

2024 Marion County Master Gardener Volunteer Orientation Session

May 10th, 2024

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Objectives

- Understand the history and purpose of the Cooperative Extension Service and the Master Gardener Volunteer (MGV) Program.
- Identify major areas of the Marion County MGV Program
- Describe the procedures for entering the program
- Understand the expectations of representing UF and Marion County Extension as an MGV

INTRODUCTION



Jeremy Rhoden
Urban Horticulture Agent
Master Gardener Volunteer Coordinator
Class Leader & Instructor

INTRODUCTION



Amanda Marek
Florida-Friendly Landscaping Agent

INTRODUCTIONS



Jo

**Co-Leader &
Instructor**

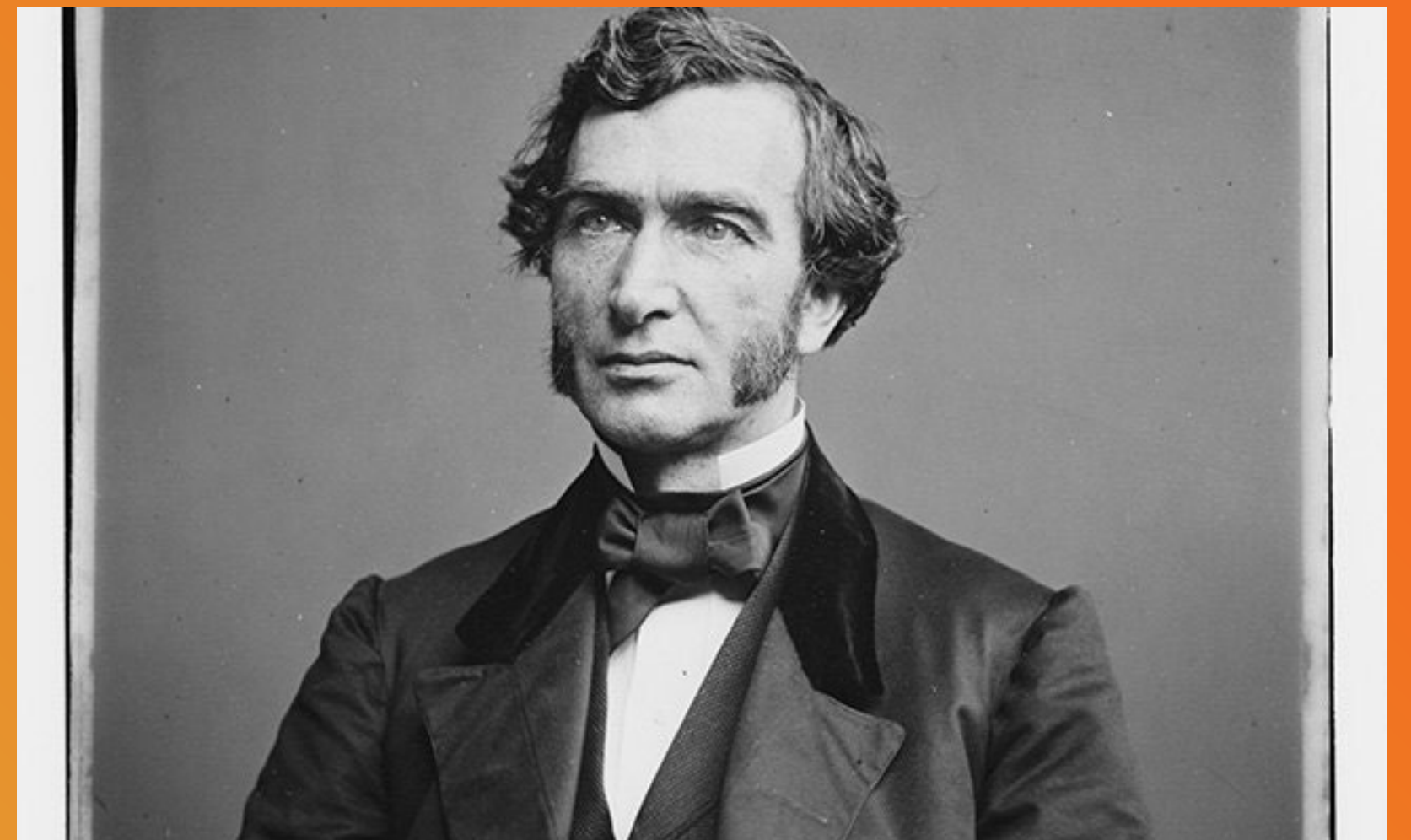


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**Co-Leader &
Instructor**

LAND GRANT UNIVERSITIES

- 1862 Congress passed & President Lincoln signed three bills into law
 - The Homestead Act
 - The Morrill Land Grant Act
 - U.S. Department of Agriculture (UDSA)



Justin Morrill. Photo courtesy of Library of Congress

RESEARCH EXPERIMENT STATIONS

- **1877 – Hatch Act Passed**
 - Annual grant to each state for agricultural research stations



1890 LAND GRANT INSTITUTIONS

- In 1890, the **Second Morrill Act** passed, establishing agriculture education at historically black universities



Photo courtesy of Andrew Skerritt, FAMU Forward

1994 LAND GRANT INSTITUTIONS

- Created to serve primarily Native American populations in remote, underserved communities



EXTENSION

- **1914 – Smith-Lever Act** created Extension offices in every county nationwide, to extend the land-grant research-based education to the community



The Jesup Agricultural Wagon was the first vehicle used in Tuskegee Institute's Movable School program, founded by educator Dr. George Washington Carver in 1906

FLORIDA EXTENSION

- University of Florida (UF)
- Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University (FAMU)



ABOUT EXTENSION

- University of Florida Extension is the Institute of Food & Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS)
- Consists of thousands of faculty and staff dedicated to finding solutions for our lives
- Comprised of three main areas

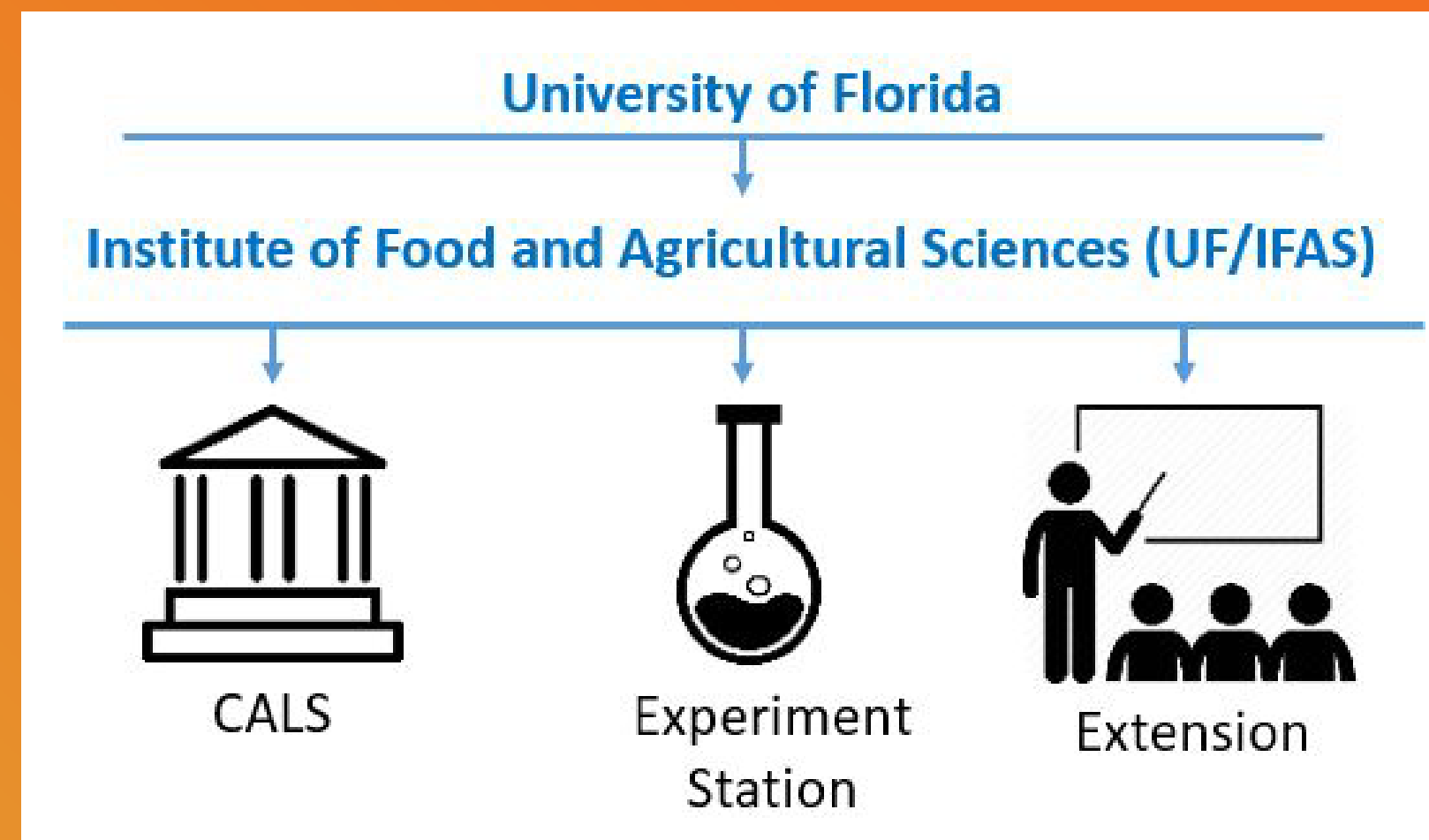


Photo courtesy of Matt Bengé, University of Florida

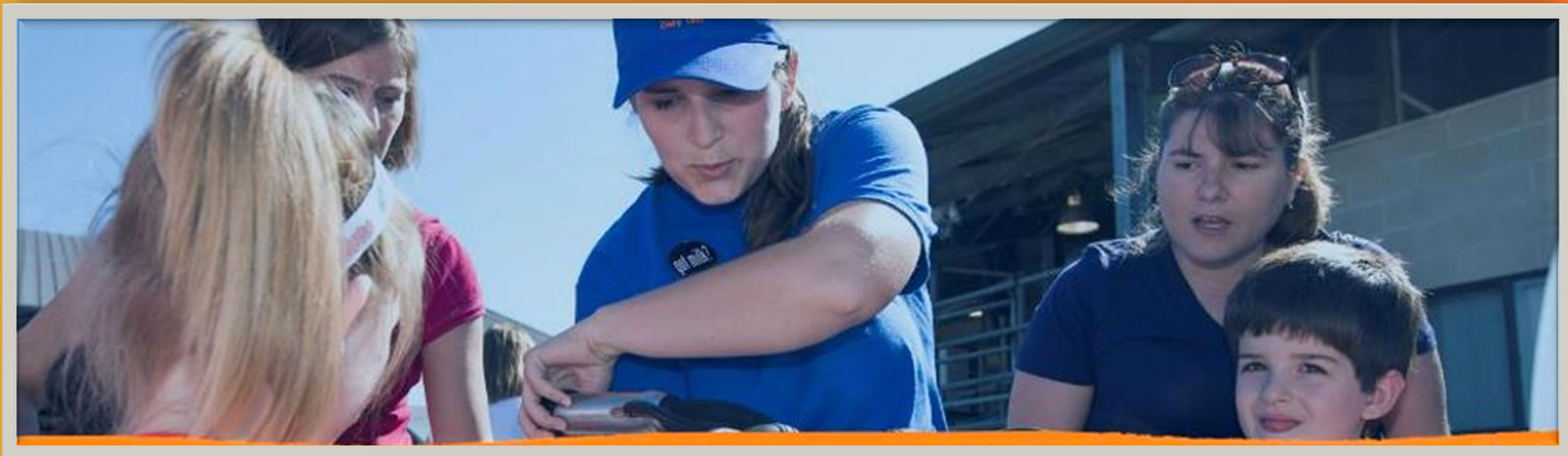
EXTENSION FUNDING

- Extension is a partnership between federal, state, and county governments to provide scientific knowledge & expertise to the community
- Funded by all three entities



EXTENSION MISSION

- The University of Florida's Cooperative Extension is dedicated to developing knowledge in agriculture, human and natural resources, and the life sciences. The goal is making that knowledge accessible to sustain and enhance the quality of human life.



CURRENT FLORIDA EXTENSION EFFORTS



Agriculture



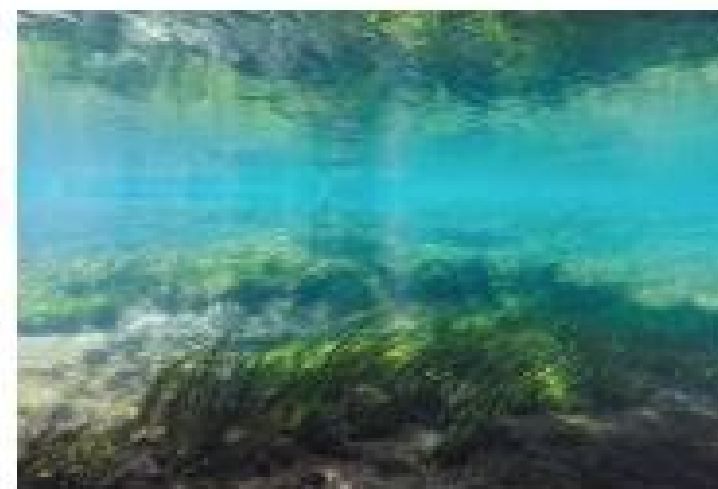
Community Development



Lawn and Gardens



4-H Youth



Natural Resources



Family Resources

Photo courtesy of Matt Bengé, University of Florida

Part 2

Master Gardener Volunteer Program

MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER (MGV) PROGRAM

History of the MGV Program

- Washington State – 1973
- Florida – 1979
- Marion County – 1981

- 2023 was the 50th Anniversary!



MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER (MGV) PROGRAM

Objectives of the Program:

- Assist the Horticulture Agent in educating constituents with the most relevant research-based education
- Conduct educational programs within the community for free or at low cost
- Maintain a Plant Clinic to answer gardening questions
- Recruit and train more MGV's each year

BENEFITS OF BEING A MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER

- Personal gain
- Field trips, continuing education
- Opportunity to help gardeners resolve their plant problems
- Beautify community by teaching about plants suited to our climate
- Network of great people
- Continuing education at free or reduced cost



YARD EVALUATIONS

Florida-Friendly Landscaping

- Four-part training session
- Yard evaluation based on nine Florida-Friendly Landscaping (FFL) Principles



PLANT CLINICS

Many Options!

- Main Office
- 5 Satellite Plant Clinics
- Mobile Plant Clinic
- EPCOT Flower & Garden Festival
- Other Special Events



EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

Throughout the Community

- Libraries
- Garden Clubs
- Community Organizations
- Homeowner Associations
- Churches
- Social Media & Newsletters



PROPAGATION

Meets Weekly!

- Propagation Nursery
- Two Sales Per Year
- Funds Raised Supports Activities



DEMONSTRATION GARDENS

Meets Weekly!

- Provides visual garden demonstrations in:
 - Herb Gardening
 - Shade Gardening
 - Vegetable Gardening
 - Rock Gardening
 - Terrace Gardening
 - Pollinator Gardening
 - Native Gardening
 - Hydroponics



YOUTH PROGRAMS

- Kids Gardening Zone
- Seminole Garden Project
- School visits
- FANS School Gardens
- STEAM Program



FUNDRAISERS

3 Events

- **Spring Festival**
 - Always the 2nd weekend of March
- **Spring Plant Sale**
 - Always the Saturday of Mother's Day Weekend
- **Fall Plant Sale**
 - Always the 1st Saturday of October





Part 3

MGV Training



MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER TRAINING

15 - Week Course

- Soils
- Florida-Friendly Landscaping
- Botany
- Insects/Diseases
- Pesticides
- Plant ID
- Propagation
- Lawns
- Palms
- Vegetable/Fruit Gardening
- And more!



CLASS SET-UP

Hybrid Course – Half In-Person, Half Online

- Course is \$200
 - Includes course, field trips, textbook, MGV polo and badge
- Class meets in-person every Wednesday from 9am – 1pm starting 7/31 and ending 11/6
- In-person classes will consist of labs and hands-on learning activities to accompany the online learning
- Online portion will be presentations, plant ID, assignments, and quizzes
- Course textbook: Florida Master Gardener Volunteer Handbook

EXAMPLE OF CLASS DAY AGENDA

9:00am – 1:00pm

Week 4

• Topic: Plant Biology

- Activity 1: Review Plant ID List 1
- Activity 2: Group Rotations
 - Plant Part Identification
 - Describe this Plant
 - Plant Part Matching Game
 - Dissect a flower and identify parts
- Activity 3: Scavenger Hunt in Demo Gardens
- Lunch
- Activity 4: Monocots vs. Dicots
- Activity: Review

• Homework:

- Take Chapter 3 Quiz (2 attempts)
- Take Plant ID Quiz 1 (2 attempts)
- Chapter 4
 - Watch recorded presentation
 - Read chapter
 - Complete study guide
- Study Plant ID List 2 (Numbers: 21-40)

VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENTS

- **First Year: 75 hours of service, + 10 hours of education**
 - 20 Plant Clinic
 - 15 Demonstration Gardens
 - 15 Propagation
 - 10 Florida-Friendly Landscaping
 - 8 Spring Festival
 - 5 Speaker's Bureau
 - 2 Youth Committee
- **Volunteer hours reported on Better Impact**
- **One year to complete hours to gain certification**
- **Annual re-certification - 50 volunteer hours + 10 CEU hours**



APPLICATIONS & INTERVIEWS

- You will have to create an account on Better Impact
- Background check is required, per University of Florida's Volunteer guidelines



APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- Desire to learn
- Desire to serve the community
- Background screening
- Interviews

- Green thumb is not required!



IMPORTANT DATES

- **May 31st, 2024 @ 11:59pm** - Application Deadline
- **June 18th-21st** - Interviews (about 20 minutes)
- If accepted, you will be notified by **July 5th, 2023**
- **July 31st** – First Class and Luncheon, weekly 9am – 1pm
- **November 6th** – Final Class and Exam





Part 4

Highlights of 2023



Speaker's Bureau

Highlights:

- Provided **80** educational presentations to the community.
- Volunteers logged **569** hours
- Number of volunteers who contributed time to SB: **56**

Contacts:

- Taught approximately **3,822** individuals through Speaker's Bureau this year.

Plant Clinic

Highlights:

- **Six** active plant clinics in 2023
- MGVs contributed **2,884** hours
- Of clients surveyed:
 - **91%** indicated they were **Extremely Satisfied** with the help provided.
 - **95%** indicated an **increase** in **knowledge**
 - **88%** indicated making or had intentions of making **behavior changes**

Contacts:

- Approximately **1,931** individuals utilized our **FREE** plant clinics this year to answer their horticulture questions.
- An approximate savings of **\$77,240** for our clients

Social Media & Communications

Highlights:

Facebook Page

- Total Posts – **344**
- Total Followers – **21,858**
- Total Shares – **36,567**
- Total People Reached – **8,753,586 (up 4.8M from last year)**

Facebook Survey Results

- **100%** reported an increase of knowledge from following our page
- **94%** reported making a change in behavior from what they've learned

Florida-Friendly Landscaping

Highlights:

- Taught **51** programs to **1,234** people and reached **2,132** in total
- **176** field consultations
- MGV's committed **755** hours to FFL, worth over **\$22,200**
- Marion County FFL activities in 2023 will save approximately **2.2 Million** gallons of water annually.
- Combined impacts since 2017 equate to over **13.1 Million** gallons of water saved!

Marion County Volunteer Hours

**Teamwork Makes the
Dream Work!**



20,213

MGV Hours – 20,016
Avg. of 156 hrs./MGV

Non-MGV Hours – 197

Total Volunteer Hour Value:

\$594,464

According to 2022 Florida data from the Independent Sector (<https://independentsector.org/>), the estimated dollar value of a volunteer hour is \$29.41

Time for Tours!

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Questions?

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