

Preservation Workshops

# Brick Earth Stone Timber

# 2025

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?

Unless otherwise noted, 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. See individual workshop page for tuition. Tuition is collected at time of registration. Full refunds are available up to 30 days before the workshop.

## Who do I talk to about a reasonable 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 (307) 739-3571 or [BEST\\_preservation@nps.gov](mailto:BEST_preservation@nps.gov).

## Why are there no workshops at White Grass in 2025?

Grand Teton National Park assumed operation of the White Grass Ranch in October 2024. Due to this change, the ranch is no longer our primary training facility. Most workshops typically held at White Grass are postponed until 2026 as we assess new locations.

## Who do I contact to become an instructor?

We are offering “How to Teach so Students Will Learn: Teacher/Leader Training” in partnership with Toponexus. See page 39.

## I have a preservation project. Can BEST help?

BEST workshops cannot be used to complete project work. But our Training Wheels program can help. See page 41.

# How to Register

You must submit a registration form and pay tuition to be fully registered for a workshop.

## Step 1

Complete the [BEST Registration Form](#)



## Step 2

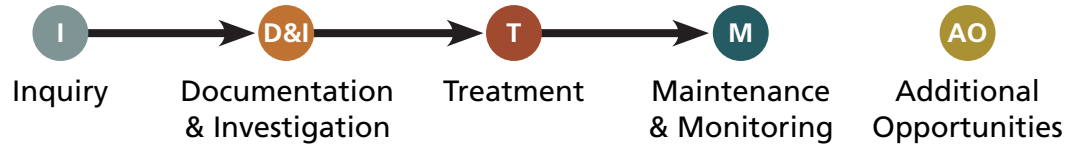
Access the link provided in your registration form confirmation email to pay tuition and complete your registration.

## Program Sponsors and Supporters



# 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.



## Inquiry

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

## Documentation & Investigation

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

## 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.

## 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 life cycle plans, and bring historic resources into asset management programs.

## Additional Opportunities

Two additional learning opportunities are offered through BEST that don't fall into the course progression. One is for students interested in becoming an effective instructor teaching preservation topics, the other is for project managers who require specific project-related skills for their team to execute a current preservation project.

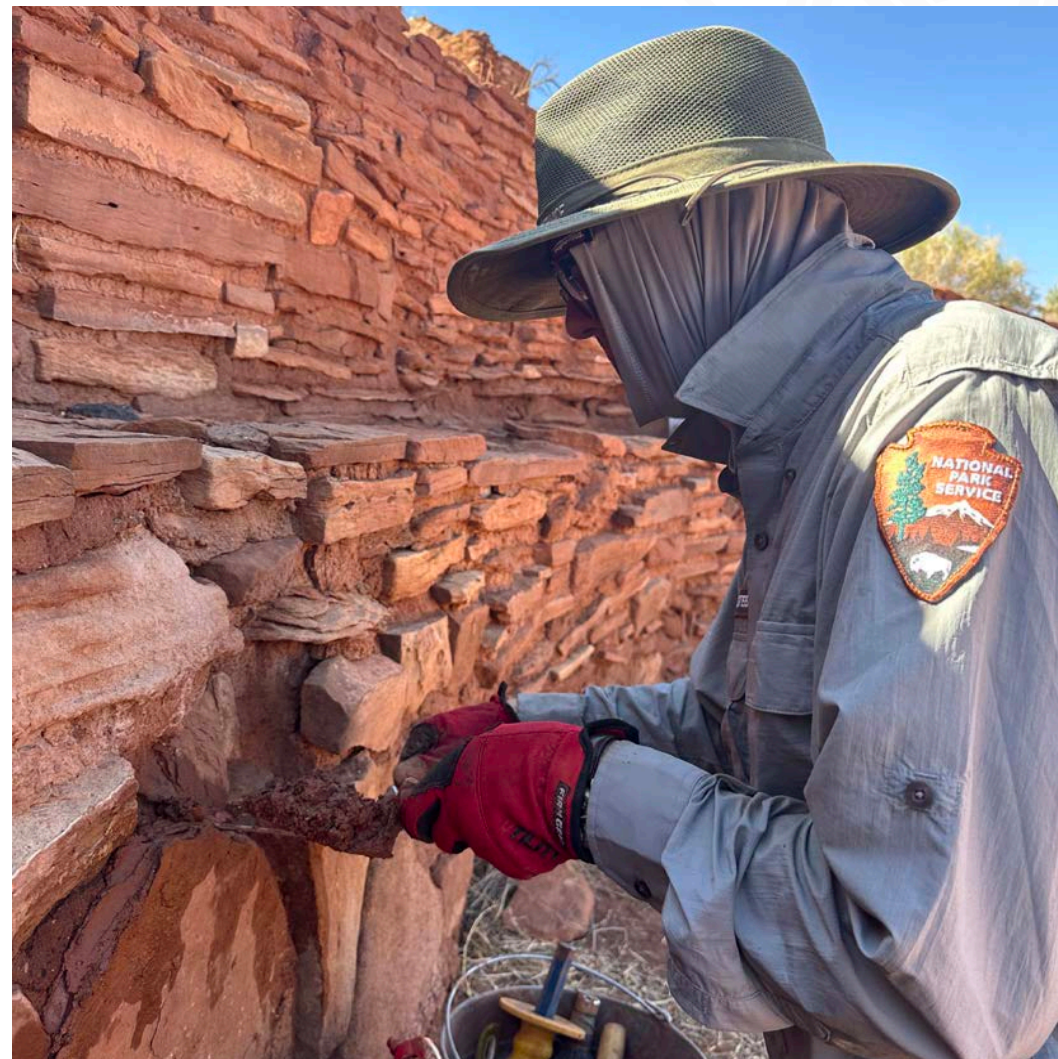
# Workshops

Course Title	Location	Dates	Page
Inquiry			
Guiding Principles for Field-Based Historic Preservation	Timucuan Ecological & Historic Preserve	February 4–6	11
	Alaska Regional Office	April 15–17	
	National Mall & Memorial Parks	April 29 - May 1	
	Grand Canyon National Park	September 23–25	
	San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park	October 28–30	
Documentation and Investigation			
Defining the Problem: Diagnosing Historic Building Deterioration	Not offered in 2025; check back in 2026.		13
Thinking Through Water, Air, and Temperature Issues in Historic Structures	TBD	August TBD	15
Treatment			
Historic Plaster Preservation and Repair	Yosemite National Park	March 17–21	17

Course Title	Location	Dates	Page
<b>Treatment</b>			
Wood Windows: Fundamentals of Woodworking	Frederick, MD	April 7–11	19
Pre-Contact Masonry Preservation and Repair	Wupatki National Monument	April 28 - May 2	21
Dry-Stone Masonry Preservation and Repair	Zion National Park	May 5–9	23
Basic Wood Window Preservation and Repair	Fort Vancouver National Historic Site	July 14–17	25
Brick Masonry Preservation and Repair	Frederick, MD	September 8–12	27
Earthen Architecture Preservation and Repair	Fort Davis National Historic Site	October 20–24	29
Advanced Wood Window Preservation and Repair	Frederick, MD	November 3–7	31
Wood and Log Preservation and Repair	Not offered in 2025; check back in 2026.		33
Women's Wood and Log Preservation and Repair	Not offered in 2025; check back in 2026.		35
Advanced Log Preservation and Repair	Not offered in 2025; check back in 2026.		37



Course Title	Location	Dates	Page
<b>Maintenance &amp; Monitoring</b>			
Check back in 2026 for classes.			
<b>Additional Opportunities</b>			
How to Teach so Students Will Learn: Teacher/Leader Training	Saguaro National Park	March 3–6	39
Training Wheels			41





# Guiding Principles for Field-Based Historic Preservation

Timucuan Ecological & Historic Preserve  
Alaska Regional Office  
National Mall & Memorial Parks  
Grand Canyon National Park  
San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park

February 4–6  
April 15–17  
April 29 - May 1  
September 23–25  
October 28–30

## Instructors

Jessica Bender Gordon	Training Administrator, Historic Preservation Training Center
Grant Crosby	Historical Architect, Alaska Regional Office
Becky Cybularz	Historical Architect, Historic Preservation Training Center
Blaise Davi	NPS Emeritus, Program Manager, Northeast Regional Office
Julie McGilvray	Program Manager, Regional Historical Landscape Architect
Elizabeth Pidgeon	Chief of Cultural Resources, San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park
Lisa Sasser	NPS Emeritus, Facility Management Specialist, Northeast Regional Office
Katherine Wonson	Founder and Principal, Old School Heritage Solutions

Guiding Principles for Field-Based Historic Preservation 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. Participants will learn how to make preservation treatment recommendations using national standards and guidelines. Through case studies, discussions, and hands-on activities, participants will learn how to apply fundamental historic preservation concepts in developing treatment recommendations.

## Tuition

\$450	General participant
\$50	Student (at least half time in an accredited institution)



# Defining the Problem: Diagnosing Historic Building Deterioration

Not offered in 2025; check back in 2026.

## Instructors

Nic Cargill

El, Atkinson-Nolan and Associates, Inc

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

Not offered in 2025; check back in 2026.





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

August TBD

## Instructor

Erin Gibbs

Training Specialist, Historic Preservation Training Center

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 Thinking Through 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

\$600 General participant

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



# Historic Plaster Preservation and Repair

Yosemite National Park March 17–21

## Instructors

**Larry Waldrop** Supervisory Exhibit Specialist, Historic Preservation Training Center

**Erin Gibbs** Training Specialist, Historic Preservation Training Center

Through discussions and hands-on experimentation, trainees will gain insights into the importance of preserving historical plaster, understand plaster's role in protecting different building materials and systems, and practice mixing and applying traditional three-coat plaster. This workshop is designed for both beginners and those with some experience, providing a solid foundation in the art and science of plasterwork.

## Tuition

\$750 General participant

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





# Wood Windows: Fundamentals of Woodworking

Frederick, MD April 7–11

## Instructors

**Mark Segro** Exhibit Specialist, Historic Preservation Training Center

**Trevor Thomas** Exhibit Specialist, Historic Preservation Training Center

Participants will learn the woodworking skills necessary to practice advanced and intensive repairs for rails, stiles, and muntins. This workshop is the required pre-requisite workshop for Advanced Wood Window Repair as a part one of a two-part workshop series concentrating on advanced woodworking skills and repair, or could be taken independently. Students will focus on the fundamentals of woodworking, including materials selection, safe stationary power tool use, safe hand tool use, fundamentals of millwork, layout, and basics of joinery.

## Tuition

\$750 General participant

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



# Pre-Contact Masonry Preservation and Repair

Wupatki National Monument April 28 - May 2

## Instructors

Kelsey Vaughan-Wiltsee

Archeologist, Flagstaff Area National Monuments

Ian Hough

Program Coordinator, Vanishing Treasures Program

Erin Gibbs

Training Specialist, Historic Preservation Training Center

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

\$750 General participant

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







# Dry-Stone Masonry Preservation and Repair

Zion National Park May 5–9

## Instructors

Alan Ash Master Stone Mason, Ash Stone Masonry

Derek Beitner Exhibit Specialist, Historic Preservation Training Center

Moss Rudley Director, Historic Preservation Training Center

Dry-stone masonry—where stones are stacked on one another without the use of mortar—is one of the earliest building skills developed by humans and used for building shelters, fortifications, burials, structures, farm enclosures, trails, and roads. In national parks, this method of construction is commonly seen on historic trails, often as retaining walls made from local stone. Using the retaining walls on trails in Zion National Park as a laboratory, students in the Dry-Stone Masonry Preservation and Repair workshop will learn about and explore the behavior, condition, treatment, and maintenance of dry-stone masonry systems within a trails context. After experimenting with the material and physical properties of different stones, students will conduct condition assessments on trail resources in Zion to determine causes of deterioration and identify appropriate treatment approaches. Trainees will practice shaping and placing stones, as well as how to approach basic stabilization of dry-laid masonry systems.

## Tuition

\$750 General participant

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





# Basic Wood Window Preservation and Repair

Fort Vancouver National Historic Site July 14–17

## Instructors

**Larry Waldrop** Supervisory Exhibit Specialist, Historic Preservation Training Center

**Erin Gibbs** Training Specialist, Historic Preservation Training Center

In Basic Wood Window Preservation and Repair, participants practice the basics of window maintenance and repair, including documenting condition, stripping paint, preparing weathered wood, backbedding and glazing, glass cutting, and painting. Trainees will also learn about and practice using degummed 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

\$600 General participant

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



# Brick Masonry Preservation and Repair

Frederick, MD September 8–12

## Instructors

**Scott Jones** Exhibit Specialist, Historic Preservation Training Center

**Mike Weibush** Exhibit Specialist, Historic Preservation Training Center

Historic brick 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 Brick 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

\$750 General participant

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







# Earthen Architecture Preservation and Repair

Fort Davis National Historic Site    October 20–24

## Instructors

Rachel Adler    Conservator, Vanishing Treasures

Joey Benton    Designer, SILLA

David W. Keller    Owner & Manager, Keller Consulting

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

\$750    General participant

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

# Advanced Wood Window Preservation and Repair

Frederick, MD November 3–7

## Instructors

**Mark Segro** Exhibit Specialist, Historic Preservation Training Center

**Trevor Thomas** Exhibit Specialist, Historic Preservation Training Center

Open only to students who have completed Wood Windows: Fundamentals of Woodworking. In Advanced Wood Window Preservation and Repair, students will both implement and hone the skills learned in Fundamentals of Woodworking. In a small group setting, students will receive individualized guidance to execute more complicated dutchman repairs, joinery repairs, and partial or full component replacement for historic wood windows.

## Tuition

\$750 General participant

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







# Wood and Log Preservation and Repair

Not offered in 2025; check back in 2026.

Log structures are some of the most versatile, enduring, and widespread resources found in the United States. The 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. 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**

Not offered in 2025; check back in 2026.



# Women's Wood and Log Preservation and Repair

Not offered in 2025; check back in 2026.

The Women's Wood and Log Preservation and Repair workshop follows the same curriculum as BEST's Wood and Log Preservation Workshop and is open to women who prefer to learn in an all-female environment. Students in this workshop will learn about basic wood science and beginner log repair techniques common in the American West. They will explore wood structure, deterioration, and behavior before progressing to field investigation, condition assessment, and identification of root causes of deterioration. For the hands-on craft portion of the workshop, trainees will use traditional tools to scribe, saddle notch, and flatten logs – the basic techniques used in beginning log repair. Students will participate in group discussions and problem-solving activities that focus on historic log construction, project planning, and finishes.

## **Tuition**

Not offered in 2025; check back in 2026.







# Advanced Log Preservation and Repair

Not offered in 2025; check back in 2026.

In this workshop, students build on the knowledge and skills learned in the Beginner Wood and Log workshop, gaining a deeper understanding of how to lift and move log structures to replace deteriorated logs and make partial log repairs. Trainees use historic cabins at the Bar BC Ranch in Grand Teton National Park as a laboratory to engage and experiment with equipment, tools, and techniques necessary for stabilizing deteriorated log structures.

Lifting a building, replacing logs, and executing repairs are not a one-size-fits-all formula – students must be willing to problem-solve in the field under the supervision of an experienced log cabin preservationist. Trainees can expect to learn a mental and physical framework for moving log structures and executing appropriate treatments that can then be applied and modified for their own projects. Slow is fast for this workshop: students should prepare to work through problems in real-time, expect ebbs and flows in processes, and follow all safety procedures and guidelines.

## Tuition

Not offered in 2025; check back in 2026.





# How to Teach so Students Will Learn: Teacher/Leader Training

Saguaro National Park March 3–6

## Instructors

Molly Baker

Owner, Toponexus

Katherine Wonson

Founder and Principal, Old School Heritage Solutions

Are you interested in passing on your trades skills or specialized knowledge but haven't had the opportunity to hone your teaching skills? During this interactive workshop, participants will take a closer look at their own teaching toolbox to reconsider what's working and what's not. Participants will gain new insights and usable tools to teach so their crew/students/mentees learn better. This workshop is open and relevant to collateral-duty instructors, supervisors, mentors, crew leaders and/or training coordinators. No prior teaching experience needed.

## Tuition

No tuition.

## Registration

To register scan the QR code below.





# Training Wheels



Do you need to train your project crew on a specific set of preservation skills for an upcoming project?

The Historic Preservation Training Center is partnering with The Campaign for Historic Trades to offer preservation trades skills training that is specific to an upcoming preservation project at a park or historic site. Under the guidance of The Campaign's preservation instructors, participants receive hands-on, project-based instruction that is catered specifically to the project needs. This instruction can range from tool use, technique, tool care, safety, material science, workflow considerations, and/or preservation approach. Once the project crew has shown competency in applying their newly learned skills (two to three weeks – project dependent), instructors leave the project site and are available remotely for follow up questions as needed.

Projects eligible for a Training Wheels experience have at least five employees who will be continuing to execute the project once the instructors leave. Training Wheels is not a vehicle through which to complete projects, rather, it is an opportunity to intensely train employees on the skills needed to complete current and future preservation projects. The project should have elements that are repetitive, require a specialized preservation trade to fill a "skills gap," and are predominantly cyclic in nature.

If interested, contact HPTC at [BEST\\_Workshops@nps.gov](mailto:BEST_Workshops@nps.gov) to see if the project is a good fit for Training Wheels. Our team will get you in contact with the Campaign for Historic Trades, who will then work with your staff to identify realistic training and project outcomes, provide an estimate, and execute the training. The park is responsible for all project materials and equipment and completing all compliance.









307-739-3571  
BEST\_Preservation@nps.gov