



# VIVA VIREYA

HAWAII CHAPTER AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Volume 14

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October 2009

**Vireya of the Year 'Saint Cecelia'**

## October President's Message

The September program given by Jamie Runnels from Plant-It Hawaii was quite a hit. Jamie is very knowledgeable about a broad range of fruit trees and answered about every question that we sent her way.

Our thanks go out to Jane and Peter for opening their nursery for our meeting. It was great seeing all the Vireyas in bloom. Their gardens have come a long way since they started the nursery just a few years ago.

October is our annual Public Outreach at the Zoo. I don't know when we started this program but it's been happening ever since I became a member. I wish the Zoo's Vireya gardens were in better shape. We had only 4 workers show up last time but we needed about 12 so there are weeds everywhere. This isn't what I wanted the public to see when we are showing off our gardens.

We need everyone to bring the starter plants we planted last spring to be given away to hopefully new members. Don't forget to bring trusses to show the diversity of the Vireya

family. There will be sandwiches and drinks furnished by the club for our members. Donation of desserts and pupus are always welcome. Bring your own chair. Setup will start at 10:00 am, and we will finish about 3:00 pm.

Sherla and Jane will be giving programs to the public with Sherla speaking at about 11:00 and Jane at about 1:00. Make new friends from the people you come in contact with at the Zoo and invite them to the November meeting. Let's see if we can double our attendance next month.

November's meeting will be at the Kea'au Community Center. Jurahame Leyva will be giving the program on Orchids.

Ray Schimpf  
Hawai'i Chapter President

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**Directors:** Spike Werner, Bettye Wakabayashi, Ron Phillips, Dick Kruppa

**Past President:** John Barbour **Director Emeritus:** Mitch Mitchell

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## *Mitch's Corner*

*By Mitch Mitchell*

### *New Rhododendron Species Foundation Glass House*

These pictures say a lot to me. For example: they shout: Hallelujah!!!!!!! It has happened! There is now a significant RSF space (5000 sq.ft.) devoted to Vireya. This subgenus includes a large percentage of the total number of species in the rhododendron genus. Very appropriately the new glass house is being named the Rutherford Conservatory in honor of Fran Rutherford who did so much to make it a reality. Nursery manager/propagator, Dennis Bottemiller is looking forward with much enthusiasm to begin the planting.

Now a few words to the members of our Hawai'i Chapter of ARS. As you know we refer to ourselves as The Vireya Club because this is the type of rhododendron we can grow on the Big Island. Therefore, don't you agree that because we occupy this special place in the world of rhododendrons our members really should get behind the Rhododendron Species Foundation and do what we can to help?!! For example, help to make more of the Vireya species available. We can do this by becoming members and by making periodic donations. Members now include, Peter and Jane Adams, Fran Jackson, ARS Hawai'i Chapter and Mitch and Sandy Mitchell. Please see me if you need more information on how you too may become a member.



**Next Meeting:  
Talk Story Vireya Workshop**

**When? Sunday, October 18, 2009**

**Time? 10:00 am to 3:00 pm  
with Workshops at 11:00 & 1:00**

**Place?  
Pana'ewa Rainforest Zoo and  
Botanical Garden Pavilion**

**Bring give-away plants, trusses & chairs.**

**Sandwiches and drinks provided.**

**Finger foods and dessert welcomed.**

**This is our annual public outreach day when we have a perfect opportunity to talk with people interested in Vireyas and how to grow them. It's always an excellent event, with lots of chances to meet new friends in a wonderful setting.**

***Treasurer's Report***  
***By Joyce Gay***

Club checking & savings (less ARS membership owed): \$6,129.96

Zoo Fund: \$4,813.86

Kimalia Fund: \$1,134.00.

Membership renewal is the big topic on my agenda now. All of the renewals have been sent out (some twice because the labels didn't stick) so if you have not received yours yet, please give me a call or email me (808-966-5572 or davidandjoyce69@hotmail.com). I will be at the Zoo Day on October 18th and will happily take money that day if you haven't sent yours in before then. Please note that DECEMBER 1 IS THE DEADLINE for 2010 RENEWALS in order to insure that you get your ARS Journals.

## *Editor's Notes*

I want to echo Mitch's thoughts about the Rhododendron Species Foundation and Botanical Garden. They are making great efforts to highlight the Vireya portion of the genus with the construction of the Fran Rutherford Tropical House. The work of the RSBG is critically important to preservation of the species Rhododendron which is being inexorably reduced in their Native lands. Having been a visitor back in the 1980's, and then again recently, we have seen amazing progress and development of a very special garden. For those of you who travel to the mainland periodically, don't miss out on visiting this wonderful garden between Seattle and Tacoma. It's easy to get to and a true joy to visit. A number of people who are active at the RSBG have been to our conventions and seminars, so there's a personal touch as well. The photo below is of the previous Vireya greenhouse taken during our visit in 2008. Dennis Bottemiller and Paul Thompson are our guides.

Thanks to everyone who came to visit us for the meeting last month! It was a joy to show people around our gardens and to have our friends visit us. We have open hours on Saturdays, but chapter members are welcome anytime with an appointment. There's always lots in bloom to enjoy. Left-behind items: Stainless steel pan, and several serving utensils. I'll have them in my vehicle at the zoo.

Speaking of the Zoo, I can't emphasize enough how much fun Zoo Outreach day is for everyone. We always meet interesting new people who are interested in Vireyas! If you're a new member and haven't been to one, it's just a great event. By the way, the first time we had this event was in 2006, so this is the 4th annual! That first event was amazing, as it was also the day of the 6.9 magnitude earthquake off the Kohala coast, but a good time was had by all who came out to enjoy a beautiful day. 2007 was a beautiful sunny day, with a very large turn-out, as was 2008. 2009 brought us some rain during the event, but good times were had none-the-less.

Finally, there's a very affordable way to stay connected to the Vireya world outside of Hawai'i. The Vireya Vine is published by the RSBG, with E. White Smith as editor. \$10 will get you the Vine for 10 years. They'll also extend your subscription if you write letters or articles for it. Can't get much better than that!! Contact E. White via email at: [info@bovees.com](mailto:info@bovees.com) or via snail-mail at PO Box 3798, Federal Way, WA 98063. That's the address of the RSBG who support the newsletter financially.



## *Secretary's Notes*

Aloha Everyone!

What a wonderful meeting we had last month! Certainly informative and very entertaining. Many thanks to Jane and Peter for hosting us, and to Jamie from Plant-It-Hawaii. I look forward to hearing from our members after following Jamie's advice.

As I mentioned above, Jane and Peter hosted us at their nursery. The plants were all very healthy and plenty of gorgeous trusses were awaiting eager members. Their greenhouse was top-notch, with healthy plants just overflowing from the benches. Not only did we have the opportunity to walk away with a few additions to our garden, but we had the pleasure of seeing some fine vireya culture in action. I'm sure we can expect more great meetings at their place.

As also mentioned above, Jamie from Plant-It-Hawaii was the speaker for the meeting. She was, as always, more than happy to assist us with all of our many fruit-tree questions. Having a wealth of knowledge on the subject, she was more than able to tackle even the hardest of questions. Covering everything from fruit flies and mites to flowering cycles and copper sprays, Jamie left us with much to implement in our gardens. If anyone is willing or interested, I will be taking feedback on any of our past speakers and suggestions for speakers you would like to have for next year. You can contact me by phone at 966-6693 or my email: [jurahame@kurtistownorchids.com](mailto:jurahame@kurtistownorchids.com)

As always, I owe YOU, the members, a big thank you for such great meetings. I always look forward to them and hope to be able to attend many more!

Happy Gardening and Viva Vireya!  
Jurahame Leyva  
Secretary, Hawaii Chapter A.R



**Calendar of Events:**

Sunday, October 18: Annual Vireya Talk Story day at the Zoo. See notice on page 2 for details.

Sunday, October 25: Regular Sunday work party at the zoo gardens. 12:00 - 3:00.

Sunday, November 1: Board of Director's meeting at the Kea'au Community Center (Patio).  
12:30

Sunday, November 15: Regular chapter meeting at the Kea'au Community Center. Potluck at 12:00, meeting at 1:00

Sunday, **December 6**: Holiday Party at the Kea'au Community Center. **Note:** this is a different Sunday than our normal meetings!

## **Viva Vireya!**

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