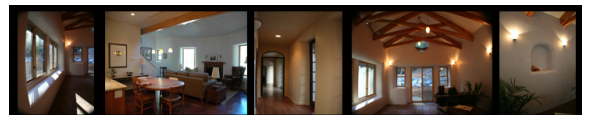




## SEVEN DAY COMPREHENSIVE STRAW BALE WORKSHOP DETAILS

2017 SEASON



The Morrison Group, LLC

Hello and thanks for signing up for your Seven Day Comprehensive Straw Bale Workshop! I'm glad you have decided to join us. Please take a few minutes to review this welcome packet, as it is full of important information. Please print a copy or better yet, **save an electronic copy onto your computer**, so you can access the information later as we approach the start date of the workshop.

I have included several documents here for you to review. They are all part of "the next step" towards attending the workshop. The first part of the packet is a welcome letter from the host. In it, you will learn a little about the project from the host themselves and you'll also find directions to the site and a contact email for the hosts in case you have any questions for them directly. An important note: if you have any serious food requirements, please email the host early so they can do their best to accommodate you. I cannot guarantee that they will be able to meet your needs, but the more time you give them, the better the chances.

I have also attached a list of things to bring with you to the workshop. Some of you may be flying to the location and thus limited on luggage space. In the end, you can decide what to bring and what to leave at home, but please do review the list so you have a sense of what will be needed.

We start each morning with coffee (if you drink it), tea, and breakfast at 8 am and we start work on the building each day at 9 am. We break for lunch at 1pm and dinner at 6pm. Those times may change if we are not at a specific stopping point right at 1 or 6. We're usually pretty close, but some flexibility is appreciated.

You're welcome to arrive the night before the official start of the workshop to get set up and ready for the next day. We will finish up no later than 4pm on the final day of the workshop. Once again, you're welcome to stay another night if that makes your travel plans easier. There will not be dinner provided on the night prior to or the last day of the workshop, so you will need to prepare for that.

If you chose to pay a deposit rather than the entire tuition up front, please make sure to send your final tuition payment in no later than 4 weeks prior to the start of the workshop. I'll send you an email roughly five weeks ahead of the start date as a reminder along with the link to make the payment. If you would like to make that payment earlier, please email me and I will send the link to you in an email. You can also pay by check if you prefer. My address is below.

Thanks again for signing up. I look forward to meeting you soon. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions about the class.

Andrew

The Morrison Group, LLC  
PO Box 3145  
Ashland, OR 97520  
USA

## **Welcome!**

Hello, and thanks so much for signing up for our workshop in Oklahoma! We are Stefanie and Beau Leland, and we are building our homestead from the ground up! “The Twenty” is our up and coming oasis, an organic homestead in its infancy, located about 25 minutes east of Oklahoma City. We bought 20 acres in the cross timbers in April of 2015, and have spent just about all of our spare time making it habitable. We took part in one of Andrew’s workshops in Austin, TX in 2015, and we are thrilled to have you join us in making our own dream come true!

## **About Us**

We met at a film festival in Oklahoma City in 2007, which is fitting since we both work in the film and video industry. Stefanie works in film and commercial production, and has managed crews large and small for companies such as Nike, Snapple and Mountain Dew. But her passion is the farm. Stefanie is transitioning into running our farmstead full time, and serves as an Oklahoma Master Gardener. Beau works on the post-production side of things as a film and video editor, and after being self-employed for over a decade, he now works full time for a marketing agency in downtown Oklahoma City. We both love spending time working outside at The Twenty, whether it’s tending to our chickens and bees, working in the gardens, or simply just being. Our little boy, Oliver, loves spending time outdoors at The Twenty as well, and he’ll soon be a big brother! We are thrilled to welcome our daughter in March of 2017!

## **Accommodations**

There are currently two main areas developed on the property. Upon entry from Hiwassee Rd, you will drive through the primary farming and nature preserve areas. This area is where we currently live in our Airstream trailer, and where we will be serving all meals. Continuing on the main gravel drive, you will arrive at our home-site, which is where the primary camp will be. Port-a-potties and an outdoor shower will be nearby for use as needed, and there will be good well water for drinking at all times. For those of you planning to stay on property, there will be ample room for tent camping along the tree lines, or really anywhere you see fit within the home-site. At the time of writing this letter, we aren’t able to support RV’s in terms of utilities/services on the property; however, you’re welcome to bring one as a glorified tent if you choose. Please check in with us closer to the workshop as things may have changed by then and we may be able to provide electricity, etc to your RV. There’s also a great RV Resort 15 minutes away if that speaks to you (see name and link below).

If you prefer to stay in a local hotel, there are a few options within about 25 minutes of our property in Oklahoma City or Midwest City. We’ve listed a couple of options below. Please reach out to us with any questions.

### **Courtyard Oklahoma City Northwest** (22 minutes from workshop)

1515 Northwest Expressway, Oklahoma City, OK 73118 (405) 848-0808

### **La Quinta Inn & Suites Midwest City** (20 minutes from workshop)

5653 Tinker Diagonal, Midwest City, OK 73110 (405) 733-1339

### **Twin Fountains RV Resort** (15 minutes from workshop)

2727 NE 63<sup>rd</sup> Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73111 (866) 693-1469

[www.twinfountainsrvpark.com](http://www.twinfountainsrvpark.com)

## **Recreation**

Let’s be honest, you’ll probably have way too much fun at our workshop to even think about leaving the property. We’ll have a designated area for nightly campfires, and evening socializing

is greatly encouraged. However, for those of you with some extra time on your hands, museums, recreational areas, lots of bars and restaurants are only about 20 minutes away in Downtown Oklahoma City. There are also a couple of really great restaurants a bit closer to the property in Choctaw if you ever feel like going on a jailbreak; specifically a great Irish Pub and an iconic German restaurant. Just ask us if there's something you'd like to do during your time here, and we'll be glad to point you in the right direction.

### **The Weather**

October in Oklahoma is generally accompanied by moderate days and crisp evenings. Daytime highs fall in the mid-70's, and the evenings cool down to the mid-50's. Autumn showers are possible, so we recommend you check the forecast for Choctaw, Oklahoma to plan accordingly.

### **Dining**

Speaking of food, we've got you taken care of. Stefanie has taken great care in preparing a delicious and nutritious menu for the entire workshop. In addition to traditional meaty options, we will have vegetarian options for each meal. We primarily eat vegetarian meals on our own time, so there will be no skimping on the veg. Meat eater or plant eater, there will be plenty of great sources of protein throughout each day. There will be an assortment of snacks, teas, coffee, water, etc available at all times. Please do let us know if you are a vegetarian so that we can plan accordingly, and do let us know if you have any specific food allergies or special dietary needs as soon as possible as we will need extra time to plan for those considerations. We can't guarantee that we'll be able to accommodate everyone's dietary requirements, but we will do the best that we can.

### **Transportation**

Now that we're in the age of GPS with all kinds of different mapping systems available, the easiest way to find us is to search for 4800 N. Hiwassee Rd, Spencer, OK 73084. You will know you're at the right place when you see a rustic sign that reads, "The Twenty - 4800." You will enter from N. Hiwassee Rd. Feel free to reach out if you need further instructions.

### **And Finally**

Our experience at the Austin, TX workshop in 2015 was unforgettable. We made so many fast friends, many of which we still keep up with today. We sincerely look forward to meeting you, and making some wonderful memories together. Please don't hesitate to contact us for any further questions at all. See you soon.

Stefanie and Beau  
4800 N. Hiwassee Rd  
Spencer, OK 73084

405.816.2902  
stefanie.leland@gmail.com  
beauleland@me.com

## **Andrew's List of What to Bring:**

This is only a partial list: speaking to the things I think you will need. Please pack whatever you think you'll need to be comfortable.

1. Sleeping Bag (at least for average temps. given)
2. Sleeping Pad
3. Tent
4. Plate, Bowl, Cup, Silverware, Water Bottle
5. Camera
6. Sun Hat and/or Sunscreen
7. Flashlight
8. Long Sleeve Shirt (This keeps the straw from aggravating your skin while baling.)
9. Long Pants (Same reason as above.)
10. Work Gloves
11. Swim Suit (you never know!)
12. Evening Camp Clothes (if you are camping)
13. Rain Gear (again, you never know!)
14. Notebook and Pen
15. Towel
16. Hiking Shoes/Boots
17. Skin Cream for Dry Plastering Hands
18. Folding Camp Chair
19. Musical Instruments
20. Knee Pads
21. Insect Repellant or Equivalent
22. White Vinegar (small amount to neutralize lime plaster in cuts)

## **Required Tools**

1. Plaster Hawk and Trowel (no notched trowels)
2. Utility Knife
3. Tape Measure
4. Hammer
5. Safety Glasses
6. Dust Mask
7. Hearing Protection

In the past I have asked people to bring simple tools like tin snips and wire cutters if they felt so inclined to bring something other than those items listed above; however, the last few workshops have made it clear to me that I should ask people to bring whatever tools they want. If you have something you think would be useful, you're welcome to bring it.

Please be aware that other participants in the workshop may use any “extra” tools you bring. I recommend marking your tools in some fashion so that they are easy to collect at the end of the week. I've also attached a tool list below to give you an idea of what we'll

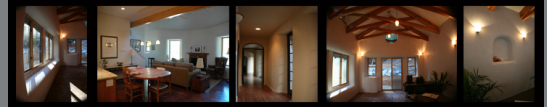
be likely to use. Again, you don't have to bring anything other than the required tools noted above; however, the more tools we have, the easier and faster the build!

## Workshop Tool List (Recommendations Only)

The tools listed below are those required of the host (partial list). If you have any of these tools or others that you think would be helpful for the class, please bring them if you are so inclined. Be aware that other people will be using your tools so be sure to mark them so that you can easily identify them when the workshop is over.

- Masonry Hammer Drill (1)
- Wrench for tightening foundation bolts/nuts (1)
- 4 Shovels for gravel in toe ups
- Circular Saw (1)
- Miter saw (1)
- Sawzall (reciprocating saw) (1)
- 4 1/4" Angle Grinder with 25 metal **cutting** wheels (**not** grinding wheels)
- 2 pairs Tin Snips (be sure to get those that cut both directions (right and left side cuts. Some cut straight and a set or two of those would be good too)
- 2 pairs Linesman's Pliers
- Chalk line (1)
- 4 Chainsaws (2 gas chainsaws and 2 electric)
- Chainsaw Sharpening File (1)
- Framing nail gun capable of shooting 8d and 16d nails (1)
- Minimum 50' air hose (4) (100' are great too and help reach different directions from the compressor)
- Air Compressor capable of running 4 air tools at once
- 16 Gauge Staple Guns that shoot 7/16" crown x 1 3/4" long staples
- Hammer staplers (4) for applying roofing felt
- Multiple Extension cords
- 2 sets of saw horses
- 2 String Trimmers (Weedwhackers)
- Garbage cans
- Ikea Shopping Bags (Big Bags, Perfect for Stuffing Straw)
- Rakes and brooms for site cleanup (blower/vac is better if available...in addition)
- **Four** 8" Plate Tampers
- Mortar Mixer (Paddle Mixer) **NOT** a concrete mixer
- Wheelbarrows (2)
- Plaster Scratch Tool "Scarifier"
- 5 gallon buckets (4)
- Old Yogurt Container Lids (4)
- Scaffolding as required for the building (2 @ 2x12x 20' + bales is okay for low walls)

## The Morrison Group, LLC



**Andrew Morrison**  
Managing Member

PO Box 3145  
Ashland, OR 97520  
[www.StrawBale.com](http://www.StrawBale.com)

E: [Andrew@StrawBale.com](mailto:Andrew@StrawBale.com)  
P: 541-890-3957