

# Wildflowers

SEPTEMBER  
OCTOBER  
1991

THE BULLETIN OF THE  
BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF W. PA.

## TWO ISSUES IN ONE

This issue of "Wildflowers" is a combined issue for September and October. We shall be back to our regular schedule with the November issue.



## FINAL FIELD TRIP

There is no field trip scheduled for September 21. Our final field trip for the year will be on the 28th of September.

September 28 - NORTH PARK, OLD ARBORETUM AND WOODS AREA, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PA

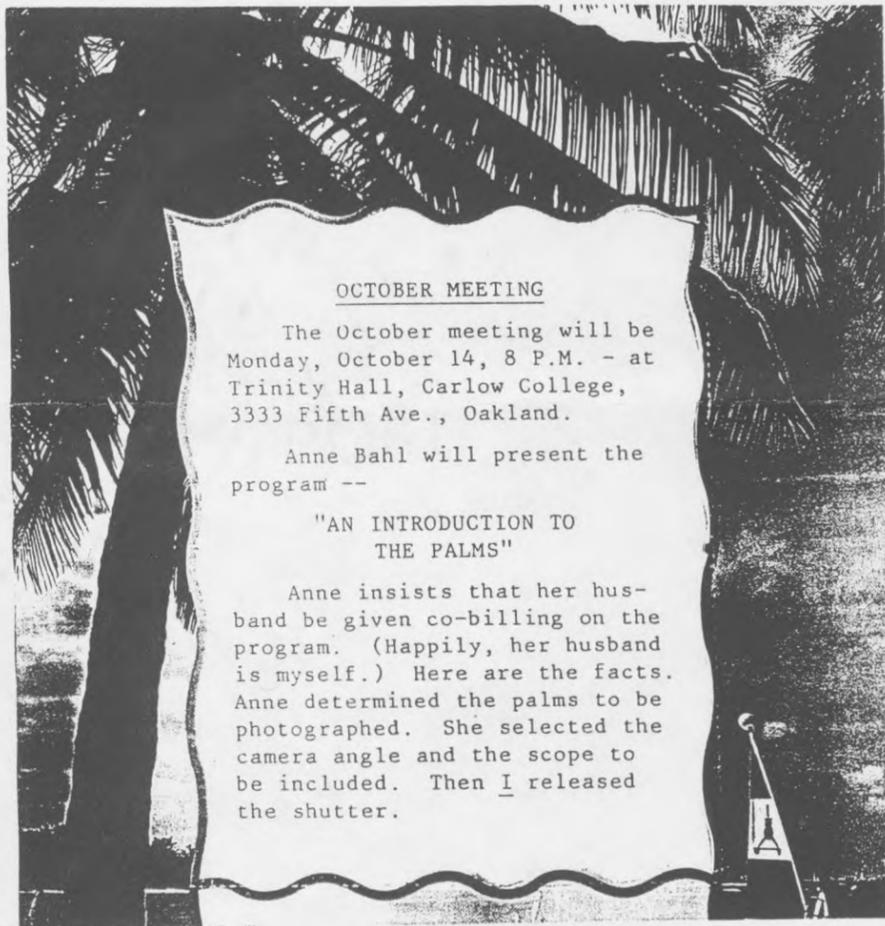
Leader: Esther Allen

Start Time: 1:30 P.M.

Meeting Place & Directions: Meet at the parking area along Wildwood Road, off Babcock Blvd., near the Taste-Freez Store.

Expectations: We hope to see quite a variety of native and introduced trees and shrubs plus some late season wildflowers.

(Scott Shriver 412-741-9249)



### OCTOBER MEETING

The October meeting will be Monday, October 14, 8 P.M. - at Trinity Hall, Carlow College, 3333 Fifth Ave., Oakland.

Anne Bahl will present the program --

#### "AN INTRODUCTION TO THE PALMS"

Anne insists that her husband be given co-billing on the program. (Happily, her husband is myself.) Here are the facts. Anne determined the palms to be photographed. She selected the camera angle and the scope to be included. Then I released the shutter.

## EXCELLENT SUGGESTION

I am a member from the east side of Cleveland who has attended one or two of your hikes over the past few years.

Could you add to your description of hikes: the degree of difficulty such as are there steep ravines to climb up and down; the length of the walk as in miles; wetness; etc. I have some handicaps and it is difficult to make a decision from this distance as to whether I can make the particular hike successfully.

Hope to get to more walks in the near future.

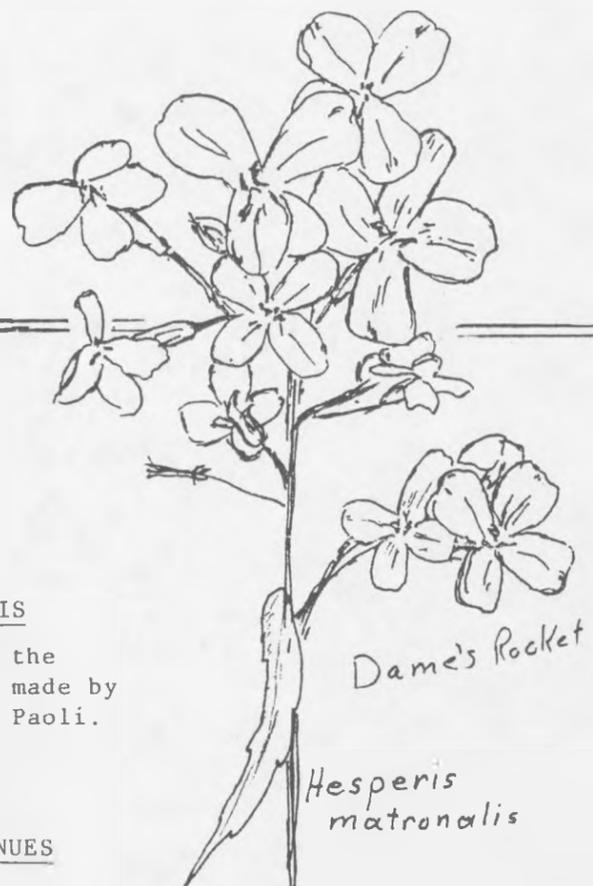
(Ann K. Malmquist)



## SYMPATHY

The Botanical Society extends its condolences to Anne Bahl upon the death of her mother, Anna Schleder. Mrs. Schleder died on August 12 at the age of 95.

....so the virtuous flourish like palm trees....still bearing fruit in old age, still remaining fresh and green. Psalms 92:12,14



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## HESPERIS MATRONALIS

The sketch of the Dame's Rocket was made by our member, M. J. Paoli.



## EDE'S STORY CONTINUES

I also want to list 2 good sightings on our farm - a fawn still with spots in a dry creek bed near the hardy sweet peas. It didn't move as I came within five feet of it before seeing it. When I went up the hill to tell a neighbor to come and see it - the doe probably returned and led it away - since it was gone when I came back. And - a welcome sight - a garter snake - about 2 ft. long - near our compost heap. Also - Spec has been hearing a chat call in the evenings.

But the real surprise was -- on Tues. evening Spec & I heard a loud "whoosh whoosh" sound coming from over on our level. We walked over to see what was going on and to our enormous surprise saw a huge hot-air balloon down in our boysenberry field. Two girls and a young man were manipulating gas jets trying to get it to lift off! But they were unsuccessful. They had come from Oakmont & saw that their fuel was getting low - so came down in an isolated spot (they thought) and radioed for their back-up truck. In the meantime - people were coming from everywhere - tramping through our fields & orchards. Spec had just mowed the grass. They came by cars to the high hill overlooking our place - & some of them were trying to crawl over, under, through what remains of our 150 year old locust fence. I told them to walk over & come in by the farm road. Eventually their truck came - & it was just amazing to see three people wrestle that huge sack to the ground - fold it three times lengthwise & then fold it again until it was in a nice compact bundle & then loaded it in their truck and took off.

How is that for excitement on a small 16 acre farm - the last one left in this area of the county!

(Ede Mock)



## AUGUST 24 - PONTEFRACT PARK BOTANICAL FIELD TRIP

*Bouncing Bet is a run-away -  
You cannot keep her home.  
No matter how you fence her in,  
She always tries to roam.  
She hides in ditches, lurks by barns  
And old deserted shacks.  
She even tries to hitch-hike  
Along the railroad tracks.*

Our Botanical field trip proved the truth of this old poem.

Long, long freight trains - going in each direction, passed us as we surveyed the plants between the tracks and the river.

I believe the area was the site of an old dump - as there were many formerly cultivated plants in our area of study.

It was surprising to find so many familiar plants - daisies, violets (not in bloom), false pennyroyal, pennyroyal - which had a very appealing scent - at least to me - wild poinsettias (one of my favorites), Jimson-weed, viper's bugloss, a cherry tomato plant, white snakeroot, wild snapdragons, pussytoes (very healthy-looking plants) and sacred datura. Also cleome (spider plant). And of course - Bouncing Bet!

Seventeen people enjoyed the trip.

Our thanks to Esther, our leader.

(Ede Mock)