

**The Merritt Lyndon Fernald Award
For Best Paper published in *Rhodora*
Volume 109, 2007**

presented to

David S. Barrington and Catherine A. Paris

for their paper entitled
**“Refugia and migration in the Quaternary history
of the New England flora”**

This year's recipients of the New England Botanical Club's Merritt Lyndon Fernald Award are David S. Barrington and Catherine A. Paris for their paper in *Rhodora* 109: 369-386 (Autumn 2007).

Although not directly involving field or herbarium research, this paper was the committee's unanimous choice for this year's award, because it fit the concept of a truly Fernaldian study. Understanding the biogeographic origins of the New England flora was a goal of the NEBC in its early years, and Fernald's work in New England and northeastern Canada provided the basis for interpreting plant species distributions in the region, especially in light of substrate geology and glacial history. In their paper, David and Cathy bring Fernald's work into the 21st century by considering genetic data, primarily from their own and their students' research, in the context of the fossil record and the distribution of appropriate habitat, to provide a “big picture” of the changes in the New England flora following the retreat of the last continental glacier.