

**Wild Ones: Native Plants, Natural Landscapes  
Southern Kentucky (SoKY) Chapter**

**Chapter Bylaws**

(Adopted 30 November 2021)

**I. Purpose**

The Southern Kentucky Chapter (henceforth referred to as SoKY Chapter) is organized as a local chapter of Wild Ones: Native Plants, Natural Landscapes, which is a national organization. The SoKY Chapter's purpose is to promote the use and enjoyment of native plants in landscaping, particularly throughout the Southern Kentucky area (Allen, Barren, Butler, Edmondson, Logan, Simpson, and Warren Counties).

The chapter bylaws that follow are under no circumstances intended to conflict with or undermine the national organization's bylaws. Instead, the chapter bylaws are considered an integral part of the national Bylaws to provide additional support and direction as required by specific Chapter requirements.

**II. Communication**

Contact the SoKY Chapter via [soky.wildones@gmail.com](mailto:soky.wildones@gmail.com) or via the current chapter president, who is listed with Wild Ones, Inc.

Contact lists (names, addresses, emails, etc.) are not shared with any other organizations and are used solely to communicate Wild Ones announcements.

**III. Membership**

Everyone is welcome to attend meetings, participate in activities, and join the Chapter's announcement email list.

Membership in SoKY Chapter is open to any dues-paying member of the national organization, including people who are registered with other Wild Ones Chapters and are active with SoKY Chapter. Only dues-paying members are permitted to vote in SoKY Chapter elections. For Household memberships, each person in the household who is active with the SoKY Chapter gets one vote, including Junior Members (ages 13–17). Affiliate Memberships and Business Memberships (regardless of how many people are in the affiliated organization or business) are entitled to one vote.

**IV. Chapter Meetings**

At least twelve chapter meetings or activities shall be held each year, usually at least one per month. A business meeting shall be held annually in November, for the purposes of reviewing the budget, electing officers, voting on club business, etc. Dates, times, locations, and access information for each Chapter Meeting shall be shared with all chapter members at least five days before the meeting.

## **V. Elected Positions**

Only dues-paying members registered with SoKY Chapter and who are at least 18 years of age may serve as elected officers. The Executive Committee (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Membership Chair) shall be elected annually by vote of the chapter members. The term of the office shall be from 1 January through 31 December.

- The **President** is in charge of all Chapter affairs, presides over meetings, and appoints someone to preside in their absence. They act as spokesperson for the chapter to media and other organizations.
- The **Vice President** assists the president, takes over when the president is unavailable, and handles other duties assigned by the Board. If the presidency becomes vacant, the Vice President immediately becomes President.
- The **Secretary** records minutes of the Board meetings, Membership meetings, and the annual Chapter meeting, handles correspondence, and stores records and important documents.
- The **Treasurer** keeps the Chapter's books and is responsible for the receipt and disbursement of all funds as approved by the Board.
- The **Membership Chair** maintains the membership records, provides a membership report regularly to the board, and encourages chapter growth.

The Board may assign additional duties to a position.

The same person may hold two offices, save that the office of President shall not be combined with any other office.

## **V. Board of Directors**

The Board of Directors shall consist of the five elected directors (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Chair), officers-elect, two appointed directors (the Online Services Director and the Program Director), and as many as six at-large Directors, who are appointed by the Board. At-large Directors are often Past Presidents, the Newsletter Editor, Committee Chairs, or Task-force Coordinators. All members of the board are voting members.

The Board shall meet at least quarterly, and dates, times, locations, and access information for each board meeting shall be shared with all chapter members at least two days before the meeting. Any member of the Chapter may attend a Board Meeting, though the Board may enter into executive session to discuss personnel issues. A simple majority of the Board shall be required for approving all voting actions. Votes may be held by electronic communication between scheduled Board meetings; all chapter members and board members shall be notified of the vote, and the secretary shall include a record of all such votes in the minutes of the Board.

Any Director may resign at any time upon written notice to the Board of Directors.

Any elected Officer or appointed Director who is absent from two consecutive board meetings or who repeatedly fails to fulfill their appointed duties may be removed from their position by vote of the Board.

When a vacancy occurs on the Board of Directors, then within 60 days either an election shall be held or the Board of Directors shall appoint someone to fill that seat for the remainder of the term.

## **VI. Nominating Committee**

In June of each year, the Board shall appoint three people, representing a cross-section of the membership, to serve on a Nominating Committee. People holding an elected position or running for office are not eligible to serve on the Nominating Committee. (If a member of the Nominating Committee decides to run for office, they should promptly resign from the Committee and inform the Board.)

The Nominating Committee shall canvass the chapter membership for potential candidates for officers, directors, and leadership roles. In October, the Nominating Committee shall present the list of candidates for elected office to the chapter membership, along with details of the election process and any deadlines. If all seats are uncontested, a confirmation vote may be held. Write-in candidates are allowed. An election shall be held at the Annual Business meeting or via absentee Ballot before 30 November. The Nominating Committee shall conduct the elections and announce the results.

## **VII. Finance and Accounting**

The accounting records shall be available for inspection by any dues-paying member. An audit shall be conducted whenever a new Treasurer takes office or at least every other year.

Two signatures (the President's and the Treasurer's) shall be required on all checks greater than \$100 disbursed from the chapter's account.

## **VIII. Grants for Projects**

The Chapter may support local activities consistent with its purpose with financial or in-kind assistance. The Board shall act on the request at its next regular meeting or sooner if deadlines require.

## **IX. Amendment**

These Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds majority of the voting Membership of the Chapter. The proposed amendment shall be sent in writing (hardcopy and/or electronic format) to every voting member at least one week in advance of a chapter meeting and shall be read aloud at the meeting. The vote shall take place within 60 days, either at the next chapter meeting and/or by mail-in and/or electronic ballots.

*These Bylaws have been adopted by vote of the chapter members on 30 November 2021.*