

**The Merritt Lyndon Fernald Award
For Best Paper published in *Rhodora*
Volume 111, 2009**

presented to

James L. Reveal

for his paper entitled

**“Identification of the plant and associated animal images in
Catesby’s *Natural History*, with nomenclatural notes and comments”**

This year’s recipient of the New England Botanical Club’s Merritt
Lyndon Fernald Award is James L. Reveal
for his paper in *Rhodora* 111: 273-388. 2009 (December 2009).

In this paper, Reveal compared the published images in Mark Catesby’s *Natural History of Carolina, Florida and the Bahama Islands* with the original watercolors preserved in the Royal Library at Windsor Castle, England in order to determine the identity of the 174 plants illustrated by Catesby. For most of the plant species detailed information on the typification and full bibliographic citation are given, and most of the non-plant organisms are identified and their typification discussed, as well. Although the study did not directly involve herbarium or fieldwork, the same intimate level of knowledge of the species illustrated was clearly necessary in order to analyze the images. The committee chose Reveal’s paper because we felt it represented outstanding scholarship in the vein of Fernald. The study was comprehensive and authoritative, reflecting careful work and a thorough knowledge of plants and nomenclature. This monumental paper is unquestionably exceptional and a significant contribution to the botanical literature.