**By The Numbers:** In this quarter, Nebraska Master Naturalists have **contributed 1,550** hours of volunteer time valued at **$38,270**. In their efforts, Nebraska Master Naturalists have **connected** with **15,353** Nebraskans through their volunteer service and have directly **impacted 3,020** acres across the state in resource management projects. Since tracking Master Naturalist volunteering efforts in 2010, Nebraska Master Naturalists have contributed a total of **73,694** volunteer service hoursstatewide. This is valued at **$1,819,504** in salary savings to our partners and Nebraskans by utilizing volunteer support.

**Highlighted Events:** The Nebraska Master Naturalist Program has started off the new year very strong with great opportunities lined up for the year. In March our newly elected Executive board meet for the first time, we have 4 new board members that will make a great addition to our planning and direction moving forward. Our new board members represent the master naturalist members and representatives of our partnering programs. Another great achievement for the Nebraska Master Naturalist Program was the launch of our new website [www.nemasternaturalist.org](http://www.nemasternaturalist.org). This new website was generously donated to use from the support of the Nebraska Master Naturalist Foundations, and it serves as an information portal for both organizations. The page is maintained by program staff, and it has been wonderful to work with such and easy and intuitive design that will help us drive new members and potential donors to the page.

**What is Ahead:** We have set the stage for 2019 to be another successful year for the master naturalist program. We have 4 training opportunities for new master naturalist members. Our first training will take place in April & May in the Omaha area. Then in June we will host our 8th year of training at the Nature Conservancy’s Niobrara Valley Preserve. This training is our most popular training opportunity to date, with the class being full before the end of February. In July we will host another week long training at UNL’s Cedar Point Biological Station. This training opportunity is our 3rd year at this location and the second year that we have had the training course eligible as graduate credit through the college of education at UNL. Then in September we will be hosting our Central Nebraska area training with our partners at the Crane Trust. This has proven to be a great location and opportunity for those in central Nebraska to take advantage of the local landscape by becoming connected with our program.

Other annual events for 2019 are taking shape. We are in the planning stages for several other training and educational events. In August we will have our annual Master Naturalist Reunion event, at the Nature Conservancy’s Niobrara Valley Preserve. This event will feature skills workshop on native plant identification and edible plant foraging, as well as a presentation on the NABat project, that fellow master naturalist volunteered with the data collection over the past two summers. This event is always a great opportunity for new and current members of the program to re-connect and network. In October the master naturalist program will hold the 3rd annual master naturalist conference. The conference is a wonderful event that showcases the projects that master naturalists have been working on over the past year. Our partnering organizations are also present, and present on projects and studies that have or need master naturalist involvement. Then we are already planning for 2020’s master naturalist Winter Celebration. We took off a year in 2019, but this new event is where the master naturalists get together to celebrate their work over the year. We will have a keynote speaker, hand out certificates of achievements for those who excel beyond the required volunteer obligations, we recognize those who have worked and initiated special projects through the year.

Developed and Edited by Matt Jones, Nebraska Master Naturalist Program Coordinator 04/16/19

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **2019 1st Quarter Totals \*4/16/19** |  |  |  |
|  | **Total Hours Volunteered** | **Number of People Made Contact With** | **Number of Acres Impacted** |
| Total Volunteer Hours 2010-2019: | 73694 | 720,147 | 84,808 |
| Total 1st Quarter Administrative Efforts | 382.2 | 3391 | 8 |
| Total 1st Quarter Interpretation & Outreach: | 705.27 | 8089 | 920 |
| Total 1st Quarter Natural Resource MGMT: | 197.25 | 2259 | 1072 |
| Total 1st Quarter Citizen Science: | 198.15 | 1062 | 1013 |
| Total 1st Quarter Outdoor Skills: | 66.95 | 552 | 7 |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Total 1st Quarter Volunteer Hours:** | 1549.82 | 15353 | 3020 |
| **Total Value of Volunteer time: $24.69** |  |  |  |
| **Total 1st Quarter Value of Volunteer time:** | 38,270 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  | **Total Continuing Education Hours** |  |  |
| Total CE Hours 2010-2019: | 17,524 |  |  |