

## 2006 ANNOUNCEMENT

### MERRITT LYNDON FERNALD AWARD

The Council of the New England Botanical Club honors Merritt Lyndon Fernald's exemplary contributions to the botany of northeastern North America through the Merritt Lyndon Fernald Award. The award is given annually, if deemed appropriate, to the author(s) of the best paper published in each volume of *Rhodora* that has made use of herbarium specimens and/or involved fieldwork. Topics to be considered include, but are not limited to, biogeography, floristics, life-history studies, monographs, and revisions. Papers on vascular or nonvascular plants, lichens, fungi, and algae will be considered. The competition is not limited to a particular geographic area, but is open to studies in any part of the world. Recipients of the Fernald Award will receive \$1000.00 and a certificate acknowledging the achievement. The award will be presented when the New England Botanical Club hosts its annual Distinguished Speaker.

This year's recipient of the Merritt Lyndon Fernald Award is Paul M. Catling for his paper entitled "Characteristics of *Amelanchier lucida* (Rosaceae) based on an examination of the holotype and plants from the type locality" (*Rhodora* 108: 347-355. 2006). In this paper, Catling used herbarium study of the type material and field study of plants growing at the type locality to clarify application of the name and provide a more complete description of *Amelanchier lucida*. He finished with an updated key to the stoloniferous *Amelanchier* species in Nova Scotia. The award committee felt that Catling's work was a great model for others, as a very thorough examination of a variable species that has been a vexing problem for botanists in the field. The study illustrates the importance of herbaria in modern studies, and the value of combining fieldwork and herbarium studies.