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St. Lawrence County Flora is Subject of New Book

Waddington, NY – Wildflower lovers, hikers, and canoeists in St. Lawrence County now have a go-to source for information on the plants of the region, thanks to the tremendous work of two dedicated botanists.

The Plants of St. Lawrence County: An Annotated Checklist of Vascular Flora (Bloated Toe Publishing, 2010) is the title of a new book by partners Nancy Eldblom and Anne Johnson. Nearly thirty years of background work in wetlands, woods, fields and neighborhoods has yielded a comprehensive, user-friendly guide to the county's plant life.

Readers learn where and when to find more than 1300 different plants, what to look for, and how to differentiate between similar species. Both common names and Latin names are provided, along with distinctive characteristics, flowering and fruiting dates, and rarity rankings.

Many entries contain specific locations, allowing users to enjoy successful searches across the county. Six tables, twenty-four maps, and twenty-six color plates support the text, along with four detailed appendices and two indexes. Also featured is a foreword by Richard S. Mitchell, New York State Botanist Emeritus.

The book is available at regional bookstores, including the Clarkson, Potsdam, and St. Lawrence University campus stores, and online at Bloated Toe Publishing's North Country Store.

The two authors met more than a quarter century ago, establishing a strong friendship and collaborating in studying the plant world. Eldblom, now retired, was a field botanist and SUNY Potsdam librarian, while Johnson has been a research associate in plant ecology, a consulting botanist, and served on the board of directors of the New York State Flora Association.

Together they have been employed by the New York Natural Heritage Program to search for rare plants, and have participated in plant identification workshops in southern Ontario and across the northeastern United States.

Eldblom, formerly of Canton and Potsdam, currently makes her home in California, while Johnson is a resident of Waddington, New York.

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