

## Nebraska Master Naturalist Program 2017 First Quarter Report



**By The Numbers:** In this quarter, Nebraska Master Naturalists have contributed **1,412** hours of volunteer time valued at **\$33,266** in conservation service. In their efforts, Nebraska Master Naturalists have connected with **15,482** Nebraskans and has impacted **1,180** acres across the state in direct conservation work. Since tracking began in fall 2010, Master Naturalists have contributed a total of **47,732** volunteer service hours valued at **\$1,124,565**.

**Highlighted Events:** In February we celebrated the successes of the Nebraska Master Naturalist Program by hosting the second annual Winter Gala at Platte River State Park. This event brought in over one hundred Nebraska Master Naturalists, friends and family. We were treated to keynote speakers, Joe Starita, Den Fogel and the President of Watchable Wildlife Inc, James Mallman. We also took time to recognize Master Naturalists that archived their certification in 2016 and those who went above and beyond the volunteer service hours.

Starting in January we began the process of strategic planning, in order to map out the next 5-10 year goals of the program. In order to gain the valuable input from as many Master Naturalist Members as possible, we hosted three region listening sessions in Grand Island, Lincoln and Omaha. The next step will be for our planning committee to draft our official plan for program approval in late spring.

In March the Nebraska Master Naturalist Executive board approved the creation of the Salt Valley Chapter of Master Naturalists. The program now sponsors two regional chapters; Salt Valley (Lincoln), and River City (Omaha). The chapters offer localized training, volunteer opportunities and socialization.

**Outreach:** This spring the Nebraska Master Naturalist Program was active in promoting our training opportunities. In February, we attended the Annual Pheasants Forever State habitat meeting, networking and promoting the program. In March, we hosted an outreach table at Audubon's Crane Festival in Kearney. Master Naturalist members were also on hand volunteering with family outreach programming in the Wild Experience room as part of the weekend's festival. Later in March we were invited to speak at The Crane Trust, as part of the "Wild About Nebraska" speaker series. This was a great opportunity to cross-promote the program with our partners at The Crane Trust. In March we joined forces with the Hastings Museum in securing a partnership. Going forward we plan on organizing continuing education and volunteer opportunities with the museum.

**What is Ahead:** In April we will have outreach booths in Lincoln and Omaha for Earth Day celebrations. Also in April, we begin our first training of the year at Schramm Park & Aquarium. This "Core" training will bring in 15 new Naturalist members. In May we will be onsite at the Ft. Kearny Expo presenting and hosting an outreach booth. In June we will host two, one week long "complete" Master Naturalist trainings. These trainings provide an opportunities tom complete certification requirements in one week. June 4-10 will take place at The Nature Conservancy's Niobrara Valley Preserve, and June 25<sup>th</sup>-July 1<sup>st</sup> will take place at UNL's Cedar Point Biological Station near Ogallala. The Cedar Point training has also been approved as a graduate level course through UNL College of Education, offering 3 credits of Teacher Educators. Going forward we will continue to grow and cultivate opportunities for partnerships in conservation to further enhance our mission.

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	Total Hours Volunteered	Number of People Made Contact With	Number of Acres Impacted
Total Volunteer Hours 2010-2016:	47,732	538,699	40,591
Total 1st Quarter Administrative Efforts	268.72	3866	115
Total 1st Quarter Interp & Outreach:	730.81	9626	234
Total 1st Quarter Natural Resource MGMT:	207.5	979	700
Total 1st Quarter Citizen Science:	162.9	493	131
Total 1st Quarter Outdoor Skills:	43	518	0
<b>Total 1st Quarter Volunteer Hours:</b>	<b>1,412</b>	<b>15,482</b>	<b>1180</b>
<b>Total Value of Volunteer time: \$23.56</b>			
<b>Total 1st Quarter Value of Volunteer time:</b>	<b>33,266</b>		
	<b>Total Continuing Education Hours</b>		
Total CE Hours 2010-2016:	11845.85		
Total 1st Quarter CE Hours:	630.8		

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