

VIREYA VINE

December 1982

Issue Number 2

I admit I am overwhelmed by the response from you "Viners" to the first "Vireya Vine" Newsnote. The sharing of ideas and comments is as it should be. Here are the responses about our favorites--Vireya Rhododendrons.

From: Marva Hall

October 26, 1982

Dear Bob,

Thanks so much for the copy of the Vireya Vine. It will be great to find out what is going on with other Vireya enthusiasts.

About two years ago I acquired my first Vireya, a hybrid called "Cristo Rey". It is probably 3 years old, has bloomed twice for me and is a yellow orange bi-color. Somewhat like a smaller form of *R. zoelleri*. Of course, as soon as it produced it's first bloom I immediately selfed the flowers. I did not realize this would hasten the dropping of the flowers and now I wait longer to make a cross and do not try every flower and enjoy a longer blooming period. As far as I know "Cristo Rey" is not registered.

I have four other 2 to 3 year old plants:

- R. lochae* x *R. christiana*e-bloomed heavily-deep salmon color
- R. laetum* x *R. aurigeranum*-no blooms yet-very leggy even with pinching
- a Strybing's *R. brookeanum*-should bloom soon
- R. javanicum*-one bloom so far

I am growing seedlings from both "Cristo Rey" (selfed) and *R. lochae* x *R. christiana*e (selfed).

In October 1981, I was fortunate enough to receive many cuttings and seedlings from Frank Mossman and now have, including the above, about 25 varieties. Many are duplicates and in all I have 62 plants. Also, I just put in 55 cuttings and hope for a fair percentage of rootings.

I did put my plants outside in a shady spot this last summer but seemed to begin having some problems when I brought them back in this fall. I lost about 8 plants and have treated the rest and hope the problem is checked. I did not know for sure what caused this but am hoping to learn lots from the Vireya Vine so maybe it won't happen again. I think I may just leave them in next summer.

I am looking forward to more correspondence and the chance to exchange seeds and plants.

Marva Hall

P.O. BOX 19
Ocean Park, WA 98640 USA

Latitude 46.5° N.

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From: Hugh A. Caldwell

October 23, 1982

Dear Mr. Badger,

I think the idea of exchanging notes on the Vireya Rhododendrons is very great. I'll be glad to help any way I can. What kind of information would you be looking for?

Here in Florida the Hybrids are no trouble, we have the plants in pots under some big oaks. They are put out in early Spring, and stay out until early Fall. The Hybrids are on tables with wire screen for a top. This keeps the pots clean, and free of weeds. The plants are in black pots, the soil mixture is 25% clean peat moss, 25% perlite, 50%

small pine bark.

The cuttings are no trouble, the cuttings are made when the plants are trimmed, and cleaned. Rooting is very easy, and no problem. My big problem is the time the cutting is taken from rooting cup, and starts new growth in 4" or 6" pots. I find some die back here. We take cuttings any time I can find the wood.

The seedlings are slow, and I don't think they grow fast enough. I think this is because you want to see the new plants and bloom.

I find the Species hard to root. Is this true in all cases? The Hybrids are no problem. Some Hybrids will root in a few weeks, and others want to take their time.

I would like to hear from other collectors, and find out what they are doing.

Will be glad to send a list of names of plants if needed or wanted. Names are checked when plants go into the greenhouse this Fall.

I would enjoy hearing from you again, and learn more about the plants. Could you let me know what we are looking for? I'll be glad to help if I can.

Sincerely,

187 Brickyard Road
Doctors Inlet, Florida 32030 USA

Hugh A. Caldwell Latitude 30.1° N.

Hugh, please send a list of names of the Vireyas you are growing. Species, named Hybrids, and fine new hybrids you are growing--by the cross parentage. The notes you sent are fine! Maybe some "Viner" can offer help on your questions: Are Vireya species harder to root? Have you tried growing Vireyas in the ground in Florida?

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From: Peter Schick

November 11, 1982

Dear Bob,

The enclosed list of Vireya buffs may raise hell with your postage budget. Peter Sullivan would be happy to receive the newsletter. He is the #1 man in Vireyas in America.

Now to answer some questions raised:

1. The plant of *R. superbum* bloomed at Dr. Evan Robinson's.
2. The species listed as *R. hellwigii*, is another form of *R. konori*, STR #75/62 N.G.F. #37954.
3. The STR #67-469 and Crutwell 1410 are identical.
4. Information from Dr. Withers - *R. Gardenia* is a geographical form of *R. leucogigas*.
5. *R. multinervum* as listed is also another form of *R. konori*
6. STR #75-36 is a narrower and more pointed leaf form of a pink *R. phaeochitum*
7. The Kores form of *R. christi* we grow here is almost an orbicular leaf form, flowers are identical.

I've been foliar feeding all my plants including seedlings and cuttings with a very dilute form of high phosphorus liquid fertilizer for the past two years. Your observations regarding the break from the base has also been my experience. The improvement in my opinion is in the development of root systems. I had occasion to bare root a number of *R. maddenii* species and hybrids and at the same time a number of Vireya species and hybrids. There is a noticeable difference in the root structure and development. The *R. maddenii* being the most epiphytic of the Himalayan section sends out a fibrous feeder root system directly out of the base of the cutting. The Vireyas send out a similar root system as it roots, but as it develops this system thickens and elongates much as one would expect an anchoring system would develop. It then develops the fibrous feeding system at the anchoring systems' terminals, much like the twigs on the end of branches of a tree. I must photograph this next batch I do. This would explain why the seedlings develop so slowly, developing an anchoring system before the feeder system. It would also explain why the foliar feeding speeds up this process to a degree. There also has been a degree of bud break in the cuttings that was also speeded up. However some of the species have been difficult in this regard. This can be a subject of another letter, particularly

as there may be a further boost from the use of willow water, which I am currently playing with.

A number of the large leaf and flowering Vireyas have had a very poorly developed root system, so much so that I've had to pin the plant into the pot with wooden pins to keep it from falling out of the pot. However after 6 to 8 months of the feeding program on this particular plant it had developed a root system that filled its 2 gallon container. I moved it up to a 4 gallon size and it filled it in another 9 months. It is now well branched and greener than ever before in its life. Again, I am convinced that these plants send out their initial root anchoring system which is only a very poor feeding system. It then depends on sustenance from anything it gets, out of the air, until such time it develops this system to a point that it begins to put out its fibrous feeder system, at which time the plant takes off. Its during this interim period that the foliar system feeding gives the plant an uninterrupted development opportunity. These plants in my opinion have been evolved epiphytically for so long that the root development is carried over when grown terrestrially. I've had the experience of growing a (*R. laetum* by *R. zoelleri* "Golden Gate") cross from a cutting that was inserted into the medium 3-3-80, and in Feb. 82 bloomed on 7 terminals with 3, 4, 555, 6 and 7 flowers. I had another plant an F_2 cross of [*R. phaeocephalum* x *R. lochae*] x *R. leucogigas* that had two large trusses in it in 2½ years from a cutting. I attribute this to the uninterrupted root development of the plants.

One of the topics of the recent ARS Western Regional Conference was the emphasis on recognition of good hybrid parents. In the Vireya section two can be designated as such parents, #1 is *R. lochae* and, #2- not recognized as such, is *R. zoelleri* "Golden Gate" this plant is a difficult cranky thing to grow, but when you cross it on anything, the result is not much loss of vigor from the original seed parent but it imparts:

1. early blooming
2. spectacular bi-colors
3. more flowers to the truss than either of the parents

as a horticultural plant in itself, it is too difficult, but for breeding it is spectacular. It does not put out much wood so for its distribution it should be meristemmed.

It will be some time before I have the time to send you an inventory of plants, but shall do so in time. I have a copy of the list of plants grown in Australia, most of these will be available to us in the future thanks to the generosity of the Australian buffs.

Sincerely,

17455 Ocean Drive
Fort Bragg, CA 95437 USA

Peter Schick

Latitude 39.4° N.

Peter, thank you for the identities on those numbers. Please send the list of the Vireya Species and Named Hybrids when you can--as well as promising hybrid crosses you are growing, and the Australian list also, as it will be helpful to know which of the Species listed in the literature might be in horticultural cultivation in Australia. Your foliar feeding comments and root development notes are most interesting. I understand that Harold Greer sells a tissue cultured Vireya - *R. leucogigas* - so the *R. zoelleri* "Golden Gate" could be so grown. Can we get a copy of the Strybing numbers to list for the "Viners" use? Marvelous notes Peter--send more.

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From: Donald W. Paden

November 22, 1982

Dear Bob,

Many thanks for your October "Vireya Vine". It was most interesting.

My main regret is that I have none of the plants on Paul Kores' list of desirable species--except *R. zoelleri*. In answer to your question, I have had Kores' 1976 seed for the following:

R. alticolum
R. vitis idaeae) ?

R. culminicolum (expired)
R. christianus x *R. aurigeranum*

The last on the list has been a good bloomer. I have a plant of one or the other of the first two (I don't know which). It has not flowered and from the plant I can't distinguish which is which. In any case, it's sort of a miserable plant, which I would be

glad to share with some unsuspecting enthusiast.

I recently sent an article on the germination of *Vireya* seeds to Ed Egan, with pictures of *R. wrightianum* and *R. intranervatum*. So far no news as to its fate.

I will look forward to your next letter.

Sincerely yours,

2112 South Race Street
Urbana, Illinois 61801 USA

Donald W. Paden

Latitude 40.1° N.

Donald, I for one unsuspecting enthusiast would like a cutting of your ? *R. alticolum* *R. vitis idaeae*. Have you a list of your *Vireyas*? If your *Vireya* seed article does not appear, could you send a few condensed notes on *Vireya* seed germination? I get excellent germination on finely screened Oregon pumice--nothing else! What was the age of the oldest *Vireya* seed you have germinated? Esther Berry--who runs the ARS *Vireya* Seed Exchange, would like to know how long it keeps its viability. Do you other "Viners" have comments on seed viability?

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From Arne S. Jensen

December 7, 1982

Dear Mr. Badger,

Jim Gerdeman told me of your *Vireya* letter. I should like to be included.

Please also include Evan Robinson, Yachats, Oregon. He is the one who recently bloomed *R. superbum*.

I have *R. goodenoughii* in bloom now--first time. Hope to exchange some cuttings with you and others.

Sincerely,

P. O. Box 986
Waldport, OR 97394 USA

Dr. Arne Jensen

Latitude 44.4° N.

Arne, have you a list of species and Hybrids that you raise? Flowered?

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About December 1st, I visited with Kelly Dobson the Propagator at the Rhododendron Species Foundation at Federal Way, Washington. They are growing some *Vireya* species. Kelly says they have bloomed, earlier this year: *Rs. aurigeranum*, *christianae*, *christii*, *gracilentum* (red and pink forms), *jasminiflorum*, *javanicum*, *kawakamii*, several *laetum* forms, *retusum* and *zoelleri*. In bloom were: *Rs. bryophilum*; *commonae*, *lochae* and *macgregoriae*. Budded and swelling were: *Rs. aurigeranum*, *orbiculatum*, *superbum*, and *quadrasiatum* var. *rosmarifolium*. The Foundation tags all plants with an acquisition identity number.

Peter Schick added these names to our mailing list: Don Dulac, Dr. John Paul Evans, Dr. Stanton L. Eversole, Bill Jenkins, William Moyles, William Moynier, Robert Standley, Peter Sullivan and Maurice Sumner--all from California, USA. Dr. John L. Rouse, John Wilson, Graham Snell, Dr. R. M. Withers--all of Victoria, Australia. J. Clyde Smith of New South Wales, Australia. H. R. Malone--from Tasmania, Australia. R. Roy Forester--from British Columbia, Canada. Robert Hirano, Lyon Arboretum (Honolulu) Hawaii, USA. John Simpson--from Costa Rica, Central America. Herbert Tucker--from Argentina, South America.

Others who contacted me or were added by friends include: Judy Young, Editor *Rhododendron Species Foundation's* new Journal, Jan Pirzio-Biroli, U. of W. Arboretum Foundation (Seattle) Dr. Werner M. Weingarten, Pres. Friends of the Volunteer Park Conservatory (Seattle) Dr. David Hunt, Floyd Chamberlin, Don Frederickson, Renee Hill, Barbara Crick, Mrs. John Bender, Luurt & Jeanette Nieuwenhuis, Esther Avery, Kelly Dobson, Bob Wright, Dr. Ned Brockenbrough, Charles L. Skelton, Gary Robbins, E. R. Clarke, Jr., Dr. Daniel Coleman and Lynn Watts--all of Washington, USA. Ruth & Charles Amos, Thomas McGuire, Bill Miller, Arne S. Jensen and F.E.M. Robinson--all of Oregon, USA. Robert Barnard, Dr. Halvor J. Braafladt, Dr. William Byrnes, Mrs. Norris M. Gaddis, Allan C. Korth, Ruth Mayer, Emily Eugene Nelson, Fred Renich, Theo Smid and Michael Thomas--all of California, USA. Keith Wade and Richard Pearson--both of British Columbia, Canada. Dr. U. Paim of New Brunswick, Canada. Richard Backus, Edward J. Brown, Clifford Desch and Willard P. Hunnewell--all of Massachusetts, USA. R. A. Froehlich, Lynn Edward Kenner, Walter Mills, Dr. Phillip Waldman and Dr. R. H. Wellman--

all of New York, USA. Allan Anderson and Richard R. Ryan, MD--of New Jersey, USA. Orville Bullitt, Jr., Mathew O. Gordon and W. L. Keighton--all of Pennsylvania, USA. T. L. Ring, MD of Ohio, USA. Dan Moen of Virginia, USA. W. E. Hamm of Florida, USA. Dr. I. B. Wilson of Wales, United Kingdom. Tue Jorgensen, Jan Marcusen, and R. W. Perriard--all of Denmark. Arnold Tease, Sam Bornstein and Harold Lewis--all of Victoria, Australia. Ian Burrows of Tasmania, Australia. Dr. Tsuneshige Rokujo and Hideo Suzuki of Japan.

Welcome to the "Vireya Vine" you Vireya buffs. Glad your names were suggested to add to the mailing list. What are we all about? Well, it is easily stated:

OBJECT: To join together and assist each other in the challenge of collecting, growing, observing and flowering the various species and hybrids of Vireya Rhododendrons. We must get these plants widely spread so one person's loss would not mean all known plants are lost in cultivation.

HOW: By sharing ideas, observations, cuttings and plants (Esther Berry already does a superb job for the American Rhododendron Society with the seeds of Vireya species and hybrid

COMMUNICATION: "Vireya Vine" newsnote letter, direct letters and gatherings anywhere--even during other meetings.

Send along names of other Vireya buffs you would like to have me send the "Vireya Vine" send me your observations of success--or failures with Vireyas.

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Steve Witcher of Puyallup, WA, USA sent this list of the Vireyas he grows:

Species:

Rs. bryophilum	hellwigii, aff.	macgregoriae
christianae	jasminiflorum	quadrasiatum v. rosmariaefolium
commonae	kawakamii	retusum
dianthosmum	konori	robinsonii
dielsianum v. dielsianum	laetum	scabridibracteatum
goodenoughii	lochae	superbum
gracilentum, pink	loranthiflorum	

Named Hybrids:

Clorinda	Pink Hybrid?	Triumph
J. H. Mangles	Princess Alexandra	Valentine

2209-9th Ave. SW
Puyallup, WA 98371 USA

Steve Witcher

Latitude 47.1° N.

Thank you for your list, Steve. Steve remarks that the soil had frozen in some of his potted Vireyas he left out too long last winter. He has one plant of R. christianae that froze back up to 3/8" diameter wood in heavy frosts. He brought it in for the rest of the winter and it resprouted from dormant eyes near the base. He also says he had well watered, potted Vireyas in a closed tight plastic house, survive a temperature of 110°F (43°C) one summer day. They did not suffer any leaf burn.

* * * * *

From: Conrad Selfors

December 12, 1982

Dear Bob,

I at one time had approximately 40 of Bill Cooley's introductions and had propagated successfully from cuttings. After several Crab fishing expeditions, due to lack of watering, my collection gradually shrunk in size.

General procedure: I have them potted with perlite, peat and a little cedar bark. I fertilize only a few times with diluted fish emulsion, maybe some of my plants have only been fertilized a few times during their stay with me. My plants usually go out on the picnic bench during the summer with partial sun and shade. Maybe only several hours of direct sunlight during the day. I water them when it appears they are getting too dry. I have never lost one during the summer for any reason. Lots of air and good drainage seems to be okay. If I got serious, I believe I could fertilize a lot more and see a lot better growth and foliage develop. As is, most of my plants don't grow that fast and are leggy and small. Most haven't flowered. I keep them indoors on the S.E. side of the living room during winter.

My best results are:

1. Pink Seedling - flowers several times a year usually November. Getting better each year. 2' high. Still leggy and not a good bushy plant. Is in flower now.
2. Princess Alexandra - Flowered indoors for about 6 weeks in January. About 3' high, white.

My collection includes: Species

<i>Rs. javanicum</i>	<i>zoelleri</i> (Best form)	<i>brookianum</i> -MGM #30
<i>macgregoriae</i>	<i>retusum</i>	MGM #14
<i>loranthiflorum</i>	<i>hellwigii</i> (Seedling C.W.)	MGM #18
<i>lochae</i>	<i>triumphans</i> , C.W.	MGM #5 Mossman
<i>laetum</i>	<i>fallacinum</i>	MGM #3 Seedling
<i>kawakamii</i>	<i>gracilentum</i>	MGM #8
<i>zoelleri</i> v. Baiyer	<i>stenophyllum</i>	MGM #1

Hybrids

Dr. H. Sleumer J. H. Mangles Pink Delight

8822 Ferncliff Ave NE
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110 USA

Conrad Selfors

Latitude 47.4° N.

And thank you Conrad. It is interesting that you have never lost a plant during your rather dry summers. These plants must be able to withstand drought somehow. Can anyone explain? Conrad, where did the "Pink Seedling" come from? Steve Witcher had a plant listed as "Pink Hybrid (14)"--Is it the same?

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From: Dick Cavender

December 12, 1982

Dear Bob Badger,

It was nice to receive your Vireya Vine newsletter. I am afraid that I fall into the poor letter writer category. Listed below are species and named hybrids that I grow and did not find on your lists.

Species

Rs. alticolum
anfakianum
beyerinckianum
culminicolum
ericoides
intranervatum

Hybrids

loranthiflorum
pleianthum
retivenium
saxifragoides
stenophyllum
womersleyi
Pasqual Witness
Red Prince
Sir George Holford
Taylora
Triumphans

I also have a number of Pete Sullivan's hybrids that have bloomed and three or four numbers from the National Arboretum that have no name. One very good unnamed hybrid (*R. phaeocephalum* x *R. leucogigas*) has bloomed very well and at a young age. It looks like *R. leucogigas* and is very fragrant. There is a lot of seed coming on this plant that should be ready soon. We put several things on it. *R. intranervatum* bloomed twice this fall but no pollen.

I use the 'Tom Tatum Mix', equal parts of coarse peat, perlite, and coarse bark. My fertilizer program is very hit and miss. Whatever I have in my hands at the time. I have used Peter's 30-10-10, Webfoot 10-6-4, Peter's 15-15-15, and Osmocote of various types. I have never burned a plant with any of these. My plants grow in a shade house in the Summer and a cool (35° - 40°F) greenhouse in the Winter.

You mention Paul Kores seed lots. I grow the following:

Rs. alticolum *herzogii* x *aurigeranum* - blooming now
culminicolum *herzogii* x *konori*
christianae x *aurigeranum*

From Frank Doleshy's collection I have:

Rs. ericoides *saxifragoides*
rugosum *superbum*

As to hardiness, I have seen ice on the leaves and the only damage was to very new

growth. Arthur Headlam sent me slides of several of his plants that were damaged last winter. Most lost a lot of foliage and he cut them back. The temperature was down to 27° night after night with clear skies. One nursery lost over 2000 plants during this time.

When it comes to growing Vireyas in the house, I find that it is too dry and the flowers do not open very well. I will be happy to share seeds and plants. I noted several on your list that I do not have and would like to obtain. Please keep me in mind for future mailings.

Yours truly,

15920 SW Oberst Lane
Sherwood, OR 97140 USA

Dick Cavender

Latitude 45.2° N.

Dick, you have quite a collection. Do you have any trouble growing the *R. saxafragoides*? Have you flowered it? Interesting *R. leucogigas* hybrid. Never a burn with the fertilizers rather confirms my results. The ice and frost on Arthur Headlam's plants in Australia suggests some stem hardiness. The nursery in Australia that lost over 2000 plants--were these Vireyas? Perhaps one of the Australian "Viners" could respond on this? Write again about which species and hybrids you have bloomed. Where does the hybrid "Pasqual Witness" come from?

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Do any of you "Viners" have a current list of all Named Vireya Hybrids? Colors? Parentages? Date Hybridized? Where done? Hybridizer?

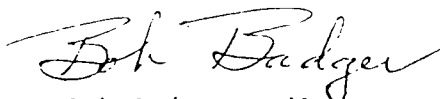
One "Viner" lists *R. triumphans*--another lists "Triumph-Strybing" - another lists "Triumphans". Is there a hybrid named "Triumph" as well as a *R. triumphans*? Could someone clear this up?

Judy Young sent along \$5.00 to cover mailing to her. We discussed this and at the moment the average paper, printing and postage come to about 65¢ to 75¢ for each "Vireya Vine" issue. It looks like--with this very nice letter response--that I could send out an issue every two months or so. As yet, we have not asked for any help but we would not object as our mailing list has grown from 30 to 110 already!

Well, that's it again for this time. I thank all of you who wrote such interesting letters. Lets see how far this "Vireya Vine" can reach out and share. Like the IPPS the rule is simple--no sharing!--no receiving!

Publishing dates: When I can. Information to: 405 N. Washington Ave.
Kent, WA 98032 USA

Seasons Greetings to all,



Bob Badger, Editor

Latitude 47.2° N.

P.S. Just received a letter from Dr. Pieter van Royen, B. P. Bishop Museum, Honolulu, Hawaii. He, you will remember, and Dr. Hermann Sleumer went together to New Guinea to collect in 1955 and 1962. I will share it with you in the next issue.