



# WISCONSIN MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION

Local Representative  
Meeting

June 2, 2022

# Welcome to the June 2022 Local Rep Meeting

- ▶ Opening Remarks
- ▶ WIMGA Board Introductions
- ▶ Introduction of Local Rep/Local Association Board Members
- ▶ Discussion of Results from Critical Issues Survey
- ▶ Proposed WIMGA Academy
- ▶ Potential New WIMGA Awards
- ▶ Call for Additional Members for Board Committees
- ▶ Next Steps
- ▶ Closing Remarks

# Meeting Ground Rules

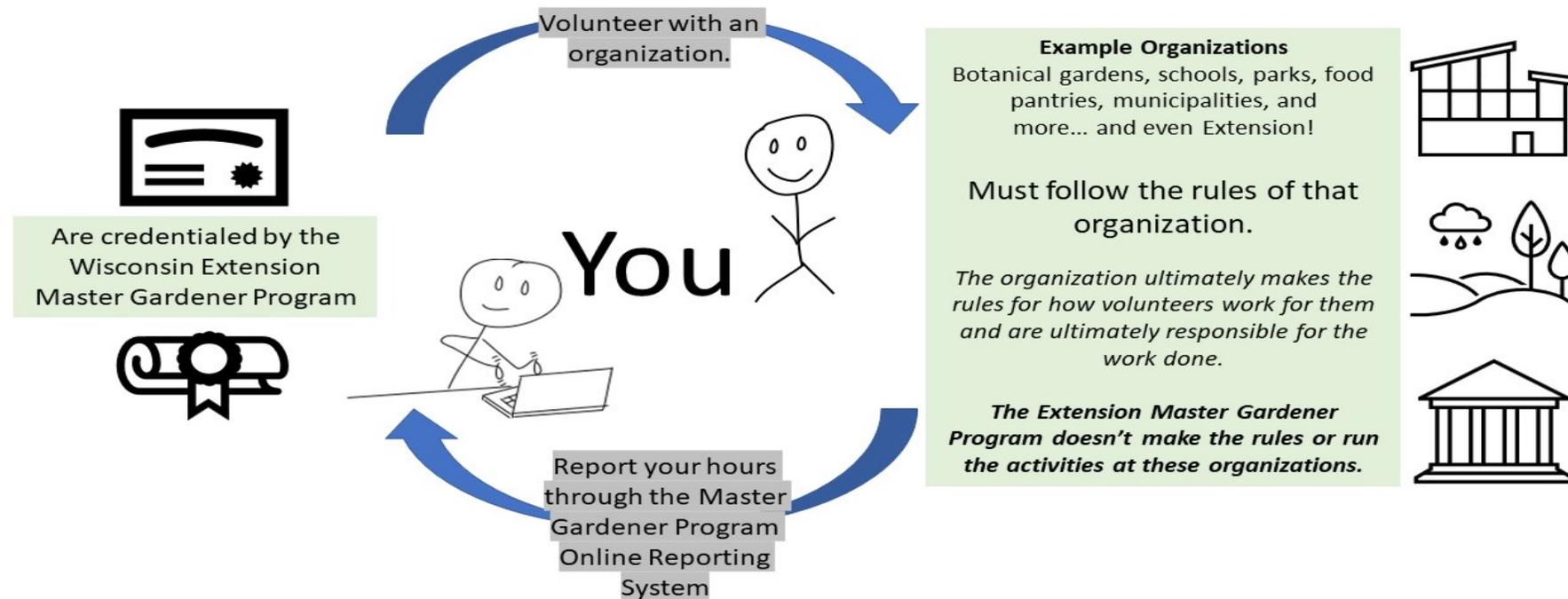
- ▶ We are all volunteers
- ▶ Value the strength of diverse input
- ▶ Listen with an open mind
- ▶ Focus on the future, not the past
- ▶ Demonstrate mutual respect, no negative criticism
- ▶ Off agenda items will be held until the end of the meeting
- ▶ Video will be disabled except for presenters to save band width
- ▶ Please enter your questions/comments through the Chat Box

# Introduction of Attendees

- ▶ WIMGA Board Members
- ▶ Local Association Attendees

# Overview of Program Office

## ► Master Gardener Program Office



There are lots of other details to the program, but this is the most basic aspect of volunteering your time  
Details available in Wisconsin Extension Master Gardener Program Onboarding Course [UW netID required]

# Overview of WIMGA

- ▶ Founded in 1992
- ▶ Governed by a Board of Directors consisting of 12 District Directors and 3 At Large Directors elected from Local Representatives
- ▶ Collective voice of over 2,000 MGVs and 47 Local Associations
- ▶ Strong partner with the Master Gardener Program Office serving as the link between the Program Office and Master Gardener Local Associations
- ▶ Conduit for statewide networking among MGVs
- ▶ Awards Educational Grants to Local Associations
- ▶ Provides educational programming available statewide to members

# Critical Issues Survey Results

Concern	Solutions	Working Group Volunteers
<b>Membership</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loss of Members</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small MG group sizes with loss of members resulting in more projects than can be done</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inability to know who is certified to confirm membership</li> </ul>	<p>Opt out for information sharing is being added for 2022 reporting. Potential limited access to ORS reports is a possibility in 2023.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inability to know who is taking/passed training</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inability to share MG information without them signing an additional waiver</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Retention of existing Master Gardeners is difficult given the Program Changes.</li> </ul>		

# Critical Issues Survey Results (con't)

Concern	Solutions	Working Group Volunteers
<b>Program Changes</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Frustration with all the changing rules; members are confused and tired of changes.</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confusion and frustration with using the State's online system. Members need assistance in learning it.</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of access or knowledge of technology to complete certification</li> </ul>		
<b>Cost Concerns</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Program cost is not affordable, limiting the potential number of MGs taking and completing training</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cost of insurance and liability protection is high especially for smaller Associations</li> </ul>		

# Discussion of the Results

- ▶ Have an open and constructive discussion of the concerns
- ▶ Discussion of potential ways to resolve concerns - i.e. next year ORS information will be provided to us
- ▶ Potential working groups including local reps for key issues
- ▶ Identify willing problem solvers

# WIMGA Academy Design

- ▶ Provide Local Reps and their Association's Board members with educational opportunities based on where they see needs
- ▶ Regular Zoom meetings held over the next few months
- ▶ Potential topics:
  - ▶ Membership Retention
  - ▶ Fund Raising
  - ▶ Branding
  - ▶ Best Practices
  - ▶ Fun Raising
  - ▶ Local Board Governance
  - ▶ Filling the Gaps

# Potential New WIMGA Awards

- ▶ Program Office will continue Milestone Awards (Hours and Years of Service)
- ▶ WIMGA will look to initiate two new awards in 2023
  - ▶ Educational Outreach Project
  - ▶ Innovative Project
- ▶ Recognition for winning
  - ▶ Our thoughts
  - ▶ Your thoughts
- ▶ Starting small to do it right - will expand later

# Committee Help Needed

- ▶ Standing Committees need additional help
- ▶ Communications Committee
  - ▶ Working Sub-Groups
    - ▶ Website
    - ▶ Newsletter
    - ▶ Social Media
- ▶ Continuing Education Committee
  - ▶ Working Sub-Groups
    - ▶ MG member education
    - ▶ WIMGA Academy for Local Reps

# Next Steps

- ▶ Today's input will refine WIMGA Academy sessions/focus
- ▶ WIMGA strategic planning will focus on resolution of identified concerns
- ▶ Recruit additional committee members where needed
- ▶ Identify subject matter experts to assist us

# Closing Remarks

5/26/22

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