



The Harbinger

Newsletter of the
Illinois Native Plant Society

SPRING 2017
Vol. 34, No. 1
Supplement
to be added
to issue 1

“...dedicated to the study, appreciation, and conservation of the native flora and natural communities of Illinois.”



New England aster, *Aster novae-angliae*, spontaneous color form, one of many in old-fields. Photo by Henry Eilers.

Editorial Retraction for Harbinger 34(1):1, Spring issue Editorial

The Harbinger editor and INPS board wish to retract the Editorial paragraph from page 1 of *Harbinger* 34(1). Several points in the editorial were flawed with errors and misleading remarks. First, the soon to be released *Flora of the Chicago Region*, by Gerould Wilhelm and Laura Rericha, is not a 5th edition of *Plants of the Chicago Region* (Floyd Swink and Gerould Wilhelm, 1994) but instead a completely new book, expanded in many regards. This fact is emphasized by the new title. Renaming and designating this new book as a “Flora” emphasizes the expanded scientific effort that went into this work. Second, the authors’ time commitments to this publication should not have been questioned, and it should not have been suggested that the total included hours of observation by naturalists. This is the life’s work of these authors who have committed immeasurable time to this great endeavor, likely well beyond the 100,000 hours that was suggested. Third, while contributions of professional scientists and amateurs (naturalists) are included and graciously acknowledged when they are correctly validated with voucher specimens, this work has not accepted any unsubstantiated information on plant locations, plant-insect interactions, flowering time, or any other aspect of the natural history of the species included.

An additional correction also is needed for information provided on p. 15 of the same issue. Floyd Swink was the sole author for the first two editions of *Plants of the Chicago Region*. Gerould Wilhelm helped with distribution maps for the 2nd edition but did not sign on as a co-author until the 3rd edition.

The editor, who wrote this piece, has resigned his position. The INPS Board sincerely apologize to the authors, Gerould Wilhelm and Laura Rericha, the illustrator, Margot Mazur, as well as the project coordinator, Bill McKnight, for this editorial. We sincerely affirm that it was not maliciously written and, in fact, was intended to be a lead-in promotion for this major work that INPS has been following and committed to for some time. A better description is included on pages 15-16 of the same issue. The lead author, Gerould Wilhelm, is a founding and life member of INPS and it pains us very much that his and Laura's work was mis-characterized in our newsletter.

With regrets, INPS Board

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Silene regia, royal catchfly
By Henry Eilers

Spring Harbinger February 2017 Supplement

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