

## NOVEMBER MEETING

Our next meeting will be Monday, November 13 at 8:00 PM -- our usual meeting place, Trinity Hall, Carlow College, 3300 Fifth Ave., Oakland

The program --

"Toxic Plants" by Dr. Fred Utech

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## NOVEMBER 13

Yes, our next meeting is on November 13. This is an anniversary for me. Fifty-seven years ago, I had my first date with a girl.... and I'll be bringing the same girl with me to the meeting.

## ANNE BAHL FINDS RARE ORCHID

Correction! In the October bulletin we reported that Anne Bahl 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 Poremski, Esther Allen, Al Shriver, Clete Smith, Bob Morgan, Dr. Mary Joy Haywood, and Virginia Phelps all verified the find.

\* \* \*

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

\*6) *Spiranthes ovalis* Lindl. Small-flowered Ladies'-tresses. [*Ibidium 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.

## AN AMERICAN TRAGEDY

What a find...a *Spiranthes ovalis* right here in western Pennsylvania! So, I splurged. I took a whole roll of pictures (36 exp.), getting the *Spiranthes* from every possible angle.

Off to Kodalux for processing!

Now comes the sad part. It is Sunday night and the phone rings. Somebody has found "something" lying in the street a block away from my home. My name is barely discernible.

These were my precious slides, scattered in the gutter, run over by a few trucks and cars, flattened like a pancake, and lying in the rain for more than 24 hours. I won't mention the leaves and dirt.

This is first class mail? I shudder to think of what second class is like.

There is one consolation. I do have some pictures from other rolls. Also, pictures were taken by quite a few of our members.

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## SPIRANTHES OVALIS

Anne Bahl 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.

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## 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

34.95 List - 2 or more 40% (20.97)

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

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## ESTHER COLVIN, LOVER

Bob Colvin writes --

10-5-95

Dear Sister 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."

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## 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.

