

**The Merritt Lyndon Fernald Award
For Best Paper published in *Rhodora*
Volume 112, 2010**

presented to

**Sean C. Robinson, Edwin H. Ketchledge, Brian T. Fitzgerald,
Dudley J. Raynal, and Robin W. Kimmerer**

for their paper entitled
**“A 23-Year Assessment of Vegetation Composition and Change in
the Adirondack Alpine Zone, New York State”**

This year's recipients of the New England Botanical Club's Merritt Lyndon Fernald Award are Sean C. Robinson, Edwin H. Ketchledge, Brian T. Fitzgerald, Dudley J. Raynal, and Robin W. Kimmerer for their paper in *Rhodora* 112 (952): 355–377 (October 2010).

This paper presents an impressive, long-term perspective on vegetation change and the development of a general model for alpine succession. The authors made effective use of past data integrated with a solid field study, yielding results that were interesting in their implication that summit stewardship can produce effects in plant communities over relatively short time spans. The discussion of potential factors influencing succession was particularly well documented. This type of thoughtful discussion often provokes others to explore the questions in greater detail, and we suspect that this paper will have such an influence.