

## Nebraska Master Naturalist Program 2018 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Report



**By The Numbers:** In this quarter, Nebraska Master Naturalists have **contributed 2,783** hours of volunteer time valued at **\$67,197**. In their efforts, Nebraska Master Naturalists have **connected** with 21,746 Nebraskans through their volunteer service and have directly **impacted 5,034** acres across the state in resource management projects. Since tracking Master Naturalist volunteering efforts in 2010, Nebraska Master Naturalists have contributed a total of **63,141** volunteer service hours statewide. This is valued at **\$1,524,223** in savings to Nebraska by utilizing volunteer support.

**Highlighted Events:** In the second quarter of 2018, The Nebraska Master Naturalist Program hosted two training events, bringing in 25 new members into the program. April's training took place in the Lincoln and Omaha area over two weekends, utilizing partnering facilities at Prairie Pines, and Heron Haven. In June we held our 6<sup>th</sup> annual weeklong training event at the Nature Conservancy's Niobrara Valley Preserve. These two training events help us by training newly recruited Naturalists to help in statewide conservation efforts.

Other events included, a tour and volunteer day hosted by our friends at Ponca State Park in May. This was a great opportunity to volunteer at the park helping with their pollinator native plantings and to explore the natural wonder of the area. Additionally, in April our Lincoln area chapter of master naturalists participated in a stream clean up at Trendwood park, continuing their support of the "adopt a Stream" program. Our Omaha area chapter was also busy, in organizing and participating in a fungus identification training, and a workshop on Nebraska's small mammals trapping and identifying, in hopes to further survey populations of at risk species in the state. Similarly, our central Nebraska Master Naturalists took part in a training about Prairie Invertebrates in May. Utilizing the Nature Conservancy's Platte river Prairies as their classroom to learn to properly identify species of the area.

**Outreach:** The Nebraska Master Naturalist program was out and about this spring. The program held outreach booths to promote the work of our conservation partners. We were at Earth day events in Omaha, Bellevue, Lincoln and Hastings in April. Also in April, we were very fortunate to have a handful of Master Naturalist volunteer their time and talents in facilitating local prairie hikes as a part of the Great Plains Ecotourism Symposium in Kearney. This was a great outreach opportunity for our naturalists to share their knowledge and love of Nebraska natural areas. Furthermore, Master Naturalists helped promote the program and the work of our volunteer efforts at the annual Weatherfest event in Lincoln, the World Wide City Nature Challenge in Omaha. This event was akin to a city wide bio-blitz, that drew hundreds of people from Henry Doorly Zoo and Heron Haven.

**What is Ahead:** As the Nebraska Master Naturalist program looks ahead to the next quarter of 2018, we hope to further expand our ability to assist our naturalist members and program partners work in education and conservation efforts statewide. The program will be offering two more training opportunities to equip the next round of naturalist volunteers with the knowledge and skills they need to go to volunteer successfully. In July we will have hosted a week long course onsite at UNL's Cedar Point Biological Station and in September we will host a "Core 24" training in Central Nebraska at the Crane Trust. In conclusion we will be continuing to "Put Master Naturalists to work" by developing future projects with our members and program partners to help them reach their goals and mission's, by providing resources and connections from around the state.

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2018 2nd Quarter Totals *7/17/18			
	Total Hours Volunteered	Number of People Made Contact With	Number of Acres Impacted
Total Volunteer Hours 2010-2018:	63,141	647,644	71,794
Total 2nd Quarter Administrative Efforts	349.91	752	21
Total 2nd Quarter Interp & Outreach:	1164.11	11342	316
Total 2nd Quarter Natural Resource MGMT:	488.86	4724	4224.45
Total 2nd Quarter Citizen Science:	593.37	3125	360
Total 2nd Quarter Outdoor Skills:	187.41	1803	113.5
<b>Total 2nd Quarter Volunteer Hours:</b>	<b>2783.66</b>	<b>21746</b>	<b>5034.95</b>
<b>Total Value of Volunteer time: \$24.14</b>			
<b>Total 2nd Quarter Value of Volunteer time:</b>	<b>67,197</b>		
	<b>Total Continuing Education Hours</b>		
Total CE Hours 2010-2018:	15,593		
Total 2nd Quarter CE Hours:	713		

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