

# **Ephemeral Wetland Construction Workshop**

## ***About the Workshop***

Small, often ephemeral wetlands provide critical habitat to many species including amphibians, invertebrates, birds, and mammals. Unfortunately, a majority of these ecosystems have been lost to draining and filling throughout North America. This historic change to our landscape is now affecting recovery efforts for endangered species, reducing water quality, increasing flooding, and lowering ground water supplies. Fortunately, through techniques developed and tested at over 1,000 sites, it's now possible to construct wetlands that look and function like natural wetlands, with desired hydro-periods, aquatic vegetation, and animal life. You'll see how wetland projects can now be planned in forested and open areas, on vast expanses of public land, and even on small urban school grounds to benefit plants, animals, and people.

In concert with a project funded by BC Hydro's Bridge Coastal Restoration Program and in partnership with the Hupacasath First Nations and Island Timberlands, we are offering a hands-on workshop for individuals interested in constructing small wetlands, with a primary focus on ephemeral wetlands utilized by native amphibians. Learn how to assess site conditions to determine the location, size, and type of wetland to be constructed, lay out the proposed wetland, work with heavy machinery operators during construction, and plant to native species.

## ***Who Should Attend?***

Biologists, consultants, government personnel, developers, planners, landscape architects, private land owners, NGO's, stewardship groups, first nations, etc. *Space is limited to the first 30 registrants.*

## ***When and Where?***

**July 28 (evening) and 29 (all day), 2008\***

**Port Alberni** on Vancouver Island, BC (exact meeting location TBA)

*\*participants have the option of observing the construction of additional wetlands from July 30 to August 1.*

## ***Cost?***

**\$150\*\***

*\*\*includes lunch on the 29th, hand-out materials, and a copy of both of T. Biebighauser's books *A Guide to Creating Vernal Ponds* and *Wetland Drainage, Restoration, and Repair**

## ***Who is the instructor?***

Tom Biebighauser graduated from the University of Minnesota with a B.S. in Wildlife Biology in 1978 and began a career with the U.S. Forest Service as a Wildlife Biologist in 1979. He began restoring wetlands in 1982 in Minnesota and has since established over 1,000 such sites in eight states and two provinces (BC and ON). In 2003, he wrote and published the book *A Guide to Creating Vernal Ponds*, distributing 32,000 copies. His latest book *Wetland Drainage, Restoration, and Repair* was released in July 2007. Tom has received numerous awards for his work in wetland conservation and construction.

**For more information, please contact: Elke Wind ([ewind@telus.net](mailto:ewind@telus.net); 250-716-1119)**

**Ephemeral Wetland Construction Workshop  
Registration Form**

*Note: One form per person please*

Name: (first) \_\_\_\_\_ (last) \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about this workshop? \_\_\_\_\_

Payment: \$150/person x \_\_\_\_\_ attendees = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name of payee: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please mail registration form(s) and a cheque (payable to Elke Wind) to\*:*

**Elke Wind  
Suite A 114 Fifth Street  
Nanaimo, BC V9R 1N2**

*\*credit cards are not accepted*

**Cancellation Policy**

The registration fee is non-refundable and the two books will be sent to registrants who cannot attend. If cancellation becomes necessary, substitution in lieu of cancellation is recommended. For cancellation, please contact Elke Wind:  
ewind@telus.net; 250-716-1119

# **Ephemeral Wetland Construction Workshop**

## **Agenda**

**Objective:** Establish a naturally appearing ephemeral wetland within a timber harvest unit for the primary purpose of benefiting the Red-legged Frog

### **July 28, 2008 - 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm (location within Port Alberni TBA)**

**6:00 Registration Opens**

**7:00 Welcome and Introductions** (Elke Wind)

**7:15 History and Context of Wetland Drainage, Restoration and Repair** (Tom Biebighauser)

**8:15 Ephemeral Wetlands and Native Amphibians** (Elke Wind)

- Life history traits & habitat associations
- Habitat management and Best Management Practices

### **July 29, 2008 – 8:00 am to 4:30 pm (in the field near Elsie Lake)**

**8:00 Safety Discussion**

**8:15 Wetland Construction**

- Examine wetland establishment site
- Discuss project with heavy equipment operator
- Begin construction

***During construction:***

- *Field exercise I* – Techniques for restoring surface water and groundwater wetlands
- *Field exercise II* – Soil texture influence on wetland construction techniques

**12:00 Lunch (bag lunches provided in field)**

**12:30 Resume construction with heavy equipment**

***During construction:***

- *Field exercise III* – Design and field marking of wetland projects
- Managing OHV (Off-Highway-Vehicle) access

**2:30 Creating Cover and Structure**

- Placement of large and small woody debris for amphibians and reptiles, birds, and invertebrates

**3:00 Erosion Control and Planting**

- Controlling erosion, sowing and planting of native species

**4:00 Conclusion, distribute handouts, complete evaluation**

**Contact Person:** Elke Wind ([ewind@telus.net](mailto:ewind@telus.net); 250-716-1119)