The Richard and Minnie Windler Award recognizes the authors of the best systematics and ecology papers published in Castanea during the previous year. For 2019, authors of two papers were selected as winners: Peter W. Schafran, Elizabeth A. Zimmer, W. Carl Taylor, and Lytton J. Musselman for their work entitled “A Whole Chloroplast Genome Phylogeny of Diploid Species of Isoëtes (Isoëtaceae, Lycopodiophyta) in the Southeastern United States.” (Castanea 83[2]:224–235), and Timothy M. Shearman, G. Geoff Wang, Robert K. Peet, Thomas R. Wentworth, Michael P. Schafale, and Alan S. Weakley for their work entitled “A Community Analysis for Forest Ecosystems with Natural Growth of Persea spp. in the Southeastern United States.” (Castanea 83[1]:3–27).

Isoëtes has presented a conundrum to taxonomists and evolutionary biologists. Species exhibit little in the way of morphological differentiation, and yet populations often harbor polyploid series. To make matters more confusing, polyploid hybridization is rampant among these otherwise unassuming quillworts. To better understand taxonomy and evolutionary history of quillworts of the Southeast, Schafran et al. obtained full plastome sequences of the diploid species of Isoëtes, providing a phylogenetic baseline from which polyploidy and hybridization can be examined for the genus. This