

Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology  
2003 Award for Excellence in Service

Silas D. Hurry



The Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology is pleased to present Silas D. Hurry with the 2003 Award for Excellence in Service.

In a career spanning more than four decades in historical archaeology, Silas is best known for his work at St. Mary's City, Maryland, where he is the long-time Curator of Collections and Archaeological Laboratory Director. He is the author of numerous publications on the archaeology of St. Mary's City. He is also recognized for his work in fostering dialogue between curators, museum professionals, and archaeologists concerning public outreach and educational initiatives. While an active member of both national and international archaeological organizations, Silas has been a steadfast promoter of archaeology within the State of Maryland and has supported the efforts of numerous educational institutions, preservation organizations, and research groups in the state, including the Council for Maryland Archaeology, the Maryland Historical Trust, the St. Mary's County Historical Society, and St. Mary's College, where he is an adjunct professor.

Silas's commitment to education and public outreach have carried over into his work on behalf of the Council. A long-time member of the Executive Board, Silas has worked diligently to foster growth within the organization, to promote intersocietal relations, and to foster education, communication, and outreach. He served as co-chair of two conferences in St. Mary's City in 1999 and 2008. He suggested that CNEHA expand its Telling Time poster series to include 17th-century artifacts and then assisted with its creation. Silas has also regularly contributed lengthy updates to the newsletter on archaeology at St. Mary's City, allowing members the opportunity to follow the progress of work at this important site.

Silas' most significant contribution has been to expand CNEHA's public and membership outreach through the internet. Silas almost singlehandedly brought CNEHA into the digital age. He not only designed the Council's first website but arranged with St. Mary's College to host the site for many years. As CNEHA's webmaster, Silas dutifully maintained the site at the college and then helped to shepherd the site to its new location and to create online tools for membership and conference registration, as well as other online features and resources for CNEHA's membership. He has helped CNEHA to not only expand its digital presence but to envision the website as a means of fostering new connections and new interest in the work of archaeology.

For his steadfast commitment to the Council and his dedication to education, outreach, and communication with members and non-members alike, the Council is pleased to recognize Silas Hurry with the Award for Excellence in Service.

KAREN METHENY

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