



VIVA VIREYA!

HAWAII CHAPTER AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Volume 17

Issue 02

February 2012

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

Vireya of the Year
Cyril

February President's Message *by Joyce Gay*

What a great meeting we had in January. E. White Smith talked Vireyas and showed pictures of the Rutherford Conservatory at the RSBG in Washington state. He also contacted former members of our club who came out to hear his talk. It was wonderful to see so many people who no longer regularly attend our meetings. Several of these folks brought trusses for our truss give away which added to the lovely variety we had.

One of those trusses, Prima Donna, was so special it was auctioned with the plants. Thank you to Sherla & Richard (Pacific Island Nursery), Jane & Peter (White Cloud Nursery) and Fran Jackson for bringing plants and the truss for auction.

Richard & Sherla also brought a lovely blooming Vireya as a Mahalo to Dorothy Walker for bringing the coffee and all that goes with it to every meeting. Dorothy was not able to be at the meeting but sent the coffee with Jurahame Leyva so he also got the honor of taking the plant to her.

We missed some of our standby members who are not feeling well enough to attend. Please remember, we like to send cards to members who are home sick and flowers to those hospitalized, but we need to know who they are. So, please, if you hear of someone going to hospital or who is home sick, please let Marijean Horton or me know as soon as possible. Marijean's phone number is 965-9877. We want to let folks know that we miss them when they can't come out to meetings.

Ilene Wood brought a list of ideas for fund raisers to be discussed by the Board when they met after the meeting. Mahalo for the ideas. The one which the Board would like to pursue is a public Garden Tour with English Tea. Think about how this might work for us and bring your ideas to the February meeting.



Some scenes from the meeting:

Joyce with the plant for Dorothy Walker in thanks for her years of providing coffee at all of our meetings, and of E. White Smith during his presentation on the Rutherford Conservatory, which showed just how much his historical perspective is of great importance to the Vireya world.

Officers of the Hawaii Chapter ARS

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Directors: Ray Schimpf, Bettye Wakabayashi, Jurahame Leyva, John Barbour, Mitch Mitchell (Emeritus)

Zoo Work Party Kudos

The crew at the monthly Zoo work party was in fine fettle! Joined by E. White Smith, they got a lot of work accomplished in a short period of time. Attending were: Ray and Cindy Schimpf, Joyce and David Gay, Julie Miller, E. White Smith, Elaine Inouye, Richard Rhodes, Ronnie, John Callahan, and Ilene Woods.



Cindy Schimpf and E. White Smith



Elaine Inouye



Ray Schimpf



Richard Rhodes



Ilene Wood and Julie Miller



David Gay and Richard Rhodes
January 2012

Secretary's Report ***by Richard Rhodes***

Aloha Everyone!

The first 2012 meeting of the Hawai'i Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society was held at the Kea'au Community Center on Sunday, January 15th at 12:00pm.

Following our potluck, President Joyce Gay called the meeting to order at around 1:15pm. We were fortunate to have a number of visitors and several returning old friends attend. Julie Miller introduced our speaker, her father, E. White Smith from Bovees Nursery in Portland, Oregon. E. White also edits the *Vireya Vine* newsletter for the RSBG and is an active supporter of the new Rutherford Conservatory. His presentation took us back to the early days of Vireya exploration and coming up the the present day. It featured a Powerpoint tour of the Rutherford.

Our program ended with a lively Vireya auction led by Lucy Moody, followed by the ever popular truss exchange.

Thanks to everyone who stayed for cleanup!

Mahalo nui loa, Richard

Treasurer's Report ***by Richard Miller***

As of January 21, 2011 the club accounts are:

Club = \$4301.97 Zoo = \$4042.79 Kimalia = \$1380.48

Notes from Here and There

This was sent from Donna Thomas:

Thank you all for the nice card sent by Marijean for the club and the beautiful flower arrangement with giant Anthurium flowers & white orchids (supplied by Ray & Cindy) in a lovely blue glass vase. I collect blue glass so long after after the flowers are gone I will still have a nice reminder of all of you in our Vireya Society. We've been "out of the loop" for so long with Ron's year long illness & almost dying from his poisoned liver & now my broken back but hopefully it will heal soon so we can attend meeting again. We miss you all. Mahalo nui loa. Donna Thomas

Vireya of the Year for 2013 and 2014:

Sherla Bertelmann would like you all to be aware that the selection of Vireya of the Year is coming up for the 2013 and 2014 years. What this means is that you should be thinking of your best performers to nominate them for the VOY honor. Remember that they have to be long-established, and have to be registered (not just nick-named) with the international registry. The easy way to check that is by looking at Vireya.net. Head out to the garden and start a list!

What's on tap for the future in the Viva Vireya:

Get your learning hats on! We are going to continue our efforts to bring you more in-depth content topics about the culture, origins and basic botanical information about Vireyas in articles designed to be "user friendly." Most of us aren't botanists, but if you're a Vireya-holic, then extending your knowledge on this subject is always a good thing. Don't worry -- we won't start having pop quizzes or exams at the meetings or anything, we just have a desire to bring good, accessible content to Vireya lovers! We've got some interesting ones planned for the next couple of issues.

Looking to the future, we solicit your input on "everything you always wanted to know about Vireyas, but were afraid to ask." Yep, line stolen from an old Woody Allen movie, but works here as well! Send email to: jane@whitecloudnursery.com with your suggestions!

Storm Damage at the Rhododendron Species Foundation and Botanical Garden

by Jane Adams

While many of us here in Hawai'i have spent considerable portions of our lives on the mainland, many have never experienced what an ice storm can do to a garden. Recently, reeling from a heavy snowfall that left a heavy wet snow pack, Western Washington State was dishd out a second course: a freezing rain storm (ice storm). Freezing rain happens when there is a convergence (meeting) between warm wet air and and extremely cold air. Where we used to live in SW Washington, the warm air would come up the Columbia River from the Pacific Ocean and collide with the very cold air from Alaska that came down through Eastern Washington -- nearly a yearly happening for that location. It's very rare in the Seattle area though. Interesting for Hawai'i folks to note -- the media coverage pinned the source of the snow storm on the "Pineapple Express" -- the weather feature that happens when one of the systems originating near the Hawai'ian Islands whacks the mainland with lots of moisture!

The Rhododendron Species Foundation and Botanical Garden is located midway between Seattle and Tacoma in Washington State along the I-5 corridor. They were hit hard by this storm, and are still at work cleaning up the gardens from a heart-breaking storm. Mother Nature really dealt them a difficult time this winter as you can see from the photos below.

Now the good news: the Rutherford Conservatory with its Vireya collection came through unscathed. The emergency generator kept the conservatory warm, and while a tree came down nearby, only the very tops brushed the roof of the conservatory. The disheartening news for the gardens is that they lost many trees, and the weight of the ice totally pushed over a number of rhododendrons. They've been in clean-up mode for a week, and are only partially open at the time this newsletter is being written.

My thanks to Steve Hootman for the permission to reprint some photos from the RSBG's Facebook page that show the damage. They have had many, many volunteers helping with the cleanup, but more is yet to be done to get everything open.



Above left: Entry gates to the garden

Above right: Damaged greenhouse

Left: Tree snapped off from the weight of the ice

Right: A close-up photo of how the ice coats the plants.





Finally, these 3 photos show the difficult conditions right around the Rutherford Conservatory. The first two are of the tree that side-swiped the front of the building, and a view from inside looking at the ice and snow outside, but tropical scenes inside! Definitely good!



On a lighter note, what's in bloom in Hawai'i!

This is Anacapa -- it's been in the ground for nearly 3 1/2 years, and is a regular and heavy bloomer. Prized for its good blooming characteristics and red color, it's also totally spectacular when it "goes off." It deals with full sun (Puna-style -- nearly permanently partly cloudy) very well, and is a true favorite of ours. Visitors are consistently awed by it if it happens to be in bloom when they visit the gardens. It takes my breath away when I find it like this -- totally covered with lovely trusses!

Next Chapter Meeting:

When: *Sunday, February 19, 12:00pm for potluck and 1:00pm for the meeting*

Where: Kea'au Community Center.

Program: The program will feature Page Else, of BIAN on Invasive Species. This is definitely of concern for everyone living here, and we all have much to learn.

Calendar of Coming Events:

Sunday, February 19: Monthly meeting (left column).

Sunday, March 18: Regular monthly meeting at the Kea'au Community Center. Potluck at 12:00 and meeting starting thereafter.

Sunday, February 26: Regular Zoo work party! 12:00pm - 3:00pm.

Note: if you are now in a position to receive this newsletter via email as a .pdf, please notify me so that I can begin sending them electronically. We had many people convert over the last year or two, and that makes things go very quickly.

The benefits to you are that you will be able to view the photos on-screen at a higher resolution, and you'll get the issue many days before the paper version would arrive on your doorstep.

The benefits to the club are that we save both time and money. We know that there are a number of you who are not ready to make that transition, which is fine. But if you can, please let me know! My email address is: jane@whitecloudnursery.com Many thanks to those who have contacted me to move them to email! It's making a difference.

Viva Vireya!

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