

2020 ANNUAL SUMMARY

2013-2020 IN REVIEW

VOLUNTEER HOURS REPORTED

41,217 Stewardship
40,621 Citizen Science
64,663 Education

146,501

TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS

for a value* of

\$3.98 million

12 Instructor trainings
157 Instructors
54 Partner organizations
69 Volunteer trainings

505,599

PEOPLE REACHED THROUGH
VOLUNTEER-LED PROGRAMS

1015 Trained Master
Naturalists residing in
65 of Wisconsin's
72 counties

26,714

HOURS OF ADVANCED TRAINING
FOR MASTER NATURALISTS

The Wisconsin Master Naturalist program is a dedicated network of volunteers and instructors working in conservation, leadership and lifelong learning in the state's natural areas, but 2020 was a year like no other. The global COVID-19 pandemic canceled all expert-led trainings, disrupted volunteer opportunities across the state and compelled Wisconsin residents to adapt to the restrictions of physical distancing. Even through the change and hardship of an unprecedented year, Master Naturalists continued to learn, share and give back. Volunteers and instructors pursued independent stewardship projects, entered observations into citizen science databases and participated in online learning opportunities both as educators and learners.

Self-reported hours in the online portal also reflected the challenges of the pandemic. For the first time, citizen science hours accounted for more volunteer hours than stewardship or education. Education, which normally accounts for half of all the volunteer hours in a given year, had the fewest hours submitted in 2020. The ability to collect data individually and in a physically distanced manner allowed volunteers to redirect their efforts from the educational programming that they were not allowed to deliver during the pandemic.

To reduce the pressure of certification renewals for Master Naturalists, the requirement of 40 hours of volunteer service and 8 hours of advanced training was reduced to only 1 hour of service and 1 hour of advanced training for Master Naturalists to keep their title and earn a 2020 recognition pin.

2020 VOLUNTEER SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS

23,433
volunteer service hours
provided by
353 Master
Naturalists

NEARLY
50% of
Master Naturalists
reporting hours
**GAVE MORE THAN
40 HOURS OF SERVICE.**



2020 Dave Engleson Award Recipient

This award acknowledges significant contributions to the field of environmental education having statewide, regional, or national impact.

While the pandemic altered the ways Master Naturalists volunteer and learn, it did not dampen their commitment. Collectively, **Master Naturalists reported 3,819 hours of advanced training throughout 2020**, and many still found ways to contribute and make an impact on our natural environment. In fact, 2020 celebrated the **first Master Naturalist to individually reach 5,000 total hours of volunteer service!**

*The dollar value of service hours is calculated by using figures from the Bureau of Labor Statistics data, indexed by the Independent Sector.