

Planning a Hands-On Wetland Restoration Workshop

You can inspire and empower others to restore wetlands by hosting a Hands-On Wetland Restoration Workshop. These unique events allow participants to take part in the actual construction of one or more wetlands—from site selection to completion. Attendees gain valuable, field-based experience using proven, inexpensive, and easy-to-understand techniques for restoring wetlands in fields, forests, and urban areas. Many who participate go on to restore wetlands and streams in their own communities.

Background

Since 2003, Tom Biebighauser has instructed Hands-On Wetland Restoration Workshops across 28 U.S. states, Puerto Rico, three Canadian provinces, Mexico, New Zealand, and Taiwan. Each workshop results in the restoration of one to three naturally appearing and fully functioning wetlands.

Participant feedback has been overwhelmingly positive—evaluations consistently rate the workshops 9.8 to 10.0 out of 10. As one senior natural resource manager stated:
“It’s the best training I’ve ever received.”
“I was amazed by how much I learned.”

Workshop Length and Participation

Workshops typically last one to seven days, attracting participants from across North America. Registration often fills within four weeks of opening. Hosts may charge a registration fee—typically \$20 to \$200 per participant per day—to help cover costs such as equipment, materials, and logistics.

What You'll Gain

Hosting a Hands-On Wetland Restoration Workshop provides personalized training in wetland design, restoration, and construction. Your site will benefit from the establishment of wetlands that:

- Provide critical habitat for amphibians, reptiles, birds, and invertebrates
 - Improve water quality and recharge groundwater
 - Reduce flooding and erosion
 - Enhance biodiversity and ecosystem health
-

Planning Process

Before hosting your workshop, plan for a site visit with Tom Biebighauser. During this visit, you'll identify potential wetland locations and design several projects together—typically four wetlands per day. The design trip can also serve as a smaller-group training opportunity.

Following the visit, you'll receive a comprehensive written report detailing designs, construction methods, and budget estimates suitable for obtaining project approvals and funding.

Steps for Hosting a Workshop

1. Contact Tom Biebighauser at tombiebighauser@gmail.com to express your interest and receive a free cost estimate.
 2. Identify potential wetland sites on your property or project area.
 3. Secure funding for Tom's two visits: first for design and planning, and second for construction and on-site instruction.
 4. Schedule the design visit approximately one year before the intended workshop date.
 5. Review the Wetland Design Process document prepared by Tom prior to your site visit.
-

Partners

SAVE THE FROGS!, the Amphibian and Reptile Conservancy (ARC), and the National Association of Wetland Managers collaborate with Tom Biebighauser to deliver these workshops across North America. These partners help promote training opportunities to local and regional audiences, expanding participation and conservation impact.

Contact Information

Thomas R. Biebighauser
Wildlife Biologist & Wetland Ecologist
Wetland Restoration and Training LLC
3415 Sugar Loaf Mountain Road
Morehead, KY 40351 USA

Cell: (606) 356-4569

Website: www.wetlandrestorationandtraining.com

E-Mail: tombiebighauser@gmail.com