

**Day 1****Monday, August 25, 2025 – Class at Brooker Creek Preserve and PM Field Trips**

**Workshop 1: Introduction to Freshwater Restoration:** Objectives: Learn why freshwater wetlands are important and considered valuable resources; discuss how wetlands differ in their functions and values, while also learning factors that influence their functions; review the classification of wetlands; learn how to identify a healthy wetland compared to recognizing wetlands needing restoration; and understand why wetland restoration is important and how to achieve restoration goals.

8:00 am – 10:30 am

Welcome to FMNP Freshwater Restoration; Introductions & Host Site; Paperwork, Student Roster, Pre-test (electronic – bring a cell phone, tablet, or charged laptop with internet access)

10:30 am – 11:00 am

Freshwater Restoration Group Mixer Activity

11:00 am – 12:45 pm

Lunch & Learn: Eat your sack lunch during workshop presentation

Workshop 1: Freshwater Restoration Introduction - Learning Objectives, Overview, “Freshwater Restoration Introduction” presentation; Questions and Discussion (**Jeanne & Brian**)

12:45 pm – 1:00 pm

Wrap-up: Review, Field Trip Prep, Discuss “On Your Own” Assignment #1 due Next Class

1:00 pm – 1:30 pm

Travel to Field Trip Site #1; Carpool, if possible. The preserve closes before sunset.

Field Trip Locations

#1: **Lake Dan Nature Preserve**, 19116 Huckaville Rd., Odessa, FL 33556

#2: **Brooker Creek Headwaters Nature Preserve**, 18102 Ramblewood Rd, Lutz, FL 33558

1:30 pm – 4:45 pm

**Field Trips** – Introduction to Freshwater Wetlands, Functions, and Restoration Goals

- Both sites are east of our classroom site and are in Hillsborough County.
- Park vehicles close to each other – parking space is limited.
- Closed-toe shoes are required.
- The natural trails are mostly level with some tree roots, divots, and slight elevation changes; most of the hike will be dry but be prepared to walk through mud and water if needed as we will not walk off-trail just to keep our feet dry.

Meet instructors **Jeanne** and **Brian** at the **Lake Dan Nature Preserve** approximately 5 minutes northeast of our classroom site where we will discuss local wetland uses, area history, and visit open water and cypress dome habitats.

Afterwards, we will drive to the nearby **Brooker Creek Headwaters Nature Preserve** and meet in the parking lot. As we explore this regionally important tapestry of wetlands and uplands that serve as the headwaters of the Brooker Creek system, we will immerse ourselves in the largest area of contiguous natural habitat in NW Hillsborough County.

During our field trip, we will discuss the region’s history and its possible future, as well as current stressors that may be influencing the health, management, hydrology, and species richness of its wetland plants and wildlife. We will focus on the site’s wetland systems, determine their classifications and approximate boundaries, and identify foundational wetland species as well as clues that wetlands share with visitors like you who are both inquisitive and observant.

4:45 pm – 5:00 pm

Field Trip Summary and Discussion; Questions; Reminder about “On Your Own” Assignment #1 Due at Next Class

**On Your Own  
(1 hour)**

**On Your Own Assignment #1:**

Find, read, and bring to the next class 1 case study using research, an article, or website information from a dependable source (ex. Water Management District, USGS, FDEP) about a freshwater wetland near your home (in your county or an adjacent county). Be prepared to share informally about this freshwater wetland with the class for 3-5 mins.

Information to learn and consider: What is the watershed name and size; wetland’s importance, function, size, and connectivity; wetland plant and wetland wildlife species; historic wetland plant and wetland wildlife species; human influences and pressures; current and historic hydrology; any previous restoration done? or is it in need of restoration? (how, what, why?)

Day 2	Wednesday, August 27, 2025 – Class at Brooker Creek Preserve and PM Field Trips
<b>Workshop 2: Large Scale Freshwater Restoration:</b> Objectives: To understand the importance of large-scale, freshwater ecosystem restoration and strategies utilized, learn about challenges and controversies that large-scale restoration programs face, and discuss how people can get involved in supporting large-scale restoration projects on a citizen level.	
8:00 am – 9:00 am	Share Your Case Study with the Class – On Your Own Assignment #1: Freshwater Wetland Near Your Home (natural, restored, or degraded)
9:00 am – 10:30 am	Workshop 2: Large Scale Freshwater Restoration – Learning Objectives and Overview. “Freshwater Restoration: Large Scale” presentation; Questions and Discussion ( <i>Jeanne &amp; Brian</i> )
10:30 am – 12:00 pm	Skill Learning Activity: Listening to What the Wetlands Are Telling You
12:00 pm – 12:30 pm	Wrap-up: Review and Summary, Field Trip Reminders, Discuss Next Class “On Your Own” Assignment #2
12:30 pm – 1:00 pm	Sack Lunch at Classroom Location–No time in the schedule for getting food elsewhere.
1:00 am – 1:30 pm	Travel from Classroom to Field Trip Site #1
	<u>Field Trip Locations</u> #1 <b>Brooker Creek Preserve - Lora Lane</b> #2 <b>Ed Radice Park</b> , 14720 Ed Radice Drive, Tampa, FL 33626
1:30 pm – 5:00 pm	<b><u>Field Trips – Large Scale Freshwater Restoration</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carpool when possible</li> <li>• Park vehicles close to each other – parking space is limited.</li> <li>• Closed-toe shoes are required, and long pants are recommended. Be prepared to walk through mud, water, and tall vegetation if needed.</li> <li>• FMNP Instructor Field Trip Leader – <b><i>Russell Martin</i></b></li> </ul> <b><u>Field Site #1: Brooker Creek Preserve, Lora Lane (~10-minute drive)</u></b> Drive north out of the (now) main area of Brooker Creek Preserve and head west to meet instructors <b><i>Jeanne, Brian, and Russell Martin</i></b> , at the western side of the preserve at the end of Lora Lane. We will visit a 20-acre restoration area (forested wetland creation) within Pinellas County’s largest preserve and discuss the reasons why it was restored, its wetland function, and the restoration methods used.  <b><u>Field Site #2: Ed Radice Park - (~20-minute drive)</u></b> Next, caravan 9 miles southwest to a Hillsborough County park that has 63 acres of restored herbaceous and forested wetlands using creation and enhancement methods. Learn why this project was approved, what benchmarks were used, and what wetland plants were selected and why.
<b>On Your Own (1 hour)</b>	<b>On Your Own Assignment #2:</b> Find, read, and bring to the next class 1 recent (within 5-7 years) study or article about a <u>freshwater restoration project (large or small scale)</u> . Be prepared to share informally about this freshwater restoration project with the class.

Day 3	Friday, August 25, 2025 – Class at Brooker Creek Preserve and PM Field Trips
<b>Classroom &amp; Field Trip – Workshop 3: Small Scale Freshwater Restoration:</b> Objectives: To understand the importance of small-scale freshwater ecosystem restoration, how they can enhance or improve environmental attributes, how to identify problems, ways of recognizing patterns of degradation, setting realistic and achievable restoration goals, why evaluating and monitoring project sites is important, and learn how citizen-driven projects can be organized and conducted.	
8:00 am – 8:45 am	Share Your Case Study with the Class – On Your Own Assignment #2: Freshwater Restoration Project (large or small scale)
8:45 am– 11:00 am	Workshop 3: Small Scale Freshwater Restoration – Learning Objectives and Overview; “Freshwater Restoration: Small Scale” presentation, Questions and Discussion ( <i>Jeanne &amp; Brian</i> )
11:00 am – 11:15 am	Wrap-up: Review and Summary, Field Trip Reminders
11:15 am – 11:45 am	Sack Lunch at Classroom Location Eat your sack lunch; no time in the schedule for getting food elsewhere.
11:45 am – 12:15 pm	Travel from Classroom to Field Trip Site #1
	<u>Field Trip Locations</u> #1 <b>Kapok Park</b> , 2950 Glen Oak Ave N., Clearwater 33759 #2 <b>Glen Oaks Park</b> , 1345 Court St., Clearwater 33756 (~30-minute drive) #3 <b>Crest Lake Park</b> , 201 S. Glenwood Ave., Clearwater 33755
12:15 pm – 4:00 pm	<p><b><u>Field Trips – Small Scale Freshwater Restoration</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carpool when possible</li> <li>• Park vehicles close to each other – parking space is limited.</li> <li>• Closed-toe shoes are required, and long pants are recommended. Be prepared to walk through mud, water, and tall vegetation if needed.</li> <li>• FMNP Instructor Field Trip Leader – <b><i>Russell Martin</i></b></li> </ul> <p><b><u>Field Site #1: Kapok Park</u></b>  Drive northeast to meet instructors <b><i>Jeanne, Brian, and Russell Martin</i></b> at this interesting and attractive local park brimming with 10 acres of wetland enhancement.</p> <p><b><u>Field Site #2: Glen Oaks Park (~30-minute drive)</u></b>  Then we will caravan southwest to one (or two depending upon time available) City of Clearwater parks that successfully combine important restoration wetland functions within an urban setting while providing attractive community settings and recreational benefits.</p> <p><b><u>Field Site #3 (tentative): Crest Lake Park (5-minute drive)</u></b> Time depending, we may caravan across the street to review another example of an urban freshwater restoration site to discuss how a site’s neighbors and visitors have an influence on the outcome of a restoration.</p>
4:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Wrap-up, Post-Test (electronic – bring a cell phone or tablet with internet access), & Graduation!