

# WETLAND CONSTRUCTION TRAINING

October 26-27, 2024

Cooper Farm – Field Station and Environmental Education Center  
Ball State University, Muncie, IN

This hands-on restoration workshop is for individuals to learn practical, low-cost techniques to design and build wetlands that specifically provide habitat for mid-west amphibians. Attendees will learn how to select appropriate locations, test soil texture, choose appropriate construction techniques, work with equipment operators, and establish native wetland plants.



Contractors will use heavy equipment (e.g. excavator and bulldozer) to create a wetland on-site during the weekend workshop. Supplemental instruction in wetland soils, hydrology, wildlife and vegetation, along with supporting lectures on the history of wetlands in the Midwest and the principles of wetland construction are included.

Tom Biebighauser, primary instructor, has restored over 3,000 wetlands and streams in 26-States, Canada, Mexico, New Zealand, and Puerto Rico. He teaches practical wetland restoration workshops around the world where participants learn about restoration by becoming involved in the design and construction of naturally appearing and functioning wetlands for rare species. He's written 4 books about wetland restoration techniques and instructs graduate-level courses on the topic at two-Universities. Tom has received 44-awards for his contributions to wetland restoration, including the National Wetlands Award for Conservation and Restoration in 2015. You can view some of the wetlands he has built by visiting: <https://wetlandrestorationandtraining.com>

## Please dress to be outdoors!

### Participants will need:

- Water bottle
- Hard hat
- Safety vest (provided)
- Gloves
- Protective eye wear
- Leather or rubber boots
- Lunch/snacks each day

## For more information, please contact

John Taylor: [jetaylor@bsu.edu](mailto:jetaylor@bsu.edu)

Phone: 765-285-2641

## Cost:

Students - \$165

Professionals - \$375

## Register: Online at

[https://commerce.cashnet.com/BALL\\_EMS022](https://commerce.cashnet.com/BALL_EMS022)

**Who Should Attend:** students, biologists, foresters, hydrologists, engineers, landscape architects, and restoration ecologists.

No need for wetland experience to attend.

**Accommodation:** Participants are responsible for their own accommodations and meals. There are hotels near intersection of McGalliard and Bethel near the work site.

# 2024 Ball State University Wetland Construction Training Agenda

*For safety, all personnel attending the training must wear a hardhat and high visibility vest or shirt.*

## **October 26 (Saturday)**

7:45am: Meet at the wetland construction site.

8:00am: Construction Begins on Wetland

- Safety discussion
- Introduction and orientation to the property
- Discussion with heavy equipment operators about building the wetland
- Plastic ribbons are used to mark the trees and shrubs to be removed by heavy equipment
- Some full-length trees and shrubs are stored out of the way to be placed in the finished wetland for wildlife habitat
- Wire flags are used to mark the perimeter of the wetland to be built after trees and shrubs have been removed.
- The large excavator and the bulldozer are used to begin digging the basin for the wetland.

The following hands-on activities will take place during construction when there is time:

- Control of head-cuts using soil, rock, and wood
- Using wetlands to disable a ditch
- Spillway design considerations
- Maintenance of natural and constructed wetlands
- Use of survey equipment
- Soil texture analysis
- Native plant identification and establishment discussions

5:00pm: break for dinner

7:30pm: *How to Build a Wetland That Will Last Forever Presentation* by Tom Biebighauser. Location at BSU-Biology – maps and directions will be provided

## **October 27 (Sunday)**

8:00am: Meet at the Wetland Construction Site.

The following hands-on activities will take place during construction, if there is time:

- Control of invasive plants
- Rough and loosen technique for controlling erosion and establishing native plants
- Designing wetlands for rare species
- Design wetlands that may be built in the future.

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### Notes:

The times listed are estimates. This construction of the wetlands may go faster or slower than planned. Tom Biebighauser and other instructors will always be onsite providing technical guidance for building the wetlands. They will use a laser level, tripod, and rod to monitor all phases of wetland construction.

Plan to attend the training and work, even if there is rain. Work and training will be temporarily suspended for safety if lightening is detected.

Emergency contact numbers:

Tom Biebighauser

Cell Phone: 606-356-4569

John Taylor

Cell Phone: 765-760-2084