

COVER LETTER

Department of State
Division of Corporations
P. O. Box 6327
Tallahassee, FL 32314

SUBJECT: Friends of the Babcock Ranch Preserve, Inc.

(PROPOSED CORPORATE NAME – MUST INCLUDE SUFFIX)

Enclosed is an original and one (1) copy of the Articles of Incorporation and a check for :

\$70.00
Filing Fee

\$78.75
Filing Fee &
Certificate of
Status

\$78.75
Filing Fee
& Certified Copy

\$87.50
Filing Fee,
Certified Copy
& Certificate

ADDITIONAL COPY REQUIRED

FROM: Erin Albury

Name (Printed or typed)

3125 Conner Blvd.

Address

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1650

City, State & Zip

850-681-5800

Daytime Telephone number

Erin.Albury@fdaes.gov

E-mail address: (to be used for future annual report notification)

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION
OF
FRIENDS OF BABCOCK RANCH PRESERVE, INC.
(A FLORIDA NOT FOR PROFIT CORPORATION and
CHAPTER OF FRIENDS OF FLORIDA STATE FORESTS, INC.)

ARTICLE I

NAME

The name of the not for profit corporation shall be FRIENDS OF THE BABCOCK RANCH PRESERVE, INC. (hereinafter "Corporation").

ARTICLE II

PRINCIPAL OFFICE AND MAILING ADDRESS

The address of the principal office of the Corporation shall be:
Babcock Ranch Preserve
8000 U.S. 31
Punta Gorda, Florida 33982

The mailing address of the Corporation shall be:

Friends of the Babcock Ranch Preserve, Inc.
c/o The Director
Florida Forest Service
3125 Conner Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1650

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ARTICLE III

**CORPORATION SUBJECT TO THE AUTHORITY OF FRIENDS OF FLORIDA
STATE FORESTS, INC.**

The Corporation shall be a chapter of and subject to the authority of the Friends of Florida State Forests, Inc., a not-for profit entity incorporated in the State of Florida. Any conflict between these Articles of Incorporation or the bylaws of the Corporation and those of Friends of Florida State Forests, Inc. shall be resolved in favor of those of Friends of Florida State Forests, Inc.

ARTICLE IV

PURPOSE

The Corporation is a not for profit organization and is a chapter of the Friends of Florida State Forests, Inc. It is organized for the following purposes consistent with, and in support of, the purposes of Friends of Florida State Forests, Inc.:

- A. As a direct support organization to provide assistance to the Florida State Forests Program of the Florida Forest Service within the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services pursuant to Section 570.691, Florida Statutes. Specifically, the Corporation shall provide assistance with and support for the management and programs of the Babcock Ranch Preserve as identified by the Myakka River District Manager for the Florida Forest Service.
- B. To engage in any lawful activity to conduct programs and activities related to environmental education, fire prevention, recreation and forest management as it relates to the Babcock Ranch Preserve.
- C. To engage in any lawful activity to identify and pursue methods to provide resources and materials for its programs.
- D. To establish a method to integrate its resources and materials into the Babcock Ranch Preserve.
- E. To provide public recognition to public-spirited citizens and businesses who contribute to its programs and help the Babcock Ranch Preserve achieve its mission.
- F. To conduct programs and activities, sponsor research, sponsor promotions, raise funds, request and receive grants, gifts, contributions, dues, bequests of money, property owner association fees, real and personal property; or acquire, receive, hold, invest and administer in its own name, securities, funds, objects of value or other property, real or personal; and make expenditures and distributions to or for the benefits of the Babcock Ranch Preserve.
- G. To engage in any lawful act or activity not for pecuniary profit for which not for profit corporations may be organized, so far as is or may be permitted by the laws of the State of Florida, and Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue code, as amended.

ARTICLE V

MEMBERSHIP

Any person, corporation, partnership, association, or organization who is a member of the Friends of Florida State Forests, Inc., and who is interested in the purposes of the Corporation, who is capable of contributing to the achievement of those purposes and the effective operation of the Corporation, and who complies with the requirements established by the Bylaws of the Corporation, shall be eligible for membership. The Corporation shall provide for equal membership and employment opportunities to all persons regardless of race, color, religion, gender, pregnancy, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, marital status, sex, sexual orientation or gender identity.

ARTICLE VI

INITIAL REGISTERED AGENT AND OFFICE

The initial registered agent of the Corporation is Erin Albury, Director of the Florida Forest Service. The street address of the initial registered agent of the Corporation is: Friends of the Babcock Ranch Preserve, Inc., c/o Erin Albury, Registered Agent, 3125 Conner Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1650.

ARTICLE VII

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The affairs of this Corporation shall be managed by a Board of Directors consisting of no less than three directors. The number of directors may be increased or decreased from time to time in accordance with the Bylaws of the Corporation but shall never be less than three. The manner of election of the directors shall be regulated by the Bylaws. The persons who shall serve as the initial directors of the Corporation are as follows:

1. Duane Weis
4723 53rd Ave. E.
Bradenton, FL 34203-4130
2. Montgomery Simpson
3. Jamie Reynolds

ARTICLE VIII

INCORPORATOR

The name and address of the person signing these Articles of Incorporation are:

Erin Albury
3125 Conner Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1650

ARTICLE IX

DISSOLUTION

Upon the dissolution or winding up of this Corporation, its assets remaining after payment or provision for payment, of all debts and liabilities of the Corporation, shall be distributed to the Friends of the Florida Forest Service, Inc., or its successor, to be used exclusively for the purposes herein above set forth, provided that such does not impair or destroy the tax exempt status of donations, contributions, legacies or dues received by this corporation to the extent that such tax exempt status shall be allowed under any applicable law or regulation.

Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, the assets of the corporation are hereby irrevocably dedicated to charitable use; accordingly, in the event Friends of the Florida Forest Service, Inc., or its successors, fails to qualify to receive or otherwise fails to accept the Corporation's assets upon dissolution, the residual assets of the Corporation shall be distributed to a not for profit fund, foundation, or corporation which is organized and operated exclusively for charitable purposes and which has established its tax exempt status under Sections 501(c)3 and 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, as amended, or corresponding provisions of any subsequent future law, or to a federal, state or local government exclusively for public purposes.

ARTICLE X

LIMITATIONS

No part of the net earnings of the Corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to, its directors, members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the Corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set for in ARTICLE III herein.


No substantial part of the activities of the Corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation (except as otherwise provided in subsection (h) of Section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code, as amended), and the Corporations shall not participate in or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the Corporation shall not carry on any activities not permitted to be carried on (1.) by a corporation exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, as amended, or corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law, or (2.) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, as amended, or corresponding provision of any future United States Revenue Law.

ARTICLE XI

AMENDMENTS TO THE ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION


The Corporation reserves the right to amend or repeal any provisions contained in these Articles of Incorporation. Amendments to the Articles of Incorporation shall be proposed by the Board of Directors in the form of a resolution, which must be adopted by a majority vote of all members present at any meeting of the membership called for that purpose. Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, amendments which are required or advisable to obtain or maintain the Corporation's tax exempt status may nevertheless be adopted at a meeting of the Board of Directors by a unanimous vote of the directors then in office.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned incorporator has executed these Articles of Incorporation on this ____ day of _____, 2022.


Erin Aubury
Incorporator

**WRITTEN ACCEPTANCE OF APPOINTMENT
AS REGISTERED AGENT OF
FRIENDS OF BABCOCK STATE PRESERVE, INC.**

Having been named as registered agent to accept service of process for the Corporation at the place designated in these Articles of Incorporation. I am familiar with and accept the appointment as registered agent and agree to act in this capacity.


Erin Aubury
Registered Agent

01/31/2022
Date