

WHITESIDE COUNTY NATURAL AREA GUARDIANS
BY-LAWS

Article 1 NAME

The name of this organization is the WHITESIDE COUNTY NATURAL AREA GUARDIANS.

Article 2 PURPOSES

The Whiteside County Natural Area Guardians is a sub-committee of the Whiteside County Soil and Water Conservation District, operating under the Illinois Soil and Water Act, to promote, locate, preserve, and provide educational activities in the field of natural history and environmental quality protection, including the following:

- (a) To locate and inventory natural areas in Whiteside County and enroll those qualified in the Whiteside County Natural Area Sign Program;
- (b) To obtain funding to purchase natural areas in Whiteside County;
- (c) To encourage preservation and management of natural areas in Whiteside County;
- (d) To provide technical assistance to landowners dealing with natural area management;
- (e) To promote and provide suitable educational programs;
- (f) To manage natural areas received by the Whiteside County Soil and Water Conservation District as unencumbered gifts;
- (g) To work closely with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Illinois Nature Preserve Commission, Illinois Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, Natural Land Institute, and other related agencies and organizations to attain any of the above stated purposes.

Article 3 MEMBERSHIP

Persons shall become members upon endorsing the purposes and programs, and payment of membership dues. Members shall be entitled to attend meetings, to be placed on the mailing list, and vote after an initiation period of two months. Membership may be terminated by failure to pay yearly dues.

Members shall be of this kind:

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| (a) Student | \$2.00 per year |
| (b) Active | \$5.00 per year |
| (c) Patron | \$25.00 per year |
| (d) Honorary | May be granted upon the discretion of the voting members upon receipt of land or material gifts which it deems appropriate. |

Article 4 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The governing body of the organization shall be the governing body of Whiteside County Soil and Water Conservation District who are elected and function under the Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts Act.

Article 5 ELECTED OFFICERS OF NATURAL AREA GUARDIANS

Section 1 General Provisions. A chairman, vice chairman, and secretary shall be elected annually and shall serve without compensation. The officers shall be elected from the membership. Election shall be held between August 1 and October 1.

Section 2 Chairman. The chairman shall preside at all meetings of the organization. A report of Natural Area Guardians activities shall be prepared and may be presented at each regular Soil and Water Conservation District Board meeting. A report shall be prepared by the Chairman and given by the Chairman or a designated member at the Whiteside County Soil and Water Conservation District Annual Meeting. The report shall consist of the past years activities and accomplishments.

Section 3 Vice Chairman. The vice chairman shall fulfill the duties of the chairman when absent.

Section 4 Secretary. The secretary shall record minutes of regular meetings. The secretary shall have oversight of the membership and funds records.

Section 5 Technical Advisors. The organization may name technical advisors who will serve in an advisory capacity as determined by the officers.

Section 6 An Officer. One Officer must serve as an Associate Director of the Whiteside County Soil and Water Conservation District and attend regular board meetings when necessary.

Article 6 COMMITTEE

Section 1 Number of. The number of committee shall be determined by the voting membership.

Section 2 Duties. The duties of each individual committee will be defined by the voting membership.

Section 3 Meeting Frequency. The committees should meet as often as necessary to fulfill its duties as defined.

Section 4 Elected officers of committee. Each committee shall elect from its members a chairman and an assistant. The chair/assistant has authority to call committee meetings with notice due to members.

Section 5 Election. Committee chairman and assistants will be elected each year concurrent with officer election.

Article 7 MEETINGS

Section 1 Frequency. Meetings of the membership shall be held monthly throughout the year. The chairman can call meetings at his/her discretion when deemed necessary. All meetings shall be open to the public.

Section 2 Location. Meetings of the membership and guests shall be held at such places as may be designated by the chairman or the membership.

Article 8 FISCAL POLICIES

Section 1 Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of the organization shall coincide with the Whiteside County Soil and Water Conservation District fiscal year.

