

VIREYA VINE
ISSUE # 20, FEBRUARY 1989

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RHODODENDRON SPECIES FOUNDATION

R. S. F. PO BOX 3798, FEDERAL WAY WA. 98063
B. White Smith, Editor

MONEY, MONEY, MONEY. This is not a subject that we want to spend much time with in the Vireya Vine. The Rhododendron Species Foundation will accept Bankcards (MasterCard and Visa). You can send money to the Vireya Vine or order plants from the RSF using the credit card. Orders or payments from outside the U.S.A. can be hastened by using a bank card. This will also save you the problem and the cost of currency conversions.

Many Viner's say to me that they do not have anything interesting to write for the Vine. I, of course say to them that what ever they want to write about will be of interest to many people. Some people also think that we only want to know about Vireya Rhododendron's and how to grow them. Sure we want to learn about the plants, but we also want and need to know about people. I have been working with Rhododendron's for about 30 years now. I have learned a great deal about the plants. I can go through a species list and be familiar with most of the names. I grow many of the plants myself or have seen them in my travels around the world.

I have had the great opportunity of living close to the the Rhododendron Species Foundation Garden and have been able to work at helping it grow. The point that I am driving at is, if it were not for the people who work at and for the RSF, I would not spend my time out there. If it was not for the friends that I have gained with this job as Editor of the Vireya Vine I would not do it. Vireya Rhododendron's are nice, but without the people connected with them they would be pretty unimportant in my life.

Yes we do want to hear about you and your plants. We also want to know you as a friend if only a friend in print.

The following letter for John Bodenham is about people. I think that all Viner's will enjoy it as much as I did.

From John Bodenham
Dear Vireya Vine,

Devon, England
December 3, 1988

My Rhododendron career has been varied and my fortunes decidedly mixed. I got interested originally in 1950 when I was about 20. My wife to be and I used to cycle from home in Gloucester (a limestone area) the 96 miles to stay with an Aunt in Bournemouth. In the renowned public gardens there I saw for the first time large red shrubs called Rhododendron's. You may well ask what Margaret and I were doing in the shrubbery and I will invoke the 5th amendment. Be that as it may, eventually we married and in 1955 we were setting up our first house in Gloucester. We had also been on holiday to Cornwall by train, and along the banks of the old Great Western Railway. From Liskeard to the coast in early June were these mounds of what I now know as *R. ponticum*. The mounds were in varying shades based on purple. I was entranced, found out more, and on one holiday visited Gill's Himalayan Nursery near Falmouth. On his advice I spent my hard earned money on 4 plants; *macabeanum*, *Britannia*, *Louis Pasteur* and a seedling *orbiculare*. The first two are long since dead, and *Louis Pasteur* is or should I say was languishing in the old garden in Gloucester (planted in a hole 3'X 3'X 3' deep completely filled with a huge sack of peat moss!). The *orbiculare* I still have (a rather poor one). I left it in a tub in my mothers care when we emigrated to the USA in 1956, and reclaimed it some years later.

Our reasons for emigrating to the US and subsequently returning to England are too involved to go into here. Our first location in the USA was San Diego for some 11 years all told.

I believe that in 1962 I joined the A.R.S. and the R.H.S. I seemed well able to grow the supermarket varieties of Azaleas. I also was an occasional attendee at the California Chapter meetings in the days of Ed Long. The occasional visit to friends in Vancouver took me purposely via Fort Bragg (far northern California coast) where I met John Druecker and Charlie Richards. I recall a memorable visit to the garden of Dr. Paul Bowman and the biggest *sinonuttallii* that I have ever seen (growing out doors of course). Maurice Sumner (south of San Francisco) also made my family and I very welcome. Our visits to Strybing Arboretum in San Francisco were most interesting.

My efforts with normal *Rhododendron*'s in San Diego was not too happy. The hardpan soil had a PH of over 7, and the water supply from the Colorado river was also over PH 7. Some years the rainfall was no more than 4", and with no really definite winter, the flower bud set was very sporadic. Maurice Sumner kindly let me have some *maddenii* material to try. About this time a letter appeared from out of the blue from Don Stanton (N.S.W. Australia), along with various bits and pieces. Don introduced me to *Vireyas*, and I started growing some seed from his original crosses. Soon after this the employment picture changed and I was off to Seattle, temporarily at first. In such an uncertain status I could hardly leave my plants to their own devices in the San Diego climate. I loaded them all into a hired trailer and drove north. I left one or two small items with Dr. Coe and the remainder with Charlie Richards in Fort Bragg. We then lived in a rented room near the Seattle Baseball Stadium. It was a little while later that the move to Seattle became permanent and we bought a house in Federal Way (between Seattle and Tacoma, Washington). I had by now transferred my *Rhododendron* membership to the Seattle Chapter. We lived there for three years before returning to England and Plymouth is now our home. I still belong to the Seattle Chapter of the American *Rhododendron* Society. Thanks in no small measure to Renee Hill. Back here I am out of the Defense Industry which was highly volatile, and I am now in Local Government which is by reputation completely stable. Now my *Rhododendron* interests are based on a much more secure footing.

About seven years ago, the family having left home at last, we moved to our present house. It is a microscopic cottage in total isolation in a large deciduous wood. We both work full time and with six more years to go before retirement I just can't wait to spend more time in the garden. AS it is with these long nights we go to work before daylight and return after nightfall. It is a major disappointment if the weekend is wet and nothing gets done outside. This house does have a small lean-to 'greenhouse' and I shall shortly be putting up another one, 14' X 42'. If Renee sees this last remark she will laugh because I used the same words several years ago and it has yet to materialize, BUT IT WILL!

All of the *Vireya*'s and most *maddenii*'s are so tightly packed into the lean-to that I can hardly get in the door. The overcrowding has contributed to making the plants even more leggy than normal, and more than somewhat potbound. In quite a lot of the pots I have patiently drilled holes for ventilation in the approved manner. Recently I have found commercially perforated pots that are sold for sinking into ponds to grow aquatic plants and they seem ideal. I only wish that they made one size larger. From June through most of October I am able to stand the pot's outside to catch the rain, but this year under the overhead trees they also picked up misshapen new growth from the native insect population. I won't make that particular mistake again next year.

None of my *Vireyas* are particularly good except perhaps one plant of possibly *R. javanicum*, and the bunch of Stanton seedlings which I thought I was growing as *zoelleri*. In reality these seedlings seem to be a *lochae* cross with something else, possibly *macgregoriae*. The label got lost on the move back to England. The plants which have flowered have a slightly extended but none the less, definite time when they flower. Plants with many branches seem to flower one branch at a time, so perhaps six weeks pass by while there is color on the plant. I do not seem to get flowers before April (*laetum* X *javanicum* usually first). Most color starts in July (the *lochae* cross) and winds up with *St. Valentine* in October. Sometimes I even get an odd bloom on *lochae* itself (mine seem rather poor, many leaf's and not much bloom).

Talking about *lochae*, George Argent includes it in his warm greenhouse regime, and tells me that the reddish leaves are a sure sign that it is too cold.

From now on my lochae's will not go out in the summer.

Bill Mearns, Don Stanton's old mate, kindly sent me seed and cuttings two years or so ago. I haven't heard from him for time and do hope that he is well. Bill Moyles has sent seed from the seed exchange and after heartening success with the first lot the second batch has been almost complete disaster. It may be that I had to neglect them for 10 days just at the critical time when they were germinating and most susceptible to disease. I germinate seed in margarine tubs in the windows of the living room. During the summer I suddenly realized that I was seeing the specks of microscopic anticipation disappear right in front of my eyes. By using my old dad's watchmakers glasses, I discovered tiny white grubs active in the compost surface, and an immediate rescuing transplant operation was necessary. I think that it was carrot fly larvae. I lost some items completely, including R. lineare from George Argent (RBG). I think that I have saved the leucogigas he kindly gave me.

This year I got to hear of Mr. Maurice Mason of Norfolk, and funny enough there is a brief article about his Vireya collection in the latest issue of 'Rhododendrons 1988-9 with Magnolias and Camellias' put out by the RHS. Incidentally, I took the liberty of copying a lot of the back numbers of the VV to give to another friend who is interested.

What tipped the scales and caused me to write this letter was Bill Moynier and his problems in Los Angeles. I really feel for him. Now he has the temperatures that I could do with and I have the rain that he desperately needs. I am sure that there is an ever greater buildup of salts in the Southern California soil which is very difficult to live with, and could be a significant feature in his problems. Anyway I sure wish him luck. Even after a 38 year love affair, I feel that I know very little. I will retire to my cocoon and do what I do best, i.e. read the contributions in your most excellent news sheet from the experts among us.

John Bodenham
Hunters Lodge, Wembury Road
Wembury, Plymouth
Devon, PL9 0DL, England

Editors note; I just have a great need to answer or comment to some of John's statements. Thanks John for the fun letter. It tells a lot about Rhododendron's and people. These are things that we all need to know about other people. John sent along a list of the Vireyas that he is growing and there are 51 different plants on the list. I think that he knows a lot more about Rhododendron's and Vireyas than he is willing to admit. I also think that I know very little after about 30 years in Rhododendron's and prove that fact often by killing good plants by my actions. Am I being unfair to myself? Rhododendron's (and I should think all plants) are very mysterious things. Vireya's are not easy to grow and are darn hard to grow well. I often think about how it would be to live and grow Vireyas in the nice warm Southern areas, BUT, they have different and sometimes even more problems than I have. In my travels I have not seen any Vireya's that look all that much better than what I have here in Tacoma so I will stay here for a while longer.

An interesting note about R. lochae being on a "warm list." I did not know about this. OK, Dr. Argent, what is the warm list. I have three older plants of lochae, two which have never bloomed, and one that gets the reddish leaves. My good lochae is the one from the RSF and it has only bloomed well once. Should I leave it in the greenhouse in the summer time where it will get much warmer? I had a long talk with George Argent whilst in Australia last October. I asked him about the Vireya book that he had done for Borneo. George says that the book is done but is in the hands of the Indonesian Government. He does not know when it will be available. It will be +5°F here in Tacoma tonight (2-2-89). We will get some plant damage. But my greenhouse is nice and warm (so far).

From Graham Smith
Dear VV,

Pukeiti, New Plymouth, New Zealand
June 20, 1988

Fran Rutherford asked me about withholding water to get flower bud set. I should point out that the plants need to be well established before you try this. Young plants, particularly seedlings, will not respond unless you go to the trouble of trying to kill them.

We generally work on a three to four month growth cycle which happens to suit our growing seasons. A plant in growth is watered frequently, i.e., once a day in high summer and once a week in winter. Plants with growth just matured are put into a low water cycle, i.e., once a week or to the wilting point in the summer and to the wilting point in the winter. I must add that humidity is one thing that we are never short of here at Pukeiti. That must have an effect on the plants being able to stand dry root conditions for longer periods. This is much as we saw in P.N.G. its self.

It does not always work and many plants will just go into another growth cycle after drying off, but it does work on enough to make it worthwhile doing. Once flower buds are seen to have formed, then normal watering should continue, otherwise they may abort. Some people would argue that this is unnatural and unnecessary, but it only mimics what is happening in the natural habitat(monsoon or wet months, followed by very dry ones). Growth normally comes during or just after the wet season, whilst the flower buds initiate during the dry. Several wet/dry periods can ensure growth/flower flashes two of three times per year.

I have always believed that we suffer fewer losses from root rot by following this watering pattern. It is usually the warm humid weather, coupled with copious amounts of water that create ideal conditions for root rot, even in a hanging basket. A plant wilts if it is too wet or too dry. The latter is easier to handle.

Our *R. hellwigii* (Paul Kores seed 1976) which flowered magnificently for the first time this year has set large seed pods from selfing. The pods themselves are deep red and most handsome. All spare seed will be sent to Bill Moyles in Oakland California. I also put some pollen on a few things that were out at the time. It looks as though we should get some seed from the crosses with, *commonae*, *laetum* and *lochae*. The *hellwigii* has three more buds forming.

Graham Smith, Curator
Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust
R.D. 4 New Plymouth NZ

Editors note: I read in the Australian Rhododendron Society Journal (Sept. 1988) that a few plants from that batch of seed of *R. hellwigii* bloomed in 1988 for the first time in Australia. This was 11.5 years after the seed was sown. This article is by Bob Withers and John Rouse and has a color photo of the red flowers.

There is a new Rhododendron book out. It is a small, 42 pages, paper back book called "Rhododendrons and Azaleas in Australia." Graham P. Price is the author and I think that the price was \$8.00 Aust. A good job for a small book. Graham has a good section about *vireyas* and of the 14 color pictures in the book four are *Vireyas*. A full page photo of *R. gardenia* (wow!) and a very good shot of *R. lochae* in bloom. Some one in Australia was going to send me a cutting of *gardenia* but I can not remember who (I could shoot myself for being so dumb).

Try writing to Graham to see where you can get this book. Their address is; "Candlebark", Blythe Road, Mt. Dandenong, Victoria 3767, Australia.

Another interesting thing: I keep a record of whom writes in to the *Vireya Vine* and what issue they are in for my use. John Rouse and Norman Cruttwell are tied at eight (8) times. Even better than that is that 72 people have written at least once out of a mailing list of + - 160 Viners. That is a very good participation.

And another letter from Norman Cruttwell

From Norman Cruttwell, Goroka, PNG
Dear VV, August 8, 1988

I've just received the latest edition of the VV. I do enjoy reading it so much. It is so personal and chatty, that one feels like they are talking with friends.

I have found three more natural hybrids lately - probably *R. phaeochitum* X *inconspicuum* (small zygomorphic pink flowers and lepidote young foliage). *R. scabridibracteum* X *rarum* and *R. multinervium* X *herzogii* (profuse flowers and overwhelming scent).

I haven't done much collecting this year. 'Birat Red' has been excelling this year. Do you have it in the USA? It's a beauty, species or hybrid.

It came from a chance seedling collected about 13 years ago.

The Rev. Canon N. Cruttwell
P.O. Box 961
Goroka, EHP
Papua New Guinea

Norman also says in his letter that he would be happy to have Viners visit him in PNG. I had the great pleasure of spending some time with Norman in Australia last October. I wish there was some way a person could record his knowledge about the plants of New Guinea. Could there be a book in the future? (that comment should get a rise out of him) E. White

From Fred Renich
Dear VV,

Somis, California
September 27, 1988

I wrote to the Vireya Vine a few years ago when I was living in Fillmore. I have since moved and am now in what I consider to be a more favorable climate for Vireyas.

I have a reverse osmosis system in operation to keep my alkaline water cleaner. I am in the process of fabricating a mist system to help keep the humidity up around my beds, propagation box and shade house.

The last two winters have been unusually cold for us here in Southern California. We hit 19°F on Christmas morning of 1987. I had to store all my Vireyas in the garage for a week during that time to keep them from freezing. I sure hope that this winter will be easier on us.

I have found the information from Leslie Riggall about deep pots, being of no advantage, to definitely be true. Most Vireyas that I repot show very shallow rooting habits. Another thing that is death on these plants is sun shining directly on the pots, building up heat around the root system. I have lost a few plant's this summer due to root rot and the reason seems to be my shade house roof. The summer before my shade was of all lath material. This spring I put up a new house with 63% shade cloth as a roof. From my observations and notes the shade cloth causes more heat build up on the pots and restricts air circulation.

For potting mixtures I use course peat moss, small fine bark and perlite. I also add about 15% horticultural pumice to my mix. I also am a firm believer in using a wetting agent when I water the plants. My fertilizer schedule is every two weeks the year around. I use "Stern's Miracid" 1/3, chelated iron 1/3 and "Peter's African Violet" mix 1/3. These are blended well and used 1/2 teaspoon per gallon of water onto the root system. I have experienced no leaf burn at all using this ratio. The addition of the "Peter's African Violet" food to my fertilizer gave the plants that extra Phosphorus they needed for a much earlier bud set. . .

I am interested in corresponding with Viners in Australia and New Zealand. I would like to swap cuttings with other Viners also. I have loved Rhododendrons and Azaleas nearly as long as I can remember. Since moving to California from Minnesota. I now have the privilege to enjoy this most rewarding plant kingdom the year around. I have compiled a list of all the Vireyas that I am growing. I will send it to other Viner's interested in swapping cuttings.

Fred Renich
P.O. Box 852
5152 North St.
Somis, Ca. 93066 Tel # (805)484-7447

I think that Fred should get some answers with his offer to "swap" plants and cuttings. I am very happy to tell you that I learned in Australia that Viner's are using the names and address's to get in touch with other Vireya growers. I have been on the "soap Box" from the start about sharing plants and cuttings. Without sharing the plants we like so much, they could all be lost. I sure would not have much of a collection if I had needed to grow all my Vireyas from seed. I have in turn, happily resupplied two growers when they lost all of their plants.

I have been trying to print the membership list of the Vireya Vine in the Vine. In Issue #15 (Dec. 87) we printed the "not in the USA" members. In VV #19 we did part of the USA list (does not include Washington State). In this issue we have the rest of the USA without Washington State. Some of you are wondering why I have the list split up like I do. It is because the list printed in the VV is exported from a computer Data Base (DBase) file and then reworked with the WordStar word processor program. I keep three mailing list, #1 is outside of the USA, #2 is the USA without Washington State and #3 is Washington. I am not very good at DBase programing but I can keep the mailing list up to date. So here is the rest of the VV19 list.

Mr. Ralph Williams	157 Yale Ave.	Lewisville Tx. 75067
De Anza Chapter - % O'Neill	1338 Rossway Ct.	Los Altos, Ca. 94022
Irving Schynert	1553 Queensbury Ave.	Los Altos, Ca. 94022
Mr. William Moynier	2701 Malcolm Ave.	Los Angeles Ca. 90068
Mr. Bill Jenkins	12311 Texas Ave.	Los Angeles Ca. 94123
Gloria F. Wildharber	7956 Ramsgate Ave.	Los Angeles, Ca. 90045
Mr. Roland Perry	161 Prospect Ave.	Los Gatos, Ca. 95032
Mr. John Swisher	3656 Palmetto Ave.	Miami FL 33133
SUNAM FARMS, Bruce McManus	11631 SW 93rd ST.	Miami, FL 33176
Mr. John Cinq-Mars	12 Narragansett St.	No. Kingstown, R.L. 02852
Ian Donovan	22 Charles St.	Newton Ma. 02166
Dr. David Leach	1894 Hubbard Rd.	North Madison OH. 44057
Mrs. John P. Evans	70 Lincolnshire	Oakland Ca. 94618
Mr. Bill Moyles	4243 Norton Ave.	Oakland Ca. 94602
Donald Selcer	928 Alma Place	Oakland, Ca. 94610
Steven N. Trout	89 Yosemite Ave.	Oakland, Ca. 94611
Mr. Lynn Edward Kenner	41 Barns Rd.	Ossining NY. 10562
Dr. Stanton L. Eversole	1485 Edgewood Dr.	Palo Alto Ca. 94301
Mrs. Betty B. Gould	P.O. Box 746	Pebble Beach, Ca. 93953
Mr. Don Dulak	936 B Street	Petaluma Ca. 94952
Mr. F.R.M. Robinson	Rt.1 Box 9LV	Philomath Or. 97370
Mrs. Norris M. Gaddis	52 Lakeview Ave.	Piedmont Ca. 94611
Mr. Bill Miller	3974 SW Wapato	Portland Or. 97201
Mrs. Lucy Sorenson	1737 SW Coronado	Portland Or. 97219
Mr. Richard Lynch	26362 Silver Spur Rd.	Rancho Palos Verdes Ca. 9121
Dr. Philip Waldman	505 Motta Cave Rd. South	Roalyn NY 11576
Mr. E. Parker Smith	12500 Elliott Lane	Sabastopol CA. 95472
Dr. Herbert Spady	9460 Sunnyview Rd. NE	Salem Or. 97301
Robert J. Barry	345 Mississippi St.	San Francisco Ca. 94107
Chris Ellen Montgomery	4239 25th St.	San Francisco Ca. 94114
John Spring	312 Serrano Drive	San Francisco Ca. 94132
Mr. Ralph Love	1426 Chestnut St	San Francisco Ca. 94123
Mr. Peter Sullivan	221 Richland Ave.	San Francisco Ca. 94110
Helen Crocker Russell Library	9th Ave at Lincoln Way	San Francisco Ca. 94122
Mr. Maurice H. Sumner	350 Edgehill Way	San Francisco Ca. 94127
Mr. Michael Thomas	293 Malimo Drive C	San Francisco Ca. 94127
Mr. Mike McCullough	2040 Beatrice Ct. Apt #2	San Jose Ca. 95128
Jerry Fickes	6688 Bonny Doon Rd.	Santa Cruz, Ca. 95060
James B. Jaeger	2617 25th St.	Santa Monica Ca. 90405
Emily Eugene Nelson	19269 DeHaviland Dr.	Saratogo Ca. 95070
Mr. Richard Cavender	15920 Oberst Lane	Sherwood Or. 97140
Mrs. Janet Binford	15850 SW Highland Ct.	Tigard Or. 97223
Chris Blom	P. O. Box 6512	Tahoe City, Ca. 95730
Mr. Ramon Bayes	1216 Palisades Ave.	Union City NJ 07087
Mr. Don Paden	2112 So. Race St.	Urbana IL 61801
Mr. R.A. Mitchell Jr.	P.O. Box 238	Volcano Hawaii 96785
Mr. Patric Worleykey	NO FOWARD ADDRESS ????	Vista ?? Ca. 92083
Dr. Arne Jensen	P.O.Box 986	Waldport Or. 97394
Willard P. Hunnewell	855 Washington St.	Wellesley, Ma. 02181
Mr. Everett Parwell	13040 Skyline Blvd	Woodside Ca. 94062

Mr. Keith Elliott	1449 Home Road	Woodside Ca. 94062
Mr. Jim Gerdeman	P.O. Box 391	Yachats Or. 97498
Mr. Hadley Osborne	26407 Carmelo	Carmel, Ca. 93923
Mr. Charles Ransome	P.O. Box 4631	Davis, Ca. 95617
Scott A. Lucas, Curator	P.O. Box 340	Lawai, Kauai, HI. 96765

Next time if I have enough room I will print the Washington State List. EWS

From Roland Perry Los Gatos, California

Dear VV, Jan 6, 1989

Yes there really are "some of us others out here", and enjoying the "Vine" very much.

I live in Los Gatos California, which is about 50 mile's south of San Francisco near San Jose and the Santa Cruz Mts. Bill Moyles in Oakland has been a big help to me in growing Vireya seed. They sure like to take their time, but I am finally being successful.

I use the "All in The Family" for supplies thanks to the Vine and they just located course peat moss for me. (editor note; see last page of VV15 for "All in The Family" address and info) One of the problems with being a novice is, trying to identify and find a supplier of the right growing materials. I assume the cat litter did not work out in your (E. White) potting mix since you mentioned 50% pumice and 50% peat as your mix. (The cat litter/clay has not hurt anything yet. EWS)

We have frost here often but seldom lower than 28°F. I am trying to grow Vireya's under cover on our outside porch. So far - so good. I'm trying to also protect them from the rain.

I purchased Vireya's from Dick Cavender, Bovee's, and Vireya Specialties. I also have a few from the Rhododendron Species Foundation and plan to order more this year. I am still waiting for my first bloom - maybe *R. christinae* X *macgregoriae* that came from Strybing two years ago. They got me started on all this. It is showing color but has not yet opened. I am enclosing \$10 to help.

Roland H. Perry
161 Prospect Ave.
Los Gatos, Ca. 95032

From Iris Gaddis

Piedmont, California

Dear VV, January 5, 1989

It has been some time since I wrote to the VV (Issue #4). The Vireya Vine is one piece of mail that I always like seeing in my mail box. I am always impressed and rather intimidated by the knowledge about Vireya's from so many of the VV contributors.

For several years I have been propagating Rhododendrons as a volunteer at the U.C. Botanical Garden in Berkeley. This is for the sale that the Friends of the Garden sponsor to benefit the garden. I have only a few Vireya's that are large enough for propagating. Those that I have are *R. macgregoriae*, *Taylorii*, *lochae*, *laetum* and *laetum* X *phaeopeplum* which are large enough for cutting material. I have smaller seedlings from seed obtained from the ARS which include; (*R. konori* X *laetum*) X (*aurigeranum* X *Dr. Sleumer*), (*Laetum* X *leucogigas*) X *konori* (Sullivan); and more recently from Bill Moyles; *Dr. Sleumer* X (*zoelleri* X *leucogigas*), (*aurigeranum* X *lochae*) X *lochae*, *konori* (selfed), (*konori* X *zoelleri*) X (*laetum* X *phaeopeplum*), *phaeopeplum*, (*zoelleri* X *Dr. Sleumer*) X (*aurigeranum* X *Dr. Sleumer*) x *leucogigas* and *scabridibracteum*. The *R. laetum* X *phaeopeplum* is a very strong grower and is producing great quantities of flowers. *R. lochae* is also a strong grower, but seems to produce flowers only once a year for me. Thanks

Mrs. Norris M. Gaddis
52 Lakeview Ave.
Piedmont, Ca. 94611

Bill Moyles is the American Rhododendron Society Vireya Seed Exchange person and all seed should be sent to him along with request for seed. Get your name on Bill's list and tell him what type of seed you want. Bill is working very hard on this project. His address is;

A.R.S. Vireya Seed exchange
4243 Norton Ave.
Oakland, Ca. 94602

Another Vireya News Letter in Print? Yes there is one done by some of our good friends in New Zealand. The Editor is Michael Cullinane and the Publisher is Joyce Waters. Michael has been one of our better letter writers. He is in VV # 9,13,14 and #18. Joyce lives in Wellington NZ and grows Vireyas on a very steep hillside. I met Joyce in Wollongong at the International Conference and again when she met us at the Wellington Airport. We had a scheduled 2 hour lay over at Wellington and Joyce picked us up in her car and gave us a whirlwind tour of the city. The wind was blowing so hard that air planes could not take off or land. Anyway they are putting out the "Vireya News." It is much the same as the VV but is sent mainly to New Zealand subscribers (100 +). The cost is \$2.00 NZ per copy, or \$2.50 Australian dollars to overseas subscribers. They now have issue # 7 out. They say that overseas currency is acceptable and overpayments will be credited.

Editor: Michael Cullinane
Rose Tree Gardens
P.O. Box 8
Russell 0293, New Zealand

Putting out one of these newsletters is purely a labor of love (and a lot of work). Michael and Joyce are doing a good job and I wish them all luck. I must say though that I probably will not want to do this job forever and hope that someday I can turn it over to a responsible compatriot.

February 2, 1989

Late News FLASH; Through the Grape Vine (or Vireya Vine); Tom Tatum's book about Vireya Rhododendron could/should/might be out by August 89:((?)). This one I know is current news. Papua New Guinea has a new postage stamp set (4 ea.) out as of January 25, 89. The stamps are Rhododendron's, ie, R. zoelleri, cruttwellii, superbun and christiana. Our VV friend Norman Cruttwell in PNG is one of the stamp designers. I just happen to collect "Rhododendron's on stamps" and well need to try to get this set somehow. I think that I have all the Rhododendron stamps from the world except for North Korea. There are + - 55 "Rhododendron's on stamps" that I know about. Don Stanton got me started with both Vireya's and stamps.

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