

JOHN BURROUGHS NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY, INC.
Constitution and Bylaws

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I. NAME

This organization shall be known as The John Burroughs Natural History Society, incorporated by the University of the State of New York.

ARTICLE II. OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the Society shall be:

A. To open the way for aesthetic and spiritual inspiration through experiences of nature, either directly in the outdoors or through the written or spoken word.

B. To inform members and the general public of the natural heritage of the region and the ecosystem relationships within nature and involving man and nature in this area and elsewhere.

C. To increase the scientific knowledge of natural history, ecosystem ecology and conservation of the Mid-Hudson region through observation, experimentation, research, records, reference collections, written reports, films, tapes, books and any other appropriate means.

D. To seek in traditional and innovative ways to educate all ages of people about nature and the outdoors, believing that through knowledge comes understanding and respect for natural history, ecosystem ecology and conservations.

E. To encourage people to demonstrate a concern for ecological wisdom and conservation of natural resources.

F. To cooperate with other organizations having similar or related goals in achieving these objectives; and especially to seek ways of working for them through schools and colleges.

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Anyone interested in the objectives of the Society may apply for membership.

Section 2. Membership shall be Regular, Life and Honorary.

Section 3. Application for membership as Regular or Life Member shall be made to the Treasurer of the Society and will become effective upon payment of dues for the respective class.

Section 4. Honorary Members may be nominated by the Board of Trustees, and may be elected by a majority vote at the next announced meeting.

ARTICLE II. MEETINGS OF MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. There shall be four regular meetings each year, one each in September, November, March and June.

Section 2. The annual meeting shall be the June meeting.

Section 3. The date of any regular meeting may be changed by a majority vote at the previous meeting, or by notification from the Executive Committee.

Section 4. Special meetings may be voted upon at any regular meeting, or called at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

Section 5. A quorum shall consist of five percent of the number of members and life members, as determined by the treasurer.

ARTICLE III. BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Section 1. Composition. The Board of Trustees shall consist of not fewer than five nor more than twenty-five members, as determined by a two-thirds vote of the Board. Trustees shall be chosen, in so far as possible, to represent the varied interests and geographical areas served by the Society. They shall be elected for two (2) year terms, one half of the Board to be elected each year. The Board may appoint a member to fill a vacancy until the next annual meeting, at which time a member shall be elected to complete any unexpired term. In the event the number of Trustees is reduced by a two-thirds vote of the Board, each Trustee in office shall serve until his term expires or until his resignation or removal.

Section 2. Functions. The Board of Trustees shall be responsible for all business of the Society and shall determine all matters of policy not determined by the Membership.

Section 3. Contracts and Services. The trustees and officers of the Corporation may not be interested, directly or indirectly, in any contract relating to or incidental to the operations conducted by the Society.

Section 4. Agents and Representatives. The Board of Trustees may appoint such agents and Representatives of the Corporation with such powers and to perform such acts or duties on behalf of the Corporation as the Board of Trustees may see fit, so far as it may be consistent with these bylaws, to the extent authorized or permitted by law.

Section 5. Contracts. The Board of Trustees, except as in these bylaws otherwise provided, may authorize any officer or agent to enter into any contract or execute and deliver any instrument in the name of and on behalf of the Corporation, and such authority may be general or confined to a specific instance; and unless so authorized by the Board of Trustees, no officer, agent, or employee shall have any power or authority to bind the Corporation by any contract or engagement, or to pledge its credit, or render it liable pecuniarily for any purpose or to any amount.

Section 6. Compensation. Trustees shall not receive any stated salary for their services as such; but by resolution of the Board a fixed reasonable sum or expenses of attendance, if any, or both, may be allowed for attendance at each regular or special meeting of the Board. The Board of Trustees shall have power in its discretion to contract for and pay trustees rendering unusual or exceptional services to the Corporation special compensation appropriate to the value of such services.

ARTICLE IV. OFFICERS

Section 1. The officers of the Society shall be: President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer.

Section 2. Each of the four officers shall be a member of the Board of Trustees. If a non-trustee is elected as one of the four officers, he or she will automatically become a Trustee for the duration of his or her term of office.

Section 3. An officer shall not serve more than two consecutive terms (four years), or until their successors are elected.

Section 4. It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all meetings of the Membership, to direct and administer the affairs of the Society, to appoint committees not otherwise designated and to be a member ex-officio thereof, except nominating committees.

Section 5. It shall be the duty of the Vice-President to act in place of the President in his or her absence. As a further duty in assisting the President, he or she shall make arrangements for programs of meetings, or head a committee on programs.

Section 6. The Secretary shall keep a record of all proceedings of the Society, send out notices of meetings, and conduct and preserve all correspondence of the Society. The Society's news publication, THE CHIRP, shall be used by the secretary as the principal medium of communication to members.

Section 7. The Treasurer shall have custody of the funds of the Society. The Treasurer shall collect all dues and assessments, and make routine disbursements. ALL DISBURSEMENTS in excess of \$500.00 SHALL BE COUNTERSIGNED BY THE PRESIDENT. The Treasurer shall make a report of all receipts and expenditures at the annual meeting.

ARTICLE V. COMMITTEES

Section 1. Executive Committee. The four executive officers of the Society and the chairperson of standing committees shall constitute an executive committee, which shall have the power to act for the Society when recourse to the Board of Trustees and the general membership is impracticable. Actions of the Executive Committee shall be ratified at the next membership meeting.

Section 2. Standing Committees. Standing Committees of the Society shall consist of :

a) Research and Records, b) Field Trip, c) Circulation of THE CHIRP, d) Nominating, e) Education, and f) Publication of THE CHIRP. Their members shall be appointed by the President to serve two years, except the Nominating Committee which shall be elected in March to report at the annual meeting in June.

Section 3. Other committees may be voted by the Society at any meeting, or designated, and members appointed, by the President. This section provides for the designation of a variety of committees, usually temporary, such as committees for membership promotion, for the study of legislative proposals affecting conservation of wildlife and natural resources, and the directing of special activities or programs in the furtherance of the educational objectives.

ARTICLE VI. DUES

Section 1. Regular or Life membership dues for the ensuing fiscal year may be changed in amount by a majority vote at any annual meeting.

Section 2. Annual dues for Regular membership are payable at the expiration of the annual membership in whichever month of the year this occurs. Life members may attain that class by paying their dues in two equal installments in two successive years.

ARTICLE VII. AMENDMENTS

Section 1. These Bylaws may be amended at any regular meeting, attended by a quorum, by a majority vote.

Section 2. Notice of a proposed amendment must be given to each member in writing at least one month prior to any vote thereon. THE CHIRP shall normally serve as the medium of notice.