Plant species’ ranges are determined through biotic and abiotic factors such as competition and stressful environments. Tree species in broadleaf temperate forests in the Northeast face changes to these ecological limitations due to shifting temperatures across their range. The effect of this shift is predicted to be most apparent at the species’ range limits, where such a change in conditions that previously halted population expansion can cause a range shift. By examining species at their range limits, we can predict their future responses to climate change and the implications for their distribution and success. The goal of this study was to determine how species richness and composition of competitive neighborhoods in broadleaf temperate forests in the Northeast change across a latitudinal and climatic gradient. I examined whether focal deciduous tree species face a competitive disadvantage at their range, represented by the competitive index of relative basal area of trees larger than the focal individual (a distance-independent strategy). To accomplish this, I recorded the size and community composition of seven deciduous tree species at their range limits, varying from the northeastern United States to southeastern Quebec. Additionally, using data a previous student collected on the functional traits of the same species across the four sites, I will examine the relationship between the competitiveness of a species at its limits and the variation in its functional traits. Using convex hull values for each species at each site, I will examine whether the variation in the suites of functional traits for each species points to evidence of habitat filtering or niche differentiation. This experiment can thus provide valuable insight into how the species will respond to changing temperatures in the future by determining the relative influence of biotic and abiotic factors on each species at their range extremes.