

Big Country Master Gardener Association

Bylaws

Amended August 1, 2017, Adopted September 19, 2017

Article I. Name

The name of this organization shall be the Big Country Master Gardener Association, hereinafter referred to as BCMGA or Association.

Article II. Objective

Section 1. Organization. The organization shall operate exclusively as a voluntary, non-profit, educational, and charitable Association in support of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

Section 2. Purpose. In support of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service programs, its objectives shall be:

- To increase knowledge of gardening and other horticultural subjects to its members and the general public through internal education for Master Gardeners and educational outreach to the public;
- To support and assist Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service by providing the community with information on good gardening practices through educational programs, publishing news articles, developing other mass media, presenting programs to garden clubs, schools, civic organizations, and responding to telephone inquiries;
- To assist "Master Gardener Interns" in fulfilling their volunteer commitments.

Article III. Membership

Section 1. Members of this organization shall be Texas Master Gardeners, certified by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, the Texas A&M University System, and will constitute the voting members of the Association.

Section 2. Non-voting Intern membership shall be extended to participants of the Big Country Master Gardener Training Program. No dues will be required of Intern members.

Section 3. Intern members will be accepted into full membership upon completion of the Master Gardener Program, including required service hours, and payment of their dues.

Section 4. To maintain good standing, each member must fulfill all educational and volunteer hour requirements to maintain certification and must have paid the dues for the current year.

Section 5. Dues are to be paid in accordance with the Big Country Master Gardener Association Policies and Procedures.

Section 6. Requirements for certification are set forth in the Big Country Master Gardener Association Policies and procedures. Members must complete the hours for continuing education and volunteer service each year as defined by the Executive Committee and distributed to the membership to retain their Master Gardener certification. These hours are to be reported monthly. The number of recertification hours may be increased or decreased by the Taylor County AgriLife Extension Agent/Master Gardener Coordinator, and any changes made in the stated requirements will be included in the recertification packets.

Article IV. Meetings

Section 1. Meetings will be held monthly.

Section 2. Special meetings may be called, if the need arises, at the discretion of the Executive Committee. Such special meetings shall be announced by email, mail, or website at least three (3) days prior to the meeting date.

Article V. Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of this Association shall run from January 1 to December 31 each year.

Article VI. Officers

Section 1. Officers of this Association shall be:

- President
- President-Elect
- Vice President
- Recording Secretary
- Corresponding Secretary
- Treasurer

Section 2. Election procedures for the nominating committee, officers, and directors are addressed in the Big Country Master Gardener Policies and Procedures Manual.

Article VII. Duties of Officers

Section 1. The duties of officers are set forth in the Big Country Master Gardener Association Policies and Procedures.

Article VIII. Committees

Section 1. The standing committees' chairmen shall be certified Master Gardeners and appointed annually by the President and announced at the January meeting.

Section 2. Intern members may serve as members of committees.

Section 3. The roles and responsibilities of the standing committees and their members are identified in the Big Country Master Gardener Association Policies and Procedures

Article IX. Executive Committee

Section 1. The Executive Committee and its duties are set forth in the Big Country Master Gardener Association Policies and Procedures Manual.

Section 2. The Executive Committee will meet monthly or as necessary.

Article X. Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in the Robert's Rules of Order, Revised, shall govern the Association in all cases in which they are applicable and when not inconsistent with the bylaws of this Association.

Article XI. Voting

Section 1. A quorum shall consist of 25% of the voting members.

Section 2. All motions will be determined by email, show of hands, verbal, or secret ballots, or other method as determined by the Executive Committee.

Article XII. Amendments

Section 1. Notice of all proposed amendments to the bylaws must be presented in writing at one regular meeting and a copy mailed or emailed to members not present. Proposed amendments will be voted on at the next regular meeting.

Section 2. These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the voting membership.

Article XIII. Allocation of Funds

Section 1. Association funds may be allocated and used based on community needs and in conjunction with programs developed by the Association in cooperation with the Taylor County AgriLife Extension Agent/Master Gardener Coordinator and approved by a majority vote of the Association members present at an Association meeting.

Section 2. An annual budget will be developed and presented to the Executive Committee for approval and forwarded to the membership for final ratification. Any proposal involving the expenditure of unbudgeted funds must be reviewed by the Executive Committee before being presented to the Association membership. The Executive Committee may authorize the expenditure of unbudgeted funds up to \$300 without the approval of the membership.

Article XIV. Dissolution

Section 1. The Association may be dissolved by resolution approved by two-thirds of the voting membership at the time of the dissolution, after providing for the payment of all debts, the satisfaction of liabilities, and the expense of dissolving the Association.

Upon dissolution of the organization, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government or to a state or local government for a public purpose. Any such asset not disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas of the county in which the principal office of the organization is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

Approved by majority vote of the Association on the 19 day of SEPTEMBER, 2017. .

Charlotte L. Rhodes
President

9-26-17
Date

Kathy Murre
President-Elect

9-28-17
Date

Frank L. Camp
Vice President

9/29/17
Date

Rinda L. Spivey
Corresponding Secretary

9-29-17
Date

Eric A. Hodge
Recording Secretary

9/29/2017
Date

M. Hazel
Treasurer

9/27/17
Date

Robt K. [Signature]
Taylor County AgriLife Agent/
Master Gardener Coordinator

9/26/17
Date