

**By The Numbers:** In the first three months of 2021 the volunteer members of the Nebraska Master Naturalist program have **contributed 540** hours of volunteer time valued at **\$14, 688**. In their efforts, Nebraska Master Naturalists have **connected** with **4,018** Nebraskans through their volunteer service and have directly **impacted 1,602** acres across the state in resource management projects, many projects dealing with state listed at risk species and water quality. Since Nebraska Master Naturalist volunteering efforts began in 2010, a total of **94,047** volunteer service hours have been contributed statewide. The volunteering is valued at **\$2,558,078** 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 actively identifying ways to stay engaged with conservation needs and active in this time of decreased opportunities, which has been directly impacted by the pandemic, but light is at the end of the tunnel with the advancement in vaccinations. For example, our Lincoln area chapter has partnered with Nebraska Game & Parks to rehabilitate the habitat at the education wetland on Game & Parks Headquarters. An exciting development this spring has been the hiring of Dayna Berry, who will lead the development and piloting of the Jr Nebraska Master Naturalist 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. Our goal is to write and develop our own unique curriculum this spring and summer, and begin to get it into schools this fall.

**Outreach:** Much of our standard outreach has been transitioned to online trainings, with our newly launched “Noontime talks” monthly programming which are open to the public. This spring we have covered such topics as Community science in Nebraska and North American Bat Monitoring Program. We hope to transition into in person events this summer. This spring the NMNP will be represented in virtual fashion at Earth Day events in Lincoln and Omaha. The NMNP was also fortunate to speak to over 40 participants about who we are and what we do, in an event called “Tea with a Naturalist” that was sponsored by Conservation Nebraska. Lastly this winter the NMNP in concert with the NMN Foundation have developed a new newsletter that we are calling “The Naturalist”. This newsletter is produced quarterly and share nature photography, nature journaling, stories and experiences, and highlights the work our members have achieved. This newsletter is available for digital download on our website. It has been a great way to showcase the talents and impacts our volunteers have produced.

**What is Ahead:** The NMNP is excited for return of in-person trainings. Our 2021 training season will start in May with a Core 24 training at the Education Center in Schramm Park. In July we will be hosting a week long Complete training at UNL’s Cedar Point Biological Station. Then in October we will again host a Core 24 training with our partners at the Crane Trust. In these trainings 45 new Master Naturalist Members will be added to the program. Additionally, the NMNP is developing another Butterfly field guide, this time for Eastern Nebraska. The original content for the guide has been created by two Master Naturalist members. The guides will be available to the public this summer. It is a great opportunity to show off our naturalists work as well as advance the mission and outreach of the NMNP. To see the list of all our NMNP opportunities please visit our [calendar of events](#).

Nebraska Master Naturalist Program  
 Grant # 19-184 1st Quarter Periodic Report  
 1/1/21-3/31/21



Developed and Edited by Matt Jones, Nebraska Master Naturalist Program Coordinator 04/19/2021

<b>2021 1st Quarter Volunteer Totals</b>			
	<b>Total Hours Volunteered</b>	<b>Number of People Made Contact With</b>	<b>Number of Acres Impacted</b>
Total Volunteer Hours 2010-2021:	94,047	853,077	116,202
Total 1st Quarter Administrative Efforts	120.7	1885	26
Total 1st Quarter Interpretation & Outreach:	148.79	1033	430
Total 1st Quarter Natural Resource MGMT:	85.25	710	962.5
Total 1st Quarter Citizen Science:	173.95	390	184
Total 1st Quarter Outdoor Skills:	11.5	0	0
<b>Total 1st Quarter Volunteer Hours:</b>	540.19	4,018	1,602.50
<b>Total Value of Volunteer time: \$27.20</b>			
<b>Total 1st Quarter Value of Volunteer time:</b>	14,688		
Total Volunteer Time Value			
	<b>Total Continuing Education Hours</b>		
Total CE Hours 2010-2021:	22,196		
Total 1st Quarter CE Hours:	349.95		