



VIVA VIREYA

HAWAI'I CHAPTER AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Volume 14

Issue 10

November 2009

Hawai'i Chapter Website: <http://www.hawaiiireyaars.org/>

Vireya of the Year
'Saint Cecelia'

November President's Message

At our October Vireya Day at the Zoo we had many people come by and express their interest in Vireyas. We gave away almost all the free starter plants, which were in good supply. The truss table was a big hit. The truss stand was full and the table was totally covered. Everybody that saw it was spellbound. Several people expressed an interest in coming to a meeting, and I hope we see some of them at the next meeting.

The workshops were well-attended and there were lots of our own members sitting in on the sessions. Sherla and Jane did a great job answering the many questions, which kept the program flowing. I know the guests got a lot of information that will perhaps spark their interest in growing Vireyas and attending our meetings. I was hoping for more people but overall felt it was successful. My thanks go to Sherla and Jane for conducting the workshops, those that brought the food and drinks, everyone that brought plants and trusses, everyone who helped setup and teardown, and those that worked the tables.

November's meeting will be at the Kea'au Community Center. Our own Jurahame Leyva will be giving a talk on growing Orchids and Vireyas

this should be a very interesting program. This will be a great meeting to bring a guest, as the topic will be of interest to lots of people and will be very informative. This is how we get new members. The board is working on programs for next year so if you have a program idea bring it with you to the November's meeting, or get it to one of the board members.

The Vireya beds at the Zoo are looking better. We have been getting help from some of the local schools which have been bringing small groups of older children to work at the Zoo. Our beds have been getting weeded and that has been a great help. Our own work party on October 25th had 7 people there, but of course we could always use more help. We do zoo work parties on the fourth Sundays of every month from 12:00-3:00 PM. Everyone is welcome. Bring your tools and come join the fun.

Ray Schimpf
Hawai'i Chapter President

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

Mitch's Corner

By Mitch Mitchell

What's New This Month in Bloom!

The first photo on the left is *R. sumatranum*, the latest in my species collection to bloom. According to George Argent's book, "Rhododendrons in Subgenus *Vireya*" it was discovered on the east coast of Sumatra and named after that island.



This photo is another first time bloomer, an unnamed seedling from Graham Snell's cross of Meadow Yellow. He gave me 24 packets of seeds from some of his favorite crosses and this is from Number 17. After they germinated I shared some of the seedlings with Richard Marques and Sherla who grew them on. This is the first to bloom for me in our 4000' garden. Others have already bloomed at Richard and Sherla's lower and warmer altitude.



Treasurer's Report

By Joyce Gay

Club checking & savings: \$5,924
Zoo Fund: \$4,745
Kimalia Fund: \$1,231

We still have about 25 members who have not responded to the dues renewals sent in September. The December 1 deadline is for receiving the ARS Journal next year, but if you have not sent in dues yet please write that check now or let me know if you won't be renewing. I hate to nag but do it well and if I know you are not planning to renew, I won't bother you.

On the positive side, the dues received to date have covered the ARS portion and the insurance for our club's gatherings. The insurance alone is \$2.50 per member based on last year's census. At this point, the chapter will receive \$10 for each member.

Turn-around Stories

Sun-tolerance... or not!

In starting our beds, we needed to clear a jungle of invasive species of trees and shrubs, hence yielding us a full sun environment. In further development, we are leaving a few trees, which will likely provide us with challenges as they become ready for replacement.

In our very unscientific method of populating stock beds, we paid no attention to color, or whether a particular variety would do well in full sun. In articles in the *Vireya Vine*, I called it The Great Vireya Sunshine Experiment, like we'd planned it or something! Rather, varieties to plant out were chosen because they needed to get into the ground. Having topped 250 varieties planted out, the vast majority of them did well, but there are a few notable varieties that did not appreciate such harsh treatment.

Bernadette: They lasted for about 6 months, blooming their hearts out and then died one after another. After replanting two, with the same results, we replanted in a somewhat more shady and protected area. They are thriving and blooming nicely.

Highland Arabesque: Same thing -- happy campers once moved out of the full-sun location.

Larissa: One has survived and is doing well in full sun after 2 years, but 3 others died. I have a large one that will get transplanted into a less stressful location. We'll get to compare them under two growing conditions.

Evita: We've lost 3 of them out in full sun, with one just barely surviving. We've moved it.

Barum Bay: Such an interesting growth habit and such a great red! However, it was extremely unhappy out in full sun. Most reds don't do as well, or take longer to adapt, but after a year or so, we gave up and moved it into a shady spot, and it's blooming now and happy.

Saint Cecelia: while we only managed to kill one out in full sun, the rest languished, praying for kinder treatment from us. Moved this summer into a cooler spot, they are growing and thriving.

All this aside, many have gone through a year or so of adaptation, and come through stronger plants for the greater amount of sun, and are now thriving. Despite this, keep in mind that full sun in the Puna District of Hawai'i Island is different than in many other places. We rarely get the totally clear days that other areas get, so we're a gentler climate, though not so cool as Volcano, Glenwood or Mountain View higher up on the mountain.

Please send me (jane@whitecloudnursery.com) your own turn-around stories so that we can all share!

Hawai'i Chapter Website

The Hawai'i Chapter Website is undergoing significant change. The goal is to make the site a useful tool, with good information for Vireya enthusiasts and club members alike. At this point, the information about the Western Regional Convention held in Hilo has been archived and is no longer accessible from the site. We have added an archive of the newsletters from the time they started being emailed in .pdf format. There are web links to other important sites, such as the RSBG, ARS, Vireya.net (Chris Callards authoritative site), and more will be coming along.

Sherla has sent us the current seedlist for the Vireya Seed Exchange that she manages. We have obtained permission to post a great document done by Bill Moyles about growing from seed, and have included it in the links section of the site.

When the board has completed a list of planned meetings for the year, that will be added.

YOU CAN HELP!!! Please take the time to look at our website, and send comments to me (jane@whitecloudnursery.com) Comments should include ideas for new content, style comments, corrections and anything else you can think of. Your input will be very much appreciated!

The website is at: <http://www.hawaiivireyaars.org/>

Editor's Notes

Aloha Everyone!

Just a couple of reminders, and then we'll move on to more interesting topics!

First, a plea to remember to bring your own plates and utensils to the meetings. It's easy to forget them, but we are really trying to do our part in reducing the amount of garbage generated for the landfill from our meetings. We've made a good start, and just need to keep it going. As they say, "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, or do without".

Second, Richard and Ronnie are really in need of more people to help out with the zoo gardens. Come and help! It's especially great if you are new to Vireyas as you'll learn a lot about how to prune and care for them, and undoubtedly take home a good handful of cuttings to work with!

Put your thinking caps on for the November meeting -- that's when we plan the Holiday Party. It's coming early this year (December 6th), so come and have fun deciding which of our usual activities we'll do again, or bring ideas for new ones!

Now for the interesting chapter activities and Vireya information!

Sherla's Trip to the Mainland!

Sherla has been invited and has accepted a request to speak to two mainland chapters in California that have active Vireya enthusiasts as part of their membership. She'll be speaking at the DeAnza Chapter (Los Altos) meeting on Wednesday, November 18th. Following that will be the California Chapter (Oakland) on Thursday, November 19th.

Contacts for the two chapters are:
DeAnza Chapter: Christy Hartsell
christ.b.hartsell@imco.com
California Chapter: Elaine Sedlack
esedlack@sbcglobal.net

Sherla's last visit to the mainland was in 2005 for a speaking engagement with the California Chapter. This will be her first presentation at the DeAnza Chapter. A personal note from Sherla: "I am so looking forward to seeing old friends and meeting new ones."

Wish her Bon Voyage and a great trip. I know that the folks at those chapters will have a memorable event focusing on Vireyas!

Thanksgiving Invitation

Ray and Cindy Schimpf are once again holding their Thanksgiving potluck. Here's Ray's message:

Cindy and I are inviting the club members to our home for Thanksgiving Lunch like last year. It will be pot luck style with everyone bringing something. Please contact me and let me know your coming and what you are planning to bring. We will have to limit it to about 20 people.

Seeds and Feedback

Martin Monthofer has written to Mitch and asked to find out if any of us have grown his seeds that he provided through the Seed Exchange. He would like feedback on success or failures.

Martin is from Bremen, Germany, and definitely a Vireya enthusiast, hybridizer and supporter of the community of Vireya growers. We first heard Martin speak at the 2003 Vireya seminar, and we fortunate to have done so. There's an International Rhododendron Conference next year in Bremen, so if you're looking for an adventure and great trip, plan on attending! There will be notes on it in the ARS Journal well in advance, and we'll include dates and contact information in the Viva Vireya in the future.

In the meantime, if you've gotten any of Martin's seed from Sherla and grown it on, and especially if you have photos, let Mitch or I know and we'll get you Martin's email address.

If you'd like to try growing some seed, check out the Seed List on the chapter website! There are many very interesting possibilities there!

A Glimpse into the Archives

It's fun to look back at the archives of the newsletters. The 2004 November newsletter talked about the October meeting including a review of the 2004 Western Regional Convention. Just a year ago, we were doing the same thing for the 2008 Western Regional Convention. Both events were stellar, and very much well appreciated by the rhododendron community. Having great speakers and meeting our mainland rhododendron enthusiasts brings much to our own enjoyment.

It's "Oh, Wow" time in Christy Hartsell's garden!

He recently sent these photos to Sherla, and it seemed just so right to use them to give us all some motivation to try new varieties and crosses. In addition, Sherla's presentation to Christy's chapter make this particularly timely. See the notice about Sherla's trip on the previous page. Christy's comments follow.



R. superbum. I only had to wait 5 years for first flower.



Taylori X wrightii. Nice compact mass blooming red.



R. goodenoughii X Marshal Pierce Madison. Very fragrant and blooms often.

At your fingertips...

In the process of getting Bill Moyles' article on growing Vireya from seed, I found myself in awe of how much information is available on Chris Callard's website, Vireya.Net. His archive section is the latest find, and well worth you taking a look and bookmarking that site.

The Archive section is arranged by the authors of the articles, so if you know the author it's easy to scroll through the list. However, if you are looking for general topics, it's easy to scan the titles of the articles to find an appropriate article.

Topics I found of every-day interest include Bill Moyles' article on the Seed Odyssey, articles on some particular species like zoelleri and laetum, propagation from cuttings by Brian Clancy, and whole host of fascinating articles about plant hunting from many different folks. A perfect "arm-chair travel" way to spend a rainy day!

To get there, use your browser, and connect to <http://www.vireya.net> Click on the Resources tab at the top of the page, and select the Archives section. Let the enjoyment and education begin!

Next Chapter Meeting:

When: November 15, 12:00pm for potluck and 1:00 for the meeting

Where: Kea'au Community Center

Program: Jurahame Leyva will be giving a presentation on growing Orchids and Vireyas.

Business and Program: Major topic will be planning for the Holiday Party, the Chapter Website updates, and general announcements and discussions.

Oh, and don't forget the plant auction and truss exchange!!! It's always the highlight of our meetings, and everyone comes away with a truss or two to treasure.

Be sure to bring your plates and utensiles!

Calendar of Coming Events:

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

Sunday, November 22: Regular 4th Sunday Zoo work party. 12:00pm - 3:00pm.

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

Sunday, January 17: Regular chapter meeting at the Ka'au Community Center. Potluck at 12:00, meeting at 1:00.

Viva Vireya!

Edited by Jane Adams

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