

For Immediate Release  
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**NPT Forms Apprenticeship Program  
Traditional Building Scholarships Available**

The Nantucket Preservation Trust has announced the formation of the NPT Apprenticeship Program to promote traditional building techniques and to provide islanders in the building trades with special skills.

NPT's new program will provide scholarship and apprenticeship opportunities and educational seminars designed for both island tradesmen and owners of historic properties. NPT's goal is to spread the word about the importance of traditional building methods and to make these techniques more easily accessible.

NPT's new initiative will take several directions. Plans are currently underway for a series of lectures and seminars to begin later this year for both builders and property owners. Among the programs planned are timber framing and lime-slaking demonstrations.

Education opportunities both off and on island—working with preservation partners-- will be available as part of the NPT Apprenticeship Program. Among NPT's off-island partners is the North Bennet Street School in Boston, established in 1885 as a trade training school. NPT is currently offering scholarships to attend the school's Preservation Carpentry Program, where short courses on subjects such as window-sash restoration and historic timber framing will be held this summer. These programs are available over several days or as week-long courses.

"We see this as an excellent opportunity for those who want to expand their skills or who are interested in pursuing a career in the building industry," said Chris Mortenson, NPT President. Mortenson noted that the new NPT Apprenticeship Program is expected to eventually expand to year-round scholarships and apprenticeships with island craftsmen.

The need for the program is great, said Michael May, executive director of the NPT. "We find that many property owners want to complete work the appropriate way. Unfortunately, craftsmen familiar with traditional building techniques are not as widely available as they once were, even though we need their skills more than ever to preserve the island's historic structures. Timber framing, plastering, millworking and the proper repairing of old masonry are becoming lost crafts."

May noted, "All too often the wrong material is used to repair original fabric leading to problems down the road. We find that well-meaning homeowners do not know where to turn and sometimes those who oversee or complete old house repairs do not have training in the traditional methods. The need to train a new generation of workers in the building industry in traditional building methods and to spread the word about proper restoration and care of historic fabric is critical and is the underlying impetus for launching the program."

For more information about educational opportunities including NPT's North Bennet Street School scholarships please contact the NPT office at 2 Union Street or visit their website at [www.nantucketpreservation.org](http://www.nantucketpreservation.org).