**By The Numbers:** In this quarter, Nebraska Master Naturalists have **contributed 1,779** hours of volunteer time valued at $45,240. In their efforts, Nebraska Master Naturalists have **connected** with **15,988** Nebraskans through their volunteer service and have directly **impacted 3,703** acres across the state in resource management projects, several projects dealing with state listed at risk species and water quality. Since Nebraska Master Naturalist volunteering efforts began in 2010, a total of **86,123** volunteer service hours have been contributedstatewide. The volunteering is valued at **$2,190,107** in salary savings to our partners and Nebraskans by utilizing Nebraska Master Naturalists for volunteer support.

**Highlighted Events:** This quarter was marked as one of the most active volunteer periods for this time of the year in the life of the program. January and February saw a rise in volunteer hours, that was higher than years past. This is due to our volunteer’s dedication to conservation and promotion of natural resources in Nebraska. In January we were fortunate to honor our volunteers at the annual Nebraska Master Naturalist Winter Celebration. This event is a time for the program and partners to recognize our members who have gone above and beyond their volunteer obligation of 20 hours annually. Over 35 awards were presented to our members volunteering over 100 hours in 2019. This event is also a great time to connect with fellow Master Naturalists, enjoy a potluck and learn from the three speakers that presented on a variety of topics. Such as Nebraska Wildlife Rehab’s Prairie Dog relocation work, The Lincoln Fox project and The Chief Standing Bear Trail. Over 125 members were in attendance, it was a wonderful opportunity to grow and connect. Also in February our regional groups and chapters were active. The Omaha River City chapter meet to vote in new leadership and plan their programming and volunteering for the year. Lincoln’s Salt Valley chapter met, and organized bi-monthly habitat cleanup projects in conjunction with the Prairie Corridor on Haines Branch Project. Even in this time of social distancing they have met when weather allows to work removing invasive plants and cedars, pick up trash along sections of the corridor. In Mid-February the Greater Nebraska Group met and hosted Bat Biologist Baxter Seguin, who presented on the North American Bat Monitoring Program. In January the Master Naturalist Program board also held their first board meeting of the year.

**Outreach:** In late February, members of the Master Naturalist Program were on hand to assist with Rowe Sanctuary’s Wild Experience Room at the Kearney Library during the kickoff of Sandhill Crane Migration. This was an opportunity for the program to provide outreach about ourselves as well as educate families learning about Cranes and Nebraska habitats. Additionally, an article in NebraskaLand magazine was produced that gave a day in the life perspective of a Nebraska Master Naturalists. We are thankful for the promotion of the program through this publication. In light of recent events, several in person Earth Day celebrations were cancelled. But virtual Earth Day events took their place, and the program was still able to get our name out there and provide education resources.

**What is Ahead:** In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, all summer programming was cancelled. We are still on track for our Fall training at the new Schramm Education Center in October. Hope remains high that we will be able to host our Master Naturalist reunion and fall conference. We have been fortunate to organize many monthly programs via online video applications and are currently organizing many for the summer. In these circumstances we will continue to grow and develop the program to the best of our abilities.

Developed and Edited by Matt Jones, Nebraska Master Naturalist Program Coordinator 05/04/2020

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **2020 1st Quarter Totals**  |   |   |   |
|  | **Total Hours Volunteered** | **Number of People Made Contact With** | **Number of Acres Impacted** |
| Total Volunteer Hours 2010-2020:  | 86,123 | 810,923 | 102,398 |
| Total 1st Quarter Administrative Efforts | 185.8 | 2676 | 30 |
| Total 1st Quarter Interpretation & Outreach:  | 552.44 | 8209 | 0 |
| Total 1st Quarter Natural Resource MGMT:  | 738.24 | 3619 | 3609.1 |
| Total 1st Quarter Citizen Science:  | 177 | 1039 | 16 |
| Total 1st Quarter Outdoor Skills:  | 125.5 | 445 | 48 |
|   |   |   |   |
| **Total 1st Quarter Volunteer Hours:**  | 1,779 | 15,988 | 3,703.10 |
| **Total Value of Volunteer time: $25.43** |   |  |  |
| **Total 1st Quarter Value of Volunteer time:**  | $45,240 |   |  |
| Total Volunteer Time Value  | $2,190,107 |   |   |
|   | **Total Continuing Education Hours** |   |   |
| Total CE Hours 2010-2020: | 20,240 |   |   |
| Total 1st Quarter CE Hours:  | 559 |   |   |