

# Camera Naturalist Camera Club

## Constitution

### Article 1: Club Name

The name of this organization shall be the Camera Naturalist Photo Club.

### Article 2: Objectives

The objectives of this Camera Naturalist Photo Club shall be:

1. Association for the mutual enjoyment of photography.
2. To encourage the advancement of members in the knowledge and practice of the science and art of photography.
3. To make mutual contribution to the progress of photography as well as the education of those who are interested in photography.
4. To provide guidance for club members.
5. To promote group activities.
6. To promote and share the beauty of our natural world, through photography, with club members, friends, family, and the public.

### Article 3: Membership

Anyone interested in the practice of nature photography may become a member of the Camera Naturalist Photo Club as provided in the By-Laws. Members pay an annual fee for membership in this club.

### Article 4: Trustees

Section 1 - The Camera Naturalist Photo Club shall have a Board of at least three Trustees.

Section 2 - The President, Treasurer, and other officers shall be Trustees. Any Past-President shall also be a Trustee if that Past President is a member in good standing.

Section 3 - All general policies and changes of policy of the Camera Naturalist Photo Club shall require the approval of the Board of Trustees.

### Article 5: Officers

Section 1 - The Officers of this Camera Naturalist Photo Club shall consist of a President, a Treasurer, Secretary, Projectionist, and one or two Vice Presidents, whose duties shall be those customarily pertaining to their respective offices.

Section 2 - The general transaction of business for the Camera Naturalist Photo Club shall be conducted by the officers under the guidance of the Board of Trustees.

Section 3 - If any office other than that of the President shall become vacant, it shall be filled by appointment by the President, but for no longer than the remainder of his or her term.

#### **Article 6: Meetings**

Section 1 - Regular meetings of the Camera Naturalist Photo Club shall be held on Thursdays, once or twice a month, September through June. Regular meetings consist of Programs and Competitions.

Section 2 - At a non - competition meeting, during one of the last two scheduled months of the club calendar year; club business shall be conducted. This will be known as "The Business Meeting". The meeting will include but not be limited to: Election of Officers for the following year, and any other changes requiring a club vote and approval if any.

Section 3 - The Board of Trustees shall meet at least once a year, and at such other times, at the call of their chair, that being the President, as may be necessary to decide on questions of major policy.

#### **Article 7: Amendments**

Section 1 - The Constitution may be amended at any meeting of the Camera Naturalist Photo Club upon affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members present. Notice of the nature and purpose of the proposed amendments shall have been given to members at least one month in advance.

Section 2 - The By-Laws may be amended, adapted, or revoked in any manner not in conflict with the provisions of the Constitution, by an affirmative vote of most of the members at any meeting of the Camera Naturalist Photo Club. Notice of the nature and purpose of proposed action shall have been given at least one month in advance.

#### **Article 8: Quorum**

Section 1 - A quorum of the membership at any regular meeting shall consist of not less than one quarter (1/4) of the members.

Section 2 - A quorum of the membership at any Business Meeting shall consist of not less than one quarter (1/4) of the members.

Section 3 - A quorum of the Board of Trustees at any meeting for the transaction of official business shall consist of not less than one half (1/2) of the Board's membership, with the maximum number on the Board for this computation determined by the number of current officers.

Section 4 - A quorum of the Board of Trustees at any regular or special meeting of the Board shall consist of not less than one half (1/2) of the Board's membership, with the maximum number on the Board for this computation determined by the number of current officers.

#### **Article 9: Fiscal Year**

The Fiscal Year of the Camera Naturalist Photo Club shall be from September 1 to August 31 of the following year.

#### **Article 10: Approval of Constitution and By-Laws**

This Constitution and By-Laws shall be regarded as officially adopted upon their approval by a vote of not less than one half (1/2) of the total members present whose dues shall have been paid at least for one year.

## **BY-LAWS**

#### **Article 1: Nomination and Election of Officers/Trustees**

Section 1 - Officers shall be elected by a majority vote of members present at the Business Meeting. If there are no nominations from the floor for any office, the President is empowered to entertain a motion that the Vice President cast one ballot for the Slate of Candidates nominated by the Nominating Committee.

Section 2 - Candidates for Officers shall be selected by a Nominating Committee appointed by the President at least two months in advance of the Business Meeting. The candidates shall be members in good standing and shall not be nominated without their consent.

Section 3 - The Nominating Committee shall consist of three (3) club members and shall prepare a full slate of candidates for Officer and Trustees at a special meeting which shall be held separately from any regular or special meeting.

Section 4 - The Nominating Committee shall report its slate of candidates at a Camera Naturalist Photo Club meeting held one (1) month in advance of the Business Meeting.

Section 5 - A candidate may be nominated from the floor. If a member has a nominee for an office in mind, the member must first obtain consent from the potential nominee. The member should then contact the Nominating Committee with the information about the candidate. The Nominating Committee may choose not to recommend that candidate. However, even if the Nominating Committee chooses not to recommend the candidate, the member may nominate that candidate at the meeting prior to the actual election. This will be the same meeting in which the Nominating Committee announces their candidates. This meeting typically occurs 1 month prior to the actual election.

Section 6 - Newly elected Officers/Trustees shall assume their respective duties beginning with the first day following the last meeting of the club season.

## **Article 2: Duties of Trustees and Officers**

Section 1 - The activities of the Camera Naturalist Photo Club shall be conducted with the objectives listed in the Constitution, for the benefit of the club members and in accordance with their desires. The Board of Trustees is the primary governing body, and it has the responsibility of establishing general policies and reviewing and controlling the activities of the Camera Naturalist Photo Club, subject to approval by the members in conformance with the stated aims and objectives, and with the statutes of the State of New Jersey. Approval of the Board of Trustees shall be required for:

- a. All general policies and changes of policy of the Camera Naturalist Photo Club,
- b. The budget for the ensuing year, and
- c. All expenditures in excess of one hundred dollars, not provided for in the Business Budget.

Section 2 - The President shall preside at all meetings of the membership; shall appoint the chairs of all Committees; shall appoint the chairs and members of all Special Committees; shall sign all contracts or obligations of the Camera Naturalist Photo Club; shall make a report at the first meeting of the new season following their election of the progress of the Camera Naturalist Photo Club under his or her administration, with recommendations for the coming year; and shall carry the duties of office in such a way as to promote the effective operation of the Camera Naturalist Photo Club . The President shall be authorized to sign checks in the absence of the Treasurer.

Section 3 - The Secretary shall keep and be the custodian of the records of the Camera Naturalist Photo Club; shall conduct the club's correspondence.

Section 4 - The Treasurer shall act as the custodian of all Camera Naturalist Photo Club funds; shall collect dues and acknowledge their receipt; shall pay bills not exceeding Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250) as directed by the President. All bills in excess of Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250) must be approved by the Officers/Trustees. The Treasurer shall keep an account of all receipts and expenditures; shall, at the Business Meeting, make a written report to the Club President of the condition of the treasury; and shall perform such other duties as may be directed.

The Treasurer shall maintain up-to-date email addresses, mailing address, and phone list of all members; as well as any other pertinent information that may be appropriate. The Treasurer shall perform such other duties as may be directed.

Section 5 - The Projectionist will be responsible for conducting the digitally displayed submissions at club competitions. This includes all necessary preparation for member submissions, as well as operating and maintaining the equipment for contests. The Projectionist

will assist new members with instructions on image submissions. The Projectionist will maintain contest results including the posting of appropriate images to the club's web site. The Projectionist will maintain and create statistical results as appropriate for the Board of Trustees to review individual performance with regards to advancing club members to new member classes.

### **Article 3: Committees**

The President shall, in advance of the first meeting of the year, appoint Club Members to positions as needed within the club.

### **Article 4: Club Competitions**

The following rules apply to Camera Naturalist Photo Club competitions:

1. Members who have paid their dues in full may submit nature images into competitions to be evaluated by one or more judges. The number of images and the types of images allowed shall be determined by the Board of Trustees.
2. The scoring method shall be determined each year by the Board of Trustees. Ineligible images shall be disqualified.
3. Unless specified otherwise for a competition, there is no time limit on when an image was made.
4. An image that receives any award may not be submitted in any subsequent competition.

### **Classes**

There are three competition classes: Class B which includes new members as well as novices in Nature Photography, Class A which includes advanced nature photographers, and Salon class which includes advanced photographers who have demonstrated consistent high results as an A photographer over a period of years. The President will appoint a committee of four members of salon who are board members at the end of each club season to review the statistics prepared by the Projectionist on individual performance. If there are not four Salon members on the Board the President may appoint substitutes from the Salon class. Should the committee have a tie vote, the President will cast the tie breaker. Members may refuse an invitation to upgrade one time. The committee may also review new members who bring prior Camera Club experience to determine their appropriate class. Once a member chooses to enter a class, the member must remain in that class for the remainder of that Club year.

### **Definition: Nature Photography**

Nature Photography is restricted to the use of the photographic process to depict observations from all branches of natural history except Anthropology and Archeology. Human elements shall not be present unless, on the rare occasion where human elements enhance the nature story or are specifically allowed in a special competition; in either case, the human elements are unobtrusive. Photographs of mounted specimens and obviously set arrangements are ineligible, with the exceptions of detailed micro or macro photographs and scientific banding on wild animals. Digital manipulation to remove minor distracting elements is allowed, providing that such manipulation is not visible to the judge.

**Article 5: Dues**

Annual dues shall be determined and approved by the Officers/Trustees and voted upon by the members. For purposes of the Constitution and By-Laws a member is defined as a person who is fully paid up. There are three membership types - Student, Single or Household. Student refers to an individual under age 21, currently attending high school or college. Single refers to an individual person and Household refers to individuals living at the same address.

**Article 6: Terms of Office**

Section 1 - The President shall hold office for two years and until the President's successor is elected.

Section 2 - Terms of office of Appointed Positions shall expire with the term of office of the President.

**Article 7: Termination of membership**

Section 1 - Terminating a membership is a serious decision. A member may be terminated from the Camera Naturalist Photo Club if he or she engages in behavior that negatively affects the objectives, existence, and honor of the club. The Board of Trustees will make every effort to inform a member of the conduct deemed detrimental to the club.

Section 2 - The Board of Trustees in its sole discretion, by a two-thirds vote, shall determine if the member's conduct is prejudicial to the aims and objectives of the club, including, without limitation, the improper use of the membership roster, or for actions that jeopardize the good name of this organization. A quorum of this Board shall be as previously defined.

Section 3 - By a two-thirds Board of Trustees vote a member may have his or her membership terminated from the Camera Naturalist Photo Club. The termination of membership shall be immediate, and the terminated club member may not participate in any club functions. No refund will be given for dues paid.

Section 4 - After a full club calendar year, a terminated member can apply for reinstatement. The Board of Trustees in its sole discretion shall determine if the member will be allowed to rejoin the Camera Naturalist Photo Club. A two-thirds vote by the Board is needed to allow a terminated member to rejoin the club.

**Article 8: New members**

New members shall be approved upon paying dues and submitting information for the current membership list.

**Article 9: Fiscal Year**

The Board of Trustees shall conduct a planning meeting at least once per year. The purpose of the planning meeting is to review past performance of the club and suggest any appropriate modifications. The President will call and schedule this meeting prior to the "Business Meeting"

#### **Article 10: Definitions**

Section 1 - The term "member" as used in the Constitution and By-Laws of the Camera Naturalist Photo Club, is interpreted to mean Club Member in good standing who has paid his or her business dues.

Section 2 - The term "officer" as used in the Constitution and By-Laws of the Camera Naturalist Photo Club is interpreted to mean President, Vice Presidents(s), Secretary, Projectionist and Treasurer.

Section 3 - The term "trustee" as used in the Constitution and By-Laws of the Camera Naturalist Photo Club is interpreted to mean the current Officers, plus Past Presidents who are in good standing as members.

#### **Article 11: Order of Business**

The order of business for regular and special meetings of the Camera Naturalist Photo Club shall be prepared or directed by the President.

#### **Article 12 Conduct of Meetings**

The conduct of all meetings shall be governed by Cushing's "Manual" or by Robert's "Rules of Order" insofar as they are applicable to and consistent with provisions of the Camera Naturalist Photo Club's Constitution and By-Laws. The President may appoint a Parliamentarian who shall serve at the pleasure of the President and will not be a member of the Board of Trustees or an Officer.

#### **Article 13: Conformance with Statutes**

It is the intention that the Constitution and By-Laws of this Camera Naturalist Photo Club shall conform to the Revised Statutes of the State of New Jersey relating to Corporations and Associations Not for Profit. If by inadvertence, any section of the Constitution or By-Laws does not conform to present statutes or future revisions of the statutes, such sections shall be null and void and corrective measures to amend such sections shall be undertaken as soon as possible.