

Preservation Workshops

Brick Earth Stone Timber



2023

Historic Preservation
Training Center

National Park Service



Frequently Asked Questions

What is the BEST Preservation Workshop Series?

The BEST Preservation Workshop Series instructs students of all levels in the preservation of traditionally built historic resources using problem-based and hands-on learning. Participants should be prepared to think critically, make mistakes, and experiment – both physically and mentally – with materials and concepts at the workshop.

Who can take a course?

Workshops are open to anyone who is interested: federal, state, and local government employees; private sector contractors, consultants, architects, and design professionals; students; nonprofit employees; and homeowners.

What is the cost per course?

Tuition costs vary between workshops. See individual workshop page for tuition. You are not enrolled in a workshop until you have paid tuition. Because workshops fill up fast, we encourage you to register as soon as possible. Refunds are available up to 30 days before the workshop.

Who do I talk to about an accommodation?

If you are a person with a disability and you need accommodations, please contact us after you have registered and at least 3 weeks before the workshops at BEST_preservation@nps.gov or (307) 739-3571.

Is there lodging at White Grass Dude Ranch?

Workshops in Grand Teton National Park include an option for shared, no cost lodging at White Grass, a rehabilitated historic dude ranch that serves as our training facility in the park. Rooms are on a first-come, first-served basis.

Program Sponsors and Supporters



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Course Progression

BEST workshops build on one another, following the natural progression of a historic preservation project. Illustrated below, this structure identifies major categories that take a project from concept to reality, and from design to implementation.

I

Inquiry

Students learn the basics of historic preservation principles and standards. These workshops are strongly recommended for all students before taking more advanced courses.

D&I

Documentation & Investigation

Students learn how to research historic resources and record existing conditions in the field, as well practice problem-solving strategies for identifying and understanding deterioration problems and quantifying their potential impact.

T

Treatment

Students explore building technology, condition assessment, treatment, and conservation science of major traditional building materials. Treatment workshops are hands-on and split between the classroom and the field.

M

Maintenance & Monitoring

Students learn the methods and best practices for continued stewardship of historic resources after their preservation, including how to evaluate treatments, write and follow maintenance and lifecycle plans, and bring historic resources into asset management programs.

Workshops and Trainings

Course Title	Location	Dates
Inquiry		
Guiding Principles for Field-Based Historic Preservation	Fairbanks, AK	April 18–20
	Grand Teton National Park	June 6–8
	Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park	June 27–29
	Yellowstone National Park	October 17–19
Documentation and Investigation		
Defining the Problem: Diagnosing Historic Building Deterioration	Grand Teton National Park	July 24–27
Creating and Using Oral Histories in the Preservation of Historic Resources	Grand Teton National Park	August 8–10
Thinking Through Water, Air, and Temperature Issues in Historic Structures	Grand Teton National Park	August 28–31
Treatment		
Traditional Finishes: Limewash	Christiansted National Historic Site	March 13–17
Beginning Historic Wood Window Preservation	Lowell National Historical Park	April 3–6
Pre-Contact Masonry Preservation and Repair	Wupatki National Monument	May 22–26
Wood and Western Log Preservation and Repair	Grand Teton National Park	June 12–16

Workshops and Trainings

Course Title	Location	Dates
Treatment		
Historic Masonry Preservation and Repair	Gulf Islands National Seashore	September 25–29
Earthen Architecture Preservation and Repair	Fort Davis National Historic Site	October 16–20
Wood and Eastern Log Preservation and Repair	Guildford Courthouse National Military Park	October 23–27
Advanced Wood Window Preservation and Repair	Frederick, MD	November 13–17
Maintenance & Monitoring		
Integrated Pest Management for Cultural Resources	Death Valley National Park	February 14–16

COVID-19 Information

All workshops will be held in accordance with current CDC, Department of the Interior, and National Park Service guidelines concerning COVID-19. If you are a federal employee, it is your responsibility to review official agency guidelines regarding travel and communicate with your supervisor accordingly before registering for this workshop.

Registration

BEST workshop registration form found at: <https://forms.gle/FcabsyNVBfzBvdJA7>

Questions

Brick Earth Stone and Timber (BEST) Workshops
 BEST_Preservation@nps.gov



Guiding Principles for Field-Based Historic Preservation

Fairbanks, AK

Grand Teton National Park

Hawaii Volcanoes National Park

Yellowstone National Park

April 18–20

June 6–8

June 27–29

October 17–19

Instructors

Charlie Pepper *NPS Emeritus, Program Manager, Olmstead Center for Landscape Preservation*

Julie McGilvray *Program Manager, Preservation Services & Regional Historical Landscape Architect*

Lisa Sasser *NPS Emeritus, Regional Facility Management Specialist, Northeast Regional Office*

Grant Cosby *Historical Architect, Alaska Regional Office*

Blaise Davi *NPS Emeritus, Program Manager, Northeast Regional Office*

Offered in partnership with Stephen T. Mather Training Center, this workshop engages participants in building knowledge and applying historic preservation concepts to the stewardship of cultural resources. This course is ideal for field personnel who work directly on historic structures and/or cultural landscapes and seek to feel more empowered when making historic preservation treatment decisions. Through interactive classroom and field-based sessions, discussion, and problem-solving activities, participants will explore how preservation treatment decisions are developed and implemented within the framework of national standards and guidelines. Using this framework, participants consider how and why work performed in the field is critical to retaining historically significant places and will make direct and relevant connections between hands-on fieldwork and fundamental historic preservation concepts. The workshop culminates in a full-day field case-study evaluating a historic property and developing treatment recommendations.

Tuition

\$350 General participant

\$50 Student

\$25 local employee

Defining the Problem: Diagnosing Historic Building Deterioration

Grand Teton National Park July 24–27

Instructors

Michael C Henry *PE, AIA*
Watson and Henry Associates

Michael P Schuller *PE*
Atkinson-Nolan and Associates, Inc

Treatment of any historic resource is only successful if the underlying causes of deterioration have been addressed. Often this process is rushed or overlooked in favor of immediate action, which can result in larger problems and higher costs. In this workshop, students examine historic structures and record conditions on a site-wide scale to identify the root causes of building failure. Rather than learn prescriptive answers to common issues, participants work through observed problems in small groups and hypothesize what underlying issues are affecting the resource and why. Taking this a step further, trainees also design ways to test their hypotheses, learn about different options for non-destructive evaluation (NDE), and experiment with using NDE techniques in the field.

Tuition

\$450 General participant
\$50 Student (at least half time in an accredited institution)
\$25 Grand Teton National Park employees



Creating and Using Oral Histories in the Preservation Of Historic Resources

Grand Teton National Park August 8–10

Instructors

Lu Ann Jones *PhD, Staff Historian
NPS Park History Program*

Brenna Lissoway *MA, DAS, Archivist
Chaco Cultural National Historical Park*

In this course participants learn how to effectively plan and implement all phases of an oral history project. Using case studies and classroom presentations, participants will gain the tools they need to gather reliable historic information using the spoken word. During the first two days of the workshop, students focus on best practices for how to effectively prepare for an in-person oral interview. Working in small groups on the final day of the workshop, trainees conduct full interviews with retired and long-time NPS employees, whose interviews will be added to the Grand Teton National Park archives. Following the interview, students receive instruction on the processing and archiving of oral history materials for future use, ending the workshop with packaging their interviews as a final product that will be turned over to the park.

Tuition

- \$350 General participant
- \$50 Student (at least half time in an accredited institution)
- \$25 Grand Teton National Park employees



Thinking Through Water, Air, And Temperature Issues in Historic Structures

Grand Teton National Park August 28–31

Instructor

William A Turner *MS, PE, LEED AP, CEO*
Turner Building Science & Design LLC

The interaction between air flow, water vapor, liquid water, and heat (or lack of heat) in and around a historic building directly relate to its longevity, performance, and comfort. When these interactions are altered through a change in materials, use, or design, unintended damage can result. In Water, Air, and Temperature Issues, students explore and experiment with how these three elements behave and influence each other in historic structures and how to manage them to maintain the health and use of buildings. Through discussion, labs, field exercises, and case studies, participants identify building deterioration as a function of water, air, and heat movement; solve problems caused by improper treatments; and evaluate options for retrofit in keeping with NPS preservation standards. Participants are encouraged to bring air, water, and heat issues from their home regions for discussion and group problem solving.

Tuition

- \$450 General participant
- \$50 Student (at least half time in an accredited institution)
- \$25 Grand Teton National Park employees





Traditional Finishes: Limewash

Christiansted National Historic Site March 13–17

Instructors

Rachel Adler

*Conservator
Vanishing Treasures Program*

Jose “Cheo” Bastian

*Supervisory Exhibit Specialist
Historic Preservation Training Center*

Limewashes provide excellent protection for masonry structures that have plaster, render, brick, and/or stone components, but their success as a treatment is dependent on knowing how to apply them; how they interact with different substrates; and their maintenance. Through discussion and experimentation with mixing, applying, and testing these materials, students will explore how lime-based finishes can be used as a system to protect a variety of masonry resources. Using this knowledge, participants will work with the Historic Preservation Training Center Caribbean Project Team to limewash the historic Customs House. Trainees will also learn about other finishes suitable for masonry systems, such as mineral silicate paints.

Tuition

\$550 General participant

\$50 Student (at least half time in an accredited institution)

\$25 Christiansted National Historic Site employees



Beginning Historic Wood Windows Preservation

Lowell National Park April 3–6

Instructors

Erin Gibbs *Program Manager, BEST Preservation Workshops
Historic Preservation Training Center*

Mark Segro *Exhibit Specialist
Historic Preservation Training Center*

In Beginning Historic Wood Window Preservation, participants practice the basics of window preservation, including documenting condition, stripping paint, preparing weathered wood, back-bedding and glazing, glass cutting, and painting. Trainees will also learn about and practice using purified linseed oil products as a treatment system for glazing and painting wood windows. To compliment hands-on work, students will participate in discussions on why we preserve historic windows; options for increasing historic windows' energy efficiency; and how to apply the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties to window projects.

Tuition

\$450 General participant
\$50 Student (at least half time in an accredited institution)
\$25 Lowell National Park employees

Pre-Contact Masonry Preservation and Repair

Wupatki National Monument May 22–26

Instructors

Frank Matero

Chair of the Graduate Program in Historic Preservation, University of Pennsylvania

Kelsey Vaughan-Wiltsee

Archeologist, Flagstaff Area National Monuments

Masonry structures require careful understanding of their materials, construction methods, conditions, and environment before any intervention is performed. Students in Pre-contact Masonry Preservation and Repair will explore these concepts, but with special emphasis on preservation at archaeological sites containing resources built prior to European contact in the Americas. Participants will explore and experiment with the properties, behaviors, and deterioration patterns related to mortars and masonry units commonly used at pre-contact sites. Working with experienced archaeologists, students will practice reading and documenting condition in the field and discuss when it is necessary to consult professional engineers or conservators. Trainees will work with masonry tools to repoint mortar joints and stabilize courses under the direction of experienced craftspeople and archaeologists in the field.

Tuition

\$550 General participant

\$50 Student (at least half time in an accredited institution)

\$25 Flagstaff Area National Monuments employees



Wood and Western Log Preservation and Repair

Grand Teton National Park June 12–16

Instructors

Ron Anthony

*President and Wood Scientist
Anthony & Associates*

Tim Green

*Lead Preservation Craft Trainer
Historic Preservation Training Center*

Log structures are some of the most versatile, enduring, and widespread resources found in the United States. The five-day Wood and Log Preservation and Repair workshop covers basic wood science and beginner log repair techniques to prepare trainees to care for these important buildings. Using the White Grass Dude Ranch as a laboratory, students will start the workshop studying the basics of wood structure and deterioration. Trainees will then practice field investigation, condition assessment, and identification of root causes of deterioration in the field at a historic cabin. The second half of the week is focused on using traditional tools to scribe, saddle notch, and flatten logs – the basic techniques used in a variety of log repairs. Trainees can expect additional group discussions that explore historic log construction, project planning, and finishes.

Tuition

- \$550 General participant
- \$50 Student (at least half time in an accredited institution)
- \$25 Grand Teton National Park employees



Historic Masonry Preservation & Repair

Gulf Islands National Seashore September 25–29

Instructors

Moss Rudley *Superintendent
Historic Preservation Training Center*

Mike Weibush *Exhibit Specialist
Historic Preservation Training Center*

Historic masonry buildings are relatively simple construction systems, but their preservation requires a sound understanding of stone, brick, and mortars; their weathering; and how they function together as a system. Students attending Historic Masonry Preservation and Repair will learn about these concepts and pair them with hands-on practice completing simple masonry repairs that involve matching and mixing mortars, repointing mortar joints, and stabilizing courses. In addition to learning about basic conservation science for masonry materials, students will also discuss and experiment with conducting conditions surveys, diagnosing root causes of deterioration, and determining treatment options in keeping with NPS preservation standards.

Tuition

- \$550 General participant
- \$50 Student (at least half time in an accredited institution)
- \$25 Gulf Islands National Seashore employees



Earthen Architecture Preservation and Repair

Fort Davis National Historic Site October 16–20

Instructors

David W. Keller *Owner & Manager
Keller Consulting*

Joey Benton *Designer
SILLA*

Construction of architecture using earthen building materials is one of the oldest surviving building traditions in the world for many reasons. Adaptable, sustainable, and sophisticated, earthen architectural traditions have a long history in the arid Southwest that endures today. Caring for and preserving these resources can be challenging, as many of them do not conform to our contemporary expectations of what makes a material suitable for building and what its maintenance looks like. In this workshop, students will learn about the materials science and construction of earthen architecture, as well as experiment with building materials derived from soil such as adobes and earthen plasters and mortars. Participants will examine what deterioration looks like in earthen structures, determine root causes of condition, and think through stabilization measures. Lastly, students will practice small-scale repairs in the field, such as replacing adobes and applying earth plaster.

Tuition

- \$550 General participant
- \$50 Student (at least half time in an accredited institution)
- \$25 Fort Davis National Historic Site employees



Wood and Eastern Log Preservation and Repair

Guilford Courthouse National Military Park October 23–27

Instructors

Mike Cardis

*Exhibit Specialist
Historic Preservation Training Center*

Steve Jenkins

*Exhibit Specialist
Historic Preservation Training Center*

Marcie Markley

*Training Specialist
Historic Preservation Training Center*

Well before any log cabins were built in the American West, log houses were commonplace in the Mid-Atlantic states and Appalachia. These structures, built using the different traditions and craft skills of the European immigrants who settled in the region, differ from western log cabins in many ways, from how logs are hewn and notched to how structures are laid out and finished. Because of these differences, they require a different approach to their preservation compared to their American West counterparts. In Wood and Eastern Log Preservation and Repair, students will experiment with basic wood science concepts before documenting and assessing log structures on site. They will then practice basic log repair techniques, using traditional tools to hew logs, scribe and cut notches common in Eastern log construction, and replace chinking and daubing. There will be discussion and group work that also cover the evolution of the eastern log house, developing treatment plans, and scoping and specifying projects.

Tuition

\$550 General participant

\$50 Student (at least half time in an accredited institution)

\$25 Guilford Courthouse National Military Park employees



Advanced Wood Window Preservation and Repair

Frederick, MD November 13–17

Instructors

Mark Segro

*Exhibit Specialist
Historic Preservation Training Center*

Trevor Thomas

*Supervisory Exhibit Specialist
Historic Preservation Training Center*

Brandon Gordon

*Deputy Superintendent
Historic Preservation Training Center*

For students who have mastered beginning wood window preservation skills like documentation, re-glazing, and simple dutchman repairs, participants in Advanced Wood Window Preservation will practice more advanced and intensive repairs for rails, stiles, and muntins. Students will use hand and power tools to experiment with more complicated dutchman repairs, joinery repairs, and partial or full component replacement. Experience with the following tools is strongly encouraged: compound miter saw, table saw, band saw, jointer, and planer. While BEST Beginning Wood Window Preservation and Repair is not a pre-requisite, students will be required to show their mastering of the basics before being admitted to the advanced course. More information will be supplied after registration on these requirements.

Tuition

\$550 General participant

\$50 Student (at least half time in an accredited institution)



Integrated Pest Management for Cultural Resources

Death Valley National Park February 14–16

Instructors

James Howard *Integrated Pest Management Physical Scientist
Biological Resources Division*

John Nelson *Supervisory Entomologist
USFS Rocky Mountain Region*

During Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for Cultural Resources, students learn how to maintain historic resources in a way that both addresses pest issues as well as follows the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. Using resources in Death Valley National Park as case studies, participants will practice the inspection and diagnostic processes best suited for determining what pests are present and the extent of infestation. Trainees and instructors will discuss specific safety and mitigation measures for pests common in desert ecosystems, options for exclusion that are sensitive to historic integrity, and how to integrate IPM into maintenance and monitoring plans.

Tuition

\$350 General participant
\$50 Student (at least half time in an accredited institution)
\$25 Grand Teton National Park employees





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