**By The Numbers:** In this quarter, Nebraska Master Naturalists have **contributed 1,431** hours of volunteer time valued at **$38,927** In their efforts, Nebraska Master Naturalists have **connected** with **6,422** Nebraskans through their volunteer service and have directly **impacted 1,423** 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 **91,560** volunteer service hours have been contributedstatewide. The volunteering is valued at **$2,490,432** in salary savings to our partners and Nebraskans by utilizing Nebraska Master Naturalists for volunteer support.

**Highlighted Events:** The Nebraska Master Naturalist Program (NMNP) and our network of naturalist members have been creative in identifying ways to stay engaged and active in this time of social distancing and quarantining, when they would normally be out in the public working with people, wildlife and habitats. For example, in October the NMNP successfully facilitated a Core 24 Training for 15 new master naturalists. The training was our first ever “hybrid” style training that took place online via video conferencing and in person at the Schramm Education Center in early October. It was a great opportunity to connect with instructors and new members, as well as build our online training content library in which we are drawing on for future training resources. Another example, our Lincoln area chapter the “Salt Creek” Chapter has been actively offering safe volunteer opportunities with the Prairie Corridor on Haines Branch Project, by removing invasive species such as eastern red cedar, musk thistle and others along the trails path. The NMNP has been offering online training as well as co-sponsoring online trainings with our partners to offer learning opportunities for our naturalist members, who use the information gained to better support their volunteering efforts. To see the list of opportunities please visit our [calendar of events](https://www.nemasternaturalist.org/members/events-calendar.html).

**Outreach:** The NMNP has been fortunate to once again develop 2021 Naturalist calendar. This calendar offers phonology information about each month’s natural activities and displays wonderful nature photography featured by our naturalists and partners. This is a wonderful resource that goes out to our naturalists and partners. Much of our standard outreach has been via our online trainings, with our newly launched “Noontime Naturalist talks” monthly programming which are open to the public. Starting in November, we discussed topics such as Climate Change and Seed preservation of the Pawnee tribe. The NMNP is in the process of planning the rest of the 2021 presentation calendar.

**What is Ahead:** The NMNP is looking forward to a more active 2021 training season. The NMNP is currently planning two Core 24 trainings to take place in April & May, and one Complete training in July at UNL’s Cedar Point Biological Station. We hope that with improved public health we can focus in on what has made our program meaningful, hands on experiential learning. Additionally, the NMNP has been actively developing the Nebraska Master Naturalist Jr program. This new avenue of programming is a decentralized approach to meet youth grades 5-12 and provide them with hands on learning material and experiences to establish our future conservation minded citizens. The NMNP is currently in the process of hiring a part-time assistant to help us write curriculum and market the JR Program to educators around the state. We look forward to the upcoming opportunities this winter and spring that the Naturalist program can still provide in this challenging time.

Developed and Edited by Matt Jones, Nebraska Master Naturalist Program Coordinator 01/05/2021

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **2020 4th Quarter Totals**  |   |   |   |
|  | **Total Hours Volunteered** | **Number of People Made Contact With** | **Number of Acres Impacted** |
| Total Volunteer Hours 2010-2020:  | 91,560 | 842,730 | 112,195 |
| Total 4th Quarter Administrative Efforts | 114 | 751 | 2 |
| Total 4th Quarter Interpretation & Outreach:  | 473.69 | 4352 | 791 |
| Total 4th Quarter Natural Resource MGMT:  | 298.8 | 595 | 580.5 |
| Total 4th Quarter Citizen Science:  | 521.35 | 637 | 10 |
| Total 4th Quarter Outdoor Skills:  | 23.3 | 87 | 40 |
|   |   |   |   |
| **Total 4th Quarter Volunteer Hours:**  | 1431.14 | 6,422 | 1,423.50 |
| **Total Value of Volunteer time: $27.20** |  |  |  |
| **Total 4th Quarter Value of Volunteer time:**  | 38,927 |   |  |
| Total Volunteer Time Value  | 2,490,432 |   |   |
|   | **Total Continuing Education Hours** |   |   |
| Total CE Hours 2010-2020: | 21,512 |   |   |
| Total 4th Quarter CE Hours:  | 552 |   |   |