

The New England Botanical Club Graduate Student Research Award

The Graduate Student Research Award Committee is pleased to announce the **2002 AWARD WINNERS** of the NEBC Graduate Student Research Award. They are:

Lisa Karst of Portland State University for her proposal entitled "Phylogeny of *Sisyrinchium* (Iridaceae), genetic and morphological evidence" and

Isabel Ashton of the State University of New York at Stony Brook for her proposal entitled "Invasive, exotic non-invasive, and native woody vines of the northeastern United States."

Ms Karst proposes a study of the genus *Sisyrinchium*: the award will support a collecting trip to New England. She intends to perform molecular studies to inform an analysis of speciation and dispersal of species and species groups in the genus. Morphological and anatomical data will be collected during field visits to New England and other areas. She anticipates that the study will provide information on climate history as well as dispersal of the flora and genetic relationships within the genus.

Ms Ashton will use the award to support a greenhouse experiment comparing phenological, physiological, and anatomical characteristics of invasive, exotic non-invasive, and native woody vines of the Northeastern United States grown under high and low light. Knowing what attributes make a species invasive has important implications for both pure ecology and management. Comparing vines that have failed to invade with vines that are successful invaders may elucidate those characteristics essential for invasion success. In addition, the results of studies on allocation patterns and responses to light availability could be used to develop more effective control strategies for those species that are already considered invasive.