

Nebraska Master Naturalist Program
Grant # 19-184 2nd Quarter Periodic Report
4/1/20-6/30/20



By The Numbers: In this quarter, Nebraska Master Naturalists have **contributed 988** hours of volunteer time valued at **\$25,132**. In their efforts, Nebraska Master Naturalists have **connected with 7,889** Nebraskans through their volunteer service and have directly **impacted 3,097** acres across the state in resource management projects, several projects dealing with state listed at risk species and water quality. Since Nebraska Master Naturalist volunteering efforts began in 2010, a total of **87,250** volunteer service hours have been contributed statewide. The volunteering is valued at **\$2,218,767** in salary savings to our partners and Nebraskans by utilizing Nebraska Master Naturalists for volunteer support.

Highlighted Events: The Nebraska Master Naturalist Program has not been immune to the challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic has brought on. Many of our planned events and trainings for the summer have been cancelled, postponed, or re-structured for online audiences. The silver lining has been that our opportunities for online learning have increased substantially, and allowed for our Naturalist in rural and physically distant communities to connect and engage more than before. Now that online conferencing is the new normal, we anticipate these types of opportunities as a means to expand our program's reach and training potential. For example, in April the Nebraska Invasive Species Program held a training on invasive plants and insects found in Nebraska. The workshop taught our Naturalists how to identify and report invasive species. In June the Master Naturalists took part in online Bumblebee Atlas training via our partners at the Xerxes Society. Several other trainings our members have participated with have been in cooperation with our partners at Nebraska Game & Parks Commission, Conservation Nebraska, The Nature Conservancy, Audubon Nebraska, and others.

While volunteer hours have dipped overall in this quarter, our Naturalist members have increased volunteering in the area of Natural Resource Management. This volunteer category easily allows for independent activities, as well as an ability to maintain social distancing. Volunteering examples include removal of Eastern red cedar and musk thistle along the Prairie Corridor on Haines Branch near Lincoln. Pollinator surveys such as Monarch Watch, iNaturalist surveys, bumble bee atlas. Planting of Native prairie species, habitat clean ups, blue bird nest monitoring and others.

Outreach: Much of our outreach opportunities this quarter have been online, which has allowed us to see metrics in online engagement. Most notably, we launched a Butterfly Guide to Central Nebraska. This guide was developed and written by a Master Naturalist and Program Instructor. This guide is an excellent product that showcases what our Naturalists are capable of. The guide is a great companion to anyone wanting to know more about butterfly species and how to identify them in Central Nebraska. Also in May, NebraskaLand Magazine released a great story on the Nebraska Master Naturalist Program. The story profiled several Naturalists, and their work. It has been a great piece of outreach that has yielded several new members to the program.

What is Ahead: We are looking forward to hosting our Fall Core Training in October in the new education center at Schramm Park. We hope to have the class in person, and utilizing the wonderful resources onsite. The Master Naturalist program is also in the process of developing the 2021 Naturalist calendar. This is a phenology calendar with wonderful nature photography featured by our Naturalists and partners. We look forward to the upcoming opportunities this fall and winter that the Naturalist program can still provide in this challenging time.

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Developed and Edited by Matt Jones, Nebraska Master Naturalist Program Coordinator 07/17/2020

2020 2nd Quarter Totals			
	Total Hours Volunteered	Number of People Made Contact With	Number of Acres Impacted
Total Volunteer Hours 2010-2020:	87,250	819,271	104,682
Total 2nd Quarter Administrative Efforts	114.5	1226	15
Total 2nd Quarter Interpretation & Outreach:	178.16	566	335
Total 2nd Quarter Natural Resource MGMT:	432.35	6023	1342.41
Total 2nd Quarter Citizen Science:	255.05	23	1360
Total 2nd Quarter Outdoor Skills:	8.25	61	45
Total 2nd Quarter Volunteer Hours:	988.31	7,899	3,097.41
Total Value of Volunteer time: \$25.43			
Total 2nd Quarter Value of Volunteer time:	25,132		
Total Volunteer Time Value	2,218,767		
	Total Continuing Education Hours		
Total CE Hours 2010-2020:	20601		
Total 2nd Quarter CE Hours:	333		