Constitution
[As both revised and amended 1981; annotated and Bylaws re-ordered 2019]

Article I. Name and Purpose

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be the American Bryological and Lichenological Society, Inc. [Changed in 1969 from American Bryological Society.]

Section 2. The purpose of this Society shall be to promote interest in the study of Bryology and Lichenology; to provide an opportunity for the presentation of research studies in these subjects; to provide a means of publication of such studies; and to facilitate the exchange of specimens.

Article II. Membership

Section 1. Membership. As defined below the membership of the Society shall consist of (A) Individual Member, (B) Family Members, (C) Student Members, (D) Contributing Member.

(A) Individual Member. A person who is actually engaged in or interested in pursuits contributing to the development and advancement of bryology and/or lichenology and who pays the annual dues.

(B) Family Members. Persons qualified as Individual Members but who are members of the same family, who together pay reduced annual dues but receive only one subscription to the journal of the Society [As per Section 2].

(C) Student Member. A person who is a full or part-time student engaged in, or interested in pursuits contributing to the development and advancement of bryology and/or lichenology. Excluded from this class are persons employed full-time and taking courses as a hobby. This limitation for qualifying as a student member shall be five (5) years. Those applying for student membership shall document their student status by having their advisor submit a signed statement verifying the student status of the applicant.
(D) Contributing Member. A person qualified as an Individual Member, but who assists the Society to carry out its purposes by paying an amount equal to twice or more the annual dues paid by an Individual Member.

Section 2. Individual Members, Family Members, Student Members and Contributing Members shall be entitled to voting and all other privileges of membership and shall receive one subscription to the journal of the Society (unless otherwise specified) so long as they remain in good standing, i.e., have paid their annual dues.

Section 3. Institutions and organizations may subscribe to the journal without becoming members of the Society.

Article III. Government

Section 1. The officers of the Society shall be a President, a President-Elect and a Secretary-Treasurer, elected from the membership.

Section 2. The government of the Society shall be in the care of an Executive Committee, consisting of the President, the President-Elect, the Secretary-Treasurer, the Business Manager, the Editor of the journal, three elected Members-at-large, and the two most recent past Presidents.

Section 3. The Advisory Committee of the Society shall consist of all the members who have served the organization as Presidents.

Article IV. Meetings

Section 1. The annual Business Meeting shall be held at a time and place determined by the Executive Committee. Whenever practical, the meeting shall be held in connection with annual meetings of other American botanical societies.

Section 2. A program for the presentation of research papers shall be held annually, convenient to the Annual Meeting.

Section 3. A foray shall be held by the Society at least once a year, preferably associated with the Annual Meeting, in a region of bryological and lichenological interest.

Article V. Finance

The expenses of the Society shall be met by annual dues, subscriptions, voluntary
contributions or bequests, and by such other means as the Executive Committee may approve.

Article VI. Amendments and By-Laws

Section 1. This constitution may be amended by affirmative vote of three-fourths of those members voting. Each member of the Society shall be sent a copy of the proposed amendment, accompanied by a ballot. The amendment By-Law shall be considered adopted if three-fourths of the ballots returned in thirty days are in favor.

Section 2. Changes in By-Laws recommended by the Executive Committee may be adopted by majority vote at any Annual Meeting, but all members shall be informed of the proposed action thirty days in advance of this meeting.

Article VII. General Prohibitions

Notwithstanding any provision of the Constitution or By-Laws which might be susceptible to a contrary construction:

(a) the American Bryological and Lichenological Society shall be organized exclusively for scientific and educational purposes;

(b) the American Bryological and Lichenological Society shall be operated exclusively for scientific and educational purposes;

(c) no part of the net earnings of the American Bryological and Lichenological Society shall or may under any circumstance inure to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual;

(d) no substantial part of the activities of the American Bryological and Lichenological Society shall consist of carrying on propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation;

(e) the American Bryological and Lichenological Society shall not participate in or intervene in (including the publishing or distributing of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office;

(f) the American Bryological and Lichenological Society shall not be organized or operated for profit;

(g) the American Bryological and Lichenological Society shall not:

(1) lend any part of its income or corpus, without the receipt of adequate security and a reasonable rate of interest;
(2) pay any compensation, in excess of a reasonable allowance for salaries or other compensation for personal services actually rendered, to;

(3) make any part of its services available on a preferential basis to;

(4) make any purchase of securities or any other property, for more than adequate consideration in money or money's worth from;

(5) sell any securities or other property for less than adequate consideration in money or money's worth to; or

(6) engage in any other transactions which result in a substantial diversion of its income or corpus to;

any officer, member of the Executive Committee or substantial contributor to the American Bryological and Lichenological Society. The prohibitions contained in this subsection (g) do not mean to imply that the American Bryological and Lichenological Society may make such loans, payments, sales or purchases to anyone else, unless such authority be given or implied by other provisions of the Constitution or By-Laws.

Article VIII. Distribution and Dissolution

Upon dissolution of the American Bryological and Lichenological Society, the Executive Committee shall distribute the assets and accrued income to one or more organizations as determined by the Board, but which organization or organizations shall meet the limitations prescribed in subsections (a) - (g) inclusive of Article VII immediately preceding.

BY-LAWS
(numbers revised 2019 to reflect order of adoption)

Article 1. Election of Officers [approved by 1964; revised 1981]

Section 1. The President shall appoint a Nominating Committee of three members who are not current officers, and shall designate one of this number as chairman.

Section 2. Ballots shall be prepared by the Committee, naming at least one candidate for each office, with space provided for write-in votes. These ballots, with instructions as to their return, shall be circulated by the chairman of the committee to all members at least thirty days before the date of the Annual Meeting next preceding the end of the terms of officers.
Section 3. The President shall appoint a judge of elections who is neither an officer nor a member of the Nominating Committee. Marked ballots shall be returned by members to the judge of elections who shall transmit the results to the President and the ballots and tabulations to the Secretary-Treasurer.

Section 4. Officers shall be elected by majority of the ballots returned within thirty days. In case of a tie vote the judge of elections shall break the tie.

Article 2. Terms of Officers [approved by 1964; revised 1981]

Section 1. The President, President-Elect and Executive Committee Members-at-large shall serve for two years, and the Secretary-Treasurer shall serve for four years, assuming office at the end of the Annual Meeting following their election. The President-Elect, at the end of his or her term, will assume the office of the President.

Section 2. No officer can be re-elected to the same office for a second consecutive term with the exception of the Executive Committee Members-at-large, who can be reelected for one additional term.

Section 3. In case of resignation or incapacity of any officer other than the President, the Executive Committee shall designate a successor to complete the unexpired term. In case of resignation or incapacity of the President, the President-Elect will serve to complete the unexpired term.

Article 3. Duties of [elected] Officers [approved by 1964]

Section 1. The duties of the President shall be: (1) to have general supervision over the business of the Society; (2) to preside at all business and program meetings of the Society and at all meetings of the Executive Committee; (3) to call upon the Executive Committee, if it seems advisable, for a vote by mail on matters of Society business or policy; (4) to confer with the Advisory Committee regarding long-term policies and means of providing an adequate income for carrying out such policies and to report action of the Advisory Committee to the Executive Committee; (5) to appoint all committees and to be ex officio a member of all committees; (6) to approve all bills paid by the Society, except those covering ordinary expenses of the offices of the Editor and the Secretary-Treasurer; (7) to serve as AIBS Governing Board Representative; (8) to serve as AAAS Council Representative.

Section 2. The duties of the President Elect shall be: (1) to make all arrangements for program meetings and forays of the Society, send out the call for papers, arrange the program and take whatever action is needed to ensure successful meetings; (2) to cooperate with officers of other organizations in arranging joint or concurrent meetings; (3) in case of resignation or incapacitation of the President, to serve as President for the remainder of that term.
Section 3. The duties of the Secretary-Treasurer shall be: (1) to maintain a register of the members of the Society and send duplicate records to the President, the Vice-President, and the Editor of the journal; (2) to inform the Editor concerning the status of members as to dues paid or not paid; (3) to prepare the minutes of the meetings of the Executive Committee and business meetings of the Society, to send copies to the President and appropriate portions to the Editor or other officers or committee chairs who have need of such information; (4) to send ballots on business other than the election of officers to voting members (allowing thirty days for voting by mail), to tabulate the results and to report results to appropriate persons; (5) to notify officers of their election and send each a copy of the Constitution and By-Laws; (6) to notify all Active Members of their election by means of a membership card and all Contributing, Life, and Honorary Members by means of an appropriate letter; (7) to have custody of all funds of the Society, to issue bills for dues and assessments payable and make proper record of same, to pay all bills correctly chargeable to the Society and approved by the President or the Editor; (8) to report upon membership and finances at the Annual Meeting of the Society and send the Editor a copy of the same for publication; (9) to secure and distribute stationary to the officers of the Society.

The Secretary-Treasurer shall be under bond.

The Treasurer's financial records shall be audited annually.

Article 4. Publications [approved before 1964]

Section 1. The official journal of the Society shall be The Bryologist.

Section 2. The Editor of The Bryologist shall be appointed by the Executive Committee and shall serve for a period of five years. The editor can be reappointed for one additional five-year term.

Section 3. The Editor shall have full charge of the publication and distribution of The Bryologist and of any other publications of the Society as a whole. The editor shall determine the size and content of the Journal, except that its content shall be limited to papers, notices, reviews or other matters deemed of interest to bryologists and lichenologists and that its size shall be kept within the income (from dues or otherwise) of the Society.

Section 4. The Editor shall send approval of bills for the printing and distribution of The Bryologist to the Secretary-Treasurer.

Section 5. The Editor shall send The Bryologist mailing list to the Secretary-Treasurer annually for checking membership records.

Section 6. Four Associate Editors of The Bryologist shall be appointed to give counsel
and assistance to the Editor, and a Book Review Editor shall be appointed to aid the Editor in the production of book reviews for the journal. These individuals shall be selected by the Executive Committee from a panel submitted by the Editor. Associate Editors and the Book Review Editor shall serve for four years. Associate Editors and the Book Review Editor may be reappointed for succeeding terms.

Article 5. The Exchange Services [established 1935, 1939; approved by 1964; revised 1973]

Section 1. The Executive Committee shall designate a Director of the Moss Exchange, a Director of the Hepatic Exchange, and a Director of the Lichen Exchange [established 1973]. These Directors shall serve for four (4) years.

Section 2. The Exchanges shall be operated by the Directors according to the rules adopted by the members of each Exchange, and shall render a statement of the packet and money receipts and disbursements at each Annual Meeting.


The duties of the Representatives to the AIBS Governing Board and AAAS Council shall be to attend meetings of these said groups and to keep the American Bryological and Lichenological Society informed of their actions.

Article 7. Dues and Subscriptions [approved by 1964]

Section 1. The amount of dues or subscriptions shall be determined by a three-fourths vote of the Executive Committee, based upon their knowledge of the funds of the Society and the costs of publishing The Bryologist.

Section 2. The Advisory Committee shall be consulted regarding dues and subscription rate.

Section 3. Before any change in dues or subscriptions shall be determined upon, each member of the Society, of whatever category, shall be sent a ballot upon which to register his/her opinion of the change.

Section 4. Any assessment upon the membership other than dues must be approved by a two-thirds majority of voting members upon a sent ballot.

Section 5. Dues and subscriptions shall be collected in advance of January each calendar year. Unpaid members are entitled to a second notice. Any member who is in arrears after the second notice shall be dropped automatically from the Society rolls, but at any time may be reinstated by the payment of dues.
Article 8. The Fiscal Year [approved by 1964]

The fiscal year of the Society shall end on the thirtieth day of June.

Article 9. Business Manager [approved 1974 as Article 3. Section 4; revised 1981 as a separate Article]

Section 1. [1981] A Business Manager of The Bryologist shall be appointed by the Executive Committee for a term of four years. The Business Manager may be reappointed for one additional four-year term.

Section 2. [1974] The duties of the Business Manager shall be (1) to handle the sales of the Society’s publications and other items; (2) to maintain an inventory of the stock of publications; (3) to recommend to the Editors the reprinting of issues as their stock becomes depleted.

Article 10. Auditors [approved 1981]

Two members of the Society other than officers shall be appointed as auditors by the Executive Committee for a two-year term. The auditors may be reappointed for additional terms.