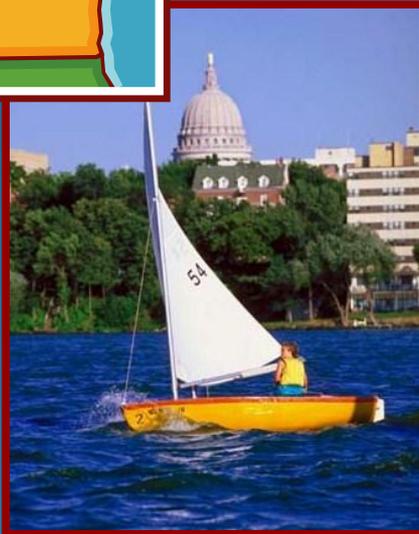


Building the WI Master Naturalist Program

Kate Reilly

UW Extension, Madison



WI Lakes
Convention
March 30, 2010
Green Bay, WI

What is a master naturalist program?

EDUCATION



STEWARDSHIP



RESEARCH



Other master naturalist programs



T E X A S

Master Naturalist



WI Master Naturalist Program

T E X A S

Master
Naturalist



Alliance of Natural Resource Outreach and Service Programs



www.nralliance.org/

What is the WI Master Naturalist Program?



WIMN Advisory Committee

- UW Extension, Green Bay, Madison, and Stevens Point

Central WI Environmental Station, Cofrin Center for Biodiversity, Environmental Resources Center, Extension Basin Educator Program, Treehaven Field Station, WI Geological and Natural History Survey

- DNR: WI State Parks, Citizen-based Monitoring, Water Action Volunteers
- Beaver Creek Reserve, Friends of WI State Parks, Loonwatch, Milwaukee County Parks/Wehr Nature Center, The Ridges Sanctuary, Trees for Tomorrow, WI Assoc. of Environmental Education, WI Professional Geologists Assoc

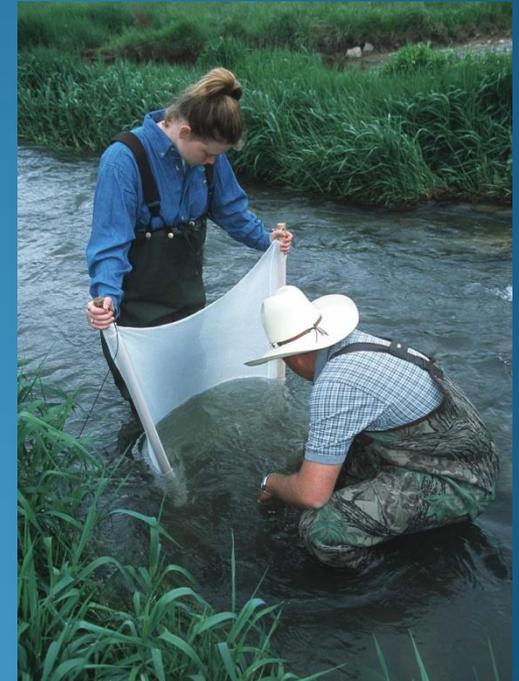
Work Plan

- Mission
- Administrative structure
- Program structure
- Funding
- Curriculum



MISSION

To promote awareness, understanding, and stewardship of the state's natural resources by developing a corps of well informed volunteers dedicated to education and service within their Wisconsin communities.



Administrative Structure

- Hire a Program Coordinator
- Choose coordination system
- Develop coordination system
- Establish Web needs
- Solicit support
- Recruit and train instructors
- Determine volunteer certification/service requirements

Program Coordinator

- Serve as representative, liaison and catalyst
- Prepare educational training materials
- Market program to potential audiences, partners and funders
- Evaluate the program and analyze data
- Design and coordinate delivery of local training
- Seek funding

Program Structure

Minnesota Model

Certification requirement:

- ☑ 40 hours basic training
- ☑ 40 hours supervised service

Maintenance requirement:

- ☑ 8 hours advanced training / year
- ☑ 40 hours approved service / year



Instructors



Program structure: Needs assessment

From the perspectives of:

1. Those that provide training
(environmental educators and centers)
2. Those that use trained volunteers to
deliver services (sponsors)
3. The volunteers

WI providers need to:

- Meet education and research objectives
- Meet ever increasing demands for services
- Make existing volunteer efforts more effective
- Provide continuing training for volunteers
- Train volunteers on a local level
- Provide volunteer opportunities for increasing numbers of seniors

WI sponsors/users need:

- More quality assurance
- Broader participant base
- Consistent, quality training and a solid curriculum
- More infrastructure and staff support
- Reliable funding – long term commitment

WI Volunteer needs:

- ??????????????????

Funding

- Course fees (\$200/40 hr course)
- Partner agencies, institutions, organizations
- Grants
- Membership dues – organizations ?

Curriculum Development

- Existing national model: Minnesota
- Existing state models:
 - Cofrin Center, WI Naturalists
 - Milwaukee Parks, Volunteer Naturalists
 - Master Gardeners
 - Master Woodland Stewards
 - UW Arboretum

Your Involvement

- Join the WIVN list serve:
 - lists.uwex.edu/mailman/listinfo/vol-master-naturalist
- ???????? **GROUP ACTIVITY**

Let me know what you think!

Comments ♦ Concerns ♦ Ideas

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Thank you!