

Nebraska Master Naturalist Program 2018 1st Quarter Report



By The Numbers: In this quarter, Nebraska Master Naturalists have **contributed 1,400** hours of volunteer time valued at **\$33,781**. In their efforts, Nebraska Master Naturalists have **connected** with **13,991** Nebraskans through their volunteer service and have directly **impacted 1,060** acres across the state in resource management projects. Since tracking Master Naturalist volunteering efforts in 2010, Nebraska Master Naturalists have contributed a total of **59,992** volunteer service hours statewide. This is valued at **\$1,448,206** in savings to Nebraska by utilizing volunteer support.

Highlighted Events: The new year has started out strong for the Nebraska Master Naturalist Program (NMNP). In January, we hired on a part time on-call Training's Assistant, Ethan Anderson. This new addition to our staff has helped us greatly in the program's ability to provide more concentrated training opportunities and special volunteer projects to help us meet our program's goals. Other notable events include a nature photography workshop that was hosted in conjunction with The Nature Conservancy, led by Director of Science Chris Helzer. In February the Master Naturalist held the 3rd annual Winter Gathering at Platte River State Park. This daylong event featured several conservation and environment education speakers. This event was also a time to recognize and celebrate our members, for their volunteer service from the previous year. In late March, the NMNP hosted a small mammals training. This training event provided the foundation for trapping and classifying Small (and not-so-small) Mammals for Research. Many species in Nebraska need basic data and more study. This training was led by a fellow Master Naturalist conducting studies at Fontenelle Forest, Indian Cave, and Glacier Creek are recruiting small mammal volunteers. All three of these events were organized and facilitated by Master Naturalist Volunteer Members. This showcases their ability to reach one another and help assist the program in its mission.

Outreach: The Nebraska Master Naturalist program was out in Kearney for the annual Audubon Crane Festival, hosting an outreach booth in March. This is always a great opportunity to reach fellow Nebraskans and those from around the nation. In March we also joined the Nebraska Environmental Trust's 25th anniversary celebration at the Nebraska State Capitol. We were fortunate to have a presentation booth to share the conservation and education successes our program, thanks to the generous support of the Environmental Trust.

Special Projects: "Nebraska Master Naturalists in Action" NMNP members in this quarter have developed a guide on butterflies of Eastern Nebraska. Built bat boxes to increase bat habitat at Prairie Pines. Built Kestrel houses to increase their nesting habitat at Fontenelle Forest. And work on the 3rd 2019 Nebraska Naturalist phonology calendar has begun. All of these projects have been made possible by our current Environmental Trust support. We look forward to developing more conservation project with our dedicated members this year.

What is Ahead: As we enter the spring the NMNP is on track to recruit more members and training activities. We have five trainings for new members in April, June, July and September. These training events will take place, in Lincoln, Omaha, Valentine, and Central Nebraska. In addition, program staff has been diligently developing conservation and education kits that will be made available to our members and enhance their volunteering resources. Some of these kits include, water resource and testing, small mammal identification and trapping, Bio-Blitz Resource, insect identification and collection, and more on the way. These kits will further impact the ability of our members to do conservation and citizen science.

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2018 1st Quarter Totals *4/16/18			
	Total Hours Volunteered	Number of People Made Contact With	Number of Acres Impacted
Total Volunteer Hours 2010-2018:	59,992	623,218	61,526
Total 1st Quarter Administrative Efforts	276.26	2432	185
Total 1st Quarter Interp & Outreach:	717.96	7200	138.25
Total 1st Quarter Natural Resource MGMT:	146.15	1218	700.1
Total 1st Quarter Citizen Science:	196.75	1105	32
Total 1st Quarter Outdoor Skills:	62.25	2036	5
Total 1st Quarter Volunteer Hours:	1399.37	13991	1060.35
Total Value of Volunteer time: \$24.14			
Total 1st Quarter Value of Volunteer time:	33,781		
	Total Continuing Education Hours		
Total CE Hours 2010-2018:	14,860		
Total 1st Quarter CE Hours:	538.4		

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