WELCOME NEBRASKA MASTER NATURALISTS!
*last updated 03/09/16
Here’s your chance to see Nebraska’s natural resources like you’ve never seen them before! Get up close and personal with the outdoors while Nebraska Master Naturalist takes you into the field to learn hands-on about Nebraska’s natural resources.

Master Naturalists are landowners, teachers, professionals, guides, college students, parents, retirees, and role models. If you have an interest in leading education programs, conducting breeding bird surveys, mentoring hunters and anglers, volunteering in parks and zoos, teaching your family about the outdoors, or being in nature, this program is for you!

Through this program you will receive in-depth training, led by experts in their fields. LEARN about Nebraska’s ecosystems, plants and animals, conservation biology, and so much more! EXPLORE Nebraska alongside scientists, faculty, and natural resource professionals. CONTRIBUTE your time and expertise through exciting volunteer opportunities in habitat conservation, environmental education, outdoor skills, and citizen science. Most importantly, CONNECT with Nebraskans who share your passion for nature.

Remember, if you ever have any questions or concerns; please do not hesitate to contact us. Welcome to the Nebraska Master Naturalist Community!

We will see you in the field!

Bruce Mellberg
Nebraska Master Naturalist & Program Coordinator

Matthew Jones
Nebraska Master Naturalist & Trainings Assistant
CONTACT INFORMATION

For program and technical assistance, communications, to find out more about our program, request a Master Naturalist, or host an event or training, please contact Program Coordinator Bruce Mellberg. For certification training information, to find out about how to become a Certified Master Naturalist, how to register for training, get certified, or host training in your area, contact Matt Jones, Trainings Assistant. For communications assistance, and to share volunteer and training opportunities, contact our Matt Jones.

Bruce Mellberg
Program Coordinator
Home Office
University of Nebraska–Lincoln
417 Hardin Hall
3310 Holdrege Street
Lincoln, Nebraska 68583-0974
402-472-8689
bmellberg2@unl.edu

Matt Jones, Trainings Assistant
Buffalo County Extension Office
1400 E 34th St
Kearney, NE 68847
402-937-8601
Mjones30@unl.edu
naturalist@unl.edu

SOCIAL NETWORKING
http://NATURALIST.unl.edu
Facebook http://facebook.com/masternaturalist
YouTube http://www.youtube.com/NuNaturalist
PROGRAM DESCRIPTION
Nebraska Master Naturalist is a public and private partnership funded by the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, Nebraska Environmental Trust, and Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. Our program recruits, trains, manages, and provides incentives and resources for volunteers participating in interpretation and outreach, resource management, citizen science, and outdoor skills and recreation in Nebraska.

STEPS TO CERTIFICATION:
To complete the program and certify as a Nebraska Master Naturalist, a total of 60 hours of in-depth instruction is required. The initial, basic (Core 24) training will consist of 24 hours of hands-on learning, both in the classroom and in the field. Each session will be led by subject-matter experts, who will introduce you to Nebraska’s natural legacy. The remaining 36 hours of more specialized, "Naturalist-in-Training" instruction (Core +) will occur through shorter workshops offered at a variety of locations within the state. Such Core + instruction will enable a trainee to begin to specialize by following their interests into these Key Areas of Expertise:

- Outdoor Skills and Recreation;
- Resource Management;
- Interpretation and Outreach; and
- Citizen Science

Annually, upon completion of the 60 hours of required training to certify in the program, participants are asked to complete a minimum of 20 hours of volunteer service and 8 hours of continuing education annually in order to maintain and keep their certification. Certified volunteers will be able to network with other Master Naturalists, find out about new and exciting volunteer opportunities, and be rewarded for their dedication.

Each Core 24 training session will cover these topics:

- Intro to the Program, Environmental Ethics/History.
- Flora of Nebraska
- Fauna of Nebraska
- Ecology
- Non-living environmental (Geo-naturalist history, geology, ecology)
- Outdoor Skills
- Environmental Education & Interpretation
- Safety in the Field

TOTAL = 24 hrs.
FUNCTIONING THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS:
A growing list of over 30 partner agencies and organizations from across the state are now involved, including regional and international partnerships. Partners including the University of Nebraska, the Nebraska Environmental Trust, and the Nebraska Game and Parks Association provide funding and support towards the success of this program.

The Nebraska Master Naturalist Program is an essential source of volunteers for natural resource agencies and organizations statewide, contributing to the success of projects such as the Nebraska Natural Legacy Project. Trained volunteers are valuable members of the natural resources community, and will provide thousands of dollars in salary savings. This program matches the needs of conservation agencies and organizations with the skills and availability of trained volunteers. Hours and volunteer opportunities are tracked through an extensive online database.

The ultimate culmination of this program is in the success of our participants. The training is just the first step. The Nebraska Master Naturalist Program has created a support network to connect participants with other volunteers and volunteer opportunities. The program hosts an online community to link participants with volunteers and natural resource professionals, and engage them in their experience. Most importantly, the program will acknowledge and reward its members for their participation in the program through awards banquets, barbeques, and family field days. Master Naturalists will be promoted, supported, and recognized by their community for their efforts, serving as an inspiration to us all.

PROGRAM PURPOSE

Mission
The Nebraska Master Naturalist Program educates a volunteer network dedicated to promoting the conservation of Nebraska’s natural resources.

Vision
The Nebraska Master Naturalist Program will serve as the leader providing science-based education to empower a network of volunteers to engage citizens to conserve natural resources.

Goals
- Establish an active volunteer community that advances the conservation of Nebraska’s natural resources.
- Equip citizens with the skills and knowledge to participate in conservation efforts.
- Benefit organizations and agencies across the state by providing quality volunteers to supplement conservation efforts.
- Become an integral part of the conservation community.
- Establish a program that adapts to new challenges and information.
- Establish a self-sustaining program.
**Funding and Support Provided By**

- Nebraska Environmental Trust
- Nebraska Game and Parks Commission
- University of Nebraska–Lincoln Extension
- School of Natural Resources
- University of Nebraska Kearney
- Alliance of Natural Resource Outreach and Service Programs
- National Drought Mitigation Center
- Audubon Nebraska
- Calamus Outfitters
- Nebraska Public Power District
- Chadron State College
- Crane Trust Nature & Visitor Center
- Fontenelle Forest
- National Association for Interpretation
- National Park Service
- Nebraska Alliance for Conservation and Environment Education
- Nebraska Department of Economic Development
- Nebraska Forest Service
- Nebraska Invasive Species Project
- Nebraska Outdoor U!
- Nebraska Wildlife Federation
- Nebraska Wildlife Rehabilitation, Inc.
- Papio-Missouri River NRD
- Pioneers Park Nature Center
- Prairie Loft Agricultural Education Center
- Riverside Discovery Center
- Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory
- The Nature Conservancy

**ANNUAL RE-CERTIFICATION**

Every year in December/January, we will ask you to re-certify for the coming year, to keep your membership up to date. In order to continue your certification, we ask 20 hours of volunteer service, and 8 hours of continuing education annually. As our community grows, so do the many opportunities that we offer. We will be sure to keep the re-certification fees low, but know that those funds go towards the continued success of the program.

**NEBRASKA MASTER NATURALIST REWARDS**

**Certification** - Upon completion of the training, our volunteers receive a certificate, an embroidered polo ‘uniform’ shirt and a metal nametag which they use when providing volunteer service to our partners and our program.

**Milestone** - Upon completion of the volunteer’s first year of service and associated service requirements, volunteers receive a Logo Pin or a Themed Pin. The Pin will be an annual incentive, but will include milestones within the timeline based on a 1 year (copper), 5 year (silver), and 10 year (gold) system.
MASTER NATURALIST CURRICULUM RESOURCES SITE
You can access contact information, curriculum materials, Executive Board resources, promotional materials, manuals, Bylaws, plans and policies, and other fun Master Naturalist Resources on our Master Naturalist Resources Curriculum site. Your programmatic resources are housed online for quick and easy access. We will provide you with printouts when available at the training sessions. These materials are here to supplement the curriculum. The site is housed within Google Drive. The link is public and can be found on our website http://NATURALIST.unl.edu or by clicking Master Naturalist Curriculum Resources Site link.

MASTER NATURALIST TRACKING SYSTEM
Login and Tracking Instructions

E-mail: 
Password: 

*After your Core 24 training is complete you will be provided with the Login Details

1. Go to http://NATURALIST.unl.edu and click on the “Members” tab at top of page, and click login. OR Login to your Master Naturalist Profile (Tracking Volunteer Hours) link on the homepage 
   o http://snr.unl.edu/naturalist/member/memberlogin.asp
2. Under Account Login, enter your E-mail and Password.
3. Locate “ Volunteer Opportunity Hours” and click on “Enter Hours”.
4. Review the list of Volunteer Opportunity Organization names. Select the one that fits your activity. 
   Only if the name of the parent organization is not listed, should you enter a new organization.
5. Enter the date of the Opportunity (mm/dd/yyyy). Approximate dates are acceptable.
6. Enter the name of the Volunteer Opportunity.
7. Enter the type of Volunteer Opportunity – if you click on the arrow you will see a drop-down menu. 
   Click on the type that matches your service to select it. This will be important for tracking specializations, and can be edited if needed.
8. Enter a Description of the volunteer service you provided.
9. Enter your Travel Time in whole or decimal numbers.
10. Enter your Volunteer Time in whole or decimal numbers (Please define these in half-hour increments, for example = .25, .50, .75).
11. Enter the Number of People you came in contact with in whole numbers.
12. Click the “Submit” button.

Tracking System Guidelines

1. Enter the information to the best of your ability. It is OKAY not to know the exact details.
2. When you enter your hours, it is OKAY to estimate to half hour increments.
3. If you have several dates to enter in order to get caught up, you may enter them as a summary entry, and note it in the description.
4. When entering number values into the system, please use only whole numbers or decimals (for example 2 or 2.5). Do not include text in these fields.
5. Be sure to report all of your volunteer service, including research time, clerical time, construction time, travel time, and any unpaid time spent towards natural resource conservation.
6. Please ask questions and let us know your feedback. We will continue to update the System.
**VOLUNTEERING**

All Certified Nebraska Master Naturalists are expected to complete 20 hours of volunteer service with the natural resources community and an additional 8 hours of continuing education training every year following initial certification, in order to maintain their status as an active and certified Nebraska Master Naturalist. Your certification lasts one year from January 1, following your initial certification.

**IMPORTANCE OF TRACKING**

Your activities help us identify the contribution which you, as a Certified Nebraska Master Naturalist, make toward natural resource conservation with partnering conservation organizations. It also helps us recognize YOUR many achievements and milestones. *Without having a record of the hours that you have volunteered, however, it is almost as if your effort never happened.*

Our grant funding stems from the Nebraska Environmental Trust. Matching financial and administrative support comes from the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission and the University of Nebraska, to share program costs. Your individual volunteer hours as an active Master Naturalist, (along with those of your fellow members) are, in fact, *also required* by our granters, and benefits the programs with which you volunteer.

Each quarter, we must report your volunteer contributions to our funding partners. Recording your volunteer efforts in a timely fashion thus ensures the program’s viability and continued support from our partners.

Please track any and all of your time spent contributing to the conservation of the natural resources (or with administrative support) and your continuing education in the natural resources. If you are uncertain whether the hours will count towards your Master Naturalist Certification requirement, please ask us prior to completing the activity. Program staff is here to answer any questions you may have.

**ELIGIBLE TYPES OF VOLUNTEER WORK**

Volunteer service which contributes to natural resource conservation with sponsors, partners, or agencies which further the Master Naturalist mission is reportable toward your certification requirements. Generally, volunteering occurs in local or regional natural areas, but need not be limited to those. (Please notify the Program Coordinator if you will be volunteering out of state.) Projects may well involve natural resource stewardship at parks, preserves or natural areas; environmental education and outreach; administrative service supporting the Master Naturalist Program; or serving as a Mentor to other Nebraska Master Naturalist members.

**Mission:** The Nebraska Master Naturalist Program educates a volunteer network dedicated to promoting the conservation of Nebraska’s natural resources.

**Examples of what IS NOT considered volunteer service?**

- Mowing your lawn.
- Getting paid for any task or project, like leading a kayaking trip.
- Helping your neighbor plant a personal garden.
Examples of what IS considered volunteer service?

- Volunteering which contributes to natural resource conservation and education.
- Volunteering with programs affiliated with the Nebraska Master Naturalist Program as a partner or sponsor.
- Volunteering with natural resource groups that are NOT YET affiliated with Master Naturalist, but which contribute to the conservation of natural resources.
- Volunteering inside or outside of Nebraska, with natural resource conservation groups.
- Researching a volunteer led nature hike.
- Developing a brochure or interpretive materials for a conservation organization.
- Assisting a conservation organization (including the Nebraska Master Naturalist Program) with administrative support.
- Assisting with Master Naturalist training sessions.
- Serving as a Mentor for other Master Naturalists, in helping them transition from training or workshops into volunteering with a program partner, or to develop skills, abilities and expertise as a conservation volunteer.

HELPFUL HINTS:

- It is most important to regularly record and submit your volunteering and training time, toward renewing your certification and supporting the program.
- Enter the information to the best of your ability. It is OKAY not to know the exact details.
- When you enter your hours, it is BEST to estimate in 15 minute increments.
- If you have several dates to enter in order to get caught up, you may enter them as a summary entry, and note it in the description.
- When entering number values into the system, please use only whole numbers or one-half decimals (for example 2 or 2.5). Do not include text in these fields.
- Be sure to report all of your volunteer service, including research time, preparation time, construction time, clean-up time, travel time, and any unpaid time spent towards natural resource conservation. Please track any and all of your time spent conserving natural resources and your continuing education in natural resources. If you are uncertain whether the hours will count towards your Master Naturalist Certification requirement, please ask us prior to completing the activity.
- Please be aware that volunteering activities which directly overlap with your scheduled employment may not qualify for volunteer hours. Contact a program representative for more information.
- Travel Time – Please also track your time spent traveling to and from your various training locations.
**VOLUNTEERING CATEGORIES:**

**Natural Resource Stewardship**—This includes two categories, Resource Management and Citizen Science. Volunteering with partnering groups and agencies helps promote the conservation of natural resources at regional parks, natural areas, and preserves.

- **Resource Management** involves hands-on management, planting, prescribed burning, trail work, or other prescribed activities supporting the management of natural resources in a specific area. It is not limited to these particular activities, and may include suppressing invasive species, for example, but serves overall to restore habitats for native plant or animal species which are adapted to depend on them.

- **Citizen Science** is where the Master Naturalist collects data or monitors wildlife and/or vegetation under the supervision or guidance of a resource management professional or academic researcher. It is the functional empowering of citizen volunteers to so partner with research scientists to thus help answer real-world questions through a systematic approach. Such efforts can contribute to our natural resource knowledge base, toward more effective natural resource management.

In addition to joining scheduled volunteer workdays for stewardship with partners, Master Naturalists may wish to seek out opportunities for independent or joint service projects. Master Naturalists are particularly encouraged to enlist fellow members when approaching program partners or agencies for possible opportunities with such stewardship at their sites or preserves in need.

**Education, Interpretation and Outreach**—These are activities or programs where the Master Naturalist provides information or environmental education to the public or interprets natural resources or processes for them. Each of these activities has different aims, but working together in a continuum of service may help to invite the audience toward greater awareness, understanding, and appreciation for our natural and historic heritage, as they discover meaning and relevance for themselves. They include developing and presenting natural history or outdoor skills programs or demonstrations, or leading in-person, guided, nature-discovery hikes into the field, or answering questions at a station or booth promoting natural resource stewardship to audiences on-site; along with providing natural resource training to the public or other volunteers; as well as developing environmental interpretive materials, programs, and signage, interpretive scripts, captions or handouts. In addition, any outreach activities which contribute to the goals and mission of the Master Naturalist Program are also considered appropriate to record as volunteer hours.

**Outdoor Skills**—Recreational activities like archery, kayaking, fishing, camping, backpacking, outdoor cooking, target-shooting, skiing, orienteering, or geocaching promote physical and mental well-being among the community, along with the development of skills in the outdoors. They can contribute greatly to the shared enjoyment of our state’s natural resources, while experiencing individual challenge and accomplishment. Volunteering to help others gain confidence with such pursuits is a valuable investment in the future of outdoor recreation and, of course, reportable toward your certification requirement.
Administrative Efforts - Administrative volunteering which counts toward certification requirements includes working on a Master Naturalist newsletter, serving as a Mentor to newly trained naturalists, providing content for Master Naturalist publications and web media, helping to plan conferences or workshops, and any other activities which help maintain and sustain the Master Naturalist Program.

CONTINUING EDUCATION
Our Program Partners offer new and exciting training opportunities to help you expand your horizons. Program Partners welcome Certified Master Naturalist volunteers to support their organization. Our list of participating partners will continue to grow, and we welcome your suggestions! If you know of an organization which could benefit from volunteer Master Naturalists, please let us know and help us build a strong Nature Network in Nebraska!

Items that are considered eligible for continuing education:
- Master Naturalist organized trainings
- partner sponsored workshops and trainings
- Online webinars
- Attending a lecture or speaker/presenter
- Conferences. (e.g. Nebraska Natural Legacy Conference)
- Attending a training/workshop organized by a natural resource group that is NOT YET affiliated with Master Naturalist, but contributes to the conservation of natural resources.
- Local Master Naturalist groups may plan periodic informational meetings with educational updates for active Master Naturalists.
- Those registered as participants in trainings or workshops time should, of course, count their time as Continuing Education, not as Volunteer service time. Only if the Master Naturalist is the presenter of information would their time count as Volunteer time.

MASTER NATURALIST SPECIALIZATIONS
With such an amazing community of Master Naturalists, we wanted to allow you to take your certification one step forward. Our new Specializations are just the thing! As you complete additional training and service hours, you become an expert in your craft, and we want to recognize it. Check out the details below on our Specializations, and contact us to start working your way through the process. The Master Naturalist Program has launched Specialization Certifications. These Specializations are designed to create collaborators, leaders, and mentors in four key areas.
- Interpretation and Outreach
- Outdoor Skills and Recreation
- Resource Management
- Citizen Science

Master Naturalist Specialization Requirement
- One Time Requirement
  - 20 Hours of Training Total Specific to Specialization
- Annual Requirement
Additional 20 Hours of Volunteerism Annually Specific to Specialization (does not include initial Certification annual requirement hours)

Master Naturalist Certification Requirements

- Annual Requirement
  - 8 Hours Training Annually
  - 20 Hours of Volunteerism Annually

**E-MAIL LISTS**

Online and e-mail communications are our primary means of communicating with our Master Naturalist Community. Direct communications with all Master Naturalists Members is currently made through the [MasterNaturalist@listserv.unl.edu](mailto:MasterNaturalist@listserv.unl.edu) listserv (without an e) e-mail address. These go through an approval process before delivery. To reach the Program Members contact [NMNsteer@listserv.unl.edu](mailto:NMNsteer@listserv.unl.edu). To reach the Executive Board Members contact [NMNexec@listserv.unl.edu](mailto:NMNexec@listserv.unl.edu). To reach the Naturalist Network, a listserv open to the public for those interested in nature related programs and activities contact [NaturalistNetwork@listserv.unl.edu](mailto:NaturalistNetwork@listserv.unl.edu).

As part of the Master Naturalist community, your e-mail address will be added to our Master Naturalist e-mail and mailing lists. This list contains the contact information for Master Naturalists and Program Partners only. Access to the e-mail lists requires approval, to ensure only relevant communications are distributed. It is expected that all Master Naturalists will be respectful of the mailing lists and their fellow classmates’ personal information. Please, do not share e-mail or phone information of your fellow Master Naturalists with anyone outside of the Master Naturalist community, and please only communicate relevant information over the network.

You may remove your e-mail address from these lists at any time. Please be aware that if you do unsubscribe from the e-mail list, you will no longer receive relevant information regarding training and volunteer opportunities, an essential component of your certification.

To reach existing and currently enrolled Nebraska Master Naturalists with opportunities and ideas:

- Master Naturalist Listserv: [MasterNaturalist@listserv.unl.edu](mailto:MasterNaturalist@listserv.unl.edu)

**MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER VolUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

Every month we send out an e-mail about upcoming opportunities. As we identify programs with volunteer needs, we will continue to add to that list. Program Members have a great need for Master Naturalist volunteers and we encourage you to make contact with them on your own, regarding their volunteer needs. You are NOT limited to just the events that we share. If there is an event you would like to participate in, we encourage you to do so. Our partners and friends send us requests, but we are open to any qualifying source in need of a volunteer. The most important thing is the conservation of natural resources in Nebraska. You can research a project online, deliver a program, or lead a conservation effort. Even if it is out of state, please let us know. If you find a representative in need of volunteers for a conservation project that we have not yet listed, share with us so that we can add them to our network. We look forward to growing into these new opportunities together!
WEBSITE
Found at http://NATURALIST.unl.edu. The website features Events Calendar, Nebraska Nature Network, Master Naturalist Tracking System, Applications, Contact Information, Master Naturalist Store, Donations, Photos, Registrations, Newsletters Facebook, Twitter, YouTube Master Naturalist Resources Site, Links to Partners, and much more! We recommend ‘liking’ Master Naturalist on Facebook to gain additional opportunities provided through our many friends. See upcoming workshops and trainings by clicking on “Events” to access the Online Master Naturalist Calendar on the website Members or Program Partners Pages.

ABSENCES, BACKGROUND CHECKS, AND MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS
All Certified Nebraska Master Naturalists are expected to attend every session of their training. In the event that you are unable to make a training session, please notify the Trainings Assistant as soon as possible. Missed sessions are required to be made up within one year of completing the core training. If you are unable to make a Certified Master Naturalist training session within that year period, make-up opportunities can be discussed on a case by case basis. Please be aware that missing more than two sessions during a training period may suspend your Master Naturalist Certification and you will be placed in inactive member status until you can complete the training again.
All Certified Nebraska Master Naturalists are required to pass a background check in order to maintain your certification. Subsequent background checks will be made as necessary. Failure to complete a successful background check is grounds for dismissal from the program. All Certified Nebraska Master Naturalists are expected to abide by the Code of Ethics and Standards of Conduct for the program at all times. You are expected to represent Nebraska Master Naturalist, our partners, and our funders appropriately. Failure to do so is grounds for dismissal from the program.

NEBRASKA MASTER NATURALIST EXECUTIVE BOARD
Dennis Ferraro, Univ. of Nebraska – Past Chair Chair dferraro1@unl.edu 402-472-8248 Deb Woracek, Master Naturalist – Treasurer DWoracek@fontenelleforest.org 402-731-3140
Mike Schrad, Certified Master Naturalist – Chair mike.schrado9@gmail.com 402-250-3434 Jeanine Lackey, Fontenelle Forest – Board Member JLackey@fontenelleforest.org 402-731-2403
Andrea Faas, Pioneers Park Nature Center, Certified Master Naturalist -Vice Chair andreacade@yahoo.com 402-441-8709 Daniel Deffenbaugh, Hastings College, Certified Master Naturalist –Board Member ddeffenbaugh@hastings.edu 402-831-1999
Leslie Kwasnieski, Certified Master Naturalist – Secretary leslie.kwasnieski@gmail.com 402-496-4510 James Hoke, Certified Master Naturalist – Board Member chaphoke@hotmail.com 402-261-5211
Brice Krohn, Crane Trust – Board Member bkrohn@cranetrust.org 308-224-9653
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Name</th>
<th>Last Name</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>E-mail</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sarah</td>
<td>Bailey</td>
<td>Prairie Plains Resource Institute</td>
<td>Aurora</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sarahppri@hamilton.net">sarahppri@hamilton.net</a></td>
<td>402-450-5586</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tonya</td>
<td>Bernadt</td>
<td>National Drought Mitigation Center - Climate Masters</td>
<td>Lincoln</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tbernadt5@unl.edu">tbernadt5@unl.edu</a></td>
<td>402-472-2712</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tom</td>
<td>Bragg</td>
<td>Glacier Creek Preserve</td>
<td>Omaha</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tbragg@unomaha.edu">tbragg@unomaha.edu</a></td>
<td>402-554-2641</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chuck</td>
<td>Butterfield</td>
<td>Department of Applied Science – Chadron State College</td>
<td>Chadron</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cbutterfield@csc.edu">cbutterfield@csc.edu</a></td>
<td>308-432-6274</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pat</td>
<td>Carlson</td>
<td>Bader Memorial Park</td>
<td>Chapman</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Baderpark73@yahoo.com">Baderpark73@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td>308-986-2522</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth</td>
<td>Chalen</td>
<td>Fontenelle Forest</td>
<td>Bellevue</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Echalen@fontenelleforest.org">Echalen@fontenelleforest.org</a></td>
<td>402-731-3140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christy</td>
<td>Christiansen</td>
<td>Nebraska Game and Parks</td>
<td>Lincoln</td>
<td><a href="mailto:christy.christiansen@NEBRASKA.GOV">christy.christiansen@NEBRASKA.GOV</a></td>
<td>402-471-5547</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donna</td>
<td>Christiansen</td>
<td>Nebraska Alliance for Conservaion and Environmental Education</td>
<td>Plainview</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rdchristi@plvtelco.net">rdchristi@plvtelco.net</a></td>
<td>402-640-4553</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rebecca</td>
<td>Christoffel</td>
<td>Wildlife Extension</td>
<td>Ames</td>
<td><a href="mailto:christof@iastate.edu">christof@iastate.edu</a></td>
<td>515-294-7429</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrea</td>
<td>Faas</td>
<td>Pioneers Park Nature Center</td>
<td>Lincoln</td>
<td><a href="mailto:AFaas@LINCOLN.NE.GOV">AFaas@LINCOLN.NE.GOV</a></td>
<td>402-441-8708</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah</td>
<td>Feit</td>
<td>UNL Natural History Museum-Morrill Hall</td>
<td>Lincoln</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sfeit2@unl.edu">sfeit2@unl.edu</a></td>
<td>402-472-4075</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Position</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dennis Ferraro</td>
<td>Wildlife Extension</td>
<td>Lincoln</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dferraro1@unl.edu">dferraro1@unl.edu</a></td>
<td>402-472-8248</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amanda Filipi</td>
<td>Wildcat Hills Nature Center</td>
<td>Gering</td>
<td><a href="mailto:amanda.filipi@nebraska.gov">amanda.filipi@nebraska.gov</a></td>
<td>308-436-3777</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jane Gustafson</td>
<td>NG&amp;PC-Marketing and Promotion</td>
<td>Lincoln</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Jane.gustafson@nebraska.gov">Jane.gustafson@nebraska.gov</a></td>
<td>402-471-0641</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duane Hovorka</td>
<td>Adopt A Stream</td>
<td>Lincoln</td>
<td><a href="mailto:nebraskawildlife@windstream.net">nebraskawildlife@windstream.net</a></td>
<td>402-477-1008</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christine Jacobsen</td>
<td>Papio-Missouri River NRD</td>
<td>Omaha</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cjacobsen@papionrd.org">cjacobsen@papionrd.org</a></td>
<td>402-444-6222</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anne James</td>
<td>Riverside Discovery Center</td>
<td>Scottsbluff</td>
<td><a href="mailto:anne.james@riversidediscoverycenter.org">anne.james@riversidediscoverycenter.org</a></td>
<td>308-630-6236</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mardell Jasnowski</td>
<td>The Nature Conservancy</td>
<td>Aurora</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mjasnowski@tnc.org">mjasnowski@tnc.org</a></td>
<td>402-694-4191</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jamie Kelly</td>
<td>Pioneers Park Nature Center</td>
<td>Lincoln</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jkelly@lincoln.ne.gov">jkelly@lincoln.ne.gov</a></td>
<td>402-441-7895</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keanna Leonard</td>
<td>Iain Nicolson Audubon Center</td>
<td>Gibbon</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kleonard@audubon.org">kleonard@audubon.org</a></td>
<td>308-468-5282</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alexandr a Mayes</td>
<td>Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory</td>
<td>Minatare</td>
<td><a href="mailto:alexandra.mayes@birdconservancy.org">alexandra.mayes@birdconservancy.org</a></td>
<td>308-783-1019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cara Pesek</td>
<td>Nebraska Game &amp; Parks Commission</td>
<td>Lincoln</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Cara.pesek@nebraska.gov">Cara.pesek@nebraska.gov</a></td>
<td>402-471-0641</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christy Rasmussen</td>
<td>NG&amp;PC-Information and Education Division</td>
<td>Lincoln</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Christy.rasmussen@nebraska.gov">Christy.rasmussen@nebraska.gov</a></td>
<td>402-471-0641</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jeff Rawlinson</td>
<td>Outdoor Education</td>
<td>Lincoln</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jeff.rawlinson@nebraska.gov">jeff.rawlinson@nebraska.gov</a></td>
<td>402-471-6133</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lindsay Rogers</td>
<td>Nebraska Game and Parks</td>
<td>Lincoln</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lindsay.rogers@nebraska.gov">lindsay.rogers@nebraska.gov</a></td>
<td>402-471-5581</td>
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<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Commission</td>
<td>City</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amy</td>
<td>Amy Sandeen Prairie Loft Agricultural Education Center</td>
<td>Hastings</td>
<td><a href="mailto:amy@prairieloft.org">amy@prairieloft.org</a></td>
<td>402-463--0565</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah</td>
<td>Sarah Sortum Switzer Ranch and Nature Ecotourism</td>
<td>Burwell</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sortum@aol.com">sortum@aol.com</a></td>
<td>308-346-4697</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jason</td>
<td>Jason St. Sauver Audubon’s Spring Creek Prairie Community Education Director</td>
<td>Denton</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jstsauver@audubon.org">jstsauver@audubon.org</a></td>
<td>402-797-2301</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laura</td>
<td>Laura Stastny Nebraska Wildlife Rehab</td>
<td>Omaha</td>
<td><a href="mailto:info@nebraskawildliferehab.org">info@nebraskawildliferehab.org</a></td>
<td>402-234-2473</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kristal</td>
<td>Kristal Stoner Nebraska Game and Parks Commission</td>
<td>Lincoln</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Kristal.stoner@nebraska.gov">Kristal.stoner@nebraska.gov</a></td>
<td>402-471-5444</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scott</td>
<td>Scott Stuhr Nebraska Outdoor U!</td>
<td>Lincoln</td>
<td><a href="mailto:outdoors@unl.edu">outdoors@unl.edu</a></td>
<td>402-472-2037</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jennifer</td>
<td>Jennifer Swerczek Nebraska Public Power District Educator</td>
<td>O'Neill</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jlswerc@nppd.com">jlswerc@nppd.com</a></td>
<td>402-336-2701</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rich</td>
<td>Rich Walters Niobrara Valley Preserve</td>
<td>Johnstown</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rwalters@tnc.org">rwalters@tnc.org</a></td>
<td>402-722-4440</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deb</td>
<td>Deb Woracek Fontenelle Forest</td>
<td>Bellevue</td>
<td><a href="mailto:DWoracek@fontenelleforest.org">DWoracek@fontenelleforest.org</a></td>
<td>402-731-3140</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steve</td>
<td>Steve Young West Central Research and Extension Center</td>
<td>North Platte</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Steve.young@unl.edu">Steve.young@unl.edu</a></td>
<td>308-696-6712</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allison</td>
<td>Allison Zach Nebraska Invasive species Program</td>
<td>Lincoln</td>
<td><a href="mailto:azach3@unl.edu">azach3@unl.edu</a></td>
<td>402-472-3133</td>
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CODE OF ETHICS
Each member, in striving to meet the mission, goals and objectives of the Master Naturalist program, pledges to:

1. Subscribe to the highest standards of integrity and conduct.
2. Promote and support the statewide and local Master Naturalist program.
3. Respect the state sponsors of the University of Nebraska, the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, and the Nebraska Environmental Trust, and their roles and expectations.
4. Disseminate information to promote understanding of, and appreciation for, the values of our natural resources.
5. Strive to increase knowledge and skills to advance as a Master Naturalist volunteer.
6. Promote competence as a Master Naturalist volunteer by supporting high standards of education, service and performance.
7. Encourage the use of sound biological information in education and outreach and in management decisions.
9. Know and follow established program guidelines and policies.
10. Avoid use of the Master Naturalist title, logos and trademarks for personal endeavors and/or profit.
11. Act as trustworthy and ethical stewards of the environment.
12. Never inappropriately disturb or harass wildlife, never inappropriately remove anything from its natural state or area.

STANDARDS OF CONDUCT
Master Naturalist program volunteers shall at all times:

1. Uphold the agreement made to the program and the required volunteer and continuing education hours required by the program.
2. Uphold the dignity and integrity of the Master Naturalist program. They shall endeavor to avoid even the suspicion of dishonesty, fraud, deceit, misrepresentation, or unprofessional demeanor.
3. Conduct themselves appropriately to context and setting at all times.
4. Be considerate and respect other’s points of view.
5. Keep accurate records of volunteer service, training and research, and regularly notify your Program Coordinator of these records.
6. Avoid performing service when such service is judged to be contrary to the Code of Ethics or detrimental to the well-being of the program and its sponsors.
7. Provide maximum possible effort in the best interest of each client and/or volunteer project.
8. Be mindful of their responsibility to society and the program.
9. Avoid discrimination in any form, or the abuse of program authority, certification, or membership for personal benefit.
10. Cooperate fully with professionals and other Master Naturalist volunteers in the best interest of our natural resources.
11. Avoid all use of alcohol and controlled substances while on duty as a Master Naturalist volunteer. Reporting for service while under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance will result in termination from volunteer service.
12. Accept responsibility for decisions made and actions taken based on these decisions.
The Nebraska Master Naturalist Program is a collaboration of the University of Nebraska, the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, and the Nebraska Environmental Trust, with support from our Program Partners. Nebraska Master Naturalists (NMN) play the important role of not only helping conservation efforts in Nebraska but also representing the organizations for which they volunteer. As representatives, NMN must adopt some basic standards for the good of the public, Program Partners, and the Nebraska Master Naturalist Program. We also want to be sure that you, the applicant, understand what NMN Program is and is not so that we can work together for the good of conservation efforts in Nebraska.

Nebraska Master Naturalists are volunteers. They do not receive any financial compensation or benefits for their assistance. They do, however, receive many important intangible goods, such as meeting like-minded conservationists, impacting the public’s understanding of and attitudes towards the environment, and having a good time enjoying Nebraska’s great outdoors.

Nebraska Master Naturalists must successfully pass a background check and abide by the policies and procedures of the NMN Program and its sponsoring agencies. This latter statement sounds scary and ominous but it isn’t. Other than some paperwork guidelines, the requirements are really not much different than those at your job.

Since NMN are certified, they must continue to learn and improve their skills to maintain their certification. For instance, upon completing the initial training, NMN have 12 months to provide 20 hours of volunteer service and undergo 8 hours of continuing education. Each year thereafter, NMN maintain their certification by giving 20 hours of volunteer work and expanding their knowledge base with 8 hours of continuing education. As required by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, all NMN will undergo random background checks.

**Initial Training Registration Guidelines**
If you decide to enter the program and sign up for the initial training, and we hope you do, you may cancel up until two weeks before the first day of the Nebraska Master Naturalist training and receive a full refund. Thereafter, reimbursements of registration fees will be given only if prior arrangements were made with the Program Coordinator. Though you are expected to attend all the sessions, we understand that life happens. You may miss up to two sessions (equivalent of one training day) and still complete the training successfully. You then have 24 months to make up that session. If you can’t make a session, we request that you contact the Program Coordinator.

**Media Release:** The University of Nebraska and the Nebraska Master Naturalist Program periodically takes photographs, video, audio footage, and/or testimonials of program participants for local, regional, or state publicity or educational purposes. By signing this Volunteer Information form, you acknowledge receipt of this notification and give permission for University of Nebraska and the Nebraska Master Naturalist Program to use such reproductions for educational and publicity purposes.
**Contact Information:** We encourage communication between our Master Naturalists. In order to facilitate networking among our volunteer membership, Program Partners, and program staff, we are requesting your permission to share your personal contact information. Member contact information will only be released to other members and participants of the Nebraska Master Naturalist Program, as you indicate below.

Please note that the Central Office of the Nebraska Master Naturalist Program primarily communicates with our members by e-mail. If this is unavailable to you, please let us know the preferred way to contact you.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Program Partners</th>
<th>Fellow Master Naturalists</th>
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<tr>
<td>Name yes/no</td>
<td>Name yes/no</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mailing Address  yes/no</td>
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<td>Phone yes/no</td>
<td>Phone yes/no</td>
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<td>E-mail Address   yes/no</td>
<td>E-mail Address yes/no</td>
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I have read and understand the Master Naturalist Volunteer Manual, the Media Release (above), Youth Safety Policy (http://police.unl.edu/policies/youth-activity-safety-policy), and Liability Waiver Release (http://snr.unl.edu/naturalist/Documents/LiabilityRelease2015.pdf) information, and agree to abide by the rules of conduct laid out by these documents. I am now a valuable part of the Nebraska Master Naturalist community. I will endeavor to be an **active** participant in this community and track this commitment using the online systems made available to me.

I understand that when I am representing the Nebraska Master Naturalist Program. I agree to conduct myself according to the Nebraska Master Naturalist Code of Ethics and Standards of Conduct (http://snr.unl.edu/naturalist/Documents/CODE_OF_ETHICS_CONDUCT.pdf) as shown in this document. By signing this form, I verify that I have completed a successful background check and waiver form and am at least 19 years of age.

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<tr>
<th>Printed Name</th>
<th>Signature</th>
<th>Date</th>
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EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION
Please provide us with your emergency contact information, and return this form to the Program Coordinator.

Primary Emergency Contact:

Name

Relationship

Phone Number (with area code)

Secondary Emergency Contact:

Name

Relationship

Phone Number (with area code)

Are there any special needs which we should be aware of, regarding your participation in this program?

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________