VIVA VIREYA!

HAWAII CHAPTER AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY
Volume 12 Issue 5 May 2007

Cape Cod Cranberry
Vireya of the year
(Photo from Chris Callard's web site- vireya.net)

Notes from the President's Desk:

As in-coming president I think it is only fitting and proper that my first words should be: "Thank you, Sherla! Thank you for doing such a spectacular job as president of our club for the past five years. Well done."

Sherla will still be serving on the Board of Directors, helping to guide and advise the new officers and board members as they pick up the reins. Ron Phillips remains our vice-president and will be my right-hand man. Marijean Horton is our new treasurer, replacing our treasurer for the past three years, Dorothy Walker. Thank you, thank you very much, Dorothy. You've been a real gem.

The Walker legacy lives on with the election of Jurahame Levya, Dorothy's grandson, as our new secretary. Jurahame is our youngest club member and promises to bring the freshness of youth with new ideas and perspective.

Board members: Bettye Wakabayashi remains on. She simply refuses to leave until <u>everyone</u> spells her name correctly! Ray Schimpf and Henry Horton are new to the board. I'm looking forward to their solid contributions for the advancement of our club. They tread in the footsteps of our former board members, Charles Martin and Marilyn Davis, who have served our club so well. Thank you one and all!!

Now to the future. What will it hold? It will, of course, hold a convention in 2008 amongst other things. Veryl Ann Grace, our registrar for the 2004 convention, has been wonderfully efficient in providing guidelines and lessons learned from that convention. Jane Adams has stepped to the fore to take on Veryl Ann's registrar position for 2008. It is a major undertaking but, if every member pitches in a bit, we can bring it off and have fun in the process. Conventions are, to some degree, always a bit of a financial risk. Can we cover all expenses and possibly even make a small profit? We did last time. We can do it again. With this in mind, I'm asking all of you to give thought to viable fund raising projects we might consider. Please bring your ideas with you to our May 20th meting.

I have many projects in mind that I hope to advance during the up coming year but none captures my attention more than the subject of membership. Attention must be given to demographics and attrition. 60% of our members are over the age of 60. We value them dearly but, the truth is, we need more younger members to keep the garden blooming. We need a program to expand our membership, a program for retaining our current members, a program to encourage active, not just passive membership, and a program of empathy that extends a helping and welcoming hand to both old and new members.

There is much to be done. Your input is most important. My goal is to get everyone to <u>want</u> to participate. Each of you has a personal and valuable contribution you can make. I will need your help. Together we can make a strong and, yes, fun Vireya Society. Who knows, someday maybe they'll change the name of "Orchid Isle" to "Vireya Isle". Let's dream, but no sleeping!!!

Viva Vireya,

John Barbour

My "Hunstein's Secret" opened up and it is so beautiful!!!. Looks very much like Bill Moyles' R. leucogigas? I've had mine for a long time. Brought it home from Stybing when I worked there propagating.

BarbaraCampbell
Oakland, CA

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Mitch's Corner

Mitch Mitchell

Recently I became aware of problems relating to getting correct identification of Vireya. This reminded me of acquiring a species Vireya named R. solitarium in 1996, and it came from a very reputable grower. Over the years visiting experts assured me it wasn't R. solitarium. Naturally, my curiosity was aroused and I patiently waited for its first bloom, which came a short while ago. By then, I had become familiar with the distinctive leaves of R. solitarium so I knew I didn't have that plant. However, I do enjoy the flower of whatever it is. Any idea?

Yes, these things do happen, as we all know, even though we wish they didn't. But I got to thinking that as our chapter becomes better and better known as "The Vireya Chapter", we have acquired the responsibility to at least maintain good records ourselves so that our ID's are respected.

One last thought: I'm probably not alone in using the expression, "Gee, I wish I had thought of that". This came to mind as I reflected on my silence at the recent ARS convention when I was deeply honored with the Silver medal. There I was in front of a large audience of distinguished rhododendron growers, many of who probably weren't familiar with Vireya, and I wished that I had said something like: "Thank you so much, but I really feel quite embarrassed. However, I'll feel better if you know that I accept it on behalf of the many Vireya growers around the world. Also, I'd like to quote these words from the Foreword to Dr. George Argent's new book, "Rhododendrons of Subgenus Vireya", "Hardy rhododendrons are particularly popular garden plants and the majority of previous publications are concerned with them. In contrast, although more than a third of all Rhododendron species belong to a subgenus Vireya, much less has been written about them.

Thank you for the great April meeting! There was leis, gifts, card, good words & sharing, and good fun. And that was just half of the meeting!! The other half dealt with electing our new officers and board directors. John has covered all the positions in his notes on page one so I won't go into all of that. Right now I thank all of you for your support, friendship, and trust over the last 5 years. Change is good and I know you will continue your invaluable support of our Chapter as the new leadership takes over.

I'm very sorry but, due to computer problems, I don't have photos of the meeting and the new board for this issue. I will have some of not only the new board but also of Mitch and Peter receiving their awards in S.F. in the next issue.

A quick reminder… Start your cuttings!!! for our 10th Anniversary, as an ARS chapter, event/ public workshop planned for October at the zoo.

Again, my heartfelt gratitude I send to each and every one of you. You are my very special vireya friends & family (and more). Remember "It's all about the Vireya".

Love you all, Sherla

May 20th – Part I of Dr. H. Sleumer's slides (Kea'au Com. Center)
June 17th – Norm Bezona's place (Will need a head count of interested persons)
July 15th – Part II of Dr. H. Sleumer's slides (Kea'au Com. Center)
Aug 3 & 4th BIAN plant sale at the stadium –
Aug 9th to 12th Orchid Show
Aug 19th Meeting
Sept 16th Meeting
Oct 21st – Public workshop & 10th ARS anniversary celebration at the Zoo
Nov18th Meeting
Dec – Holiday Party (date to be determined)

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APPRECIATION TO DISTRICT 5 FOR HOSTING A SUCCESSFUL 62nd ANNUAL ARS CONVENTION…… FROM PAUL ANDERSON, DISTRICT 5 DIRECTOR

As ARS District 5 Director, I wish to express great appreciation to the District for hosting a successful and delightful 62nd annual convention of the ARS in South San Francisco, April 12-15, 2007. It was a beautiful team effort of very talented volunteers from 5 of the 7 chapters in District 5.

When District 5 was asked to consider hosting the convention, I was uncertain if it would be possible until both *Tim and June Walsh* (Eureka Chapter) responded favorably to becoming co-leaders for the convention. With their expert and experienced leadership, they devoted much personal time in having involvement of all interested volunteers from the other 5 chapters who chose to participate in the planning process – De Anza, California, Noyo, Eureka, and Monterey Bay. With their leadership it became a "fun" process for those involved even though June at times remarked that she felt like having "an albatross" around her neck.

Success for the convention was even more assured when *Bob Weissman* (De Anza) volunteered to take on the large task of registrar and *Mike Ekberg* (De Anza) volunteered to become treasurer, *Dick Jones* (Noyo) volunteered to become responsible for plant sales and volunteers, *Dee Daneri* (Eureka) volunteered to be responsible for programs and speakers, catering for the bus tours, the Beach Blanket Babylon/dinner outing, and the post conference tour, *Diane Weissman* (De Anza) volunteered to be in charge of tour buses, *Tom Wynn* (De Anza) and *Primo Facchini* (California) volunteered to be responsible for the truss show and *Don Selcer* (California) volunteered to be responsible for the photography exhibit. We also had excellent volunteers to be bus tour captains, *Nan Ray* (De Anza) and the Golden Gate Garden tour, *Don Selcer* (California), and tour captains, *Marvin Larsen* (California) and *Larry Brooks* (California) for the East Bay Tour, *Nan Ray* (De Anza) and *Erika Enos* (De Anza) for the Peninsula tour to Filoli and private gardens, *Tim and June Walsh* (Eureka) and *Barbara Campbell* (California) for the North Bay Tour and *Tom Kelly* (Monterey Bay), *Jerry Harris* (Monterey Bay) and *Ralph Love* (California) for the Santa Cruz tour, *Dee Daneri* (Eureka) for the post conference tour.

For those of you unable to attend we missed you, however, there were 230 persons who attended including some from overseas – France, Germany, Scotland, England, Japan, New Zealand, and Australia. There were 70 persons registered at the convention from District 5 chapters including 17 from De Anza, 17 from California, and 14 each from Noyo and Eureka, 3 from Monterey Bay, 4 from Hawaii and 1 from S. California, and the remaining persons were from 35 different ARS chapters including 9 from each of the following chapters – Middle Atlantic, Mass, and Tacoma and 23 persons from chapters in Canada.

District 5 has 311 members and this represents 8% of the total ARS membership. The district was well represented in having recognition for achievements in promoting ARS goals at the convention. One of the 2 gold awards given at the convention went to *Peter Schick* of the Noyo Chapter. The other gold award was given to *Steve Hootman* of the Rhododendron Species Foundation Botanical Garden in Federal Way, WA. One of the 3 silver awards given at the convention was awarded to *Mitch Mitchell* of the Hawaii Chapter. Both Peter and Mitch are 90 or more years old and richly deserve recognition for the great contributions they have provided in encouraging interest in and disseminating knowledge about rhododendrons. The only recipient of the ARS Endowment Grant program this year of $3000, to purchase species rhododendron for their unique woodland garden collection, was Humboldt Botanical Garden Foundation (Eureka).

The new ARS president is *Fred Whitney* of Seattle, who was the Western Regional Vice President. The out-going president, *Len Miller*, is from the Ozark Chapter which includes Oklahoma. His District 11 will be hosting the 2008 Annual Convention in Tulsa, Oklahoma, April 16-19, with a theme of "Rhododendrons in the Wild West". It should be an interesting and entertaining meeting as one of their members in Texas is a professional Country Western entertainer. This will be a first of its kind for an annual ARS convention in Oklahoma.

The Hawaii Chapter will be hosting the 2008 Western Regional ARS conference in conjunction with an International Vireya Conference. The 2009 ARS annual convention is scheduled for April 30-May 3 in Everett, WA. The 2010 ARS annual convention is being planned by the New York Chapter. It may have a pre- or post- conference tour to Bremen, Germany, where the German Rhododendron Society is having their 75th Anniversary from May 20-24, 2010. The German

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(Appreciation cont.)

Society invited the ARS to hold the ARS annual convention in Germany as they would plan to have one day of meeting in English. The ARS board felt that it would be easier for our members to meet in New York and have the German tour as an optional pre- or post- conference tour.

The ARS board is considering a request to develop a student membership level. I would appreciate receiving comments as to whether the board should make a student membership category available. You can give comments to your chapter president who can let me know what the comments are.

It was a pleasure to work with so many excellent and dedicated members who volunteered their time to make the convention possible. We also need to acknowledge with deep gratitude the wonderful gardeners who opened their beautiful gardens for tour during the convention. These gardens were on of the highlights of the convention and motivated persons to attend the convention. The gardens were most attractive and in peak bloom.

A big appreciation to all those in District 5 who helped make the convention a success both financially and for the high garden interest. The 4 chapters who contributed $3000 each will have that initial contribution returned plus a portion of the profits that the convention achieved, due to good attendance, plant sales, a silent auction and keeping costs low.

Thanks to everyone in District 5 who helped make such an enjoyable and successful convention possible.

Paul Anderson,
District 5 ARS Director

(Ed.note: Our Hawaii Chapter is in District 5)

(This in from Linda, Peter Schick's daughter)

Hi Sherla,

I printed up your congratulatory note to Dad and included it with the copies of the letters of recommendations given him. He was blown away by the letters, as I had thought they would. It is incredibly touching to know your peers think so highly of you. He admires so many of the folks who wrote such glowing things.

As you have heard, we did manage to carry off the surprises. Knowing about the medal was so hard not to give away, as was having all his kids arrive to see the presentation. The following Tuesday, the Mendocino Coast Botanical Garden dedicated "the tender species" area to him, another surprise for him. At the reception that followed the tour, Dad was given a standing ovation as he drove up in his cart. That was apparently too much for him as he parked the cart and headed off behind the nearest big rhodie. What a hoot!!! We'll be laughing about that one for a long time.

The rest of the week has been a terrific family reunion and I am so glad my siblings managed that. Dad has just been sparkling with happiness. I suspect he didn't think he'd ever see us all in one place again.

Thank you for your hand in all this. It has been incredibly meaningful for him and his kids couldn't be more grateful to everyone who made it possible.

Linda

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NEW METRIC UNITS – from Lani Herrmann

(Submitted by Spike Werner)

1. Ratio of an igloo's circumference to its diameter = Eskimo Pi
2. 2000 pounds of Chinese soup = Won ton
3. 1 millionth of a mouthwash = 1 microscope
4. Time between slipping on a peel and smacking the pavement = 1 bananasecond
5. Weight an evangelist carries with God = 1 billigram
6. Time it takes to sail 220 yards at 1 nautical mile per hour = Knotfurlong
7. 16.5 in the Twilight Zone = 1 Rod Sterling
8. Half of a large intestine = 1 semicolon
9. 1,000,000 aches = 1 megahurtz
10. Basic unit of laryngitis = 1 hoarsepower
11. Shortest distance between two jokes = A straight line
12. 453.6 graham crackers = 1 pound cake
13. 1 million-million microphones = 1 megaphone
14. 2 million bicycles = 2 megacycles
15. 365.25 days = 1 unicycle
16. 2000 mockingbirds = 2 kilomockingbirds
17. 52 cards = 1 decacards
18. 1 kilogram of falling figs = 1 FigNewton
19. 1000 milliliters of wet socks = 1 literhosen
20. 1 millionth of a fish = 1 microfiche
21. 1 trillion pins = 1 terrapin
22. 10 rations = 1 decoration
23. 100 rations = 1 C-ration
24. 2 monograms = 1 diagram
25. 4 nickels = 2 paradigms
26. 2.4 statute miles of intravenous surgical tubing at Yale University Hospital = 1 IV League
27. 100 Senators = Not 1 decision

Hawaii Chapter member, Ray Greuel, who now resides in Santa Clara, CA. was known in Hawaii for his beautiful, well-grown orchids and vireya plants that he would bring each month for the plant auction. Back in June of 200l he shared his routine of care that was then printed in our newsletter. It's worth reprinting…. Here's Ray's recipe and regime he used on his Vireya.

½ cup of calcium nitrate
½ cup 20-20-20 (or MirAcid)
1 tbsp of High Bloom
Add to a 6 gallon container and fill with water.
Stir well

Wk #1….Spray with above formula
Wk #2….Add ½ cup Epsom salts and spray.
Wk #3….Repeat week #1
Wk #4….Add ½ cup potassium (13-0-46) and spray
Wk #5….Flush with water
Wk #6….Repeat from Wk #1

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Viva Vireya!

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Director Emeritus: Mitch Mitchell

This is by Edward Everette Hale (1822- 1906), American clergyman (organizer of the Unitarian Church in Boston) and author of "The Man Without a Country" and 70 other books.

I am only one but I AM ONE! I cannot do everything, but I can do something. And because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do something that I CAN do. What I can do, I should do… and what I should do, by the Grace of God, I WILL do.

Submitted by Donna Thomas

Next Meeting:

Date: May 20, 2007 (Sunday)
Time: 12 noon – potluck lunch
1pm-meeting starts
Place: Kea'au Community Center

We start at 12 noon with a potluck lunch. At 1 pm there will be a short business meeting followed by a slide presentation; Part I of Dr. Sleumer's Lecture on Malesian Rhododendrons, Portland Study Club A.R.S. November 4, 1976. Dr. Sleumer's work is the authority on vireya. He was the first to attempt to categorize them and he set the foundation for the later work of Dr. George Argent. A must see for all vireya lovers. See you there!!

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