



TALKING WATER NATURE RETREAT · CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE

Reciprocal Roof Workshop, Oct 12–16, 2025

5-Day Reciprocal Roof Workshop at Talking Water Nature Retreat

FROM OUR ARCHIVE

Originally published September 26, 2025. This workshop has already taken place. The details below are preserved as they were first published.

Talking Water Nature Retreat welcomes you to join us October 12–16, 2025 for an earthbuilding workshop led by the talented Josh & Sarah of Clay Sand Soul. In this workshop, you will learn how to build a live-log reciprocal roof.

DATES	October 12–16, 2025
INCLUDES	All materials and daily meals
LOCATION	Talking Water Nature Retreat 6405 Suck Creek Road, Chattanooga, TN
HOURS	9:00 AM – 4:00 PM daily
LEVEL	Beginner to advanced

What You'll Learn

- Reciprocal roof framing with cedar logs
- Live green roof installation
- Roof ventilation

After class, step back to one of our four handcrafted cabins. Relax by the firepit or explore our private hiking trails on Chattanooga's beautiful Suck Creek Mountain.

Why You Should Attend

Whether you're drawn to cob building, straw-clay, or green roofs, you'll leave with new friends, real confidence, and a powerful new skill set.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a reciprocal roof?

A reciprocal roof is a self-supporting timber roof frame. Logs or rafters lean on each other in a circle, with no central post needed. It's strong, efficient, and perfect for building a green roof at Talking Water.

Do I need prior experience to join a workshop?

No. All earthbuilding workshops on this list welcome beginners. We teach from the ground up. If you have questions, the instructors will guide you step by step.

Can I stay at Talking Water Nature Retreat during the workshop?

Yes! We offer tent camping and also invite participants to rent our cabins.

What should I bring for an earthbuilding workshop?

We suggest closed-toe shoes, a water bottle, and a curious mind. We will provide the rest!

Are meals included in the workshop fee?

At Talking Water, breakfast and lunch are included each day of the 5-day workshop. You're welcome to cook onsite in the evenings or go about exploring Chattanooga!