

**The Merritt Lyndon Fernald Award
For Best Paper published in *Rhodora*
Volume 121, 2019**

presented to

**Kevin Berend, Kristen Haynes, and Caitlin
McDonough MacKenzie for their paper,
“Common garden experiments as a dynamic tool for
ecological studies of alpine plants and communities in
eastern North America”**

This year's recipients of the New England Botanical Club's Merritt Lyndon Fernald Award are Kevin Berend, Kristen Haynes, and Caitlin McDonough MacKenzie for their paper published in *Rhodora* 121 (987):174-212.

The Fernald Award Committee “particularly liked the fact that this was a collaboration between three research groups with different types of research questions, yet trying to produce a statement of how their combined knowledge might inform future common garden studies in alpine regions. As climate and land use change dramatically in the region, there is increased interest in alpine environments, and the authors maintain that much is yet to be known about environmental adaptations, species, and community interactions in the face of change. Following a review of the use of common garden experiments in alpine areas in the northeastern United States, including perhaps the most well-known work to reestablish *Potentilla robbinsiana* on Mt. Washington, the authors conclude with practical guidelines and recommendations for common garden research in the region. We believe that this review and especially the authors' recommendations will shape important work in our mountains in years to come that will provide insights about adaptation and change in alpine environments.”