



VIVA VIREYA

HAWAII CHAPTER AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Volume 14

Issue 8

September 2009

Vireya of the Year
'Saint Cecelia'

September President's Message

I want to thank Sherla and Richard for letting us have our meeting at their nursery. Thanks also go to Charles and Kim Martin for showing us their yard. For those that didn't go on to the Martin's garden, you missed a great outing.

Our September 20th meeting will be at Jane and Peter Adam's nursery. The program will be given by Jamie Runnels of Plant It Hawaii. There's more about her program in meeting announcement on the back page. We are looking forward to hearing her program -- maybe I'll get better fruit from my trees.

October's program meeting will be at the Zoo. This will be our annual public outreach event. We'll need everyone's help. We need trusses' so we can show off the wide range of Vireya flower type and color spectrum. Also remember to bring the rooted cuttings that we

stuck last spring for the give-aways. Help will also be needed in sprucing up the zoo gardens. Work days are scheduled at the Zoo on Sep 27th 12:00-3:00 and Oct 13th 10:00-2:00. Pick a day and let Richard or Ronnie know you are coming. This is a wonderful event for us, and we want to make a good showing.

Check out the art show at the Wailoa Center. We are trying to keep them supplied with plants and fresh trusses to add color and plant-life to the show. If you have anything we can use please contact me at 965-9412. This show runs through Sep. 29th, and is open 8-4 Monday through Friday.

See everyone on the 20th.

Ray

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Mitch's Corner

By Mitch Mitchell

As we stroll through our gardens to see what's new.....a new flower calls for our attention.....and sometimes that starts a chain reaction. Very often I get a mental image of the person who gave me the cutting or seed that has developed into the beautiful flower now in front of me. It happened again today when I discovered "Ring of Fire" in all of its glory, and this brought up the mental image of Richard Currie who hybridized it and shared a



cutting with me, and how much I treasure his friendship. This also started me thinking that perhaps at our monthly meetings when we share our truss-cuttings with each other we might say something about how that plant came to us and the person behind it. And then my thoughts trail off to the many wonderful people who I would never have met if the Vireya hadn't introduced us.

Editor's Notes

This edition of the Viva Vireya! marks the beginning of a new endeavor for me -- being your newsletter editor. I want to start off by expressing my gratitude to two people whose shoes in this role will be hard to fill: Sherla Bertelmann and Veryl Ann Grace. They both put in enormous effort over many years of getting a quality newsletter out to the chapter members and greater Vireya community, both here and abroad. Much Mahalo to you both!

As we move into the Fall, there are a couple of chapter events coming up: the Vireyas At the Zoo Day (October 18th), a regular meeting at Kea'au Community Center in November featuring a talk by Jurahme Leyva on Orchids, and our famous Holiday party (December 6th). The meeting on September 20th is being held at our (Pete and Jane's) place outside of Paho. There's are directions on the back page and a bit about our speaker, Jamie Runnells from Plant It Hawai'i who will be talking about fruit tree selection.

Word came last week that club member Rene Siracusa has been nominated for Hawaii County's Woman's Hall of Fame Award for 2009. There will be a luncheon on September 12th where the awardees will be announced. That will happen after this newsletter is produced, but we all are proud of Rene's having been nominated. This annual event coordinated by the Hawaii County Committee on the Status of Women recognizes women in our County who are outstanding role models for women and who have made significant contributions to the community in their field of endeavor.

Also, there will be several cards and notes to pass around at the meeting, including cards received from Wendy Snell after our chapter sent condolence cards at the passing of her husband, Graham.

I do want to reiterate that this is **your** newsletter, and your input, suggestions, photos and articles are welcomed with open arms.

Secretary's Notes

Aloha Everyone!

Before I begin, I have some excellent news. Over the past weekend I managed to spend some time out in the garden. While I was perusing, I snapped a few photos to share with everyone. They can be found at the bottom of my article. Enjoy!

As for our meeting at Sherla and Richard's... Well, what can I say? As always it was fabulous and worth every minute. The garden is perfect and something new and interesting can always be found in bloom. Their shade house is always filled with things that are sure to excite. Coupled with the excellent food that we have come to expect at our meetings, it made for a memorable event. I believe at this point, that

almost every one of our members have been able to visit now, and so I hope you will all agree with me when I say that it's certainly a guaranteed first-rate experience.

After the general meeting at Sherla and Richard's, our members had an opportunity to visit Charles Martin's garden. Though I have never had the pleasure of seeing his collection, I have it from excellent sources club-wide that he also has some fantastic plants. Perhaps one of these days I will be able to make the trip?

See page 5 for some pictures from my garden.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jurahame Leyva
Secretary, Hawaii Chapter A.R.S.



Congratulations to Bill and Julie Miller

Most of you met them last month at the meeting at Sherla's. This shows them receiving an ARS Bronze Medal for their efforts as part of the Tacoma Chapter of ARS. In case you don't know, they are preparing to move here to Hawaiian Paradise Park, and we'll all benefit from their enthusiastic participation in the Hawaii Chapter. As a note, Julie's Dad (E. White Smith of Bovees Nursery) let me know that Julie is the 3rd generation to have received this award.

Turn-Around Stories

by Jane Adams

When we started planting our stock and display beds in 2005 and 2006, we had only been growing in pots on benches, either outside or in the greenhouse. That experience gave us some negative impressions of a few varieties that turned out to be somewhat narrow-minded. We hadn't seen their wonderful performance when planted outside enjoying our East Hawai'i conditions. Our dislike had mostly to do with growth habit, flowering and overall appearance. In several cases, our attitude has totally shifted! I'll just talk about a couple of those hybrids here.

Athanasius: in the greenhouse, it was a gangly, spreading plant that dropped its leaves and generally looked shabby most of the time. The flowers didn't seem extraordinary, and the foliage wasn't much to write home about. When we planted our first stock bed, we put three of them out as we did with most varieties. Lo and behold, a year later, it was always one of the nicest in that area of the beds. Its leaves are glossy deep green with red highlights. It's buds are prominent and beautiful, and its nearly always in bloom with deep orange trusses. The growth habit is much improved -- very different from what our previous experience led us to expect.

Tropic Tango: In the greenhouse, it was tall, leggy, with sort of peachy blah trusses. In the garden, it took a total 180 degree turn. With lots of sun, it has developed into a constantly blooming, self-branching and robust plant. We literally have to spend quite a bit of time every week deadheading it because of its profuse flowering. It certainly attracts the attention of those who are looking for nearly constant flowers and like the more delicate shades of colors.

This is just the start of this topic -- now you need to pick it up and tell us all about what vireyas you've changed your mind about, whether from getting them out of pots and into the ground, or changing their location or planting media. I'd like to feature at least one or two "Turn Around Stories" each issue, but it needs to come from all of us. Of course, we can also go the other way -- vireyas that never did well for us, and hypotheses for why they weren't successful.

Treasurer's Report by Joyce Gay

Club checking & savings (less ARS membership owed): \$5,946.54;

Zoo Fund: \$4,768.06

Kimalia Fund: \$1,084.00.

Effective August 1, 2009 ARS has eliminated individual or family memberships in favor of a "Regular" membership. The dues for the "Regular" membership for new and renewing members is \$40. Somewhere between ARS headquarters and Hawaii, this information and the renewal notices have sank beneath the Pacific so we are awaiting a new shipment. Renewal notices will be mailed and/or handed out to existing members as soon as they are received. I am sorry for any inconvenience this may cause.

Photos From Jurahame's Garden



- 1.) A Marshall Pierce Madison in bloom with over 100 flowers on it... The above shows two of the eight total trusses. Impressive? I thought so!
- 2.) A close up of Orange Maid. This one is continually in bloom for me...
- 3.) A beautiful yellow hybrid which Sherla assures me is KG 50. I just love the color!
- 4.) A miniature azalea we have growing on the farm. Flowers are about the size of a half dollar and are slightly fragrant.

Driving to White Cloud Nursery, 15-89 South Road, Pahoa, Hawai'i

- South on Highway 130 from Hilo or Kea'au
- Turn right at Pahoa Village Road stoplight
- Turn at second left between schools at Ka'ohe Homesteads Road
- Continue southwest from one lane paved road to a two lane paved road
- Bear left on to the South Road fork which is single lane paved
- Look for the 15-89 address sign on the left at the red cinder driveway
- Total distance from the schools intersection to the nursery is 2.6 miles

Map available on-line at <http://www.whitecloudnursery.com>

Next Meeting: Sunday, September 20th

Our speaker will be Jamie Runnels from Plant It Hawai'i who will be speaking on fruit tree selection. Jamie's background includes a BS from UH Hilo majoring in Tropical crops. She has been active in the Big Island Association of Nurserymen since 2000, where she is currently the Invasive Species chair. She also serves on the board of the Hawaii Florists and Shippers Association. Jamie's knowledge of citrus and other tropical fruit crops will help us all to improve our growing of these important food crops. I know I'm storing up some questions!

Meeting Location: Jane and Pete's place (see directions on previous page, or call 345-0959 for directions)

Potluck at noon, meeting starts at 1:00. Lots of time to wander the gardens!

If possible, carpool so that we can offer parking for those who need to be close to the action. We do have room for many cars, though. Please bring chairs, and don't forget your own table settings to help us reduce waste going into our islands' landfills.

Viva Vireya!

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