



VIVA VIREYA!

HAWAII CHAPTER AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

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Vireya of the Year
Taylori

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

September President's Message

Wow - just to show you what a bargain the truss give-away at our meeting is, we auctioned off one truss at the last meeting for US\$55! And, of course, gave the rest away. See page 5 for a photo.

Cindy Schimpf has the library whipped into shape and has a list of books and magazines for you to check out. Since so many of these publications are no longer in print and available at any price, the Board has agreed that there will be a \$20 refundable deposit for each Rhododendron/Vireya book checked out and \$5 per magazine or general gardening. The check-out period will be one month or from one meeting to the next. If a publication is not returned, the member who checked it out will be assessed for the replacement cost as determined by the Board, plus the deposit. To get a book, notify our Librarian and she will get it to you and collect your deposit. We expect our members will borrow and return the books without problems or actual cost.

The "Cultural Question" about cuttings which root but do not grow was discussed and consensus was that patience and high nitrogen fertilizer would succeed if any growing points are still alive. We had email responses from the mainland, New Zealand and Australia as well as Hawai'i - it is so good to hear from those who get the newsletter but are unable to attend our meetings. If you ever come to the Big Island let us know, as you have Vireya friends here to help you have a good time.

The next "Cultural Question" is: which Vireya flowers have substance and longevity enough to use as "lei" flowers? I expect it will be answered in large part at the next meeting when Richard Kruppa talks about Blooms and Trusses as cut flowers. However, I would greatly appreciate any email feed-back from those who grow Vireyas as Richard may not have them all. "

Joyce Gay, Hawai'i Chapter President

Zoo Garden Wins Award of Excellence

After prevailing against nine other gardens, the Pana'ewa Rainforest Zoo and Gardens was given the Award of Excellence in the Community Gardens category at this year's Scenic Hawai'i Betty Crocker Landscape Awards. The docent who nominated the Zoo, Shirley Howard, was quoted in the Hawaii Tribune Herald as saying, "This recently revealed jewel right in Hilo's backyard is a result of the efforts of the Friends of the Zoo, Hawaii Island Palm Society, the Hawaii Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society, Senior Training and Employment staff, numerous school and community groups, including Waiakea and Hilo High School, the Boys Scouts of America and students from the Huiana Internship Program."

The Hawai'i Chapter is very proud of the Vireya display gardens at the Zoo, and are pleased to see the Zoo Gardens so well-deservedly recognized as the "jewel" it is.

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Mitch's Corner

Sorry that I haven't been available for a while, but my bad cold turned into pneumonia and I found myself in a bed at Hilo Hospital. I'm at home now, and would like to think that I'm "out of the woods."

First I want to add my enthusiastic support for the ideas that Jane has forwarded from the Species Foundation re the Rutherford Conservatory. Just imagine...this wonderful concept has now become a reality and the Vireya world has a magnificent new home in the U.S. Think about this for a minute...when Plant Hunters are admitted to the various Vireya provenances and return with seed and/or cutting material they are welcomed by the folks at RSF. In due time this material is made available to us members. To me this seems like a wonderful activity that all of us Vireya enthusiasts should appreciate and support. When I think of what the lumber interests are doing in Borneo that inadvertently results in the destruction of small Vireya seedlings I want to do all that I can to change the logging practices in such a way that will stop the Vireya destruction.

Here are some more photos of species Vireyas in my collection: *citrinum*, *commonae* cream and *crassifolium*.



R. citrinum



R. commonae (Cream)



R. crassifolium

Notes

A note from Sherla: The 2011 membership drive will be starting up this month. She will be getting information out to everyone shortly. Your membership commitment is critical to the ARS and our chapter, so please be sure to renew!

Our program this month will be:

VIREYA VIGNETTES

Dick will discuss some observations from his on-going research into Bloom Periods, Cut Flower Life, and Truss Life on the Plants.

He will describe (in 30 seconds) his favorite Vireya showing a truss or picture and asks YOU to think about YOUR favorite. Try to bring a truss (if in bloom) or a picture.

Dick plans to call on 5 people at random, asking them to describe their favorite. If called, can YOU do that in THIRTY SECONDS?? Be prepared!

Club donation: At the August meeting, the club voted to contribute to a fund-raising drive for the Species Foundation. They are selling pavers for the terrace and inside the Rutherford Conservatory. The club chose to have a paver inside the conservatory with the following inscription:

HAWAII CHAPTER
ARS
VIREYAS
IN PARADISE

Bill and Julie Miller will be attending the grand opening celebration, and will photograph the paver for us!

Rutherford Conservatory ***by Bill Miller***

The new Rutherford Conservatory is named after its main benefactor, Fran Rutherford. Fran was interested in vireyas and had several large specimens planted on benches at his greenhouse in Port Orchard, Washington State. For 28 years Fran helped E. White Smith get the Vireya Vine published and once collected vireyas in Papua, New Guinea.

The Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden (RSBG) made several attempts at fundraising for the “tropical rhododendron conservatory” and never quite got over the hump. Fran’s decision to donate over a half million dollars allowed the RSBG to finish the funding of the project. Fran passed away last year but he was able to see the construction started. Fran was 94 when he passed and had no living heirs so his entire estate was donated to an endowment fund to keep the new conservatory a high quality operation for years to come. With the help of the RSBG staff and several key volunteers, the project is finally complete.

It is my understanding that the Hawai’i Chapter donated money to this enterprise and I can tell you that this is an outstanding building. It is just shy of 5,000 square feet and has a recycled stream with three waterfalls to provide humidity. Tempered glass roof and walls, automatic heating, automatic shade cloths, timed sprinklers, and automatic vents will keep the plants safe and happy for all to enjoy. A large brick paver terrace for weddings, business meetings, and parties, sits right outside the main entrance. Future plans include the addition of a large water catchment from the conservatory roof to supply most of the water for the sprinkler system.

The Hawai’i Chapter sent several hapu’u ferns to the RSBG and some are growing in pots waiting to be transferred to the conservatory and some will be used as bedding for new plants. Thanks to Mitch Mitchell, Ron Phillips, and Richard Marques for their efforts to make that happen. There are many contributors from all over the world to the RSBG vireya collection. The RSBG can only take plants or cuttings from a nursery certified to have no Sudden Oak Death (*phytopthera rumorum*), so please don’t send them any cuttings!

The Grand Opening is 25 September, 2010 and most, if not all, the plants will be planted by that date. This conservatory will be filled with many tropical species but the main attraction will be vireyas. If you are in the Federal Way, Washington area you owe yourself a stop at the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden. With the addition of the new “Vireya House”, the RSBG will have the largest collection of rhododendron species in the world.

Bill Miller. Future Hawai’i Chapter Member



Steve Hootman as he was leading a tour of the Conservatory



Julie Miller and a view of the control systems

Follow-up on the August Program

At the August meeting, Dr. J.B. Friday gave a talk on invasive trees in our forests. Dr. Friday's talk was extremely informative, and generated much discussion, including one about the 'Ohi'a Rust that is affecting Myrtaceae family species. Thanks go to Rene Siracusa, who sent the following web link to a summary of a seminar on the topic. The .pdf file is quite interesting and easily readable.

Most notably, the damage is seen in the deaths of large swaths of Rosy Apples, visible on Highway 11, the Belt Road and others. There is on-going research into strains of the rust, and into the ability of genetically-resistant plants to protect themselves.



Dr. Friday

URL to the document:

<http://www.hawaiiinvasivespecies.org/czans/pdfs/20100713ohiarustseminar.pdf>

Secretary's Report *by Jurahame Leyva*

Aloha All!

First, before I go into anything else, I want to thank everyone who came and helped at the orchid show. Many orchid society members came to me and told me how appealing our display area looked. Not only could guests walk in and be surrounded by gorgeous flowers, but there were also a place to sit and admire the rest of the show. Again, a job well done!

Another topic I wanted to go over is certainly more garden related. That is, I've seen an abundance of flowers cropping up since our brief spell of rain. Even though as I write this, my garden has only experienced a few days worth, buds galore have begun to appear, especially for cultivars like Orange Maid, Hilo Tan and Haloed Gold. I am sure others will follow suit very shortly. Anyone else notice this?

For those avid readers of our group, I'd like to recommend "The Botany of Desire - A Plant's Eye View of the World." Having just finished it, I found it both informative and very appealing. Author Michael Pollan's writing style captures not only the charisma that his subjects take to their respective fields, but also a friendly, almost fatherly, approach to the presentation of his work.

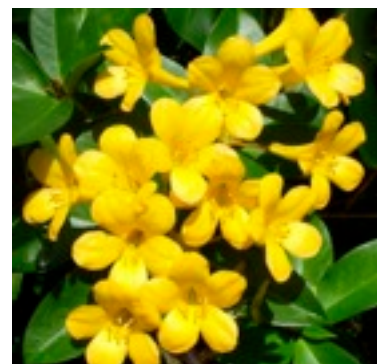
Finally, I have taken a few pictures to share with everyone. Enjoy!



Un-named hybrid



Mt. Pire



Open-pollinated Harry Wu seedling

Scenes from August Events
Photos courtesy of Sherla Bertelmann & Joyce Gay



Above, Mitch and Sandy talking story about vireyas to booth visitors at the Orchid Society show.



Right, a view of the poster display in the Vireya booth.



Left, long time member, Lois Wright, just turned 90 years old.

Right, Spike and Carol Werner. Spike was surprised with singing and a cake on his 83rd birthday.



Pete Adams and the “Amazing Truss of the Day.” The truss was labeled ARS 94-47, Sweet Marni parent. Norman Beaudry of the ARS Seed Exchange has confirmed the number as belonging to R. leucogigas ‘Hunstein’s Secret’ X R. konori ‘White Giant’ coming from Lyn Craven. Mitch provided this awesome truss.

Treasurer’s Report
by Richard Miller

Balances in club accounts as of September 1, 2010 are:

Zoo	\$4768.98
Kimalia	\$1373.58
Main Club Account	\$5640.19

Next Chapter Meeting:

When: Sunday, September 19, 2010.

Where: Kea'au Community Center

Program: VIREYA VIGNETTES, presented by Dick Kruppa. See article in the notes section for a description.

Calendar of Coming Events:

Sunday, September 19: Regular chapter meeting, 12:00pm for potluck, 1:00pm for meeting.

Sunday, October 17: Vireya Outreach Day at the Pana'ewa Rainforest Zoo and Gardens. Mark your calendars!

Housekeeping Notes

Very important truss reminder! Inspect your trusses before bringing them to the meeting. Fire ants were found recently. We don't want to spread invasive species, especially such a destructive one!

Clean-up crew: Betty Clark, Don and Pat Albrecht, and John Callahan. Many hands make light work, so additional help is encouraged.

Rubbish-Reduction: Don't forget to bring your place settings and utensils so that we can continue to reduce our impact on the landfill!

Viva Vireya!

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