

Nebraska Master Naturalist Program

2016 Fourth Quarter Report



By The Numbers: In this quarter, Nebraska Master Naturalists have contributed **2,386** hours of volunteer time valued at **\$56, 214** in conservation service. In their efforts, Nebraska Master Naturalists have connected with **15,410** Nebraskans and has impacted **1,187** acres across the state in direct conservation work. Since tracking began in fall 2010, Master Naturalists have contributed a total of **45,520** volunteer service hours valued at **\$1,072,451**. In all, participation and involvement has increased substantially since the previous quarter, and any other quarter in our program's history.

Highlighted Events: In October we celebrated by adding 21 new members into the program. These new members were participated of our Fall, Core training class held at Ak-Sar-Ben Aquarium in Schramm Park near Gretna. Furthermore, in October a dozen Master Naturalists were on hand to assist in the Fall reintroduction of the endangered Salt Creek Tiger Beetle into the Saline Wetland habitat north of Lincoln. Our program has been fortunate to partner with the federal, state and local agencies in this effort for the last 3 years. Additionally, our staff organized a "Naturalists in the Park" event at Platte River State Park. This event had a great turnout, and was purposeful in introducing Naturalist members with the park's unique ecology, and history. The event also was used to make aware and recruit volunteers the many opportunities in the park.

Outreach:

In November, we were privileged to have a news story featured about the Nebraska Master Naturalist Program, broadcasted statewide via Nebraska Educational Telecommunications (NET) Radio. The six-minute piece provided a firsthand insight into what our trainings look like, why our members participate and what they plan on doing with their certification. It showcased the necessity and value of our volunteer's conservation and outreach efforts. Additionally, a core group of Naturalists and program partners came together to create our 2017 Nebraska Naturalist Calendar. The calendars were released this fall, to partners, members and other program stakeholders. This project is an outstanding example of what our Naturalists can do to educate and influence conservation in Nebraska. Master Naturalist Program Staff and Members were present at several outreach events in this quarter. For example, Naturalist Members hosted an outreach booth with activities for families at the Wild Fall Festival at Pioneers Park, Trunk or Treat Event at Calamus Reservoir, and Twilight on the Tallgrass at Audubon's Spring Creek Prairie. These events along with several others has impacted our visibility around the state.

What is Ahead: As of October 1st, Matt Jones has accepted the position as Program Coordinator, Matt is located in Kearney at the Buffalo County Extension Center. Our 2017 Nebraska Master Naturalist Training dates have also been released, and are currently being filled with new program recruits. We will host four training opportunities, two week long "complete" trainings and two "core" trainings. Training locations include, Schramm Park, The Nature Conservancy's Niobrara Valley Preserve, Cedar Point Biological Station, and the Crane Trust. In addition to training opportunities for new members, we have also mapped out multiple continuing education events throughout the winter and spring for those seeking to complete their certification. We will continue to grow and cultivate opportunities for partnerships in conservation to further enhance our mission.

Developed and Edited by Matt Jones, Nebraska Master Naturalist Program Coordinator

University of Nebraska–Lincoln
3310 Holdrege Street • 417 Hardin Hall •
Lincoln, NE • 68583-0974
Ph (402) 937-8601
naturalist@unl.edu
<http://NATURALIST.unl.edu>



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| 2016 4thQuarter Totals *1-18-17 | | | |
|---|---|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| | Total Hours Volunteered | Number of People Made Contact With | Number of Acres Impacted |
| Total Volunteer Hours 2010-2016: | 45,520 | 518,947 | 38,125 |
| Total 4th Quarter Administrative Efforts | 358.25 | 5330 | 52.5 |
| Total 4th Quarter Interpretation & Outreach: | 603.16 | 6,202 | 18 |
| Total 4th Quarter Natural Resource MGMT: | 923.65 | 1150 | 1008 |
| Total 4th Quarter Citizen Science: | 411.7 | 2276 | 80.2 |
| Total 4th Quarter Outdoor Skills: | 89 | 452 | 29 |
| | | | |
| Total 4th Quarter Volunteer Hours: | 2,386 | 15,410 | 1187.7 |
| | | | |
| Total Value of Volunteer time: \$23.56 | | | |
| Total 4th Quarter Value of Volunteer time: | 56,214 | | |
| | | | |
| | Total Continuing Education Hours | | |
| Total CE Hours 2010-2016: | 11,075.05 | | |
| Total 4th Quarter CE Hours: | 330.75 | | |

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