ANNE BAHL FINDS
RARE ORCHID

Correction! In the October bulletin we reported that Anne Bahle had found *Spiranthes ochroleuca* at her doorstep. This was wrong. It wasn't *S. ochroleuca*; it was *S. ovalis*, a much more exciting find.

The second I saw it, I knew it was a *Spiranthes*, but which one? I dismissed *S. ovalis*, because it was unheard of in this area. The extremely tiny flowers, though, bothered me, so I did the sensible thing. I called up Western Pennsylvania's foremost orchid expert, Scott Shriver.

Scott was out in a jiffy. He immediately and positively identified it as *Spiranthes ovalis*.

Later, Jeanne Foremski, Esther Allen, Al Shriver, Clete Smith, Bob Morgan, Dr. Mary Joy Haywood, and Virginia Phelps all verified the find.

This is what Lee Roy Henry and Werner Buker had to say about *Spiranthes ovalis* in their book, *Western Pennsylvania Orchids* --

*Spiranthes ovalis* Lindl. Small-flowered Ladies'-tresses. 

(Indium ovale (Lindl.) House.)

The specific name means "oval," said to refer to the shape of the lip. The general range is from Florida to eastern Texas, north to eastern Virginia and Missouri, mostly southwest of our region. This plant somewhat resembles the last, but the flowers are smaller and the color of the lip is white; and it blooms in late summer.

The plant is recorded, rarely, from southeastern Ohio and from west Virginia, and might possibly be expected here. We have heard a report of its occurrence near Mercersburg in Franklin County, just east of our region.

**Spiranthes ovalis**

Anne Bahle sketched the Small-flowered Ladies' Tresses from an actual specimen...but definitely! She positioned her paper so that the plant cast a shadow on it. Then, she outlined the shadow. Tricky!!

**HERB BRUESCHKE**

We were shocked and saddened to learn that our long-time member, Herb Brueschke, had died while on a visit to his family in Australia.

Herb was such a hard worker. He put in many an hour as a volunteer at The Carnegie's Herbarium. We will miss him.

**ORCHIDS OF INDIANA**

A book highly recommended by our three "orchid nuts", Al and Scott Shiver and Clete Smith --

"ORCHIDS OF INDIANA" by Michael Homoya

Indiana University Press

601 North Morton

Bloomington, IN 47404

1-812-855-4203

Since only 2 books are needed for the discount, pair up with another member at our next meeting.

**ESTHER COLVIN, LOVER**

Bob Colvin writes --

Dear Sisters Mary Joy --

I don't know whether you heard or not of Esther's death on July 2nd or not. As you know, she had cancer and shingles hit her around June 19th. She was admitted to the hospital on June 23 and died July 2nd.

The shingles brought her white cells down and couldn't fight the infection.

I am enclosing a copy of the sermon our pastor used at the funeral.

May God bless you,

Bob Colvin

P. S. Kinda lonesome after 61 years.

The last paragraph of Pastor Emrich's sermon summarizes everything: "This was Esther Colvin: lover of Jesus Christ, lover of the world, lover of her family. Blessed are those who die in the Lord for they shall rest from their labors and their works shall follow them."

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

At the December meeting, we will be electing officers. This is your once-a-year chance to kick the rascals out. Would you believe it? The incumbent officers recently voted themselves another 8% pay raise.