

GEORGIA MINERAL SOCIETY
BY-LAWS

December 3, 2007

ARTICLE I

DESCRIPTION AND OBJECT

Section 1 Description. The Georgia Mineral Society, Inc. is a sovereign organization and may join or withdraw from any federation, congress or organization upon the recommendation of its Executive Board and after a two-thirds vote of a quorum of the membership, provided an announcement of such a move has been printed in the Georgia Mineral Society bulletin at least one month prior to the meeting at which the proposal is to be voted on.

Section 2 Objective. The objective and purpose of this Society is to promote the education of the youth of the State and the members of this Society in the field of earth sciences embracing: mineralogy, paleontology, mining and processing of the products of the earth, and any and all related earth sciences, through the method of discussion, meetings, lectures, field trips for exploration, study and collection of specimens; the publication and distribution of articles and studies pertaining to mineralogy and the earth sciences and the promotion of scientific research in these fields; the encouragement of interest among young people and the fostering of classes in mineralogy and the lapidary arts; the establishment of one or more museums or displays of minerals of all kinds and the procurement and maintenance of collections of minerals, mineral products and related pictures, writings and other information thereon; and all other means which are appropriate to the establishment of the primary objectives above set forth.

Section 3 Establishment of Sections. Sections of the Society may be organized, within its framework, whenever a group of members in good standing wishes to extend its interest to a particular subject covered by Section 2 of this Article and approved by the Executive Board. Each section shall choose its own Chair. Dissolution of such sections of the Society may be accomplished by a majority vote of the members present at one of its regular meetings providing an announcement of such dissolution has been printed in the Georgia Mineral Society bulletin at least one month prior to the meeting at which the proposal is to be voted on.

Section 4 Duties of Section Chair. It shall be the duty of the section Chair to preside at the section meetings. The Chair shall act as director of activities of the section and perform such other duties as usually appertain to this office. The Chair shall appoint such Chairs and assistants as necessary to carry out the functions of the section. The Chair shall see that a record of all meetings and activities is kept and shall make an annual report to the Society at the Annual Meeting.

Section 5 Branch Affiliates. Local groups organized for the same general purpose as this Society may become affiliated with said Society upon the approval of the Executive Board. Such groups shall be known as Branch Affiliates and shall operate under the By-Laws of this Society and make reports at the Annual Meeting of the Society.

Section 6 Museums. This Society shall be empowered to establish and maintain one or more museums or displays at a suitable location, or locations, of any specimens owned by said Society, or in its custody. Such a museum shall be known as the Earth Sciences Museum of the Georgia Mineral Society, Inc.

Section 7 Non-Profit Statement. This Society is not formed for profit and none of its assets shall be used for the pecuniary gain or profit of any individual who is or may become a member thereof.

Section 8 Assets. All of the assets, property and funds of the Society shall be devoted to the furtherance of the primary objectives and purposes of the Society. Its works, purposes and objectives are primarily educational and recreational, and are solely in the interest of the advancement of its members and of the public along scientific and educational lines.

Section 9 Dissolution. In the event of the dissolution of this Society, its assets shall be turned over, at the discretion of the Board of Trustees, in the case of the Trust Fund, and the Executive Board, in the case of the General Fund and the physical assets, to one or more tax-exempt organizations interested in geology and the earth sciences.

ARTICLE II

MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 Charter Members. All persons who were members of this Society when it was formed on the 17th day of October, 1935* are, and shall be known as, Charter Members. *1939

Section 2 General Membership. Any person interested in minerals, gems, fossils, lapidary or the earth sciences is eligible for membership in this Society. Membership may be for an individual person or family. No person shall be admitted to membership until approval of the Membership Committee has been obtained.

Section 3 Honorary/Life Membership. Honorary/Life Members may be elected by the Society from any of the following: a) persons of prominence in the field of mineralogy, gemology, geology, paleontology, and/or earth sciences of other fields when such person has been interested in the activities of this Society; b) members who, during a significant number of years, have made notable contributions toward the objective, purpose and activities of this Society, c) surviving spouses of said members, in honor of said members contributions.

- (a) Nominations for Honorary/Life Membership shall be made by the Executive Board and submitted to the membership for approval in a regular meeting.

It shall be the duty of the Secretary to inform the Honoree of his/her election. Membership, if accepted, shall be for life, or at the pleasure of the member elected.

The President shall grant suitable certificates to Honorary/Life Members, and the Executive Vice President shall keep a roster of such members.

Honorary Members, not otherwise affiliated with the Society as regular dues-paying members or as active participants in the Society meetings and affairs, shall be ineligible to vote or to hold any Society office.

Section 4 Junior Membership. Individuals under the age of 18 are considered Junior Members.

- (a) Junior members shall be ineligible to vote or to hold any Society office except those designated as Junior offices by the Executive Board.

Section 5 Expulsion. Should the attitude or conduct of any member, whatever his or her membership classification may be, or of any Branch Affiliate, at any time be such as to be considered detrimental to the welfare of the Society, such member or Branch Affiliate may be expelled by a two-thirds vote of the Executive Board. Before any such action is taken, a written notice will be given by the Secretary to such member, or Branch Affiliate, for his or her, or its, representative to appear before the Executive Board at a time and place designated and to show cause why such action should not be taken. Notice of the expulsion shall be sent to such member or Branch Affiliate by the Secretary.

ARTICLE III

DUES

Section 1 General Membership. An annual fee shall be levied against each general member of this Society, in the amount determined by the need of said Society, and said fee shall be set by the Executive Board as it deems proper and with the approval of the general membership. The annual renewal fee shall be due on October 1 for members joining prior to July 2000. For all subsequent memberships, fees are due annually in the month of the initial membership.

Section 2 Junior Membership. Junior Membership fees may be set at a lower rate than those for regular members and in the same manner set out in Section 1 of this Article.

Section 3 Honorary/Life Membership. Honorary/Life Members shall pay no dues.

Section 4 Branch Affiliates. Each Branch Affiliate shall pay one regular membership annually in the name of the Affiliate. This does not prevent any individual member of such Affiliate from becoming a member of the parent Society, subject only to regular admission procedure.

Section 5 Delinquency. Dues shall become delinquent on the first of the month following the month the membership fees are levied.

- (a) Delinquent members may not participate in Society activities.
- (b) When a member has been delinquent for two months, he or /she shall be automatically dropped from membership.

ARTICLE IV

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Section 1 **Voting Members.** The members of the Executive Board shall consist of the: President, Executive Vice President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Bulletin Editor, Section Chairs, Immediate Past President, Web Master, Education Chair, Show Chair(s), Field Trip Chair, and elected Trustees.

Section 2 **Non-Voting Members.** Non-voting members of the Executive Board shall consist of the Historian, Curator and Parliamentarian.

Section 3 **Executive Board Chair.** The President shall be the Chair of the Executive Board. The Executive Vice President, in the absence of the President, shall preside as Chair and the Secretary shall be the ex-officio Secretary of the Executive Board. In the absence of the Secretary, the Chair shall appoint a temporary Secretary.

Section 4 **Purpose.** The Executive Board shall conduct the business of the Society and shall meet upon the call of the President. This Board shall have the authority for the expenditure of general funds, but this provision shall not be applicable to those funds covered in Article V, Section 2, except as provided in that Article.

Section 5 **Meetings.** The Executive Board shall hold at least one meeting per quarter.

Section 6 **Quorum.** A quorum for a meeting of the Executive Board shall be a majority, provided all members have been notified.

ARTICLE V

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Section 1 **Members.** The Board of Trustees shall consist of seven (7) members. The President, Executive Vice President, Treasurer, and Immediate Past President shall be members ex-officio and the other three members shall be elected by the membership at large.

Section 2 **Purpose.** The Board of Trustees shall have custody of the Trust Fund, made up of special funds and properties derived from gifts and bequests, or funds transferred from general funds to the Trust Fund. Any of these funds may be invested from time to time pending final use, or pending the use specified by the donor. Each separate donation or bequest shall be used for the purpose for which it was donated or bequeathed, and none other. In the event funds come into custody of the Trustees impressed with now particular trust, or with a trust impossible or impracticable of execution, then the said funds shall be transferred to the Trust Fund which may be used for the need of the Society at the discretion of the Trustees. Such income as might be derived from the investment of any of the individual Trust Funds shall become a part of that portion of the Trust Fund, which may be used for the need of the Society at the discretion of the Trustees.

Section 3 **Elections.** One Trustee shall be elected by the membership at large each year, to serve for a term of three years. In the event of a vacancy, the Board shall fill the vacancy for the un-expired term.

Section 4 **Quorum.** A quorum for a meeting of the Board of Trustees shall be a majority, provided all Board of Trustee members have been notified

ARTICLE VI

MEETINGS

Section 1 **Regular Meetings.** Regular meetings shall be held monthly, whenever possible, on the first Monday of each month. The time, place, and date of the meeting shall be designated by the Vice President.

Section 2 **Special Meetings.** Special meetings may be called at the President's discretion.

Section 3 **Annual Meeting.** The Annual Meeting shall take the place of the regular October meeting and the order of business shall be as follows:

- (a) meeting called to order by the President
- (b) reading of the minutes of the previous meeting by the Secretary, and their adoption
- (c) Treasurer's report
- (d) annual report by the President
- (e) old business
- (f) new business
- (g) gifts and awards
- (h) installation of officers
- (I) address by the incoming President
- (j) adjournment, by motion and majority consent

Section 4 Notice. Ample notice of all regular meetings shall be given to the members by the committee Chairs and appear in the Georgia Mineral Society bulletin.

Section 5 Changes in Meeting. The Vice President may change the time and place of any meeting, if for any reason it may be advisable.

Section 6 Quorum. A quorum of twenty-five (25) members in good standing shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of conducting the business of this Society; provided at least three (3) duly elected officers are present.

Section 7 Soliciting. No person or persons shall be allowed to sell, solicit or subscribe any items at any of the Society's regular meetings without the approval of the Executive Board.

Section 8 Voting. A Majority vote by members in good standing, in attendance, including the Society officers, shall be sufficient to carry any motion or elect any officers. This may be accomplished by a show of hands, or, in case of a proper objection made and duly carried by vote, shall be accomplished by secret ballot.

Section 9 Rules of Procedure. Robert's Rules of Order, insofar as not inconsistent with these By-Laws, shall govern the procedure at all meetings.

ARTICLE VII

OFFICERS

Section 1 Officers. The officers of this Society shall consist of a President, Executive Vice President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Bulletin Editor, Field Trip Chair, Show Chair(s), Section Chairs, Trustees, Education Chair, Curator, Historian, Parliamentarian, and Web Master.

Section 2 Elections. Nomination for election of officers of this Society, with the exception of those named below in (3) and (4), shall be made by a nominating committee and submitted to the membership at the regular May meeting for the election at the regular June meeting. Nominations may be made from the floor at the time of the election in June. This slate of nominees shall be published in the Georgia Mineral Society bulletin preceding the June meeting.

Section 3 Voting Appointees. The Bulletin Editor, Field Trip Chair, Web Master, Education Chair and Show Chair(s) shall be appointed by the President, and shall be voting members of the Executive Board.

Section 4 Non-Voting Appointees. The Historian, Curator and Parliamentarian shall be appointed by the President and shall be non-voting members of the Executive Board.

Section 5 Terms of Office. Terms of office shall be for one year, or until their successors are elected, or appointed, and installed, and shall begin with the Annual Banquet held each year in October.

Section 6 Electors. Only those members in good standing shall be entitled to be electors. A member whose dues are in arrears is not a member in good standing.

Section 7 Eligibility. Only members in good standing shall be eligible to hold office.

Section 8 Vacancies. Should any elective office become vacant during the year, it shall be filled by appointment by the Executive Board at their discretion. This section shall not apply to the office of President except in the case of the Executive Vice President being unable to succeed the President.

ARTICLE VIII

DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1 Elected Officers

- (a) **President** It shall be the duty of the President or a designee to preside at all general meetings of this Society and at the meetings of the Executive Board and the Board of Trustees. The President shall call meetings of the Executive Board and the Board of Trustees. The President shall call special meetings of this Society when deemed necessary. The President shall be ex-officio member of all committees except the nomination committee. The President shall act as director of activities and perform such other duties as usually pertains to this office. The President shall make an annual report of stewardship at the Annual Meeting and present a copy to the Historian.
- (b) **Executive Vice President** It shall be the duty of the Executive Vice President to assist the President in the performance of Presidential duties, and in the absence of the President, shall preside at meetings of this Society and the Executive Board. The Executive Vice President shall succeed to the office of the President in case of vacancy from any cause, and shall also be Chair of the membership committee.
- (c) **Vice President** The Vice President shall assist the President when needed, and shall also be Chair of the program committee.
- (d) **Secretary** The Secretary shall keep the current records of this Society and of the Executive Board. The Secretary shall keep minutes of all meetings by recording in a volume to be permanently preserved. An annual report containing the minutes of the General Meetings and the Executive Board Meetings shall be prepared and submitted to the President at the October meeting. In the absence of the Secretary, the President shall appoint a temporary Secretary. The Secretary shall conduct the correspondence of this Society. The Secretary shall inform, in writing, the Honoree of a Life or Honorary Membership. The Secretary shall also send notices of events and news items to editors of mineralogical publications or to the public press, if deemed important.
- (e) **Treasurer** shall receive all dues, fees and monies and shall disburse them when authorized by the Executive Board or the Board of Trustees. The Treasurer shall keep a full and accurate account of such transactions and render a written report at the Annual Meeting. The Treasurer shall also pay all bills through an approved Budget. All receipts must be signed and submitted by the membership and paid by the Treasurer no later than November 1 for the prior fiscal year. All treasury records shall be audited prior to the installation of officers in October.

Section 2 Appointed Officers

- (a) **Bulletin Editor** shall prepare, edit and publish the monthly Georgia Mineral Society bulletin for the distribution to the membership.
- (b) **Field Trip Chair** shall arrange field trips as often as possible, assist in providing transportation for those members who need it and if possible prepare an outline of locations and probable materials to be found.
- (c) **Show Chair(s)** and committee shall plan, organize and carry out the operation of a Gem and Mineral Show(s). In doing this they shall promote the Georgia Mineral Society and aid in the education of the public, as well as to raise funds for the Society.
- (d) **Web Master** shall build, edit, and maintain the Georgia Mineral Society web site on the World Wide Web for the information of the membership and general public.
- (e) **Education Chair** shall maintain the speaker's bureau; administer the mini-grant program, and any other scholarship programs.
- (f) **Parliamentarian** shall see that all Society activities are run according to the Georgia Mineral Society, Inc. By-Laws and Roberts's Rules of Order. The Parliamentarian shall conduct the election of officers at the June meeting and shall install the new officers at the October Meeting.
- (g) **Historian** shall keep in custody and have archival responsibility for all past records from the officers. The Historian shall be alert to preserve any clippings, pictures, letters or articles which may have future historical interest to this Society. The Historian shall from time to time organize the accumulated records in appropriate form.
- (h) **Curator** of the Earth Sciences Museum of the Georgia Mineral Society, Inc. shall be in charge of the minerals, other specimens and gem testing equipment owned by this Society. The Curator, when able to so do, shall display the specimens in a proper manner and arrange for their protection. The Curator may alter the display material from time to time as is fit and proper. The Curator may buy, acquire, swap, exchange, sell and borrow specimens only upon authority of the Executive Board, and may appoint assistants (without official status) as deemed necessary. The Curator shall notify the Executive Board of any unusual circumstances affecting the welfare of the Earth Sciences Museum of the Georgia Mineral Society, Inc. and shall make a brief annual report of accessions.

ARTICLE IX

COMMITTEES

Section 1 Appointment The President shall appoint the Chairs of committees other than those associated with elected offices. With the advice of the Chair, the President shall appoint the members of each committee, or may direct the Chair to select members of his or her committee. This section does not apply to the nominating committee.

Section 2 Nominating Committee shall be composed of five (5) members. The President shall appoint two Executive Board members, one of them to be Chair, and three (3) other members who shall be non-Executive Board members. This committee shall be appointed at the April meeting of this Society and shall return its presentation of nominees at the May meeting and publish them in the notice of the June meeting.

Section 3 Membership Committee shall be composed of three (3) members, the Executive Vice President as Chair and two (2) non-office holding members. When deemed necessary, they shall make periodic studies of membership rolls and take necessary steps to reinstate or cancel lapsed memberships.

Section 4 Program Committee shall be composed of one or more members, with the Vice President as Chair. It shall be the duty of this committee to provide a suitable program and meeting place for each meeting. If possible a preliminary notice of the next meeting should be given at each meeting of this Society.

Section 5 Librarian shall have charge and custody of all books, pamphlets, papers, visual equipment and shall maintain a record of all items on loan and shall make an itemized inventory at least once a year and present it at the Annual Meeting.

Section 6 Education Committee shall be composed of the Educational Committee Chair, current President, Executive Vice President, and Vice President. The Educational Committee shall promote the educational, scientific and recreational aspects of the Society.

Section 7 By-Laws Committee shall be appointed by the President and consist of two executive board members, two trustees, the Parliamentarian and two general members.

Section 8 Special Committees shall be appointed by the President as deemed necessary.

ARTICLE X

Sections

Section 1 Junior Section shall be composed of the Junior Section Chair and Junior members. It shall be charged with educating and generating interest among children in the study of minerals, gems, fossils, lapidary and earth sciences.

Section 2 Gem Section shall be composed of the Gem Section Chair and all members interested in the gem stone, jewelry, and lapidary fields.

Section 3 Mineral Section shall be composed of the Mineral Section Chair and all members interested in Minerals. It shall be charged with educating the membership in any and all subjects with regard to rocks, minerals and earth processes.

Section 4 Fossil Section shall be composed of the Fossil Section Chair and all members interested in fossils. It shall be charged with educating the membership in any and all subjects with regard to fossils and earth processes.

Section 5 Micromount Section shall be composed of the Micromount Section Chair and all members interested in Micromounts. It shall be charged with educating the membership in any and all subjects with regard to micromounting.

ARTICLE XI

OPERATING REGULATIONS

Section 1 Procedure Those decisions of the Executive Board relating to the operation of this Society, not in conflict with these By-Laws and supplementary to them, shall be designated as Operating Regulations, and shall bear numbers and dates for easy reference. They may be established, revised or revoked by a majority vote at any meeting of the Executive Board.

ARTICLE XII

AMENDMENTS

Section 1 **Process for Amendment** These By-Laws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present at any regular meeting provided the proposed amendment shall have been presented in writing to the entire membership of this Society at least one month prior to the date of the meeting at which the proposed amendment is to be acted upon.

ARTICLE XIII

The original Constitution and all By-Laws and Amendments thereto are hereby repealed and replaced by the above dated February 3, 1975, June 7, 1976, September 21, 1981, June 4, 1984, April 1, 1991, April 3, 1993, June 26, 1999, January 10, 2005 and December 3, 2007