

N 99000005237
TRANSMITTAL LETTER

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

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-08/27/99--01003--004
*****87.50 *****87.50

SUBJECT: ASTRON Biodiversity Research & Preservation Inc.
(Proposed corporate name - must include suffix)

FILED
9/20/99 27 AM 11:15
SECRETARY OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

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: Ray E. ASTRON JR
Name (Printed or typed)

5745 SW 75th ST #331
Address

GAINESVILLE FL 32608
City, State & Zip

352-495-7449
Daytime Telephone number

NOTE: Please provide the original and one copy of the articles.

Articles of Incorporation
For the
ASHTON BIODIVERSITY RESEARCH & PRESERVATION INSTITUTE, INC.
A Florida Nonprofit Corporation

Article 1. - Name

The name of the Florida Nonprofit Corporation is:
ASHTON BIODIVERSITY RESEARCH & PRESERVATION INSTITUTE, INC.

Article 2. - Duration

The duration of the Corporation is perpetual.

Article 3. - Purposes

- A. This corporation is a not-for-profit corporation organized under Chapter 617 Florida Statutes. It is not organized for the private gain of any person. The purposes of the Florida Nonprofit corporation are as listed below:
1. to promote, support and provide opportunities for scientific research on upland biological diversity, and sustainable use of natural resources as a method of long term survivability of species and habitats, particularly research which promotes conservation of rare species, on the properties owned by Patricia S. Ashton and Ray E. Ashton, Jr. and called the Ashton Biological Preserve and Uplands Research Center properties and also called Finca de la Tortuga and any properties under habitat management with the Ashton Biological Preserve and Uplands Research Center any where in the world.
 2. to promote, support and provide educational opportunities and training for students interested in upland natural history and biodiversity including interested amateur individuals, students, special interest groups, professionals and others at the properties owned by Patricia S. Ashton and Ray E. Ashton, Jr. and called the Ashton Biological Preserve and Uplands Research Center properties and also called Finca de la Tortuga and any properties under habitat management with the Ashton Biological Preserve and Uplands Research Center anywhere in the world.
 3. to promote and support research applicable throughout Florida, the Southeast and throughout the World at or supervised by staff of the properties owned by Patricia S. Ashton and Ray E. Ashton, Jr. and called the Ashton Biological Preserve and Uplands Research Center properties and also called Finca de la Tortuga and any properties under habitat management with the Ashton Biological Preserve and Uplands Research Center on rare and endangered reptiles and amphibians as well as other species with the goal of establishing long term, sustainable populations.
 4. to promote, support, and manage designated natural communities (wetlands and uplands) of the properties owned by Patricia S. Ashton and Ray E. Ashton, Jr. and called the Ashton Biological Preserve and Uplands Research Center properties and also called Finca de la Tortuga and any properties under habitat management with the Ashton Biological Preserve and Uplands Research Center to sustain and enhance the natural biodiversity.
 5. to raise funds to support facilities, staff, infrastructure, research , operations, management activities and to purchase equipment necessary to manage property or purchase real property or for any other use necessary to carry out the aforementioned goals of the corporation.

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6. to facilitate communication among those involved in the efforts for study and preservation of biodiversity in keeping with the aforementioned goals of the corporation including exchange of ideas, techniques, and mutual assistance. Such communication will include, but not be limited to, print and electronic media, workshops, symposia, and conferences. Production and distribution of educational material for varied school grade levels and the general public may be included in these communication efforts. Communications will also be enhanced by acting as a clearinghouse of
 7. Information among all agencies, organizations, and individuals involved in the research, preservation, conservation and management of biodiversity.
 8. to research, create, purchase, produce, market, sell, or in any other manner produce products or income for the support of the purposes and aforementioned goals of the corporation.
- B. This Corporation is also organized to exercise all rights and powers conferred by the laws of the State of Florida upon non-profit corporations.
- C. This Corporation shall not engage in any action which is not permitted to be carried on by non-profit corporations under the Internal Revenue Code and no part of the net earnings of the Corporation shall inure to the benefit of or be distributable to its members, directors, or officers; but the Corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation to these people for services rendered, and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of its stated purposes.

Article 4. - Members

The Corporation shall have Voting Members, who shall be elected (and may be removed) by the Voting Members, and who shall have all the rights and privileges of members of the Corporation. The Bylaws may provide for Nonvoting Members of one or more classes, who shall be admitted in such manner and who shall have such rights and privileges as are set forth in the Bylaws, but who shall not have the right to vote. The name and address of each initial Voting Member is as follows:

NAME	ADDRESS
Henry Mushinsky, Chairman	CC Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles, Dept. of Biological Services, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL 33602
Dave Collins, Tortoise Advisory Grp.	Tennessee Aquarium, One Broad Street, Chattanooga, TN
Peter Pritchard	Chelonian Research Institute, 401 S. Central Ave., Oviedo, FL 32765
Patricia S. Ashton	5745 SW 75 th Street., PMB331, Gainesville, FL 32608 (mailing address) 22215 SW 119 th Ave. Archer, FL (physical address)
Ray E. Ashton, Jr.	5745 SW 75 th Street., PMB331, Gainesville, FL 32608 (mailing address) 22215 SW 119 th Ave. Archer, FL (physical address)

Article 5. - Initial Registered Agent and Office

The initial registered agent is Ray E. Ashton, Jr. and the initial registered office of the corporation shall be PMB331, 5745 SW. 75th Street, Gainesville, FL 32608 (mailing address) and 22215 SW 119th Ave. Archer, FL (physical address)

Article 6. – Initial Board of Directors

The initial Board of Directors shall have 3 members whose names and addresses are:

Henry Mushinsky, Chairman CC Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles, Dept. of
Biological Services, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL
33602

Patricia S. Ashton 5745 SW 75th Street., PMB331, Gainesville, FL 32608 (mailing address)
22215 SW 119th Ave. Archer, FL (physical address)

Ray E. Ashton, Jr. 5745 SW 75th Street., PMB331, Gainesville, FL 32608 (mailing address)
22215 SW 119th Ave. Archer, FL (physical address)

The Bylaws shall provide the method of election of all Directors and the number of Directors may be raised or lowered by amendment of the Bylaws but shall in no case be less than three.

Article 7. – Officers of the Corporation

Officers of the Corporation shall consist of a President, Vice-President, and Secretary / Treasurer. Other officers may be provided for in the Bylaws. Each officer shall be elected by the Board of Directors (and may be removed by the Board of Directors) at such time and in such a manner as may be prescribed by the Bylaws. The name and address of each initial Officer of the Corporation is as follows:

President

Ray E. Ashton, Jr. 5745 SW 75th Street., PMB331, Gainesville, FL 32608 (mailing address)
22215 SW 119th Ave. Archer, FL (physical address)

Vice-President

Henry Mushinsky Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles, Dept. of
Biological Services, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL
33602

Secretary/Treasurer

Patricia S. Ashton 5745 SW 75th Street., PMB331, Gainesville, FL 32608 (mailing address)
22215 SW 119th Ave. Archer, FL (physical address)

Article 8. – Incorporators

The name and address of the incorporators of this corporation are:

Ray E. Ashton, Jr. 5745 SW 75th Street., PMB331, Gainesville, FL 32608 (mailing address)
22215 SW 119th Ave. Archer, FL (physical address)

Patricia S. Ashton 5745 SW 75th Street., PMB331, Gainesville, FL 32608 (mailing address)
22215 SW 119th Ave. Archer, FL (physical address)

Henry Mushinsky Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles, Dept. of
Biological Services, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL
33602

Article 9. - Nonstock Basis

The Corporation is organized and shall be operated on a nonstock basis within the meaning of the Florida Not for Profit Corporation Act, and shall not have the power to issue shares of any type or class of stock, but may issue membership certificates if so provided in the bylaws.

Article 10. - Corporate Address

The street address of the Corporation's initial principal office is 22215 SW 119th Avenue, Archer, FL 32618 (no mail at this address) and the Corporation's initial mailing address is PMB 331, 5745 SW 75th Street, , Gainesville, FL 32608.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned have signed these Articles of Incorporation on this 25th day of AUGUST, 1999.


Ray E. Ashton, Jr.


Patricia S. Ashton

Henry Mushinsky

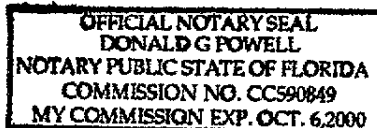
Acknowledged before me on 8/25/99, by RAY E. ASHTON, who is personally known to me/ _____ produced as identification and who executed the foregoing Article of incorporation and acknowledged to and before me that he/she executed said instrument for the purposes therein expressed.


NOTARY PUBLIC-STATE OF FLORIDA

Name: DONALD G. POWELL

Commission No.: CC 590849

My Commission Expires: 10/6/2000



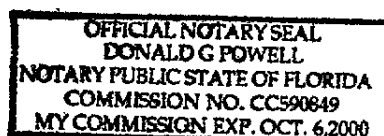
Acknowledged before me on 8/25/99, by PATRICIA S. ASHTON, who is personally known to me/ _____ produced as identification and who executed the foregoing Article of incorporation and acknowledged to and before me that he/she executed said instrument for the purposes therein expressed.


NOTARY PUBLIC-STATE OF FLORIDA

Name: DONALD G. POWELL

Commission No.: CC 590849

My Commission Expires: 10/6/2000



I accept designation as registered agent: 
Ray E. Ashton, Jr.

Ashton Biodiversity Research and Preservation Institute, Inc.

4 of 4

August 1999

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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned have signed these Articles of Incorporation on this _____ day of _____, 19____.

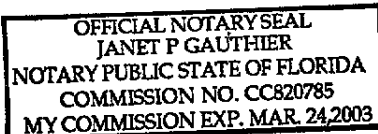
Ray E. Ashton, Jr.

Patricia S. Ashton

Henry Mushinsky

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Acknowledged before me on 8/20/99, by HENRY MUSHINSKY, who is personally known to me/ produced as identification and who executed the foregoing Article of incorporation and acknowledged to and before me that he/she executed said instrument for the purposes therein expressed.



Janet Gauthier
NOTARY PUBLIC-STATE OF FLORIDA

Name: _____

Commission No.: _____

My Commission Expires: _____

Acknowledged before me on _____, by _____, who is personally known to me/ _____ produced as identification and who executed the foregoing Article of incorporation and acknowledged to and before me that he/she executed said instrument for the purposes therein expressed.

NOTARY PUBLIC-STATE OF FLORIDA

Name: _____

Commission No.: _____

My Commission Expires: _____

I accept designation as registered agent: _____
Ray E. Ashton, Jr.