

**The Merritt Lyndon Fernald Award
For Best Paper published in *Rhodora*
Volume 116, 2014**

presented to

**Claire Berger O'Dea
for her paper, "The relationship between
coastal plain pond vegetation and environment
at local and broad spatial scales"**

This year's recipient of the New England Botanical Club's Merritt Lyndon Fernald Award is Claire Berger O'Dea for her paper, "The relationship between coastal plain pond vegetation and environment at local and broad spatial scales," published in *Rhodora* 116 (966): 187-223 (April).

To quote the four judges on the Fernald panel: "We liked the development of Claire's study, from the background work done to determine potential sites, to the broad list of explanatory variables considered--and especially the matter of exploring two scales of variation with intra- and inter-pond gradients. We also appreciated that Claire's work addresses basic questions in how to study and interpret nested ecological gradients, while not losing sight of the practical matter of managing an ecosystem controlled by groundwater that supports a high percentage of rare species."