

# VIREYA VINE

ISSUE # 30, November 1991

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RHODODENDRON SPECIES FOUNDATION

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

Just in case you are interested:

*Dick Chaikin is doing (making) Vireya flowers, cast in silver. They are wonderful for a necklace, or earrings. Dick gave me three (because we are good buddies) and I bought two more for my wife, Marlene. They make a necklace that stops all Rhododendron people. Don't ask me how he does it but he is a special Dentist and knows how to do magical things. Really, these silver flowers look real, they are real but cast in silver. AND they are for sale. \$52.50 US each. No credit cards please. Dr. Richard Chaikin, 7 Whittier Place, Boston Mass 02114*

*As of November 1, 1991; Only 9 VV Books left.*

From Norman Cruttwell  
Dear Vireya Viner's

Surrey, UK      College of St. Barnabas  
August 13, 1991

I have been seriously ill in a hospital in Australia. I am now convalescing in the UK. I shall be here for an indefinite period. I have had to leave PNG, and will not be returning there to live. The College is close to Dormans Park, on Blackberry Lane, next door to the Dormans Railway Station on the Southern Network. It is a retired clergy home. I am very happy here in the sick bay, waited on hand and foot by nurses.

I hope to be able to continue some useful botanical and writing work here in the UK. I am looking for a replacement for my position in PNG as Director of the Lipizauga Botanical Sanctuary. I was and still am very sorry to have had to leave PNG so suddenly, with no chance to say goodbye to friends or to pack up my things. I thought at the time that I would go back in a few weeks.

Maybe someday my things, including thousands of slides of PNG flora, will catch up with me. I did get my 4 volumes of plant drawings (including one of Vireyas) sent out by airmail. They arrived safely in the UK.

The Revd. Canon Norman E.G. Cruttwell  
College of St. Barnabas  
Blackberry Lane, Lingfield  
Surrey, United Kingdom RH7 6NJ  
Private tel# 0342 87-693

*OK you Viners in England. You had better get over and see Norman. He would probably like a Vireya plant to fool around with; maybe a St. Valentine that will bloom for him. I am very sad to realize that Norman is not still working for us in PNG. He has been a great inspiration to me over the years. It has been my privilege to receive his letters to the Vine and to type them out for you people. We have lost a great asset in Vireya Land. I really don't think that the Vireya world will ever find another person like Norman Cruttwell to work for us in the field.*

*Keep your chin up Norman. We are all praying and thinking of you. EWS*

From Joyce Waters  
Dear VV,

Wellington, NZ  
May 26, 1991

I feel that a reply to Leslie Riggall's comments is required. I take issue with his term, "Tropical Plants". We in New Zealand have been asking Garden centers NOT to describe Vireya Rhododendrons as "Tropical Rhododendrons". Sure, they grow in the tropics, but at fairly high altitudes, so that they are used to colder temperatures.

Only one of my Vireya Rhododendrons could have been described as "top heavy on a long stem". That was R. 'Silken Shimmer' and I have pruned it back, and it now is putting on very healthy new growth. The rest of my plants are compact bushes, many of them are putting on new growth from the base of the plant; R. beyerinckianum, christiana, lochae, macgregoriae, and the hybrids 'Craig Faragher', 'Minnie Mouse', and 'Belldenden Coral', to name a few. My hilly section faces North East which, in the southern hemisphere, means that my plants all receive morning sun and part of the afternoon too. I am sure that this sunshine helps to keep the plants from becoming leggy.

Only one plant has succumbed to our Wellington winds. That was R. 'St. Valentine', which was growing in a pot by my front doorstep (in theory, so that I could move it away when it was not blooming, but I find it is seldom without flowers). The pot blew over in a strong wind one night and broke!

While I am talking about unfavorable climates, may I express my sympathy to those in the San Francisco area for their losses in the recent freeze. When in Oakland California last month I heard some amazing stories about the lengths some folk went to save their plants. I am most impressed by Peter Schick's intention to breed from his survivors for cold resistant strains.

Joyce Waters  
24 Thane Road, Roseneath  
Wellington, 6003  
New Zealand

From R. P. Pohlmann  
Dear VV,

Doven, England  
August 8, 1991

*The following is a reprint that Reg wrote for local branch of the RHS Rhododendron & Camellia Group. He thought that we Viners would be interested. EWS.*

I have been growing hardy Rhododendrons for 33 years. My interest in Vireyas was raised when I visited Edinburgh B.G. several years ago, but I formed the impression that to acquire a collection one had to have their (RHS BG) resources. Literature on the subject was almost non-existent and the only way of propagating seemed to be from very fresh seed, of which there is, to say the least, a shortage in the UK.

Then around Christmas time in 1988 we visited our daughter near Los Angeles, USA. Without any particular plants in mind, I checked with the nearest office of the Ministry of Ag. and Fish, as to what plants, if any, I could bring back into the UK. I was told that each person could bring back 5. Months later I learned that this information was erroneous - it only applies to plants brought in from other E.E.C. countries.

While in California we spent two days with friends, Graham & Susie Podd, who prior to moving to the U.S. had been keen members of the R. & C. Wessex group. They had a fine collection of Vireyas in their small garden and were also in touch with a small nursery in Florida from whence they received lots of cuttings. They rooted these cuttings and supplied them to the local Chapter of the ARS, U.C.L.A. and to Huntington Gardens. So I came away with the apparently authorized number of plants, helpful cultural advice and an introduction to a useful friend in Florida, Hugh Caldwell.

Soon after returning home I received a parcel of 20 cuttings. They arrived in mid January after 17 days in transit. My immediate reaction was "Not a cat in Hell's chance". However, I trimmed the ends and leaves and put them into the propagator in 50/50 Peat moss and Cornish grit mix. I kept the soil temperature at 65°F. By mid April, 9 cuttings had rooted. The next batch of 20 arrived in April and of these 13 rooted fairly quickly and another 2 took 6 months.

In each case the cuttings arrived dry in plastic bags, just as they had been taken from the parent plants. Several of the cuttings have put on about 3 feet of growth and I have already had flowers on Narnia, macgregoriae, loranthiflorum, and Red Prince X lochae. I have not tried seed yet - partly because of my age "the quicker the better" - and also because of the difficulty of obtaining fresh seed in this country. I am sure there are growers who could make seed available.

I did purchase 6 hybrid plants from a well known US nursery, and that turned out to be an expensive disaster. They arrived bare root of course and from the amount of root ball still adhering to the plants, the soil must have been removed by sand blasting. Two-thirds of the tops had to be removed to maintain some sort of balance with the miserable amount of roots. Some of the cut off parts were thrown away because they were too soft to use as cuttings. The remainder were put into the propagator and treated as cuttings. None of the cuttings survived, and one of them before expiring developed a heavy infestation of rust (So much for the Phytosanitary certificate).

My greenhouse is a timber framed lean-to on an east-facing wall. For most of the year the plants only get morning sun which seems to suit them. In the summer I will now shade the house, having had the new growth on several plants scorched last summer (see note # 1). Minimum winter temperature is a little over 40°F.

My experience with desert cacti has been a help. A good draining compost is essential. I use three parts peat moss to one part of Cornish grit, and add 4oz of Vitax Q4 (see note #2) to 4 gallons. Whether the fertilizer provides any benefit in a compost of such low pH, I don't know. I also put a 1" layer of Fullasorb (see note #3), standard grade in the bottom of the pots. Incidentally, the pots are clay rather than plastic. The plants can grow quite large in small clay pots and because I only water when they get quite dry there is a tendency for them to fall over if they are in plastic. In the absence of Cornish grit, I would use a finer grade of Fullasorb. I foliar feed (see note #4) every 3 weeks all year around and the plants seem to appreciate it.

Note #1) I subsequently found that it wasn't the sun doing the scorching, but that it was a too heavy dose of foliar feed. I was using 1 level teaspoon per gallon of water.

Note #2) Vitax Q4 is - 5.3N, 7.5P, 10.0K + trace elements.

Note #3) Fullasorb - a type of fullers earth. A similar US product is Tera-Green.

Note #4) Foliar feed - 32N, 13.6P, 21K + trace elements. Use 1/2 teaspoon per UK gallon.

August 1991, Since writing the above my present list of Vireyas is;

#### Species

kawakamii  
jasminiflorum \*  
triumphans  
loranthiflorum (white & pink) \*  
aurigeranum  
laetum \*  
zoelleri  
brookeanum  
goodenoughii  
commonae  
macgregoriae \*

#### Hybrids

San Raphael  
Taylorii \*  
Bellisar \*  
Narnia \*  
Java Light \*  
Ne Plus Ultra \*  
St. valentine \*  
Red Prince  
Mount Pire \*  
Kurt Adler  
Calavar

and 15 un-named hybrids

\* = these have flowered plus 2 of the 15 un-named hybrids.

All of my thanks to my benefactors - Graham & Susan Podd, Hugh Caldwell, and lately John Bodenham.

P.S. If any Viner could send me cuttings of species Vireyas on some basis of reciprocation I would be delighted.

R. P. 'Reg' Pohlmann  
Little Acre, Duncannon Mead  
Stoke Gabriel  
Devon, UK TQ9 6QY, Tel (080 428) 294

*Thanks for the info and the story, Reg. Many people say to me that they don't have anything technical to say for the Vine. The Vireya Vine was never meant to be at all technical. It is a newsletter about what people are doing with Vireyas. It is great to hear that you are getting cuttings from abroad. You probably should change the small "r" in the name triumphans to a Capital letter and know it as a hybrid Vireya. The species R. triumphans is not known to cultivation as far as we know. Someone with contacts in Vietnam should get busy and get this species introduced so that we can quit being confused. It is interesting that you thought the sun was burning your plants when it was fertilizer. Years ago I lost 3 big plants of R. commonae in my lean-to greenhouse. I thought it was the bright sun, but latter I discovered that the problem was root rot (Phytophthora). If I had only known at the time I could have some very big flowering plants of commonae. My replacement plants have not flowered yet. Does R. commonae flower?*

*I had the pleasure of showing Susan Podd and her son around the Rhododendron Species Foundation this summer. Since I was driving and in charge of the itinerary for the day I also took them to my home in Tacoma and they left for California with a nice box of rooted plants. Hey, if you are near, or in town give me a call.*

*I don't know really what Reg is calling "fuller's earth". I looked it up in the dictionary and it said "a claylike earthy substance used in filling cloth, as a filter medium, and as a catalyst". I assume it is a clay particle much like cat litter. I used some in mixes a few years ago and it didn't hurt anything but I am not sure that it helped either.*

*Is there a material called "perlite" available in other countries? I use perlite, 1/4" fir bark and peat moss in equal amounts. I add no fertilizer at all to the potting mix and only add fertilizer when I think it is needed. I have added "dolomite" at times but don't know if it helped.*

*I loaded up a Canadian friend's wife with Vireyas this summer so that she could grow them in her greenhouse. His greenhouse is too wet for Vireyas to do well. Yesterday while we were gone shopping they stopped by and left a home baked loaf of bread, a small jar of subdue (special fungicide) and a rooted plant of "R. Canadian Sunset". He was a baker in his "before Rhododendron life".*

From Hugh Caldwell, Northern Florida  
Dear Vireya Vine, October 1991

The rains here in Florida have really been something in 1991. The year 1990 was very dry, and water was in short supply. In 1991 we have had about 72 inches of rain (6 feet) up to the first of October.

The Vireyas took all of the rain. The small ones and the cuttings were hurt. The first bed of cuttings was lost due to all of the wet beds. The cuttings taken in 1990 were hurt but they have small tops and large root systems. The crowns of the 1990 plants have a lot of new growth buds.

The 1990 cuttings were in the greenhouse over winter, whereas the 1991 cuttings were outside all of the time. With our normal rain fall, cuttings root with out any trouble, with our hot days and damp nights. The larger Vireyas were not hurt bad by the rains. They have some yellow leaves and should be cut back to shape them up again.

We have found out that the Vireyas don't like wet feet at all. They like to be dry and have lots of air. To keep the roots dry and to give the roots air, I have been changing them out. I am planting them in pure fir bark. I also have holes in the side of the pots to let more air in. I keep the plants off of the ground.

Root rot is a big problem here with Vireyas and with the Azaleas, both native and evergreen. Root rot can be stopped; keep watching the plants during the wet season and try to keep them on the dry side.

Hugh Caldwell  
187 Brickyard Rd.  
Doctors Inlet, FL 32030

From Fran Rutherford Port Orchard, Washington  
Dear VV, May 6, 1991

Germinating Vireya seed is a relatively easy task. As long as the seed is viable, I usually end up with more seedling than I can grow on. The difficult and time consuming task is growing the seedling on to blooming size. So often the seedlings will remain dormant for weeks or months. For this reason and my involvement in other projects, I have not attempted to grow Vireyas from seed for several years. Now that I have more free time, I am looking forward to hybridizing with the objective of developing small compact Vireyas which more or less bloom continually. In going through my how to do it file I came across an article by Brian Clancy entitled "My Way With Vireyas". I believe it was published in "The Rhododendron" several years ago. An excerpt from this article follows.

"During the winter months I have easily doubled the size of Vireya seedlings with the application of Grocel G.A. gibberellic acid at 28 day intervals. Each Grocel G.A. tablet is grooved for easy sub-division and when added to water an effervescent mixture results ensuring solution. The tablet dissolves completely in a few minutes. I have used one eighth of a tablet to the required amount of water to produce a strength of 250 parts per million."

"Without any guidelines for rhododendrons this strength appears to be the limit for Vireya seedlings at the two and nine inch size. In tests limited by the scarcity of space in my small glasshouse, the majority of plants have more than doubled in size whilst about 4% were severely distorted with fasciation. Small seedlings measuring one eighth to one half inch high were destroyed with the above strength. However, it is only a matter of adding water to the mixture to reduce the strength to 100 parts per million. All solutions of Grocel G.A must be used on the day of preparation. One tablet costs just over \$2.00 and is year's supply for my needs."

I have tried using gibberellic acid, as outlined above, with similar results. My experiments were quite limited but I did not run into the fasciation problem. I was not able to find a source for Grocel G.A. tablets in the U.S. or a similar product. Instead I used a product sold by Science Products Company, Chicago, Illinois. This is a liquid concentrate whose active ingredient is potassium gibberellate 0.0857%. Unfortunately, the concentrate is quite expensive and to the best of my knowledge is not sold in small units. Local nurseries do sell products which contain the same chemical but do not work on Vireyas.

In this article, Brian also indicated he is obtaining flowers on seedlings at three years from seed. This would be outstanding results in the United States with our shorter growing season. I consider myself fortunate if I obtain flowers in five years.

I would appreciate hearing from anyone who has experimented with chemicals on Vireyas; also anyone who is growing Vireyas from seed and is able to flower the plants within a reasonable time.

Three interesting crosses bloomed for me last year. I believe the seeds came from Dr. Rouse. *R. macgregoriae* x *bagobonum* has small leaves and thin stems. It has growth habit of *macgregoriae* but on a much smaller scale. The flowers are Indian red in color and in trusses of four. It has a long blooming season and may bloom several times a year. *R. macgregoriae* x *stenophyllum* has orange red flowers which are quite nice. Unfortunately, it has inherited the growth habit of *stenophyllum*. However, it does respond well to frequent pinching and branches well. Leaves are intermediate between *macgregoriae* and *stenophyllum*. *R. macgregoriae* X *rubineiflorum* is a small shrublet with 3-4 small pink flowers per truss. I am not familiar with *rubineiflorum* but I expect this plant has a similar growth habit. These plants do well in the house for extended periods and are floriferous.

Fran Rutherford  
PO Box 531  
Port Orchard, Wa 98366

From Brian Clancy  
Dear VV,

Bentleigh, Australia  
August 8, 1991

As I write this letter here in Melbourne, we are in the depths of winter with storms of much rain, hail, sleet, and strong winds. I debated whether I should try and reply to the outstanding letters from my Vireya friends, prick-out outstanding seedlings in the cold, or correct my error in the Vireya Vine. Apologies to all concerned. Incidentally, my best hybrid, which is the main subject of this letter, was broken by a storm, but no worries, I put the cuttings down and these will result in 15 additional plants.

In VV23, dated Feb. 1990, the last paragraph of my letter read - "I also have a seedling of my cross, *R. Pink Delight* X *intranervatum* that is outstanding. The first truss had 13 - 3 inch flowers in a beautiful shade of pastel pink with a cream throat. The perfectly symmetrical truss was reminiscent of the hardy hybrid Alice. At this stage I have given it a five star rating and will only need an ounce of luck to win the top award at the next show".

Unfortunately, my typographical error destroyed the accuracy of the cross, which should have read *Pink Delight* X *R. intranervatum* F2. A photo of *R. intranervatum*, from Borneo, is contained in the American Quarterly Bulletin, Vol 28, Oct. 1974, # 4. The light yellow flowers of this species generally come in twos and threes and are three inches across. The significance of this species as a parent just hit me this morning when I re-read that Dr. John Rouse first flowered this species when the seedling was only one foot high.

The primary cross of this hybrid was made by John Rouse and I grew one seedling on to flowering. This seedling had perfumed flowers leaning towards "Pink Delight". I immediately selfed the flowers with their own pollen. The first F2 seedling flowered in 1988 when only 10 inches high. In 1989 the same small plant had a 14 flower truss on a side stem.

Luck plays a important part with all show exhibitors but fortune smiled on me for the November Annual show at Olinda. The exhibit of this hybrid was awarded the Certificate of Merit, the Trophy for the best Rhododendron raised by the exhibitor, the Trophy for the Best Truss in the Open Section, and the Trophy for the Best Vireya Hybrid in the Show. This hybrid would have to be given the highest rating. It is to be named *R. "Chayya"* if the Registrar agrees.

Brian Clancy  
31 Renown Street  
Bentleigh, 3204  
Australia

From Sheldon Ofshe  
Dear VV,

Long Island, New York State  
December 1990

I hope that this is just one of many letters that will fill the Vireya Vine for years to come. I have reread my issues (from #20 on), and have noticed how many red pen underlines I had put in the first time I read them. The VV has been a great help to me, a newer grower.

I have a small greenhouse here on Long Island and am trying to concentrate on the smaller Vireyas. Occasionally one of the larger ones seem to appear. I have 36 different varieties including species and hybrids. Because of limited space I have tried to use as many "hanging basket" types as possible. Hugh Caldwell from Florida, who contacted me through the Vine, has been extremely helpful in adding to my collection and knowledge. For hanging baskets Hugh recommends, *R. anagalliflorum*, *gracilentum*, *jasminiflorum*, *lochae*, *macgregoriae*, *pauciflorum*, Pink Delight, *rarum*, Red Prince X *lochae*, *rubineiflorum*, *stenophyllum*, and St. Valentine.

On May 5th I started about 50 cuttings. Perhaps the accounting of how I did might be interesting to other people in similar situations. I used 3" plastic pots, with different media; all perlite, pro mix, expanded rock wool (that I use for my orchids), and a mixture of 1/2 sand and 1/2 pro mix. As of this date about 1/3 have rooted but I can not determine as of yet if one media is better than another.

To make the cuttings I cut off some of the larger leaf, made slices 1/2" down two side of the stems, and dipped the entire cuttings in to a solution of Benlate. I put the pot with the cuttings into large plastic sweater boxes and stacked them one on top of another on the greenhouse bench. They were exposed to morning sun and the ventilated tops keep the humidity at a good level. Only an occasional spray of water is needed. I rotate the stack every week because the bottom box gets more shade than the top ones. Last week I put on of the plastic boxes on a heating cable for bottom heat to see if it would be beneficial. Time will tell how this all works out.

Sheldon Ofshe  
1989 Wilson Ave.  
No. Bellmore, NY 11710

*Good man, Sheldon. Try anything because almost anything works. I think that for most Rhododendron cuttings including bottom heat will help a lot. Some Vireyas are in my experience quite slow to root and difficult to keep alive at all. You shouldn't be held back from trying some of the larger growing Vireyas.*

*Hybrids with *R. leucogigas* or *konori* in them can be very nice and if you get a good one they bloom young and don't get that big. It certainly is true that some of the species and many of the hybrids get tall and leggy and might want to be avoided in a small greenhouse.*

*A Note from Clyde Smith in Keiraville (Wollongong) Australia about weather, dated April 1991.*

Last winter we were very wet and cold which gave us trouble with root rot. I lost trees as well as Rhodies. Everything changed on Oct. 27th - Since then we have had the hottest, driest summer ever. One day it got up to 108°F and burnt up half of our garden. Our heavy soil dries out and cracks. It becomes almost impossible to get wet again. I have lost a lot of plants from the drought and some Vireyas from the heat.

All of the garden was effected, most plants stopped flowering or had flowers only 1/2 their normal size. It is cooler now but still dry. The Vireyas are flowering more normally now but a few had to be dug up and put into pots to save them.

*If these Vireyas were easy to grow then maybe we would not try so hard. Maybe Clyde can laugh and say it is the challenge that is the fun after all. My Vireyas here in Tacoma Washington look swell. It is the hardy plants that could not take +5°F last year that look bad still. And then we just finished the next to longest dry fall on record. It is cold and damp now but still we have had very little rain. For those who have admired the Vireyas and *Maddennii*'s in Mrs. John Evans home on Oakland California might be interested that the fires in Oakland this October stopped only a few blocks away.*

From Mitch Mitchell

Hawaii

Dear Vireya Vine,

September 2, 1991

I think other Viners might be interested in this story.

Back in the early eighties when I was first attempting to grow Rhododendrons here in Hawaii, a local expert suggested that I get in touch with Bob Hirano at the Lyon Arboretum because "he is growing Malaysian Rhododendrons that should do well in Volcano". Through Bob I acquired my first Vireyas.

The expert also told me about a Dr. Druecker who had a vacation home near us, and had planted a number of Vireyas he had received from his cousin in Fort Bragg California. I first wrote to him at his home in Honolulu and then telephoned him. We made plans to get together on his next trip to this island. After he arrived but before we could meet each other he collapsed from a heart attack and died.

In one of Dr. Druecker's letters he had gone on at some length about his cousin in California and how enthusiastic he was about the ideal growing conditions this area offers for Vireyas. When the cousin returned to Fort Bragg, he arranged for a shipment of a large number of different Vireyas to Dr. Druecker's Volcano home.

At that time I had not met E. White or Bob Badger or any other Vireya enthusiasts, so the bug hadn't yet bitten me. I was still convinced that I could grow the hardy R's here. I began to see the light in 1984 or 85. By then I had read a number of issues of the Vireya Vine and had come to realize that I should no longer neglect the Vireyas. I remembered Dr. Druecker's collection and called his widow to see if she would have any objection to my taking some cuttings. She graciously urged me to go ahead, but added that her son had rented the house to a local family.

I tried several times to get the phone number but failed. I drove to the house where I was met by two pit bull dogs who wouldn't let me get out of the car. After shouting from the car didn't get any human beings I gave up that attempt. I tried a number of times after that but still got the same negative results. You should know that this home is in a quite remote section of our rain forest with very few neighbors. Furthermore, unless the growth of vegetation is systematically cut back it will grow in no time, return to an unbelievably dense jungle.

Someone had told me that Peter Schick and the Fort Bragg Druecker were close friends. I looked forward with much interest in meeting Peter on a "Post Convention Tour" to Fort Bragg last spring.

I had several very pleasant conversations with Peter and learned that he and Druecker had put together the shipment of Vireyas that went to Volcano, Hawaii in 1981.

When I returned home after the convention I was more determined than ever to meet the people who were renting the Druecker home and finally succeeded. They turned out to be very nice people, and soon I was wandering around their densely overgrown lot looking for Vireyas. With some difficulty I found 9 plants and took cuttings. I was told that they had only seen flowers on one plant which was about 10 feet high. I could see that it was covered with buds. They promised to call me when it came into flower and kept their promise about a month later.

When I got there I couldn't believe my eyes. The huge plant was covered with large white blooms that had a delightful scent. I took pictures and sent them to Peter who replied with a complete list of plants that had been sent to Dr. Druecker in '81. Pete also commented that the only white one was "DR. Sleumer X herzogii".

To conclude, all of the other eight plants have rooted and I am impatient to see what their flowers look like, and to send photos to Peter for his help in identification. I am happy that the Vireya Vine is going to go on past Issue #30. I like the idea of being able to correspond with people all over the world. Furthermore I have enjoyed meeting Glen Sahara (who lives on this island) and Jake Jacobson (who lived on the island of Maui in the winter and in Alaska in the summer) with the help of the Vireya Vine. Who knows, maybe some day we will put together a Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society here.

R.A. Mitch Mitchell

P.O. Box 298

Volcano, Hawaii 96785

*O, Boy. Good story Mitch. Real good. I also have some photos that were sent to me from Glenn Shara of his plantings. He is going to remove some other plants and make room for more Vireyas. He says that the humidity is so great that he can grow the Vireyas in full sun. That plants growing in part shade get too leggy. Glenn shows photos of what look to me like R. Taylorii and a laetum X christianae hybrid.*

*Henk Borsje who belongs to the Mass. Chapter of the American RS was here at our house the other day. We had a great time talking about computers (I have a new 386 IBM clone). We also talked about Rhododendrons and Vireyas. He said that he was at the Hotel next to the Grand Old Opry Museum in Nashville Tennessee. They have a big greenhouse/solarium in the hotel and there was a plant of R. zoelleri in full bloom amongst the other foliage. He was impressed and quite surprised to see a Vireya there. But why not? If any of you Viners have extra plants or ones that have gotten too big there could be a good home around somewhere. I get depressed when I go into the tropical rooms of conservatories and see only green things. Some nice leggy Vireyas growing would also be green things but would bloom sometimes.*

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