

Nebraska Master Naturalist Program
4th Quarter Periodic Report
10/01/2018-12/31/18



By The Numbers: In this quarter, Nebraska Master Naturalists have **contributed 2,683** hours of volunteer time valued at **\$66,264**. In their efforts, Nebraska Master Naturalists have **connected** with **12,844** Nebraskans through their volunteer service and have directly **impacted 4,002** acres across the state in resource management projects. Since tracking Master Naturalist volunteering efforts in 2010, Nebraska Master Naturalists have contributed a total of **70,642** volunteer service hours statewide. This is valued at **\$1,744,151** in salary savings to our partners and Nebraskans by utilizing volunteer support.

Highlighted Events: In the fourth quarter of 2018, Nebraska Master Naturalists contributed a total of 2,683 volunteer hours, making this the second highest volunteering period of the year. To close out 2018, the Nebraska Master Naturalist Program (NMNP) were very active by sharpening their skills and building their knowledge through an assortment of training opportunities hosted around the state. In October the NMNP held the 3rd annual conference at the Crane Trust Nature and Visitor Center. This year's conference was themed on Citizen Science and pollinators. This two-day conference included a habitat tour of the Crane Trust property along the Platte river, pollinator keynote speaker Jonathan Larson of UNL Extension, milkweed seed collecting, building of insect pollinator habitat, presentations led by Master Naturalists on projects they have participated in over the last year, as well as breakout sessions on how program leadership can assist in the future growth and financial sustainability of the NMNP. This event was definitely a highlight of the year, and the NMNP is currently planning the 2019 conference as it has become a staple in our programming.

There were also several events led by our Omaha Area Chapter of Master Naturalists, The "River City Chapter" as well as our Greater Nebraska group. Both chapter and group hosted the outstanding Aldo Leopold documentary "Green fire" led by Rich Hawes Naturalist '14. In addition, the River City Chapter held a workshop on small mammal trapping led by Naturalist Mike Schrad '12. This training provided the foundation for proper identification and trapping techniques which yields results in better understanding the range of at-risk species of small mammals around the state. Additionally, the River City chapter ventured out to Ashfall fossil beds for a roadside geologic tour. The activity of our two chapters and Greater Nebraska group is a good sign as the program hopes to transition in the future to more chapter and group led programs and events.

Finally, we closed out 2018 with elections of the NMNP Executive Board. The NMNP added several new faces to the board, which will help bring new ideas to the table and lead the NMNP into the future.

Outreach: Members of the NMNP remained busy this season by sharing the success of the program at a handful of local events. In October the NMNP hosted an outreach and education booth at Forest Festival in the Nebraska Forest Service's Horning State Farm Demonstration Forest. This was a fun outreach event where members of the NMNP were able to share and recruit future program members as well as educate youth and adults with some Nebraska Natural History Trivia.

Furthermore, in this season, the NMNP released the 4th Nebraska Naturalist Calendar. It is a phonology calendar developed by a few dedicated program members is a wonderful product and showcase of talent. It continues to be a beneficial tool in our program recruitment and overall outreach.

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What is Ahead: As we plan for 2019 the NMNP wants to thank the Nebraska Environmental Trust as well as our 40 other partners and affiliated programs for continued support. In early 2019 we plan on launching a new website that will be supported through the Nebraska Master Naturalist Foundation. This website will be a crucial resource for us as expand into 2019 and beyond. Also in 2019 we will be hosting four training opportunities for new members. Late April we will host a “Core 24” training in the Omaha area, June we will be back at the Nature Conservancy’s Niobrara Valley Preserve, July we will again be at UNL’s Cedar Point Biological Station, and in September we will host a “Core 24” training at the Crane Trust. For all our 2019 trainings and events explore our new website www.nemasternaturalsit.org for all the details.

Developed and Edited by Matt Jones, Nebraska Master Naturalist Program Coordinator 01/16/19

2018 4th Quarter Totals *1/16/19			
	Total Hours Volunteered	Number of People Made Contact With	Number of Acres Impacted
Total Volunteer Hours 2010-2018:	70,642	697,924	79,050
Total 4th Quarter Administrative Efforts	309.8	2197	1560
Total 4th Quarter Interpretation & Outreach:	1247.8	5273	387
Total 4th Quarter Natural Resource MGMT:	401.3	4410	1767
Total 4th Quarter Citizen Science:	642.9	867	146.5
Total 4th Quarter Outdoor Skills:	82.05	97	142
Total 4th Quarter Volunteer Hours:	2683.85	12844	4002.5
Total Value of Volunteer time: \$24.69			
Total 4th Quarter Value of Volunteer time:	\$66,264	Life to date Value of Volunteer Time: 1,744,151	
	Total Continuing Education Hours		
Total CE Hours 2010-2018:	16,905		
Total 4th Quarter CE Hours:	404.8		