



Eastern Regional Wetland Restoration Institute

Instructor Biographies

Tom Biebighauser

Tom Biebighauser graduated from the University of Minnesota with a B.S. in Wildlife Biology in 1978 and began a career with the Forest Service as Wildlife Biologist at the Superior National Forest in Minnesota, moving on to the Daniel Boone National Forest in Kentucky in 1988. He began restoring wetlands in 1982 in northeastern Minnesota and has since established over 950 such sites in Minnesota, Kentucky, Ohio, and British Columbia. Tom has successfully written hundreds of funding proposals and has taken the lead in completing numerous partnership projects for restoring emergent, ephemeral, forested, and wet meadow wetlands on public and private lands. In 2003, he wrote and published the book *A Guide to Creating Vernal Ponds* in cooperation with Ducks Unlimited, Inc. and the Izaak Walton League of America, distributing over 31,600 copies to date. He finds it rewarding to repair wetlands that have failed and to assist land managers who are working to begin wetland restoration programs. Tom enjoys leading hands-on workshops where participants learn about wetland restoration by actually constructing a wetland; he has taught these workshops in Alabama, Illinois, Kentucky, Maryland, Minnesota, New York, North Carolina, South Carolina, and British Columbia. His latest program involves helping teachers build wetlands at schools for use as outdoor classrooms. He encourages hundreds of students each year to put on waders and venture into wetlands for exploration. For five years, he has served as Chairperson for the Cave Run Chapter of Ducks Unlimited. Governor Brereton Jones commissioned Tom a Kentucky Colonel in 1995. In 1999, he received an award from Goodyear and the National Association of Conservation Districts for outstanding accomplishments in resource conservation practices. His passion for wetland restoration has been recognized by three National Taking Wing Awards: for leadership, community involvement, and accomplishments. In 2005, the Rowan County Conservation District presented Tom with their Honor award. He received the Vocation award from the Morehead Rotary Club the same year. Congressman Hal Rogers presented Tom with the Kentucky PRIDE award in May 2005, for leadership in wetland restoration. His latest book *Wetland Drainage, Restoration, and Repair* is being published by the University Press of Kentucky in partnership with Eastern Kentucky PRIDE.



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Steve Bonney

Steve Bonney is a Wildlife Biologist and Regional Coordinator with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, responsible for 21 counties comprising the Northeast Region. Steve has worked for the Department for over 20 years, and also worked as a Wildlife Research Technician and Wildlife Research Associate at the University of Kentucky. Steve attended undergraduate school at the University of Connecticut and graduate school at the University of Kentucky. He has co-authored numerous technical wildlife publications, is a recipient of the Robert D. McDowell Wildlife Award, past President of the Kentucky Chapter of The Wildlife Society and a Certified Wildlife Biologist. Steve has received several awards and recognition for his wildlife educational efforts. Steve is an avid, or rather rabid, fly fisherman, fly tier, and mineral collector. He lives in Morehead, Kentucky with his wife and daughter.

George Chalfant

George received his B.S. degree in Agronomy from Missouri State in 1966. He spent two years in the Army assigned to the Post Agronomist, Post Engineers, Fort Lewis Washington where he was responsible for grounds maintenance on the main post, the golf course, and the NIKE Missile sites in the state of Washington. After being discharged from the Army in 1968, George did graduate studies at Oregon State University. In 1969 George accepted an offer to work with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) as a soil scientist on the Eugene District, Eugene, Oregon; a new position with the agency.

While with BLM George mapped soils in the mountains of the Oregon Coast Range, Cascades, and Cumberland Plateau (Wallowa and Blue Mountains). He was integrally involved in management of 320,000 acres in the Coastal and Cascade mountains of Oregon, which included harvest of a two hundred and twenty million board ft. annual timber sale program (before the spotted owl!). He also worked on numerous special assignments for the BLM State Director, involving travel throughout Oregon and Northern California, which dealt with timber harvest, reforestation, herbicide use, slope stability issues, wetland and riparian management and soil mapping. He taught evening classes in soil mechanics/engineering at Lane Community College and co-authored a widely used publication entitled "Slope Stability in Road Construction; A guide to the Construction of stable roads in Western Oregon and Northern California".

George left BLM's Eugene District in 1979 as Branch Chief for the Watershed, Wildlife and Mineral's Unit, which had a professional staff of nine, for a new Regional soil scientist position in 1981 with the Federal Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM), on the Regional Director's Technical Services Staff, Charleston, WV; with duties with the Abandoned Mine Lands staff as well. While with OSM, as Technical Project Officer, he had lead responsibility for the technical review of the



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Virginia State regulatory program for coal, and review responsibilities of the Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Maryland programs as well. In addition, George was also responsible for various projects/details within the agency. Examples include the training of mine inspectors at the mining institute in Beckley, W.V.; expert testimony in litigation cases; a hydrologic study of the Tug Fork River in partnership with the Bureau of Mines and US Geologic Survey; a research grant with Virginia Tech on studies of post mining land uses; a unsuitability petition opposing coal mining on the Monongahela National Forest in West Virginia; inspection of mine waste fills over one million cubic yards in Virginia; and various abandoned mine reclamation projects in Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Maryland. In addition, George co-authored a paper dealing with post-mining land use following mountaintop removal mining. George transferred to the Daniel Boone National Forest in November 1981.

On the Daniel Boone National Forest, George was assigned leadership of the watershed improvement program (e.g. reclamation of abandoned mine sites (CERCLA and non-CERCLA), damages from road construction/failures, recreational uses, logging, fire, and oil and gas production). He was frequently involved in coordination and collaboration with other federal and state agencies, environmental/professional societies and private consultants. He was instrumental in modernizing older soil inventories in partnership with the Natural Resources and Conservation Service on about 400,000 acres on the Forest; and developed soil interpretations for use and management, proposed best management practices, monitored effects from various management activities associated with road construction, timber harvest, dispersed recreation, mining, etc. He provided input to land management plans and proposals, and environmental documents. He also taught new professionals within the agency (i.e. silviculture and soil and water workshops), and evening classes at the University of Kentucky on logging methods and their influence on sustainable forestry; co-produced an educational video for state-wide distribution to all public libraries while a member of a Western Kentucky University Advisory Committee; and while serving as a member of the State Division of Forestry Silviculture Subcommittee, under the State Agriculture Water Quality Authority, George helped develop Best Management Practices Guidelines for Forest Management. George was a member of the teaching cadre with the USFS National Minerals Training Office, Missoula, MT, for a number of years, teaching mine reclamation courses in Idaho and Arkansas. He also served as an instructor in an environmental education workshop presented annually for high school educators at Union College, Barbourville, KY. George has co-authored a number of papers and published abstracts dealing with mine reclamation, wetland construction, conservation of aquatic resources, and the influence of acidic atmospheric deposition on soils on the Forest. George retired from the Forest Service, January, 2007.



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Kandris Cotton Goodwin

Kandris is the *Programs Coordinator* for the University of Kentucky Tracy Farmer Center for the Environment (TFCE) whose mission includes providing education and resources to citizens and teachers through professional development and program support to schools and agencies providing environmental education throughout Kentucky. The TFCE is a comprehensive and interdisciplinary center focused on sustainable solutions to environmental issues through scientific, cultural, humanistic, legal, and political research, education, and service. The TFCE oversees many projects including; the Bluegrass Partnership for a Green Community, the UK Invasive Species Network, Community Based Science for Teachers and Students, Natural Resources Academy for Urban Youth, and UK student internships. Kandris began her career in environmental education while working on a Master's Degree in Teaching, Secondary Education with the University of Louisville Institute for the Environment and Sustainable Development, and has completed the Kentucky Certification Program for non-formal educators. She brings over 15 years experience working with professionals, teachers and students in environmental education.

Mason Howell

Mason received a BS in Biology from Eastern Kentucky University and an MS in Soil Science emphasizing water quality from the University of Kentucky. His professional career began at the University of Kentucky where he served 2 years as a Water Quality Agent with the University of Kentucky. He began working for NRCS as a Biologist in 1996 and became the NRCS State Biologist in 1999. Currently as State Biologist, he serves as the Endangered Species Act and Wetland Compliance Coordinator and technical advisor for the Wetland Reserve Program, Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program, and other Farm Bill Programs as well as on technical standard and specification development.

Richard Hunter

Richard Hunter has been employed as a Forestry Technician on the Cumberland Ranger District of the Daniel Boone National Forest since 1971. With primary responsibilities in wildlife and fish management, he works to plan and implement habitat improvement projects, focusing on wetland restoration, wetland maintenance, grassy opening management, and native grass restoration. Since 1989 he has worked with Tom Biebighauser to establish, maintain, and repair over 800 wetlands in Kentucky and Ohio. Richard is certified as a Cultural Resource Heritage Technician, State Herbicide Applicator, Timber Marker, and Contracting Officer Representative. He also serves as a Division Supervisor, Safety Officer, and Crew Representative for the Incident Command System. Richards's superior capabilities have been recognized by the Forest Service with 12 separate Performance Awards. Fishing for crappie, bass, and muskie along with hunting for wild turkey, deer, and ruffed grouse comprise his hobbies.



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Ron Jones

EDUCATION

David Lipscomb College, Nashville, TN., B.A., Biology. 1972.

Austin Peay State University, Clarksville, TN. Graduate Courses. 1972-73.

Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN. Ph.D., General Biology, 1980. Dissertation: A revision of Aster Section Patentes (Compositae).

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Eastern Kentucky University (Richmond, KY)

Professor, 1989-present;

Associate Professor, 1984-89.

Assistant Professor, 1983-84;

Visiting Assistant Professor, 1981-83.

Undergraduate Courses taught at EKU include: Introductory Biology, Introductory Biology for Teachers, Principles of Biological Science, General Botany, Economic Plants, Conservation of Wildlife Resources, and Plant Systematics.

Graduate (800 level) or Grad/Undergrad courses (500/700 level) taught at EKU include: Evolution, Dendrology, Aquatic and Wetland Plants, Field Botany and Ecology for Teachers, Plant Population Biology and Conservation of Rare Species

Kentucky Institute of International Studies, Ecuador Program 2000-2006

Teaching Faculty summers of 2000 and 2002 and 2006 - Taught Tropical Biodiversity and Conservation, class sessions held in the Galapagos Islands, the Andean Highlands, and the Ecuadorian Amazon

Biological Technician, National Park Service, conducting floristic study of Shiloh National Military Park, 1980-81.

HONORS AND RECOGNITIONS:

2006 *Plant Life of Kentucky* nominated for International Book Award, Technical Category, by the Council of Botanical and Horticultural Libraries (one of nominated 13 books from around the world). <http://www.cbhl.net/litaward/final.htm>

2006. Certificate from Kentucky State Senate, in recognition of being named an EKU Foundation Professor, signed by David Williams, President of the Senate, and State Senator Ed Worley. June 15.

2006 Selected as EKU Foundation Professor, 2006—2008, in recognition of an outstanding career record in teaching, research, and service.



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2005-06 Featured speaker for the Kentucky Humanities Council (see Invited Presentations below)

2005. Biological Diversity Protection Award, Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission, presented on December 7, in Frankfort, by LaJuana S. Wilcher, Secretary of the Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet

2005 Commissioned as a Kentucky Colonel on June 9 by Governor Ernie Fletcher in recognition of the publication of *Plant Life of Kentucky*.

2003 Naturalist of the Year, Kentucky Natural History Society

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

Participate in natural history hikes in Costa Rica, Summer, 2005

Participate in Tropical Dendrology course, Costa Rica, Summer 2001.

Participate in Tropical Plant Workshop, Miami, Florida, 1996.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Society of Plant Taxonomists

Southern Appalachian Botanical Society

Association of Southeastern Biologist

Kentucky Academy of Science

Tennessee Academy of Science

ACADEMIC AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Curator of the EKU Herbarium, 1981—present, expanding collections from 9,000 to over 67,000.

Departmental Committees--Annual and periodic duties on a variety of committees, including acting as Chair for several committees, in last 5 years have chaired two faculty search committees.

University and College Committees—annual and periodic duties on a variety of committees, including the University Natural Areas Committee, the College Sabbatical Committee, and the College Curriculum Committee

Professional Service---periodic service as an officer of the Kentucky Academy of Science; Editorial board (book editor) of the Southern Appalachian Society; Core Member of SERNEC, Southeast Regional Network of Expertise and Collections.



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BOOKS PUBLISHED

Plant Life of Kentucky, An Illustrated Guide to the Vascular Flora, 834 pp., published by University Press of Kentucky, Feb, 2005. For excerpts from professional reviews, see: http://www.kentuckypress.com/viewbook.cfm?Category_ID=1&Group=48&ID=1231

JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS (PEER-REVIEWED) in last 5 years:

2005. State records and other noteworthy collections for Kentucky. *Sida* 21(3): 1909—1916. (With Ross Clark et al.).

2002. Native flowering plants new or otherwise significant in Kentucky. *Sida* 20: 397—402. (With), Robert Naczi et al.)

2001. Woody plants of Rock Creek Research Natural Area and watershed uplands, Laurel County, Kentucky. *Castanea* 66: 275-287. (with Ralph Thompson).

Other peer-reviewed publications in previous 20 years—15

TECHNICAL REPORTS in last 5 years

2006. Biological survey of the Greene, Greene Addition, and Cupp tracts, Pine Mountain, Harlan County, Kentucky. Submitted to The Kentucky Division of Forestry.

2006. Biological survey of the Golden tract, Bell County, Kentucky. Submitted to The Kentucky Division of Forestry.

2004. Biological inventories of a wildlife management area in Breckinridge County. Submitted to Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife.

2004. Biological inventories of a wildlife management area in Fleming County. Submitted to Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife.

2004. Biological inventories of a wildlife management area in Owen County. Submitted to Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Other Technical Reports—8 in previous 20 years

BOOK REVIEWS AND POPULAR ARTICLES—10 in last 5 years, 18 more in previous 20 years.



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INVITED PRESENTATIONS in last 5 years

2006. Upland Flora Workshop, presented for Kentucky State Biologists, Pennyriple Girl Scout Camp, Daviess County, funded through Kentucky Dept. Fish and Wildlife Resources, 25 participants. Aug 7—9.

2006. Early Naturalists and the Botanical Exploration of Kentucky. Kentucky Historical Society, Frankfort, Ky., presented through the Kentucky Humanities Council. May 3.

2006. Plants and People in Kentucky, with identification activities, Jefferson County Professional Development Workshop for Teachers, Blackacre State Nature Preserve, Apr 19.

2006. Kentucky Plant Life—Prehistory to the Present, and Future Prospects in the Age of Global Warming. Presented to EKU Biological Sciences Graduate Seminar. Feb 17.

2006. Plant Life of Kentucky/Ecuador Trip. Richmond Rotary Club, Richmond, Ky., Feb. 14.

2006. *Plants and People in Kentucky*, a talk presented through the Kentucky Humanities Council for the following: Fruit and Vegetable Conference Banquet, Lexington, Ky., Jan. 10, Estill County Public Library, Irvine, Ky., Feb. 7, Ragged Edge Community Theater, Harrodsburg, Ky., April 9, McCracken County Public Library, Paducah, Ky., April 6, Paducah Rotary Club, Paducah, Ky., April 5.

2005. Plants and People in Kentucky, a talk presented through the Kentucky Humanities Council for Elderhostel Program, Cumberland Falls State Park, November 11

2005. Plant Life of Kentucky, History, Current Status, and Future Prospects. Presented for Biology Department Seminar Series, East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, TN. Oct 12.

2005. Plants and People in Kentucky, with identification activities for Jefferson County Professional Development Workshop for Teachers, Blackacre State Nature Preserve, Sept 28.

2005. A History of Early Botanical Explorers in Kentucky, and the Current Status of Floristic Studies. Presented to EKU Biological Sciences Department Graduate Seminar, Feb 4.

2005 The Kentucky Flora, history, current status, and future prospects. Featured Saturday evening speaker at Wildflower Weekend, Natural Bridge State Park, Slade, KY. May 7

2004 Teaching Tropical Biodiversity in Ecuador. Presented at Teaching Abroad Symposium, annual ASB meeting, Memphis, TN. Apr 16

2003 Michaux to Braun, early botanical explorers in Kentucky, invited talk present at Locust Grove Afternoon Lecture series, Louisville, KY



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2003 Early Botanical Explorers in Kentucky--Michaux to Braun, invited talk presented at the annual meeting of the Kentucky Natural History Society, Oct 4

2003 Current state of vascular plant biodiversity in Kentucky, presented at Biodiversity Conference, Western Kentucky University, Nov 6

2001 The herbarium at the comprehensive university--promoting the growth, maintenance, and support of these disappearing facilities. ASB Bulletin 48:186. Abstract of an invited talk given at Herbarium Symposium of annual ASB meeting, New Orleans, LA. Apr 6

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS --- (at Kentucky Academy of Sciences and Association of Southeastern Biologists--18 in last 5 years, 35 more in previous 20 years, including at least one presentation in each meeting of the KAS from 1981-2005)

GRANTS

SERNEC: Southeast Regional Network of Expertise and Collections. Core Participant in recently successful proposal to the National Science Foundation. A proposal to network 150 herbaria in 15 southeastern states, to be administered through Appalachian State University. Nearly \$500,000 awarded for this project in Fall, 2005.

Kentucky Division of Forestry, 2004—2006.

Biological inventory of tracts in Bell, Harlan, and Henderson counties, \$37,000

Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife, 2003—2004.

Biological inventories of tracts in Breckinridge, Fleming, and Owen counties. \$20,000

Kentucky State Parks, 1997-2000,

Biological inventories of tracts at Natural Bridge and Cumberland Falls state parks, \$25,000.

Kentucky Department of Military Affairs, plant preservation project, for collections from state national guard facilities, 1994-1996, \$52,000.

USFWS Grants for Rare Species Status Surveys, for studies of *Arabis perstellata* and *Helianthus eggertii*, 1990-91, \$7,000

University of Tennessee Hesler Research Grants, for studies on the Cumberland Plateau of Kentucky, Tennessee, and Alabama, 1987-1992, \$9,600

KAS Marcia Athey Grants, for studies of Rock Creek Research Natural Area, 1985-1990, \$3,800

EKU Faculty Research Grants, for various studies on the Kentucky flora, 1982-1997, \$13,000



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James D. Kiser

Mr. Kiser is entering his 16th year in the ecological and environmental services field. He has spent much of this time studying wetlands and their associated flora and fauna. Currently, he is a Senior Biologist with FMSM Engineers, Inc., Louisville, Kentucky, where he is responsible for Endangered Species Act and Clean Water Act compliance for company projects. Prior to this position, Mr. Kiser was a biologist with the U.S. Forest Service on the Daniel Boone National Forest where he created many ridgetop vernal wetlands and restored a streamhead wetland containing a rare plant, white fringeless orchid. Mr. Kiser has delineated, permitted, and restored or created wetlands in Indiana, Georgia, Kentucky, Ohio, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia. Mr. Kiser's interest in bat use of wetlands and ponds has allowed him to conduct approximately 200 nights of mist net surveys over various types of wetlands and present data at numerous workshops and conferences. He has surveyed bat use of natural and created wetlands in Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, and West Virginia. He is a member of the Southeastern Bat Diversity Network, Kentucky Academy of Science, Kentucky Ornithological Society, Kentucky Native Plant Society, Southern Appalachian Botanical Society, and Kentucky Society of Natural History.

Wes Mattox

Wes Mattox is a Wildlife Biologist with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) responsible for wildlife management activities on private land in an eleven county area of northeastern Kentucky. Wes has a BS degree in Wildlife Management from Eastern Kentucky University and over 14 years of experience with KDFWR. He has worked with ruffed grouse and deer restoration, assisting KDFWR's Upland Game Coordinator, Wildlife Management Area management, and private land management. His current responsibilities include working with private landowners to improve habitat for native wildlife, making use of federal and state programs such as the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program, the Conservation Reserve Program, the Landowner Incentives Program, the Forest Landowner's Enhancement Program, and Kentucky's Fee's in Lieu of Stream Restoration Program. In addition to habitat management, Wes' other primary responsibilities include conducting surveys and monitoring populations of songbirds, T&E species, and game species, and dealing with nuisance wildlife issues.