

# VIREYA VINE

March 1983

Issue 3

AN INTERNATIONAL GROUP OF "VIREYA BUFFS" - PUBLISHED WITH THE AID OF THE EDUCATION  
COMMITTEE OF THE RHODODENDRON SPECIES FOUNDATION

Well, if I thought I was overwhelmed by the response to the first Vireya Vine, I am speechless beyond belief to the response to the second letter. Responses have come from Australia, Japan, U.S.A., Costa Rica, New Guinea and Argentina. And here we go again with the sharing of ideas and comments about our favorite subject, Vireya Rhododendrons.

FROM : Dr. Pieter van Royen

December 5, 1982

I am delighted that I am chosen together with Paul to be "Godfather" of your Vireya-group. All the more since it was in 1955 that I together with Dr. Hermann Sleumer of Leiden, Netherlands, brought the first cuttings and seeds of several Rhododendrons of New Guinea back to Holland. Let me correct that statement. It was in 1955 I brought cuttings back to Boskoop, Holland, and in 1962 Sleumer and I brought back cuttings and seeds from our 2nd New Guinea expedition. In particular I brought back cuttings of *R. zoelleri*. In 1962 Sleumer and I brought that same species back but also *R. maeagregorii*, *R. dianthosmum* and *R. aurigeranum*. They grew up fine and the first two species were flowering within 3 years. We also sent material to Edinburgh, Seattle and the Golden Gate Park in San Francisco.

Of course that cannot be compared with what Paul Kores did in 1976-1980. But the horticulturists were already sitting up when they saw the first New Guinea Rhododendrons in 1955 and 1962 and with Paul's material added all hell broke loose. And rightly so, the Rhododendrons coming out of that wild island deserved the attention they got.

Paul and I got together in 1976 and collected some more species which were subsequently sent overseas. By that time the first hybrids were produced and Paul and I found some most beautiful hybrids in the Victor Emanuel Mts., material of which was sent to Rhododendron growers in Australia, America and Europe. But it was really Paul's work that produced the Ericaceae chapter of my books "The Alpine Flora of New Guinea". I had my manuscript ready now about 12 years ago but asked Paul to revise the Rhododendron part, which he did with good results. So he really is the Rhododendron specialist and I am only a second rate Rhododendron specialist. But all the same I do accept the "Godfatherhood" of your Vireya group and I am sure that Paul will accept it too. I will try to help your group as much as I can, but I stated before Paul is the better man, but since he will move to Harvard it will not be easy for him to keep in contact.

I unfortunately do not have any copies of the Ericaceae extract of the Alpine Flora (the printer sent me only 5 copies, I still have to find out what happened to the other promised 5), but you can order it from Mr. J. Cramer, in den Springackern 2, D-3300 Braunschweig, West Germany. But you better hurry up as according to the reports there is quite a demand for the extract.

Enough for now. Glad to cooperate with you.

Pieter

Dr. Pieter van Royen, Dept of Botany  
B.P. Bishop Museum - P.O. Box 19000-A  
Honolulu, HI 96819

Latitude 21° 18' N

\* Thank you Pieter for sharing with us the history of the 1955 and 1962 expeditions with Dr. Sleumer to New Guinea. I do wonder how much of the original material is growing in cultivation. I have now obtained the Ericaceae extract of your "Alpine Flora of New Guinea" and the work that you and Paul have done certainly is very informative to us growers. If you see any serious errors in the balance of the Newsnote articles please send along a note with your comments.

FROM : Rev. Canon N. Cruttwell

December 27, 1982

I was delighted to get your letter and a copy of "Vireya Vine"-a delightful and original title, though I have yet to see a climbing Vireya Rhododendron! I am glad Judy Young put me in touch. I sent her an article on the rhododendrons of Mt. Gahavisuka recently for the Species Foundation Bulletin. Thanks for your appreciative remark about my articles. Of course I have written many more since 1974. I left the Daga in 1976 and came to Goroka where have been Rector till I retired early this year. Since then I have been creating this new Environmental Botanic Garden at Mt. Gahavisuka. Actually when you say 'in contrast to a trained botanist', this is not strictly true as I got my M at Oxford in Botany--a first class honours degree. So I suppose you might call me trained, though I have not pursued botanical career, until now. I have been a bush missionary for 30 years, and am now a Rector for 3 and am now a 'honorary assistant' to the parish, which means that, as we have no full time Rector as yet I am still doing perhaps 50% of the Parish work.

Up to now I have had no funds for the Botanic Garden, only my (native level) salary. But in 1983 I hope the Provincial Government will come up with funds. I have already applied to the Stanley Smith Horticultural Foundation for assistance, but have not had any reply as yet.

The access road is 3/4 built, but only to rough 4WD requirements. We hope to continue to upgrade it in 1983. At present I am planning collecting and cataloguing the native flora (15 varieties--species, hybrids or varieties) of *Vireya* and a very nice orange flora, not to mention all kinds of other plants. 2 spp. of Rhododendrons are as yet unidentified, a beautiful *Solenovireya* with curved tubular corollas, pink in tube, with white lobes, slender, and reddish shiny leaved shrub with bright rose pink straight tubular flowers. There is a delightful salmon pink hybrid between *R. maeagregorii* and *R. dielsianum*.

That's all for now. More later.

Yours very sincerely,  
Norman.

P.S. Too late to wish you a Merry Christmas but not too late (perhaps) to wish you a happy and successful and Vireaceous New Year. Will send you a fuller report of Mt. G.B.G. later.

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

Latitude 6° 2' S

\* Ah, Norman, you have the dream of every one of us who grows Vireyas, the perfect climate for their successful culture. You literally have to go out and beat them back to keep them in bounds. Please, in your next letter give us an insight into your climate--temperatures and rainfalls--as well as soil textures so we may get a better understanding of how they actually grow in their native habitats. Perhaps some one of the "Viners" will know of some other Horticultural Foundation you can turn to for assistance in your most unusual botanical garden undertaking.

FROM : John Rouse

January 2, 1983

Thanks for "Vireya Vine" No. 2, a great idea and no doubt much work for you and your team; a copy of No. 1 came to me recently via Bill Moyles. I have enclosed a list of possible additional Vireya Bufts and \$5.00 to assist with postage. Let me know if this is inadequate. I have some comments which, I expect, will end with a question.

I am growing a number of *R. saxifragoides* seedlings which came as seed CW Mt. Siluwe at 4000 M. by Paul Kores in 1976. They are very slow, have never flowered and don't appreciate the Melbourne summer weather. However, one rogue seedling in the batch is now over 18 inches tall, has flowered and been selfed. From its leaves and flowers it appears to be a natural *R. saxifragoides* hybrid. The F2 seedlings are also slow and have only recently been pricked out. Has, in fact, anyone flowered *R. saxifragoides* in cultivation and if so, what is the local climate like?

The oldest Vireya seed I have sown ranged from 3 to 3 1/2 years old and included *R. lochae* and some six hybrids. The fresh seed had been desiccated and stored at -20°C (-4°F): it was still viable and the seedlings had normal vigour. Seed of *R. lochae*, *R. konori*, *R. javanicum* and *R. christinae* desiccated and stored at +4°C (+39°F), I sowed successfully after 18 months. At high temperature and high humidity the life of Vireya seed collected fresh is less than 3 weeks. At high temperatures the life of the seed can be extended by desiccation. The life of Vireya pollen I do not know although I find it still viable after a year in storage at -20°C. What is the oldest pollen anyone has successfully?

I grow *R. kawakamii* v. *flaviflorum*. It has unusual characteristics. My largest plant was grafted onto "Fragrantissimum" in mid 1973 and is much more vigorous than the one grafted at the same time onto (*R. macgregoriae* X *R. lochae*) which is larger and more vigorous than on its own roots. I have tried a number of other Vireyas grafted onto "Fragrantissimum" but although they initially took, they failed because of incompatibility within a year. What successes or failures have others had in grafting Vireyas onto non-Vireya understock? I have not managed to successfully cross *R. kawakamii* either way with anything but itself. Capsules which I have developing at the moment are: (*R. retusum* X *R. kawakamii* v. *flaviflorum*), (*R. kawakamii* v. *flaviflorum* X *R. santapauli*), (*R. kawakamii* v. *flaviflorum* X *Kalmia latifolia*). The first of these, I expect will produce seed which contain no embryos and the other two is a matter of wait and see. Has anyone successfully crossed *R. kawakamii* with anything else?

I am endeavoring to grow some Vireya X Non-Vireya seedlings. If anyone wants to obtain seed I suggest as a first try Section Vireya X Section Pentanthera. My most promising cross so far is *R. retusum* x *R. nudiflorum* (now called I think *R. periclymenoides*) which has produced some seedlings 4 or 5 inches tall one year after sowing the seed and whose hybridity was confirmed by examination of the juvenile indumentum on the first foliage leaves. What success or failures have other Vireya Bufts had with Vireya X Non-Vireya or pollinations?

With best wishes for the success of your Newsletter.

Yours sincerely, John Rouse

Dr. John L. Rouse - House 6, Stonehaven Court  
Toorak, Victoria 3142, Australia

Latitude 37°7' S

\* Thank you John for the marvelous contribution. Did not Peter Sullivan once comment that he had trouble growing alpine species at Strybing Arboretum in San Francisco? Did he not say he had to grow them in hanging baskets under lath in an attempt to keep them cooler? Doesn't it reach below freezing many nights in their native habitat? I remember that the Ag Experiment Station in Puyallup, Washington, U.S.A. - not far from my home - once flowered the Arctic species *R. lapponicum* by putting it in a growth chamber where they could reproduce the chilling temperatures of its climatic cycle. In regards to your seed storing I always store my normal rhododendron species seeds in the "Butter Keeper" of my wife's refrigerator for up to 5 years or so but I never dreamed Vireya seeds could be stored after desiccation at near freezing temperatures.

How about it, the rest of you "Viners" out there, what are your experiences storing Vireya seeds and pollen? Your grafting experiences of Vireyas and *R. kawakamii* on non-Vireya Section understock are extremely interesting. Only a true plant lover would attempt what might previously have been thought to be "impossible". This reminds me of Hjalmer Larson, a nurseryman of Tacoma, Washington, U.S.A., telling me about 15 years ago that he was successfully grafting evergreen azaleas on lepidote rhododendrons.

Your successful Vireya X non-Vireya cross (*R. retusum* X *R. periclymenoides*) is very exciting. I see by the A.R.S. Journal that Peter Valder has also achieved Section X Section crosses with his (*R. moultmainense*--Section Choniastrum--X *R. simsii*--Section Tsutsutsi). Maybe Section Choniastrum X Vireya is possible? And what if Peter's hybrid could be used? The possibilities are endless!

We raise "Brilliant" (*ledum* X 'Elizabeth') and "Nosucheanum" (*R. williamsianum* X *Kalmia latifolia*) Lem. "Viners" those Australians have given us a challenge!!

FROM : Clifford E. Desch, Jr.

January 13, 1983

Thank you for sending me issue #2 of Vireya Vine. I don't know who submitted my name for your mailing list but I'm glad he/she did.

I have been growing rhododendrons since 1973 and have been a member of the Connecticut Chapter, A.R.S. for 9 years. During this time I have been President, Vice President (= Program Chairman), Secretary and, for the past 2 years, Book Chairman. My main interest is in hardy (and not so hardy in Mass.) species; I grow hybrids mostly for quicker landscaping results. During my ten years of growing rhododendrons I have had an up-and-down interest in Vireyas. First (up) when I visited Peter Sullivan in 1975 at the Strybing. He showed me the Vireyas in the greenhouse--wow, what flowers. And it looked so easy, as I recall they were growing in what appeared to be hard, baked mud in #10 cans. I then got some cuttings from friends in Conn. which rooted very easily--but growing them on, for me, was unproductive--they died. Even after some had begun blooming I couldn't seem to keep them for more than 2 or 3 years. They didn't grow vigorously either.

I didn't have a greenhouse and wintering in the house didn't seem to suit them (too dry?). David Leach's article in the N. Y. Times (Dec. 11, 1977) made them sound like easily grown house plants--but not for me. Summer growing is

easy. I set (in pots in the ground) them out under large pines in such a position that they get good air and sun (but not a lot of direct sun), and, basically, forget them. They don't grow as well as my weeds but they don't die either (although, *R. zoelleri* has failed me here also).

This summer I put up (finally) a Lord and Burnum (12.5' X 25') greenhouse (Dutch lite style) I've had stored, unassembled since 1975. Sometimes things take time. I grow, in addition to my few *Vireyas*, cacti and Chinese rhododendrons (*Maddenii*, etc.) in the greenhouse.

I keep the (lower) temperature at 36°F--mainly so I don't go broke paying for bottled gas. Cacti and rhododendrons together may sound weird but they do quite well as long as the former are kept very dry. All the plants, including the 7 species of *Vireyas*, look fine.

It was heartening to read in your Newsletter the letter from Dick Cavender. He has an impressive (to me) list of plants and grows them in a cool (35°- 40°F) greenhouse in the winter (as I do). I now feel I will have better luck in my own growing attempts and would like to try to expand my collection. Your interest group seems like a good vehicle by which to do this, however, my limited material prohibits sharing--so I'm not sure what I might give in order to receive (in terms of cuttings) what do you suggest?

Incidentally, I went to Edinburgh this past Sept. for one week to attend a conference at the University of Edinburgh. (I do research on parasitic mites). I had enough free time to visit the Botanic Garden 3 times. Through a friend there, Brinsley Burbidge, I was introduced to the Curator of the *Vireya* Collection, George Argent. They maintain a study collection (in pots) of about 200 species--amazing! (Dr. Argent does the "studying" but not the growing and didn't know the real "how to" details--or so he said). You might like to know, they don't have cultural success with all their plants either. They have a new, public greenhouse for tropical ericaceous plants where they grow a number of *Vireyas* (34 spp. by my count). All these seemed to be growing in peat blocks either in terraces or flush with floor level. One species in particular, *R. rarum*, seeds all throughout and has to be weeded out (but, I am sure, not thrown away). Although very few of the plants I saw at Edinburgh were blooming, they renewed my interest even more in *Vireyas*; further incentive to increase my meager collection (species only).

The species I have are: *R. aurigeranum*, *R. gracilentum*, *R. christiana* (from The R.S.F) *R. jasminiflora* 'Olinda form', *R. javanicum* and *R. laetum*. All plants are small and at this time, only the *R. lochae* has a flower bud (just one) Looking forward to *Vireya* Vine #3.

Sincerely, Clifford Desch

Clifford E. Desch, Jr.  
Mathews Rd. - Conway, Mass 01341

Latitude 42°30' N

\* Well, Clifford now that you have your greenhouse up and you are keeping it at a minimum of 36°F, by the reckoning of the letters that are coming in and our own experience here in Washington State, I think you are now limited to growing nearly all the known *Vireya* species and hybrids. Now is the time to buy another greenhouse to put your cacti in--ha ha. Dr. Argent's name you will find later on, added to our mailing list. Did you happen to see any of the New Guinea ericaceae such as *Gaultheria*, *Diplycosia*, *Vaccinium* or *Agapetes* growing in Edinburgh? Some of the larger flowered sorts might be interesting additions to the plant selection in a cool greenhouse like yours. I certainly had no knowledge of the number of species which Edinburgh grows in their collection. You never know, Clifford, with an empty greenhouse like yours you just might get packages in the mail filled with cuttings from other "Vinners".

FROM: Peter Sullivan

January 16, 1983

Thanks for your generosity; short range in sending me a copy of the Vine and long range for the inspiration and energy in taking this under wing. It is an effort that I have seen the necessity for for some time. According to my energy supply, I shall have some responses and initiating comments over the course of time.

As a starter, I note that botanic usage is causing some small trouble. The rule is that at least the letter *R.* should precede each mention of species or hybrid. Since the subject is only Rhododendrons in the Vine it would seem a taught interpretation of the rules. It would seem that for emphasis or clarification the *R.* should precede the species each time. In my mind the single quote mark (') surrounding or encasing the hybrid name will be clear enough designation. Possibly some academic mind may render something official, my only recommendation is that of a half-buttocked gardener.

Some indication of the trouble is that one of the correspondants mentioned that he had *R. triumphans*. This would indicate the species, which to my mind has never been collected, coming as it does from a back-woods area in Thailand or Vietnam. My money says that this man has *R. 'Triumphans'* one of the old Veitch hybrids that came into Strybing. My money further says that whoever passed this clone on to him was sloppy in labeling; he forgot to put the single quote marks on the name.

The small case letter is always used on designating species; there is an exception and that is when the species is built on a personal name such as in *Brookeanum*, named as it is after the famous white rajah of Borneo. In line with the subject, there is no clone named *R. 'Triumph'*. The name "Triumph--Strybing" of course is evidence of careless spelling. That designation means nothing. (Possibly that this improperly designated clone or cutting came from Strybing).

There is much I can do in straightening out records and general information. I believe that I will send notes to the correspondants and if they believe that the information merits it, they can pass it on to the Vine.

Best regards from San Francisco, Pete Sullivan

Peter Sullivan  
221 Richland Ave - San Francisco, CA 94110

Latitude 37°45' N

P.S. 'Pink Seedling' probably came from Strybing (Refer Conrad Selfors letter). This clone was on the benches at Strybing when I arrived in 1965. I've never had info on it. Obviously it is a selfed or crossed Veitch hybrid. P.S.S. I just had the inspiration, since I had the Strybing accession no. to phone the Arb. The first P.S. surmise is wrong. The clone came into Strybing with the main shipment of Veitch hybrids that arrived at the Arb. in 1962. There was no other information on their records. But there is the National Arb. #18206 on the card. If some one wishes, he or she can send that number back and see what is on the records there. It still stands however that the clone is either one of the Veitch hybrids or a derivative from the same.

\* Thank you Pete for your response. At least we know now that 'Pink Seedling' is probably a legitimate plant and we know where it came from in the U.S. Again thank you for all your years of faithfully promoting *Vireyas* here in the United States so that we may now come along and enjoy growing them. As you will see later on in the "Vireya Vine", the worldwide response is literally beyond belief.

FROM : J. Clyde Smith

January 18, 1983

Your Newsletter was of very great interest to me and I do hope to receive future copies of it. Vireyas are my major interest, in our climate they will be--one day--a good garden plant as are the evergreen azaleas here, but there is much to be learnt.

If I can assist in any way I shall be pleased to do that in regard to the Australian scene.

Last year I commenced a list of all named Vireya hybrids and forms of species. It is ----- incomplete but I shall send you a copy shortly--it has to be retyped. Perhaps it will serve as a starter, I will be able to fill in some gaps in March when we meet the National ----- (Aust. Rhodo. Socy) in Melbourne, but some more information is needed from U.S.A.

In regard to Triumphans this is a species from S. Annam (Sleumer Page 475) and also one of the old Veitch hybrids. Don Stanton had a magnificent bush of the hybrid--7' high X 5' approx. and in flower most of the year, under shade in the ground. It is one of the best reds.

In August the Australian Rhodo Society is organising another sightseeing collecting tour of Papua, New Guinea. Details are being finalized now, broadly it will be of 15 days duration mainly in the Highlands with a choice of two field trips (optional). Cost about \$2200 ex Sydney all inclusive. John Womersley will be leading the tour again and a few of us will be repeating the '81 experience. This tour should be better! We shall profit from our first experience.

Many Thanks, J. Clyde Smith

J. Clyde Smith - 15 Cassian St.  
Keiraville, NSW Australia 2500

Latitude 33°35' S

\* You may be correct, Clyde, under the proper climatic conditions Vireyas may just be better garden plants than evergreen azaleas. I look forward to your list of Vireya Hybrids--so I can try finding them. That "Triumphans" of Don Stanton's must be a beautiful sight in full bloom.

What excitement, a second tour for Vireyas in New Guinea with an experienced guide. If any of you "Viners" want to go, you had better write J. Clyde Smith and he can get you in touch with the sponsors in Australia. I apologize for the two words I could not decipher in the text of your letter, but my penmanship teacher in school must have been teaching me from a different textbook! I promise to do better next time.

FROM : Herbert Tucker

January 20, 1983

It's a pleasure to be a "Viner". Many thanks.

Problems here have been/are a) my colossal Vireya ignorance, no reference material, b) leaving seedlings care to others while traveling abroad, c) a sub-tropical climate, abundant summer heat, rain and humidity and d) ants. Visits with Pete Sullivan in S.F., Hugh Caldwell in Fla., letters from Carl Deul, Bill Moynier and Pete Schick in Calif., Swisher in Miami and especially, Arthur Headlam in Melbourne....are slowly easing "a". Stunning devaluations here have neatly taken care of "b". Trial and error, mistakes, potting mix/exposure experiments are solving "c". No solution for ants yet. Insecticides are washed by torrential rains; they're back before the last drops dry. Discarded ant bears, which are here, these being unsightly, unfriendly, incompatible with children and a little large for the garden.

Fellow "Viners" may be interested in the amazing viability of the 3 lots of Vireya cuttings I received :

# of Cuttings	From	Cuttings Struck Here In	Survivor %
8	San Francisco	21 days	50%
9	Dr.'s Inst, FL	22 days	75%
23	Los Angeles	19 days	67%

The last lot was air mailed here in a padded packet. Survivors also weathered ill-handling, the mail, a brisk climate change....and Sanitation officials eyes whose prime mission here is to destroy live plant material.

Am anxious to have other "Viners" experience with 1.) both species and hybrids withstanding 80's, 90's F. day and night summer temperatures, a 37" annual summer rainfall, a dry winter--with about 27 deg. F. our brief low. 2. potting and exterior mixes compatible with the above (I use straight pine needles, which decompose rapidly here). 3. Ant control.

Only 'Felicitas' and 'Vladimir Bokovski' (J.H. Mangles X R. laetum) have bloomed here, being my oldest cuttings. Most vigorous cuttings are 'Princess Alexandra', (R. laetum x R. phaeocephalum), R. christiana, (R. christiana x R. jasminiflorum), (R. christiana x R. macgregoriae). The above LA. cuttings were recently received. Most vigorous seedlings are (R. konori x R. zoelleri) (it thrives on heat, rain), R. macgregoriae F2, R. laetum and a R. laetum hybrid unknown parentage. There are others. They're too small for vigor opinions. Am anxious for R. konori and other crosses and species that will take this climate.

Have enclosed personal check covering postage....and from your southernmost "Viner"....un abrazo!

Herb Tucker

Herbert Tucker - Fermin Cariola 985  
Marcos Paz - 4107 - Tucuman - Argentina

Latitude 25°30' S

Well Herb, I see that you have solved problems a), b), and c), and all you need is to come with a solution for d) ants. What do you say out there--cannot anteaters be domesticated somehow, or a practical slug release or systemic ant insecticide be suggested for Herb to try?? About those cuttings--how long can Vireya cuttings be stored before striking and what percentage of rooting success have you buffs had?? How about Herb's other questions?

Your comments about your successful Vireya plants are most interesting--especially that the (R. konori x R. zoelleri) thrives on heat. I am much inclined to believe that lower elevation tropics need more heat than the high elevation tropics (refer to John Rouse's letter about R. saxifragoides). I have constructed some altitude versus temperature charts which I will put in another "Vireya Vine" soon.

You are our southernmost "Viner" in the American Continents! I hope I estimated your latitude correctly--but could not find your city on my map of Argentina--just Tucuman!

FROM : Bill Mearns

January 20, 1983

Thanks so much for copies of Vireya Vine. Its great that at last someone like yourself has taken up the challenge to bring together all who are interested in the beautiful vireyas. My first contact with them was when I was a post graduate some 50 years ago, then lost contact with them until 1960 when I came to Wollongong and met up with Don Stanton. When we started to experiment with various species and started to hybridise with R. lochae many of our first crosses ended up in the U.S.A. especially in California. Here in N.S.W. we don't have to worry about snow and frost so we grow them outside, either in pots or in the ground. Where the soil is well drained all we add is humus, manure, leaf mould or buzzed chips. Our mixture for pots is, 1 part by bulk of buzzed chips, 1 peat moss, 1 coke breeze,

perlite or sharp sand. Fertilizer used is (15 gallon) mixture, 1 lb. super, 1/2 lb. potash, 1 lb. gypsum. Nitrogen is given by way of liquid. I have one (R. lochae x R. mac) - has been in same tub for 16 years, its now 7 ft. high by approx. 5' wide and bushy, in Nov. it had 150 trusses of flowers. Enough of that, at present I have over 300 Vireyas, species and hybrids, most of the hybrids are our own, by that I mean, Don Stanton and mine. Haven't a list of all but next time I write will include it. Enclosed find some seed that should interest you. What you don't require yourself, share it around or give to Esther Berry for the seed bank. (R. konori x R. laetum), 4 different plants selfed, all excellent with 10 to 14, three inch flowers from primrose yellow to a golden yellow one with pink markings. All are highly perfumed, all are selfed. R. phaeochitum is a nice pink, selfed. R. zoelleri 'Island Sunset' collected in Goodenough Island is the best I've seen, again selfed. (R. konori x R. phaeopeplum) selfed is a nice pink 3" flowers will send more seed as it ripens. Have still a number of pods still to ripen.

Would you include another name in your list, he is the son of Don Stanton. David Stanton, 46 Parrish Av., Mt. Pleasant, N.S.W. 2519, Australia.

Again thanks, Bob and your co-starters, its great to know we are not the only ones interested. Was speaking with Dr. Peter Valder just before Christmas and he also thinks the same, and also Clyde Smith.

Yours, Bill Mearns

Bill Mearns - 155 New Mt. Pleasant Rd.  
Mt. Pleasant - N.S.W. 2519 - Australia

Latitude 33°15' S

\* Nice to hear from you Bill. Do you really mean "a post graduate 50 years ago"? Edinburgh? Thank you for your culture comments. It dispels rumors that Vireyas should not be fertilized--"because they are epiphytes"--someone said a while back in a conversation. Do you buffs in Australia notice Vireya plants dying of "Root Rots"--phytophthora, pythiums, etc. if the soil drains poorly? Your potting mix certainly seems to be a well drained mix, that permits air (oxygen) circulation through the media.

What a glorious sight that (R. lochae x R. macgregoriae) must be in bloom! I look forward to your lists. I have shared your seeds with other buffs--locally and by mail. Thank you for your nice comments about the "Vireya Vine".

FROM : Hugh A. Caldwell

January 23, 1983

Thanks for the Vireya Vine, and I'm sending something to help with the cost of postage.

I'll be cutting back the Vireyas in a few weeks (February) and at this time taking cuttings or will leave cuttings. I would like to exchange cuttings, or rooted cuttings with some of the Viners. I have Hybrids to exchange, and I would like to get some species (big leaf), the dwarf species don't like our weather. The small leaf won't grow here. After the species become a Hybrid we have no trouble. (I can't explain this problem). I have put in R. gracilentum and R. rarum, and both have passed on.

I'm also sending a copy of a report that I wrote for the Southern California Chapter about the Vireyas (this is for your files). Also a list of Hybrids and Species that we have in Florida. Some of the plants are still small.

I would like to know if anyone has any of the "Winter-Higgins collection" of the Vireyas? Does anyone have the numbers of the plants of the "Winter-Higgins collection"? I would like to get some plants, and also a copy of the numbers of the plants of the Winter-Higgins.

Bob, we are too cold to put any of the Vireyas outside. Maybe a very large plant would make it on the south side of a home.

If anyone is interested in the cuttings please let me know. I'm very interested in the species. I'm hoping to get some crosses started after I find some good species for this area to work with.

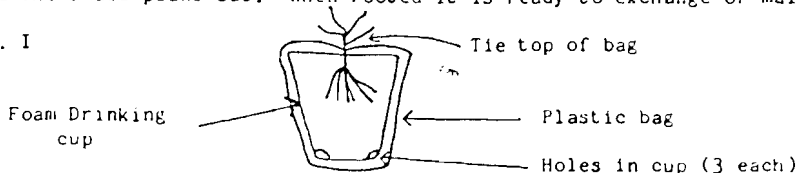
Sincerely, Hugh A. Caldwell

Latitude 40°1' N

List of Hybrids : (R. laetum x R. javanicum), (R. aurigeranum x R. laetum), (R. phaeopeplum x R. leucogigas), 'George Budgen', (R. christinae x R. macgregoriae), (R. laetum x R. zoelleri), (R. lochae x R. javanicum), ('Pink Delight' x R. jasminiflorum), (R. macgregoriae x R. aurigeranum) x Dr. Sleumer, (R. macgregoriae x R. aurigeranum) x R. zoelleri, 'Cristo Rey', 'Pink Delight', (R. laetum x R. leucogigas), ('Pink Delight' x R. jasminiflorum) x R. koneri, (R. konori x R. zoelleri), (R. aurigeranum x R. magregoriae), (R. zoelleri x R. lochae) x (R. laetum x R. zoelleri), 'Sebastian', (R. zoelleri x R. laetum), 'Red Prince' and (R. aurigeranum x 'Dr. Sleumer').

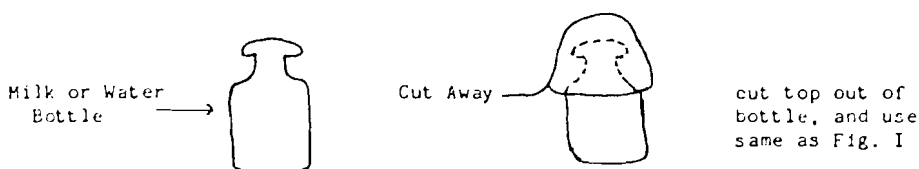
NOTE : I find the cost of materials are getting out of hand. I find this to be very good. Go to your school lunch room or trash can, and find the styrafoam drinking cups. This is very good for putting cuttings in and you can send the small plant out. When rooted it is ready to exchange or mail out. See below.

Fig. I



The plastic bag will supply water for plants while in route to new location

Fig. II Take small plastic milk or water bottle



The above note is very cheap, and very little trouble

(Editor's Note) The following excerpts are from the above mentioned report which Hugh wrote for the Southern California Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society :

Climate : We have a lot of sunshine and long hot days and nights during the Summer (typical daytime high of 89 ; nighttime temp. of 71 ). We have a lot of nighttime fog and damp air in general. Spring and Fall are beautiful with many warm days. The Winter is about 3 months long and we have about 32 days during which temperatures drop below freezing.

Exposure : I keep the Malaysians out in the open air most of the time. I let the plants take all the weather outside, except during Winter. I keep the plants outside in the Fall until the nights start getting cold (not freezing). If the plants get some cold nights they will set some beautiful buds, and the bloom color is very good. In Winter the plants are kept in a spare room (pending completion of my greenhouse). The temperature in this room is about 65-68 F with all the light I can give them. I don't want too much Winter growth; I don't try to obtain higher temperatures. Let the plants rest or sleep a few months each year and you will have better plants and blooms. We use pumped, heated ground water to heat this room.

Shade : We have some big pines and oaks in the yard. I keep the Malaysians under the oaks. I find that the high shade is what they like best. I also find that they need afternoon shade. Morning sunshine is needed to make growth and buds.

\* Your second letter, Hugh--great! I note you are having poor success with the dwarf species as does John Rouse in Australia. That all points to the problem--as I see it--that we Vireya buffs must join together and note our failures as well as our successes and relate them to the climates we are trying to grow them in. Are all Vireya species compatible in all climates--experience has shown otherwise with other Sections in Rhododendron over the years--only the horticultural experiences of all Vireya buffs will give the answers.

Can any "Viner" inform Hugh about the "Winter-Higgins Collection"?

Most of us think of Florida, U.S.A., as a land of sunblest beaches and palm trees, so I thought it appropriate to print the above notes about his Climate, Exposure and Shade for all to share. Very interesting, Hugh, especially your comment, "If the plants get some cold nights they will set some beautiful buds, and the bloom color is very good" Do you other "Viners" have this same experience?

FROM : Dave Goheen

January 26, 1983

Thanks for putting me on your Vireya mailing list. I don't grow a large number, but do have the following Kinabalu species : *R. fallicinum*, *R. lowii*, *R. rugosum*, *R. suaveolens*, *R. nervulosum* and *R. Brookeanum*.

I had a fine plant of *R. stenophyllum*, but it gave up the ghost this winter. The best collection of Vireyas that I have seen are those shared by Evan Robinson and Arne Jensen down on the Oregon coast near Yachats. Evan lives at the garden that he has created near Bob's Creek, about five miles south of Yachats. He is still going strong at the age of eighty-nine. Maybe he will out live all of us. I guess he is a testimonial for the value of growing rhododendrons, and, particularly, Vireyas.

I am enclosing some seeds that I recently received from Bill Mearns who lived near Don Stanton in Wollongong, NSW. Perhaps you or your colleagues who grow Vireya hybrids might be interested in these. They are apparently from the selfing of some blooms of crosses of (*R. konori* x *R. laetum*).

Keep up the good work and if you want to contact Evan Robinson, his address is : F.E.M. Robinson - Box 05420 Hwy 101 - Yachats, Oregon 97498.

Sincerely, Dave

Dr. David Goheen

P. O. Box 826 - Camas, WA 98607

Latitude 45° 35' N

\* Dave, I am pleased to learn that you are growing all those species of Vireyas from Mt. Kinabalu in Sabah (Borneo). Your well written article in the last AFS Journal about your climb with Frank Mossman to the summit of Mt. Kinabalu was informative and well illustrated with color photographs of our favorites--Vireya Rhododendrons. It joins recent previous articles on Mt. Kinabalu by Frank Doleshey and Keith Wade and helps to excite amateurs to the challenge of growing these plants that have such beautiful flowers. I do not know which other "Viners" may have been there also, and written about it.

FROM : John Simpson

January 26, 1983

I'm writing a short note to say how pleased and surprised I was to receive the "Vireya Vine" a few days ago. I thank Peter Schick for including me on his mailing list.

Right now I am just getting started with seedlings (seeds courtesy of Peter Schick and Stan Eversole). There are many vigorous ones coming along. Will report more on results later. Enclosed \$5.00 U.S.

Sincerely, John Simpson

John Simpson - Apartado 336 - Pavas

San Jose, Costa Rica, Cod. 1200 - Centroamerica

Latitude approx. 9° 50' N

\* You may be just "getting started" as you say, but just look at all the fellow Vireya collectors and growers you have now. Latitudinally speaking--9° 50' North--should offer superb growing conditions. Best of luck to you and your new seedlings! If you need more help--write and ask--someone of the "Viners" may know the answer.

FROM : F. E. M. Robinson

January 28, 1983

Issue No. 2 of the Vireya Vine has come to me thanks to a suggestion made to you by friend Dr. Arne Jensen and am delighted with it. Please delete the Dr. from my name and in writing to me it would be better to use my three initials as per sticker above. True enough my name is Evan and my friends call me that and you may certainly do so yourself.

Very briefly I am a Canadian, have been a farmer and Rancher all my life and my handicap is age for I shall be ninety come June and feel myself to be failing in many respects. I came down from Alberta twenty-three years ago and took up rhododendron growing as a passtime. This little place of an acre and a half is on the Coast Highway and is sound of the surf. Problems of high winds and salt air have been controlled and I now have seven or eight hundred species and varieties of which about 80 are Vireyas.

Some of us would like to support your effort and I enclose my check for a start. Cutting material and other plants are available here, free of course, but at my age I cannot undertake shipping. This place is 5 1/2 miles south of Yachats. I see many contributors give their latitude and this would be about 44° 15'.

I don't suppose you have any copies left of No. 1 but perhaps you might run off a few copies so that our set would be complete.

Just for a teaser I have flowered *R. stenophyllum* twice which as far as I can learn has not been done before. Now congratulations and good luck and Let's Go.

Sincerely, F.E.M. Robinson

F. E. M. Robinson - Box 05420 Hwy 101  
Yachats, OR 97498

Latitude 44° 15' N

\* Evan, you say "about 80 species and hybrids of Vireyas", and then you tease us with "I have flowered *R. stenophyllum* twice which as far as I can learn has not been done before". Peter Schick says you have also flowered *R. superbum*! Your Vireya collection must be well taken care of. Fellow "Viners" he would like Vireya buffs to visit him on their way along the Oregon Coast, U.S.A. Rhododendrons must be a superb retirement project. Thank you for your notes.

FROM : John Swisher

January 29, 1983

"Vireya Vine" is a great idea. Thanks.

Enclosed is my current list, excluding small or iffy items. Also you will find some information on the Veitch hybrids and related cultivars brought in from Kew, by the USDA (1), which may help with some of your questions.

There is quite a bit of confusion in the labeling, specifically -

1. 'Ne Plus Ultra', 'Pink Delight', 'Princess Alexandra', and 'Red Prince' are not '*X balsamiflorum*.' There was a series of '*balsamaeflorum*' Veitches, but they were full doubles (2) and died out long ago.

2. 'Pink Delight' appears to be the same as 'Taylori', a true Veitch hybrid. There is an elepidote hybrid named 'Pink Delight', however. Could the labels have gotten mixed up?

3. '*R. longiflorum*', P.I. 257475, was renamed '*R. brookeanum* var. *gracile*' after reaching these shores, and distributed under the latter name by the National Arboretum. Unfortunately, neither is correct (3).

The parentages of 'Chlorinda', 'Pink Seedling', 'Red Prince', and 'Sir George Holford' are not given, nor are these cultivars listed by Henslow (2) or Rehder (4).

Both authors mention 'Triumphans', however, and it is reported to have been saved to cultivation by the late Don Stanton, who found it "in a declining state of health" among orchids in a Sydney glasshouse (5).

Coincidentally, it happens that there is also a true species, *R. triumphans*, allied to *R. brookeanum* and one of two vireyas endemic to Vietnam (6).

A similar but more obscure homonymy exists between 'Amabile', an extinct Veitch hybrid, and *R. amabile* (7) from Sulawesi.

The Veitches I have tried in subtropical Florida have grown well, but with the exception of 'Princess Alexandra' they have been shy to flower. As far as hybridizing is concerned, I regard them as dead ends, whatever their historical interest.

Cultural details and the rest I'll skip for now.

Yrs., John

John Swisher - 3656 Palmetto Ave.  
Miami, FL 33133

Latitude 25° 7' N

#### References & Notes

- (1) Plant Inventory (xeroxes enclosed).
- (2) Henslow, J. Roy. Bot. Soc., 1891, p-256.
- (3) See discussion in my 'ARS Bulletin' article (33, 1979, p-181).
- (4) Bailey's Cyclopaedia, 2nd ed., p-2933.
- (5) Craven, L.A., 'The Rhododendron 12' (1973), p-10
- (6) Mentioned briefly in Sleumer's 'Account', p-475. There is a 'Flora' of Indochina, in French of course, in which there are further details.
- (7) *R. amabile* is #124, p-559 in Sleumer's 'Account'; 'Amabile', according to Henslow (p-266), was a seedling of ('Princess Alexandra' x *R. javanicum*).

#### Well-established Vireyas - September 1982

A. Species - 1. *R. aurigeranum* (USDA, 3 P.I.'s, Strybing 4-star, Rouse form, Withers form), 2. *R. brookeanum* (Bako, Sarawak, seaside Bukit Jebong, Sarawak, 1,100', Bako form x Mt. Kinabalu form), 3. *R. christiana* (Strybing), 4. *R. crassifolium* (Mt. Kinabalu), 5. *R. herzogii* (Rouse/Withers), 6. *R. loranthiflorum* (Rouse/Withers), 7. *R. orbiculatum* (Rouse/Withers), 8. *R. zoelleri* (M.Black form, Baiyer River form), 9. sp., red-flowered (Bako, Sarawak, growing on rock in S. China Sea) Off the record, this is almost certainly *R. longiflorum*, although it doesn't look like anything I know of cultivated under the name, including collections from the Malayan Peninsula. The enclosed photo does injustice to the deeply saturated red hue.

B. Primary Hybrids - 1. (*R. aurigeranum* x *R. brookeanum*) Kinabalu form, 2. (*R. aurigeranum* x *R. laetum*), 3. (*R. aurigeranum* x *R. macgregoriae*), 4. (*R. christiana* x *R. aurigeranum*), 5. (*R. christiana* x *R. jasminiflorum*), 6. (*R. javanicum* x *R. zoelleri* 'Island Sunset'), 7. (*R. konori* x *R. laetum*), 8. (*R. laetum* x *R. leucogigas*), 9. (*R. leucogigas* 'gardenia aff.' x *R. aurigeranum*), 10. (*R. lochae* x *R. aurigeranum*), 11. (*R. lochae* x *R. phaeocephalum*) = 'Kurt Adler', 12. (*R. lochae* x *R. pseudonitens*), 13. (*R. lochae* x *R. zoelleri* 'Island Sunset'), 14. (*R. zoelleri*, Artenang form, x *R. leucogigas*).

C. Complex Hybrids - 1. ('Sir George Holford' x *R. leucogigas*), 2. ('Triumphans' x *R. leucogigas*) 2 forms.

D. Named Cultivars - 1. 'Aravir', 2. 'Agnes'.

John sends along these USDA Plant Introduction Numbers of Vireyas from R.B.G., Kew, received May 6, 1959 :

#257473 - *R. jasminiflorum*, #257474 - 'Chlorinda' (Javanese hybrid. Unknown parentage), #257475 - *R. longiflorum*, #257476 - 'Ne-Plus-Ultra' (*R. x balsamaeflorum* Veitch), #257477 - 'Pink Delight' (*R. x balsamaeflorum* Veitch) (Javanese hybrid. Parentage unknown), #257478 - 'Princess Alexandra' (*R. x balsamaeflorum* Veitch) (*R. jasminiflorum* x 'Princess Royal'), #257479 - 'Red Prince' (*R. x balsamaeflorum* Veitch) (Javanese hybrid. Parentage unknown), #257480 - *R. retusum*, #257481 - 'Taylori' Veitch (*R. brookeanum* x 'Princess Alexandra'), #257482 - 'Ne Plus Ultra' (*R. x balsamaeflorum* Veitch), Received from Kew October 8, 1960; #268482 - *R. lochae*, #268483 - *R. multicolor*, #268484 - 'Ne Plus Ultra' (*R. x balsamiflorum* Veitch), #268485 - *R. x 'Taylori'* Veitch. Received March 22, 1961 from Kew - #273265 - 'Pink Seedling', #273266 - 'Princess Royal', #273267 - 'Sir George Holford', #273268 - 'Souvenir de J. H. Rangles' (*R. x balsamiflorum* Veitch).

He also sent along a photocopy from a page of the "Journal" of the R.H.S., 1891 (J. Henslow), showing a drawing of a fully double flowered rhododendron truss labeled R. Balsamaeflorum carneum. The quick description tells how "Mr. Heal, Mr. Veitch's assistant, who has raised all these hybrids and crosses, observed a single flower in a certain truss on a plant of the second generation to have one anther only, slightly petaloid. He impregnated the pistil of the flower with pollen from the other anthers of the same flower; this process being thus strict self-fertilisation. About twenty seedlings were raised, which now constitute the Balsamaeflorum section.

It would, I think, be incorrect to say that self-fertilisation in this case was a cause of doubling, but that it enabled and encouraged the tendency to petalody to be intensified. For, on the contrary, whenever a member of this group has been crossed with a true species, or one of the crosses raised from the seven species, the results were always normal".

\* John, may I thank you for the information about the Veitch hybrids and related cultivars brought in from Kew by the USDA. (John sent photocopies of all his references which are available to any "Viner" who requests them, from me, the Editor, to use for references). John sent a fine Christmas card photo--in full color--of a red Vireya species (his #9 on his list) labeled : " R. longiflorum. From a rock, about 8' above the South China Sea; Sarawak, Malaysia (Borneo)". It has some 8 flowers in the truss. John, it is interesting R. longiflorum, P.I. 257475 was renamed R. brookeanum var. gracile and distributed under that name. Your final note about the Veitchs, will, I am sure, generate some responses. Many thanks for your research to answer the questions raised earlier.

FROM : J. Clyde Smith

January 28, 1983

The enclosed list of Vireya names that I promised to send to you has been compiled from various sources, mainly personal notes from Peter Schick in particular, and from friends here in Australia; also from the R.H.S. annual listing of registrations.

The names under the parentage refer first to the Breeder if known, the second name is that of the person named the plant. The date refers to the R.H.S. yearbook date of publication. There are some names listed that are per registration.

The list of Veitch hybrids has been taken from "Hortus Veitchii", from an old book "Present Day Gardening" and from those hybrids that are known in cultivation here.

Further information will be forwarded as available, the list at this stage is no more than a starting point. If you can fill any gaps I would appreciate that knowledge.

Sincerely, J. Clyde Smith

J. Clyde Smith - 15 Cassian St.  
Keiraville, NSW 2500 - Australia

Latitude 33° 35' S

(Editor's Note: Breeder's name, etc. as mentioned above, will follow the parentage and are underlined)

# NAMED VIREYA HYBRIDS

'AGNES'	(R. konori x ('Pink Delight' x R. jasminiflorum)) - <u>Moynier</u>
'ANASTASIA'	(R. wrightianum x (R. konori x R. laetum)) - <u>Sullivan</u>
'ANDRE SAKAROV'	((R. zoelleri x R. macgregoriae) x zoelleri) - <u>Sullivan</u>
'ANGI GITA'	<u>Lelliott / Cutten</u>
'ARAVIR'	(R. konori x ('Pink Delight' x R. jasminiflorum)) - <u>Moynier</u>
'ARTHUR'S CHOICE'	(R. christianae x R. lochae) F2 - <u>Clancy</u>
'BELISAR'	((R. laetum x R. zoelleri) x zoelleri) - <u>Sullivan / Moynier</u> 1981
'BERNADETTE'	(R. loranthiflorum x R. konori) - <u>Sullivan</u>
'BULOLO GOLD'	(R. macgregoriae x R. aurigeranum <u>Lelliott / Cutten</u> 1981
'CAIR PAVAREL'	((('Triumphans' x R. javanicum) x R. leucogigas) - <u>Sullivan / Moynier</u>
'CALAVER'	(R. konori x R. zoelleri) - <u>Moynier</u>
'CARILLON BELLS'	(R. gracilentum x R. laetum) - <u>Withers / Snell</u>
'CARMEL'	((('Dr. Herman Sleumer' x 'Pink Delight') x R. konori) - <u>Moynier</u>
'CLEMENT'	((R. laetum x (R. lochae x R. macgregoriae)) x R. javanicum - <u>Sullivan</u>
'CORAL FLARE'	(R. lochae x R. laetum) - <u>Snell</u>
'CRISTO REY'	((R. laetum x R. zoelleri) x (R. macgregoriae x R. zoelleri)) - <u>Sullivan</u>
'CLIPSIE'	('Dr. Sleumer' x ('Pink Delight' x R. jasminiflorum))
'CORAL'	('Island Sunset' x R. lochae)
'DECIMUS'	form of R. zoelleri - <u>van Steen</u> 1973
'DONALD STANTON'	(R. lochae x R. laetum - <u>Stanton / Kew</u> 1978
'Donald Stanton'	(R. laetum x R. macgregoriae) - <u>Stanton / Allen</u> 1981
'DOWN UNDER'	form of R. lochae - <u>Windsor</u> 1981
'DR. HERMAN SLEUMER'	(R. phaeocephalum x R. zoelleri) - <u>Lelliott</u> 1972
'DR. EVANS'	(R. lochae x R. zoelleri)
'ELSIE LOUSIA'	form of R. macgregoriae - <u>Gorer</u> 1977
'EMMAUEL'	((R. zoelleri x R. javanicum) x 'Dr. Herman Sleumer') - <u>Sullivan</u>
'FELICITAS'	('Nancy Miller Adler' x R. konori) - <u>Schick</u>
'FELINDA'	((R. phaeocephalum x R. lochae) x R. leucogigas) - <u>Sullivan / Moynier</u>
'GEORGE BUDGEN'	(R. laetum x R. zoelleri) - <u>Lelliott / Strybing / Pollard</u> 1977
'GOLDEN GATE'	form of R. zoelleri - <u>Strybing</u> 1972
'GOLDEN GLORY'	(R. laetum x R. aurigeranum) - <u>Snell</u>
'IAONE'	((R. laetum x R. zoelleri) x (R. macgregoriae x R. zoelleri)) - <u>Moynier</u>
'IKIAN JIMA'	<u>Cutten</u>
'ISLAND SUNSET'	form of R. zoelleri - <u>Stanton</u> 1973
'JEAN BAPTISTE'	((R. laetum x R. leucogigas) x R. phaeocephalum) - <u>Sullivan</u>
'JOHN HENRY'	('Dr. Herman Sleumer' x R. leucogigas) - <u>Sullivan</u>
'KERRIGAN'	(R. laetum x 'Souvenir de J.H. Mangles')
'KINABALU MANDARIN'	form of R. brookeanum - <u>Allen</u>
'KURT HERBERT ADLER'	(R. phaeocephalum x R. lochae) - <u>Lelliott / Strybing</u> 1974



'LADY DI'	(R. christiana x R. jasminiflorum) - <u>Snell</u>
'LOCHMIN'	(R. lochae x R. jasminiflorum) - <u>Lelliot</u> / <u>Cutten</u> 1981
'LOMAC'	(R. lochae x R. macgregoriae)
'LOU SEARLE'	(R. macgregoriae x R. dielsianum)
'MARSHALL PIERCE MADISON'	((('Triumphans' x R. javanicum) x R. leucogigas) - <u>Sullivan</u>
'MOONWOOD'	(R. konori x ('Pink Delight' x R. jasminiflorum)) - <u>Moynier</u>
'MOUNT PIRE'	(R. laetum x R. javanicum) - <u>Stanton</u> / <u>Moynier</u> 1981
'MIKE THOMAS'	((('Triumphans' x R. javanicum) x R. leucogigas)
'NARNIA'	(R. aurigeranum x R. zoelleri) - <u>Lelliot</u> / <u>Moynier</u> 1978
'NANCY MILLER ADLER'	('Pink Delight' x R. jasminiflorum)
'ORIENTAL ORANGE'	
'PASCHAL WITNESS'	(R. konori x 'Dr. Herman Sleumer') - <u>Sullivan</u>
'PENRICE'	('Pink seedling' x R. aurigeranum) - <u>Stanton</u> / <u>Smith</u>
'PENGLOW'	(R. laetum x R. javanicum)
'PENDANCE'	(R. christiana x R. jasminiflorum) - <u>Smith</u>
'PETRA'	(R. christiana x R. jasminiflorum) - <u>Lelliot</u> / <u>Allen</u> 1979
'PINDI PEACH'	(R. laetum x R. konori) - <u>Lelliot</u> / <u>Cutten</u> 1981
'PINDI PEARL'	(R. laetum x R. konori) - <u>Lelliot</u> / <u>Cutten</u> 1981
'PINK CREEPER'	
'ROBERT WITHERS'	(R. christiana x R. aequabile) - <u>Withers</u> / <u>Snell</u>
'SAN GABRIEL'	((R. macgregoriae x R. aurigeranum) x 'Dr. Herman Sleumer') - <u>Sullivan</u>
'SANTA LUCIA'	
'SEBASTIAN'	('Chlorinda' x R. zoelleri)
'SEMPER FIDELIS'	((R. laetum x R. leucogigas) x R. konori) - <u>Sullivan</u>
'SHASTA'	
'SIRUNKI ORANGE'	form of R. macgregoriae - <u>Black</u> 1970
'SWEET MAC'	(R. inconspicuum x R. macgregoriae) - Natural hybrid - <u>Snell</u>
'SWEET WENDY'	(R. laetum x R. phaeocephalum) - <u>Withers</u>
'TASHBAAN'	((('Sir George Holford' x R. leucogigas) x R. aurigeranum) - <u>Sullivan</u> / <u>Moynier</u> 1981
'TEREBINTHIA'	('Dr. Herman Sleumer' x 'Pink Delight') - <u>Lelliot</u> / <u>Moynier</u> 1981
'THOMAS BECKET'	((R. zoelleri x R. lochae) x R. zoelleri) x (R. aurigeranum x R. zoelleri) - <u>Sullivan</u>
'TIFFANY ROSE'	('Taylori' x R. leptanthum) - <u>Strybing</u> / <u>Snell</u>
'TITAN'	form of R. brookeanum - <u>Allen</u> 1972
'TROPIC SUMMER'	(R. aurigeranum x R. macgregoriae) - <u>Snell</u>
'TROPIC FANFARE'	(R. javanicum x R. lochae) - <u>Snell</u>
'VALENTINE'	(R. gracilentum x R. lochae) - <u>Sullivan</u>
'VLADIMIR BUKOWSKY'	('Souvenir de J.H. Mangles' x R. laetum) - <u>Sullivan</u>
'WENDY'	('Island Sunset' x R. lochae)
'YURI ORLOV'	((R. zoelleri x R. macgregoriae) x R. zoelleri) - <u>Sullivan</u>

# SOME VEITCH HYBRIDS

'AURORA'	('Crown Prince of Germany' x R. javanicum)
'Chlorinda' *	
'CROWN PRINCE OF GERMANY'	('Princess Royal' x R. brookeanum)
'DUCHESS OF CONNAUGHT'	(R. lobbii x R. brookeanum)
'DUCHESS OF EDINBURGH'	(R. lobbii x R. brookeanum)
'DUCHESS OF TECK'	('Princess Royal' x R. brookeanum)
'EXCELSIOR'	('Princess Royal' x R. javanicum)
'EXQUISITE'	(R. javanicum x R. teysmannii)
'FAVOURITE'	('Princess Alexandra' x R. javanicum)
'JASMINIFLORUM CARMINATUM'	(R. jasminiflorum x R. javanicum)
'KING EDWARD VII'	(R. javanicum x R. teysmannii)
'MAIDENS BLUSH'	('Princess Alexandra' x 'Duchess of Edinburgh')
'MONARCH'	('Princess Alexandra' x 'Duchess of Edinburgh')
'MRS. HEAL'	('Princess Beatrice' x R. multicolour)
'LITTLE BEAUTY'	('Monarch' x R. malayanum)
'LOBBII'	form of R. longiflorum
'LORD WOLESLEY'	('Duchess of Teck' x R. javanicum)
'NE PLUS ULTRA' *	
'PINK DELIGHT' *	
'PINK SEEDLING' *	
'PRINCESS ALEXANDRA' *	(R. jasminiflorum x 'Princess Royal')
'PRINCESS BEATRICE'	('Duchess of Edinburgh' x 'Princess Alexandra')
'PRINCESS CHRISTIAN'	('Princess Frederica' x R. javanicum)
'PRINCESS FREDERICA'	('Princess Royal' x R. brookeanum)
'PRINCESS ROYAL'	(R. jasminiflorum x R. javanicum)
'PRESIDENT'	('Crown Prince of Germany' x R. javanicum)
'PRINCE LEOPOLD'	(R. lobbii x R. brookeanum)
'QUEEN VICTORIA'	(R. lobbii x R. brookeanum)
'RED PRINCE' *	
'RUBY'	('Jasminiflorum Carminatum' x R. multicolour)
'SIR GEORGE HOLFORD' *	
'SOUVENIR de J.H. MANGLES' *	('Crown Prince of Germany' x R. javanicum)
'TAYLORI'	('Princess Alexandra' x R. brookeanum)
'TEYSMANII' *	form of R. javanicum
'TRIUMPHANS' *	

Note : \* in cultivation

\* What can I say--a marvelous "labor of love" for Vireyas. I have never known of such a listing of modern named Vireya Rhododendron hybrids and species forms. Now, where are they being grown? We "Viners" are greatly indebted to your efforts, Clyde.

Any listing of all the Veitch hybrids and noting those still "known in cultivation" sparks the search for those oldtimers believed lost. This leads, of course, to a list of Vireya rhododendron species known to be in cultivation around the world. Has anyone out there along the "Vine" any thoughts or lists of species from their areas? Again, Clyde, I thank you for sharing your lists with all of us.

FROM : Esther Berry

February 1, 1983

Thanks for the last issue of the "Vine". It's fun!

I really meant to send some postage money before but just hadn't got around to it.

I've just got to get some new supplies of Vireya species; I must start beating the bush. Keep up the good work!

Esther

Esther Berry - 617 Fairway Dr.

Aberdeen, WA 98520

Latitude 47° 0' N

\* Esther, you have certainly been faithful, here in the U.S. and overseas, in promoting the exchange of Vireya seeds. Send her U.S. \$1.00 for a packet and a self-addressed envelope and list your choice of Vireya seeds desired--species or hybrids or both--and she will send you seeds as she receives them from contributors. If you wish to send her Vireya seeds, she will send them to anyone in the world who requests them. Thank you, Esther.

FROM : Hideo Suzuki

February 2, 1983

A couple of weeks ago I received, with many thanks, "Vireya Vine" which you so kindly sent to me. It is a very interested "News Letter" to those who grow vireyas. On the other hand, it will be a lot of trouble and effort for you to take care of such a project.

It is my honor and pleasure that I was selected as one of those who were authorized to receive the copy. Enclosed are the international postages you might be able to use when you mail me the copies.

Thank you again.

Sincerely, Hideo

Hideo Suzuki - 2-8-36, Sakur a-cho, Kumagaya  
Saitama-ken, 360, Japan

Latitude 35° 50' N

\* I am so very pleased that you received the "Vine" Hideo and I hope you will enjoy the future issues. May all of your Vireya rhododendrons bloom well this year.

FROM : Bill Jenkins

February 3, 1983

Thanks for the copy of your Vireya Vine.

It is a wonderful idea. There is great need for such a publication.

The average man on the street in L.A. wouldn't know a vireya from a pineapple, and it gets lonely. It's nice to learn that so many out there have similar interests.

If I continue to hear from you, will send money for postage for me, and for a few others.

Keep up the good work.

Bill Jenkins

Latitude 34° N

\* Bill sent along a copy of a Newsletter of the Southern California Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society. They meet in Los Angeles, California, U.S.A. Their February program was on Vireya Rhododendrons. I would like to quote from two parts of their Newsletter "Bill Moynier was talking about Vireya pollen and hybridizing :

a) Pollen will keep 2 or 3 years. If you want a pure cross, take pollen from a bud just before it opens, thereby avoiding contamination by bees, wind, or dripping. Dry pollen in the refrigerator for a few days, then store in a jar with dessicant and cotton, then freeze. Vireya pollen will stay viable, if frozen, for at least a year. The next, most important, step is to tag the cross - without delay. Bill uses florist wire, aluminum tape, and writes indelible ink which will last a year. Cold weather inhibits. Therefore bring the parent plant into the house if it is cold. In 24 hours, the pollen will travel down the style. When the fertile pod splits, harvest the tiny, dust like seed.

To avoid unwanted crossing, pull the petals off your prospective female flower as soon as it opens. With vireya seed, 5-6 weeks is the limit of viability.

b) List of plant sale of rooted cuttings - Note the complex parentages that Bill Moynier has developed here :

( 'Shasta' x (R. konori x 'Dr. Sleumer'))

R. javanicum x 'Triumphans' x (R. zoelleri x R. aurigeranum x R. javanicum)

'Shasta' (sister seedling)

R. zoelleri x R. aurigeranum x R. brookeanum

'Shasta' x 'Narnis' x R. zoelleri x R. javanicum x 'Dr. Sleumer' x R. javanicum

('Moonwood' x 'Santa Lucia')

R. lochae

('Carabintha' x R. javanicum)

(R. laetum x R. lochae)

(R. leucogigas x 'Red Prince')

FROM : Graham L. S. Snell

February 8, 1983

I am in receipt of the 2nd issue of the Vireya Vine. My word, you certainly have started something there. Many thanks indeed, and I just hope it does not get too big to handle.

My first reaction was to mail you \$10.00 (U.S.) to cover costs and insure your continued use of air mail, since surface mail would be too slow for efficient exchange of ideas, etc. However, having talked it over with one or two other recipients, it probably would be best for you to advise us of how much, and how often to keep things reasonably orderly.

I have been asked to forward the following names to you, to add to your mailing list : Mr. S. Beggs - Glen Waverley, Mr. G. Langdon - The Basin, Mr. F. Waghorn - Boxhill North and Mr. M. Baldwin - Boronia.

Do you have Mr. Lou Searle on your mailing list? If not, I believe he could be interested. He is certainly very knowledgeable on Vireyas, having collected them for many years during his working life in New Guinea. Now retired, his address is : Mr. Lou Searle, Crabbes Creek, N.S.W. 2480, Australia.

In time I hope I can contribute to the Vine, but for the present I just hope all 110 of your December mailing list can add four or five names for the next issue.

Yours sincerely, Graham L.S. Snell

P.S. As I understand it 'Triumphans' is one of the old 'Veitch' Hybrids, and not a species. I have not come across any reference to 'Triumph'.

Graham L.S. Snell - 970 Mt. Highway  
Boronia, Victoria, Australia, 3155

Latitude 37° 45' S approx.

\* Thank you, Graham, for your nice letter. The names you sent have been added to the mailing list. I'll discuss the mailing costs at the end of these great letters. And thank you for your note on 'Triumphans'.

FROM : Donald W. Paden

February 5, 1983

I am enclosing cuttings of the vireya you requested. Sorry to have taken so long. I'll be interested in whether they survive the trip to the West coast without freezing.

There is also enclosed a cutting of my best yellow, at least as judged by the truss. It is from Esther Berry's seed distribution: WAU Ecology Inst. C-W No. 1 (possibly *R. aurigeranum*). It bloomed the second year from seed; the present truss is its second effort. The flowers are light yellow in a full truss. The plant habit is poor. If I am still experimenting with tissue culture the next time I have a chance, I'll give it a try.

I believe the piece on the germination of two vireya hybrids will appear in the next issue or two of the "Journal".

The winter has been made somewhat more pleasant the past two weeks by 20 or more trusses of vireyas around the house. More are in the offing. Except for watering and hauling them outside during the summer, they get no special care.

Yours, Don

February 13, 1983

These cuttings were returned to me after wandering around the country for a week--in great shape. The address label came off. There are two new ones enclosed (and an old one). Just in case I've also taken cuttings if this fails.

Donald W. Paden - 2112 S. Race St.  
Urbana, Illinois 61801

Latitude 40° 1' N

\* The cuttings arrived in great shape. Don wrapped the base of each in a tiny plastic bag of wet sphagnum moss--tied around the base. He put them in a slightly larger plastic bag with 8-10 styrofoam "peanuts" (used for packing breakable items) and a few drops of water, then sealed that larger bag with, I presume, a small - home style - heat sealer. He then put it in a small box with more "peanuts", taped it shut and mailed it.

Esther Berry, take note that Don bloomed a plant--from your seed distribution--in just two years. He must have learned a special way to hurry the seedlings along. Tell us soon, Don.

Don, I know that Bruce Briggs, the Nurseryman at Tumwater (Olympia), Washington, U.S.A., has had one or more Vireya rhododendrons in tissue culture for several years in his large Tissue Culture Lab where he has nearly 200 elepidote and lepidote "Other Kinds" of rhododendron under culture. Greer's Nursery (Harold Greer) also lists *R. leucogigas* (Tissue Cultured) as being for sale. They might be able to help.

Yes, Vireyas in bloom are fabulous "House Plants" in Northern U.S.'s and Europe's snowy, cold winters.

FROM : H. R. Malone

January 25, 1983

Thank you for including me in your mailing list and thank Peter for passing on my name. My interest in Vireyas commenced many years ago when two seedlings, (*R. lochae* x *R. macgregoriae*) and (*R. lochae* x *R. christiana*) were sent to me by the Australian Society when these were first being distributed. At that time I knew little about any rhododendrons, let alone Vireyas. I still have these plants, big enough to fill a corner and literally covered in orange flowers each summer with a few flowers out most months in the year. Although I now have quite a few *R. laetums*, *R. konori*, *R. zoelleri* and *R. aurigeranum* and their hybrids they are not noticed against the display of the *R. lochae* hybrids.

It would be little more than 12 months ago I made the terrible error of mentioning to Jack Wilson that here in Tasmania we had very few vireyas, no information, and no source of supply. Jack proceeded to send me seed both of his own and from various sources including Peter Schick. Dr. Rouse began to forward an occasional very interesting packet, Peter Schick began to send packets of his so interesting crosses direct. I widened my distribution within our N.W. Tasmania branch and the nearby Northern Tasmania branch, but the seedlings continue to accumulate.

In the meantime I proceeded to purchase full grown plants from Graham Snell and Ron Cutten. It wasn't long before the cuttings I was removing to keep plants compact were accumulating in the propagator and occupying all the shelter areas available.

Luckily I have one or two contacts in England whom I know are looking for vireyas--and I am not going to pass those names on. They are badly needed by me as disposal centres.

So my advice to new enthusiasts is 'slow down', if you really want Vireyas they will come to you sooner or later. Be of stern resolve when trimming plants. Burn or compost the cuttings or give them away. If there are competitors in your annual Rhodo show who are difficult to beat--give them all a series of cuttings and I am sure the Vireya bug will cut that competition by 50%.

-- so you think I am pulling a leg or two -- just check up on Peter Schick, Dr. Bob Withers, Jack Wilson, Dr. John Rouse and no doubt many many others on your mailing list who give so generously of their plants and seed. Without suitable recipients there would be no space to grow next season's seed and cuttings. To my generous donors I use your space to say "Thank You" (Enclosed my contribution - \$10.00).

Kind regards, Bob Malone

H. R. Malone - R.S.D. 106 A  
Lapoinya 7325 - Tasmania

Latitude 41° S

\* "Burn or compost the cuttings!" NO! Burn or compost the inferior seedlings. How could you shear your Vireyas that way? Why you Tasmanians must be using your Vireyas for hedging rows between neighbors or around your rose or hert gardens. I am in a "state of shock"!

You can "pull a leg or two" anytime in this group. You are truly a "Vireya Nut". I await your next supply of "chuckles".

"Vireya Viners" out there around the world. Let's hear from all of you with your comments, suggestions and notes about these items.

Like the IPPS, the rule is simple--no sharing!--no receiving! Sharing your ideas, thoughts, observations, as well as seeds, cuttings and plants will enable us all to become better Vireya horticulturists--and experimenters--an hybridizers--and travelers and, and,....

In answer to several inquiries from overseas regarding the cost of publishing and mailing (air mail) of the "Vireya Vine" we would like to share these figures with you. It seems like it cost on the average about 65 to 75 cents U.S. for printing and mailing U.S. and Canada and air mailing all overseas copies of Issue #2. Overseas airmail costs 80 cents U.S. per ounce as a guide. If you overseas "Viners" wish to send \$10.00 U.S., for now, that might pretty well pay for the next five issues if they are about the same size as this issue. If the issues get larger I will let everyone know. Right now, the Budget of the Education Committee of the Rhododendron Species Foundation at Federal Way, Washington, U.S.A. has underwritten the printing and mailing expenses.

Thus far, 22 of you "Viners" have sent in a total of \$110.00 U.S. funds to keep us somewhat "self-supporting", which would be nice. Even some U.S.A. "Viners" have sent \$10.00 checks, along with the notes to -- "keep it going". We four founders thank you all and these fine letters filled with information about Vireya Rhododendrons that you are sending show us the need for such a Newsnote.

New "Viners" added to our Mailing List since Issue #2 are : Prof. W.R. Philipson and Dr. Melva Philipson and Mr. Graham Smith of New Zealand; Mr. Hachiro Negishi, Mr. Yoichi Katsumata and Prof. Kenichi Arisumi of Japan; Dr. David Leach, Dr. Peter Stevens and Prof. Barbara F. Palser of the United States; Prof. R. E. Holttum and Mr. John Sanders of England; Dr. George Argent of Scotland; Dr. Lothar Heft of West Germany; Mr. L. A. Craven, Mr. Frank Waghorn, Mr. Malcolm Baldwin, Mr. Lou Searle and Dr. Chris Laurie all of Australia, added by Dr. John Rouse. Bill Mearns has added David Stanton's name from Australia. Graham Snell added the following names of people from Australia : Mr. S. Begg, Mr. G. Langdon and Mr. M. Baldwin, he also suggested Mr. Frank Waghorn and Lou Searle. Judy Young has added another name from Costa Rica, Robert G. Wilson. Additional "Viners" who have been added are : Dr. Dave Goheen, Anita Ellison, Dr. Walter Brooks and Dr. & Mrs. Eugene Pflug all of Washington State, U.S.A., Mr. Carl Deul of California, Arthur Hedlanm of Australia and Mr. Chris Brickell of England. If any of you "Viners" out there would like to add the names of anyone else who is growing or interested in Vireya Rhododendrons, please let me know.

Especial thanks are due to the Rhododendron Species Foundation President, Dave Goheen and his Executive Board for helping us get the "Vireya Vine" underway.

We now have 143 "Vireya Viners" around the world. It certainly has grown since the first issue which was sent out to 28 people in October of 1982.

One of my neighboring "Vine" members, Luurt Nieuwenhuis, has taught my wife, Marge to use his Apple II compute word processing program to write this issue of the "Vine". It was then printed out on a TEC Serial printer and reduced to 74% of original size on a xerox copier. Please write and let me know if it is reasonably readable at this size print. This seemed to be the only sensible way to make sure that we could print all these volumes of letters and information and still keep the expense reasonable. If the printing is too small we will go back up in size for the next issue. Please let me know!

Head Start for the next issue : A letter from Arthur Hedlanm with more information on named Vireya hybrids will appear in the next issue as it just arrived.

Again, may I thank all you letter writers for sharing your Vireya Rhododendron knowledge with us all.

Your Amazed Editor, I remain,

*B. H. Badger*

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