

## Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology

### 2005 Award for Excellence in Service

Edward J. Lenik



In 2005, Edward J. Lenik received the Council Award for Excellence in Service at the CNEHA conference in Trenton, New Jersey. Ed is one of the founders of CNEHA and he is one of New Jersey's best-known archaeologists. It was fitting that Ed was honored in his home state specially since he has promoted historical archaeology in New Jersey through his books, articles, and famous walking tours of historic sites. His research interests include early American ironworks, military sites archaeology, rock art, and North American prehistory.

Ed has been involved in CNEHA for decades but his involvement in historical archaeology and what was to become the founding of CNEHA goes back to the mid-1960s. In 1965, Ed saw a story in the newspaper asking for archaeologists to participate in an excavation at the New Windsor Cantonment in New York, the last encampment of the Continental Army. Ed volunteered at New Windsor and later worked at Fort Montgomery. Jack Mead, then-director of the Trailside Museum at Bear Mountain, New York, was digging the Massachusetts Brigade site. The following year the first symposium of what was to become CNEHA was held at West Point (1966). Ed attended. The symposium was so well received that Ed and other archaeologists thought it would be a good idea to form an organization.

This happy circumstance led to the founding of the Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology (CNEHA). This occurred a year before the Society for Historical Archaeology was formed. Jack Mead was the first Chair and Ed served as the first Vice-Chair. Ed also became the unofficial program director and was responsible for the Spring meetings. In those early years of CNEHA's history, there were two meetings a year: a spring meeting at Bear Mountain or New Windsor Cantonment and a fall meeting at other sites.

For fifteen years (1966-1981), Ed was very active in all phases of CNEHA's operation as a member of the Board of Directors. Besides serving as the program director and Vice-Chair, Ed has given many papers at CNEHA conferences. Ed's enthusiasm for and knowledge of his subjects and his relaxed, easy-going style made him a popular conference speaker. Ed worked with others to establish our journal, *Northeast Historical Archaeology*. The early journal was a volunteer effort, containing short articles by those who spoke at meetings. Besides his editorial work for the journal, Ed has published articles on his excavations and his research on New Jersey and New York military and industrial sites. Recently he has authored two fine books on rock art.

Over the years Ed has given generously of his time to help students and young professionals and has encouraged them to become involved in CNEHA. In addition to his work with professional archaeologists, Ed has always believed that as an organization CNEHA needs to reach out to avocational archaeologists and to work cooperatively with them to promote a strong grass roots preservation ethic. Throughout his long tenure on the board, Ed worked actively to involve both allied professionals and avocational archaeologists in CNEHA. As CNEHA conference program director he successfully reached out to a wide audience with diverse speakers and interesting site tours to keep archaeology accessible to the general public. By his own fine examples in public programming through site tours, exhibits, and public lectures, he has inspired other CNEHA members who carry on this tradition of reaching out to the public.

CNEHA would like to congratulate Edward J. Lenik on receiving this Award for Excellence in Service and thank him for his commitment to the organization.

Sherene Baugher and Richard Veit