

***Dr. Stephen R. Potter to Receive Holmes-Gardner Medal from the  
Middle Atlantic Archaeological Conference***

The Middle Atlantic Archaeological Conference (MAAC) will award the inaugural Holmes-Gardner Medal to Dr. Stephen R. Potter on March 20, 2020 at the 50th Annual Meeting of the conference in Ocean City, Maryland. Dr. Potter is the Regional Archaeologist Emeritus, of the National Capital Region of the National Park Service (NPS), having served in that position from 1984 until 2016.

The Holmes-Gardner Medal recognizes excellence in Middle Atlantic archaeological scholarship by archaeologists who have made enduring contributions to research and practice in the region throughout their careers. It is named after two foundational figures in Eastern North American archaeology, the 19<sup>th</sup>-century Smithsonian archaeologist William Henry Holmes, and the late-20th century Catholic University Professor, William Gardner, a founding member of the Conference in 1970.

Dr. Potter's continuing research interests include both the archaeology of Native American cultures and historical archaeology of the eastern United States, the 17<sup>th</sup>-century Chesapeake frontier, the southern Algonquian Indians, the cartographic history of colonial America, the development and history of the American long rifle, and the archaeology and history of the American Civil War.

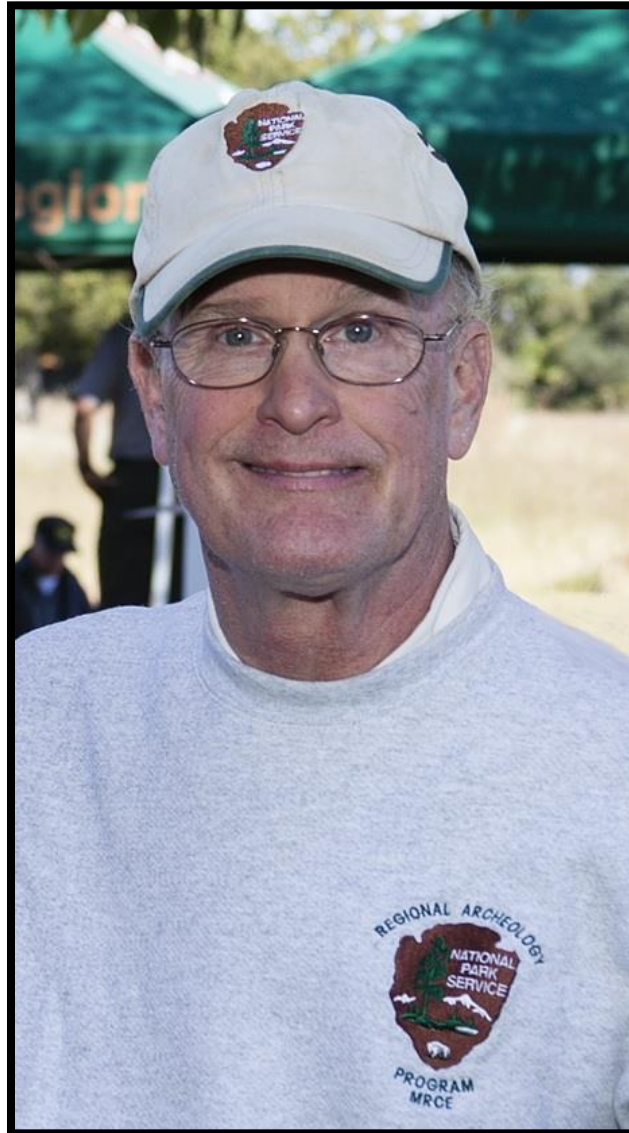
Dr. Potter has made sustained and major scholarly contributions to the field of Middle Atlantic Archaeology, and developed multiple, clearly articulated research programs that have broadly impacted the practice of Middle Atlantic archaeology. He presents regularly at this conference and has published broadly in venues recognized as authoritative. His innovations in the integration of theory and method have furthered the regional identification of the Middle Atlantic in national contexts and beyond. Furthermore, throughout his career he has mentored graduate students and young archaeologists to award-winning careers in public service. Dr. Potter was previously a recipient of the NPS's highest honor for an individual archaeologist, the John L. Cotter Award for Excellence in National Park Service Archeology.

The author of numerous articles and chapters on a variety of topics, his books include *Commoners, Tribute, and Chiefs: The Development of Algonquian Culture in the Potomac Valley* and *Archaeological Perspectives on the American Civil War* (co-editor and contributing author). In 2015-2016, he served as a Consultant to the Jamestown Yorktown Foundation for the special, temporary exhibit "Bartering for a Continent: How Anglo-Indian Trade Shaped America." He is prolific in his appearances on video, radio, tv, newspapers, magazines, and on the internet.

Dr. Potter's career started at the age of 16 when he began volunteering in the Department of Anthropology of the National Museum of Natural History of the Smithsonian Institution. After completing his undergraduate degree and a two-year stint in the Army, Dr. Potter enrolled at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where he worked with Dr. Joffre Coe, focusing on the lower Potomac River valley. As the NPS Regional Archeologist, Potter was directly

responsible for managing archaeological resources across 88,000 acres that crosscut geological, environmental and political boundaries in 14 separate NPS parks within Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia. He developed a multi-decade research plan used to prepare detailed historic and prehistoric contexts for the major parks in his region that served as park management tools and as frameworks for understanding the past across space and through time.

The Awards Committee of the Middle Atlantic Archaeological Conference is delighted to present this well-deserved inaugural award to Dr. Stephen R. Potter.



Dr. Stephen R. Potter

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