media networks of ANPS activities and information. This officer is responsible for providing information and publicity within the social media community that enhances and supports the Objectives of ANPS (Article II).

h) Membership Officer

The Membership Officer maintains records of membership, dues paid, and member contact information. The Officer distributes electronic and/or written information to members at the direction of the Board, and provides membership statistics to the Board at board meetings.

i) Publisher

The Publisher arranges for printing and distribution of the newsletters and directory and other documents as needed.

j) Awards Officer

The Awards Officer organizes and directs the search for recipients of ANPS Awards, Student Research Grants, and Student Scholarships (Article IX) through an Awards Committee. The Committee provides recommendations, including amounts to be awarded to each individual within the specified caps of the award, research grant or scholarship. The committee may also recommend subsequent annual research grants or scholarships to deserving students. This officer receives and reviews applications and provides the Committee's recommendations to the Board and Membership for approval.

k) Education Officer

The Education Officer attends Education Committee meetings, guides the committee as to ANPS bylaws, policies, and procedures as needed, reports back to the board at each board meeting and communicates with the board as necessary between meetings.

l) Immediate Past President, Nominating Committee Chair

The Immediate Past President automatically assumes the duty of Nominating Committee Chair. Consisting of other selected individuals, the Nominating Committee solicits and promotes individual members to stand for election and serve in upcoming vacant board positions.

## **Section 2. Standing Committees**

The Standing Committees shall consist of:

- Awards Committee
- Education Committee
- Nominating Committee

## **Section 3. Term of Office**

a) The term of office for the President, President Elect, Vice President, and Nominating Committee Chair is one calendar year. Except for unusual circumstances, these individuals are elected to successively assume the next responsibility. At the end of the term of office, the President Elect automatically replaces the President, and the Vice President automatically replaces the President Elect. A new Vice President will be nominated by the Nominating Committee each year. The election for the Vice President is held at the annual Fall Membership Meeting. The Immediate Past President serves as Advisor to the President, and automatically replaces the Chair of the Nominating Committee.

b) Other Officers are elected for two years at the annual Fall Membership Meeting.

c) A newly elected Officer begins a transition period at the Fall Membership Meeting and assumes their duties at the beginning of the next calendar year. A person appointed to fill a vacant position (Section 5 below) may continue in that position past the original end-of-term of the vacating officer, if elected by the Membership to a new term.

#### **Section 4. Office Tenure**

The Members serving as Secretary, Treasurer, Editor, Publisher, Membership Officer, Awards Officer, Internet and Social Media Officer, and Education Officer may be re-elected to subsequent two- year terms for that same position, or elected to another Board position. The Members serving in these positions do so at the discretion of the Board and Membership, and their tenure in these positions shall not be limited.

#### **Section 5. Vacancies**

When the position of President becomes vacant due to resignation or other cause, the President Elect assumes that position. Likewise, should the President Elect position become vacant, the Vice President assumes that position. A vacancy at Vice President or any of the other board positions will be filled by the Board by appointment within 15 days of the position becoming vacant, except should a vacancy occur within 30 days of the next Regular Meeting, then a Board nominee must be voted on by Membership at that next Meeting. Should the position of the Immediate Past President become vacant, the position will remain vacant until filled at the end of the President's term.

#### **Section 6. Elections**

The term of office (Section 3 above) and the tenure (Section 4 above) of Officers are reviewed at the Spring Board Meeting along with existing or expected vacancies. The results of this review are reported to the Membership at the Spring Meeting to seek nominations for or self-interest in available positions. Names of nominees (including incumbents, if any) are provided in the Fall *Claytonia* and presented to the Membership at the Fall Meeting for vote.

#### **Section 7. Records of Office**

Each Officer maintains the records of their office. Any Officer, upon the expiration of their term or the termination of their duties for any cause, must deliver up-to-date and organized records of the Office to their successor along with appropriate Procedural Guidelines (Article VIII)

### **Article VI – AD HOC COMMITTEES**

Committees may be created by the Board to address specific issues. Committee Members may be from the Membership, the Board, or individuals outside ANPS, as appropriate. The process used by the Committee to address assigned issue(s) is chosen by the Committee itself. Progress and results are reported to the Board. As appropriate, results of a Committee’s work will be presented to the Membership. Committees are disbanded by the Board.

### **Article VII - FINANCE**

**Section 1. The ANPS Fiscal Year is set as the calendar year.**

The Fiscal Year begins January 1 and ends December 31 of the same year.

## **Section 2. Annual Budget**

The Budget for the upcoming Fiscal Year is prepared by the Treasurer in coordination with and for acceptance by the Board. The Annual Budget accepted by the Board is presented to Membership for approval at the Fall Meeting.

## **Section 3. Income**

The Treasurer receives and deposits all income including, but not limited to, dues, proceeds from the Fall Plant Auction, meeting registration fees, funds from promotions such as shirt and book sales. Dues received by the Membership Officer are forwarded to the Treasurer along with documentation. All funds from other sources are forwarded to the Treasurer along with documentation.

## **Section 4. Expenditures**

Funds are spent as authorized by the Annual Budget or by the Board of Directors. Expenditures for Awards (Article IX) and Solicited Grants (Section 5 below) are by specific Board and Membership approval.

## **Section 5. Solicited Grants**

a) Solicited Grants are one-time grants to an entity which has approached the Board for funds for a project consistent with the Objectives of ANPS. The Board may approve a small grant request up to \$500 from any single entity without receiving membership approval. Requests in excess of \$500 will be evaluated by the Board, and if approved, will be submitted to the membership at the next meeting for approval. The Board may approve several small grant requests provided the total of the grants does not exceed \$2000 in a single calendar year.

b) Approval Procedures: Upon receipt of a one-time grant request, the President normally appoints a member (board member or other responsible person) to review the request and make a recommendation to the Board. If the one-time grant request involves planting native plants in a garden area, the following conditions should be met: The location of the project should be in a public place. The project area should have recognizable boundaries to be able to distinguish it from its surroundings. The project should be planned to include only Arkansas Native Plants within the boundaries. The completed project will be required to display a small ANPS-provided sign recognizing the ANPS donation. (Note that the cost of the sign is not included in the grant request.)

c) Disbursement Procedures: Upon approval of a one-time grant request, the President advises the requestor of the decision. If the approved one-time grant involves donating money to some project (such as purchasing a tract of land), the President will direct the Treasurer to send the approved funds to the requestor. If the approved one-time grant involves purchasing plants and materials for a physical project, the President will advise the grant requestor that the grant has been approved. The requestor will then purchase the approved items, and forward the receipts to the President, who verifies both the receipts and completion or partial completion of the project and forwards the receipts to the Treasurer to reimburse the requestor. The President at the time a grant is approved, is the President of Record for that grant, and will be the person responsible for verifying receipts and completion of that project. Disbursement authority for any one-time grant expires one year from board approval (or membership approval for grants exceeding the \$500 threshold), and requires board approval for extension.

## **Section 6. Audits**

An audit of the records of the current Treasurer may be made at any time, at the discretion of the Board, after a two-week notice to the Treasurer.

## **Article VIII - PROCEDURAL GUIDELINES**

Procedural Guidelines are developed by the Officers to document the means and methods by which they fulfill their responsibilities under these bylaws. Similarly, the Board develops Guidelines for the Board to ensure proper operation of ANPS.

## **Article IX – ANPS AWARDS, STUDENT RESEARCH GRANTS, AND STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS**

Awards, Student Research Grants, and Student Scholarships of ANPS are: 1) Dwight Munson Moore Award, 2) Aileen McWilliam Scholarship, 3) Delzie Demaree Research Grant, 4) Carl Amason Conservation Award, and 5) Eric and Milanne Sundell Award. Descriptions are provided in the Attachment. A record of recipients will be reported in the newsletter and on the website.

## **Article X - CHAPTERS**

### **Section 1. Application**

Members may, upon approval of the Board, form a chapter. When members in an area determine sufficient interest exists for a chapter, they may send an application letter to the Board for preliminary approval. The letter must include the names of at least eight members for the chapter, the purpose of the chapter, coverage area, and a chapter name.

### **Section 2. Formation**

Within sixty days of receipt of the Board's preliminary approval, the proposed chapter must hold an organizing meeting(s) to draft bylaws and identify officers. The draft bylaws are provided to the Board. The Board shall respond within 30 days of receipt.

### **Section 3. Activities and ANPS Oversight**

A chapter is authorized to undertake activities or projects that are consistent with the objectives of ANPS. Activities that could cause conflict with ANPS Bylaws are to be reviewed by the Board before such activities are undertaken.

### **Section 4. Business Dealings**

A chapter may adopt its own membership rosters, procedural guidelines, and financial controls. Business dealings may not conflict with ANPS Bylaws. Chapter membership must be open to any person interested in the native plants of Arkansas, upon their application to the chapter and payment of chapter dues. Chapter dues are in addition to membership in ANPS.

## **Section 5. Suspension and Dissolution**

Should the Board find a chapter to be in violation of the bylaws, the Board may suspend its approval of the chapter, but only after written notice allows time for the situation to be remedied. Should a chapter decide to dissolve itself, such dissolution will be effective upon the receipt of written notice by the Board. Upon dissolution of a chapter, any remaining assets of the chapter are to be transferred to the treasurer accounts of ANPS.

### **Article XI - AMENDMENT, REVISION AND WAIVER**

These bylaws may be amended (rewritten in part) or revised (rewritten in whole). An amendment or revision may be initiated by the Board or Membership. All amendments and revisions are approved by the Board. Board-approved amendments and revisions are published once in *Claytonia* with a vote by Membership at the next Regular Meeting. A quorum as required in Article III, Section 3 and Article IV, Section 3 applies. If in the best interest of ANPS, a one-time waiver to any specific requirement of these bylaws may be approved by the Board. Such approval requires an affirmative vote by the majority of all Board Members. The waiver will be reported to Membership at the next Regular Meeting.

### **Article XII - DISSOLUTION**

Upon pending dissolution of the Arkansas Native Plant Society, all remaining assets are to be distributed for educational or scientific purposes to an allied non-profit organization(s). The Board will designate the organization(s) to receive the assets.

***ATTACHMENT to the BYLAWS***  
***AWARDS OF THE ARKANSAS NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY***

**Dwight Munson Moore Award**

This award honors Dwight Munson Moore, a long-time Arkansas botanist, who began teaching in Fayetteville in 1924 and was the Chairman of the Department of Botany, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville from 1926-1950. He was a Professor of Botany for more than 40 years, subsequently teaching at the University of Arkansas, Monticello, and Arkansas Tech University. He authored the Arkansas Forestry Commission publication, *Trees of Arkansas*. In his long and fruitful career, Dr. Moore taught and inspired several generations of college botany students throughout our state. The Dwight Moore award is given on the occasion of outstanding achievement in either research or publication on Arkansas botany. The Award will include an appropriate monetary consideration not to exceed \$1000.

**Aileen McWilliam Scholarship**

This scholarship honors the late Aileen McWilliam, named Arkansas' Outstanding Biology Teacher in 1965, a former member of the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission, a noted author, promoter of the founding of ANPS, and a knowledgeable and ardent Arkansas naturalist. This scholarship, in memory of her devotion to the study of the Arkansas flora, is given annually to promising undergraduate or graduate students with a strong interest in botany. Individual scholarships will be given in amounts of up to \$2000.

**Delzie Demaree Research Grant**

This grant honors Delzie Demaree (1889-1987), Arkansas botanist and plant taxonomist and one of the twentieth century's most prolific and effective plant collectors, renowned to the world botanical community for his extensive collections of North American vascular plants. The grants are awarded competitively to undergraduate or graduate students in amounts of up to \$2000 for appropriate Arkansas botany or plant ecology related research projects.

**Carl Amason Conservation Award**

The Carl Amason Conservation Award honors a man whose character and achievements reflected the best aspirations of Arkansas Native Plant Society membership. With unfailing energy and high spirits, Carl led field trips, shared plants, and wrote articles and accounts for *Claytonia*. He was a charter member, a past president, and auctioneer. His efforts on behalf of ANPS earned him universal acknowledgment as a most beloved and successful ambassador for the conservation and preservation of nature. The Carl Amason Conservation Award is given periodically to individuals whose personal efforts help all of us to conserve and enjoy nature's gifts. The Award will include an appropriate monetary consideration not to exceed \$1000.

**Eric & Milanne Sundell Award**

The Eric & Milanne Sundell Award pays tribute to a couple whose extensive contributions have buoyed and sustained the Arkansas Native Plant Society for decades. With untiring dedication and kindness, they have organized field trips, exchanged plants, and contributed articles and narratives to *Claytonia*. Eric, a charter member and former president, has also served as our most entertaining auctioneer. He spreads his love of nature and even the smallest weeds with his fascinating stories of the names and the ecology of the species. His dedication to ANPS has earned him widespread recognition as a cherished and effective educator and advocate for the conservation of the natural world. The Eric & Milanne Sundell Award recognizes rare individuals who have had an outsized influence on ANPS, contributing tirelessly to the preservation and enjoyment of nature for all. Recipients of the award receive a monetary prize of up to \$2000.