

VIREYA VINE

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SPECIES FOUNDATION

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

Here I go plant hunting down Interstate highway 5 again. I5 runs from the Canadian border to Mexico or at least it did before the Los Angeles earth quake. Now it ends somewhere north of LA. I have the newsletter from the Southern California Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society and there is a item about the quake. They want the world to know that most everything is all right and that LA is still there. While I was in the LA area, I saw a lot of damage in Sunset Blvd. Almost every block had some damage. Not big damage but lots of big broken windows and building corners that had fallen down. But the place is still jumping and as busy as ever.

Our trip started in mid February. My wife, Marlene and her father Elwood Budil went with me. 15 hours, straight through to my mothers home which is east of San Francisco. I visited Bill Moyles in Oakland and went again to see his Vireyas at the community collage where he keeps his plants. What a deal he has. A real, greenhouse to grow his Vireyas in and it is less that 10 minutes from his home. Bill's plants looked very good. I also saw how he grows his seedlings at his home. In the basement he has plastic containers with the seedlings in them. The containers have tops or plastic covering them. He has florescent lights about 9 inches above the containers and uses a very delete fertilizer spray on the small seedlings. These seedlings looked very healthily to me. Bill tries out some of the Vireya seed to see if it will germinate before he sends it out to people. Bill Moyles is the Vireya Seed Person for the American Rhododendron Society. If you want seed you will need to write to him and say so. Americans pay a small fee for the seed but Bill sends seed overseas at no charge.

*Bill Moyles, Vireya Seed (when he sends seed he will tell you who to pay)
4243 Norton Ave.
Oakland, Ca 94602 Telephone 510-531-1375*

I also went south to Palo Alto California to see my old Vireya friend, Stan Eversole. Stan had quite a few things in bloom in his greenhouse. Marlene loves to go there because when Stan and I are looking at plants, his wife and daughter get her a bag of oranges from the yard. Stan has a very nice place in Palo Alto but do you know what? It always look better on the other side of the mountain.

They have wonderful warm weather but sometimes they do get a frost. Their water cost a fortune and there are just too many people around there for me. I hate to even think about what their property taxes cost.

I left Marlene with my mother in Walnut Creek California when Elwood and I headed south for LA. Please note; my wife of 37 years has Alzheimer's Disease and I have become extra protective of her. I had to retire from my job to care for her. It is getting worse as time goes on and I take one day at a time. Lately one minute at a time. I am really glad I have the Vine to work on and to think about. It really makes a difference and the letters from you Viner's make my day at times.

Elwood and I stayed with Fred Renich in the small town of Camarillo which is about 40 miles west of LA on US highway 101. Fred took time off from work and showed us around the area. First we went to see Bill Jenkins garden in downtown LA. He has more plants in a small place that a person can count. Next we went to Bill Payden's home and what a jungle that was. I say jungle with reverence. This guy had every inch filled with interesting plants. Orchids and Bromeliads everywhere. Not very many Rhodies but enough to qualify as a Rhodie nut. A very interesting place. Our next stop was the home of Bill Moynier and their garden was everything I thought it would be. Very neat. All of the plants were well taken care of and looked great. Many Vireyas were in flower and they were all labeled. Bill sold Vireyas for many years but now just does it for fun, but the place still looks like a home nursery. I picked up two new species from Bill Moynier and many new or different hybrids. Bill has most of his small plants under what looks like about 50% shade from lath or shade cloth. How much shade do you have Bill? and why?

When I am traveling around, I take a 12 inch pot with some rooting medium in it and some labels and a pencil along. I make cuttings as people offer them to me. That work's real well and is a trick I learned from Pete Schick in Fort Bragg California. Anyway, Bill went with us to see the Vireya garden on the UCLA (University of California at Los Angeles) campus. It is in the "Botanic Garden" which is only seven acres in size. The Vireya planting covered an area of about 100 feet X 15 feet on a slope. I thought the plants looked good. The local Chapter people had been working on the garden and had some chunky peat moss and perlite stored near one of the beds. Good job you people. At least you are trying to make something happen and it looked good to me.

On Sunday the Southern California Chapter or the ARS met at Fred Renich's home where we were staying and I gave my slide show about Vireyas. Fred showed a video tape from his trip to New Zealand in October. Remember in VV38 Fred was writing about what he thought was the "new" mildew on his Vireyas. I know exactly what this mildew looks like and Fred Renich does not have it. He does have a few problems but I think they are from his water which is so bad a person can hardly drink it. Fred catches rain water and uses reverse osmoses to clean his city water up. He really does have a 250 gallon tank in the garage for good water ready to use. Fred has a small property, but it is loaded with interesting plants. All kinds of things that I didn't know about and lots of Rhodies. A few hardy Rhodies and lots of Vireyas. He uses shade cloth to protect the plants from the strong sun and wind.

Fred also took us to a Rhododendron/Azalea/Camellia nursery in the LA area that had great looking plants under shade structures. They had more evergreen azaleas than I had ever seen in one place before.

We went to a big neighborhood retail nursery that had every plant and chemical that a person could think of. I only spent about \$45 there. Anyway, a great trip to a wonderful place, but I would not want to live there with all of those people. Pete Sullivan in San Francisco told me last year that he was in Southern California 50 years ago and it was a paradise with the wonderful weather and hills, but all of the people have ruined it now. Is that not what always happens.

It takes seventeen mature trees to make one ton of newspaper. And Americans through away, every three months, enough aluminum to completely rebuild the US commercial airline fleets. And the rest of world is probably just as bad as us. I feel guilty if I can't put an aluminum can in the recycle box.

It is reported that the earth loses an acre of forest every second. That is unreal, can it really be true?

From Fred Renich

Cammerillo, California

Dear VV,

March, 1994

An update on the mildew problem reported in VV 38. EWS was down here in February and put on a short but sweet presentation on propagation, soil mixes, and general care of Vireyas for the Southern California Chapter of the American RS. He observed my plants and thought that there was no mildew visible. I have sprayed the plants with daconil and bayleton and the problem if there was one has disappeared. Pete Schick has stressed to me that prevention by spraying where needed will go a long way in the prevention of mildew outbreaks.

I was always just a Vireya grower, but Mark Jury sent me some pollen from New Zealand and now I am hooked on hybridizing. Making your own crosses seems like the essence of gardening. You Viners who are growing seed should look for some material from my garden in the future on Bill Moyles Vireya seed list.

Fred Renich

2082 W. Chapel Drive

Camarillo, Ca 93010

Editors Note::: Vireya seed is collected and sent out to the world by Bill Moyles. Americans are asked to pay the ARS seed exchange for the seed they get but people outside the USA get the seed for nothing. Bills idea is to keep it simple and not burden our overseas friends. BUT:::;--- You must let Bill know that you want seed.

Bill Moyles

Vireya Seed Exchange

4243 Norton Ave.

Oakland, Ca 94602

Phone (510)531-1375 Bill also likes to get fax's but I have lost his fax telephone number. If you are not getting his seed list then he doesn't know that you want one.

OTHER NOTICES::: The 50th Celebration Convention of the American Rhododendron Society is in Portland Oregon, May 10 to the 14th, 1995. All Vireya Nuts should be there. They will have a great show.

The International Rhododendron Union Conference is in Burnie, Tasmania, Australia, October 28 to November 3rd. 1994. George Argent will be there, speaking.

The New Zealand Rhododendron Association 50th Anniversary Conference will be in Hastings, Hawkes Bay NZ, November 7 to 11th. 1994

The Pukeiti Annual Members weekend in New Plymouth NZ is November 12 and 13th 1994

American Rhododendron Society Convention in Scotland - 1996. May 7 to 12th. Want to go with us on a Vireya hunting outing in England before the convention? Contact Dr. Richard Chaikin, 7 Whittier Place, Boston Ma 02114. Don't wait much longer. Dick has a great outing lined up for us.

From Clarice Clark

Puyallup, Washington

Dear Vireya Vine

April 24, 1994

The latest news from the Rhododendron Species Foundation is the receipt of a shipment of Vireya cuttings from the Royal Botanic Garden at Edinburgh. Credit for this fresh infusion of genetic material should go to our Editor, E. White Smith, who wrote to George Argent and persuaded him to part with some of this precious plant material.

Even regular readers of the Vine will not recognize some of the names on this list, as most of this material will be referenced only on the list "Species not in Cultivation" - a part of The Rhododendron Handbook 1980 published by the Royal Horticulture; Society. I have tried to fill in the blanks from what I was able to gleam from other available references, mostly Rhododendrons of Sabah, by George Argent, et.al (hereafter abbreviated as RoS) and Sleumers book An Account of Rhododendrons in Malesia.

I would greatly appreciate it if other readers have information to share:

- R. abietifolium; (Euvireya) from Borneo, see RoS, one of the parents of X sheilae
- R. bagobonum; (Euvireya) from Borneo and the Philippines, see RoS
- R. carrii; (Solenovireya) from Eastern New Guinea (Irian Jaya)
- R. cuneifolium var. microcarpum; (Synonym: R. quadrasiannum var. cuneifolium) from Borneo, see RoS
- R. exuberans; (synonym: R. nervulosum var. exuberans according to Sleumer) from Borneo, see RoS
- R. pauciflorum; Argent form, (Euverya) from the Malay Peninsula - basic description in the RHS handbook.
- R. rarelepidotum; (Euverya) from Sumatra
- R. ruttenii; (Solenovireya) from the Moluccas Islands
- R. salicifolium; (Euverya) from Borneo (Sarawak)
- R. sessilibolium; (Euverya) from Sumatra, see RHS handbook, and see photo (plate 22) in Vireya Rhododendrons by J. Clyde Smith
- R. stapfianum; (Solenovireya) from Borneo, see RoS

R. verticillatum; (*Euverya*) from Borneo (Sarawak)

And a natural hybrid of *R. buxifolium* X *rugosum* that Sleumer identified as *R. rugosum* var. *coriifolium* that the RBG has labeled X *corifolium*, see RoS

The Species Foundation would like to thank the RBG for the cuttings and appreciates plant material sent to enlarge and improve the collection, but reminds everyone to put a packing list on the outside of the box or package, preferable in a well marked plastic sleeve, and another copy inside the container in case the outside one is lost or destroyed. This shipment from the RBG for instance, was held up at US Customs in San Francisco for almost a week, because customs refused to send it on without a detailed listing of the number as well as the names of each species. It would also be helpful to fax or call before shipping to make sure that staff will be on hand to pick up the material.

Actually, this goes for anyone shipping to anyone. I would certainly appreciate a call or a fax because I am often out of town on business and packages delivered to my back door often sit there for a few days.

Clarice Clark
901 16th Street SW
Puyallup, Wa 98371

From Dr. Bob Withers
Dear VV,

Donvale, Vict. Australia
March 18, 1994

I was interested to read in the March 1994 issue of the *Vireya* Vine about E. White's flowering of the plant labeled *R. laetum* 'Black & Wood'. This could not have been a *R. laetum*.

R. laetum was collected by Dr. Sleumer on 8 January 1962 at Anggi Gigi Lake, alt. ca 1840M in the Arfak mountains of NW New Guinea (now West Irian). There has been no report of this plant being collected since, although Dr. George Argent may have collected it during his recent expedition to West Irian.

Michael Black and Paddy Woods did not collect in West Irian. They collected in Papua New Guinea. In 1968 the Australian *Rhododendron* Society received seed collected in PNG under the collection numbers, Black & Woods 1120 and 1121 and when the seedlings flowered they proved to be *R. aurigeranum*.

We did not receive *R. zoelleri* under a Black & Woods number. We did receive material of *zoelleri* collected by Michael Black from near Wabag, PNG, in 1965, and from East New Guinea in 1968.

R. 'Island sunset' is a selected form of *R. zoelleri* collected from Goodenough Island by Don Stanton. Its name is *R. zoelleri* var. '*Island Sunset*' and can be quite a nice thing.

In view of the above information, it seems most likely that E. White's plants labeled *R. laetum* 'Black & Woods' are a form of *R. zoelleri*, although it could be a form of *R. aurigeranum*. I have flowered seedlings of *aurigeranum* with lots of orange colour in their corolla lobes, although there are more flowers in the truss than *zoelleri* and the flowers are smaller.

Dr. Bob Withers
23 Melissa Street
Donvale, Victoria 3111
Australia

Thanks for the answer, Bob. I know the plants I wondered about are not R. aurigeranum. Maybe what I have is 'Island Sunset'. Don Stanton sent me seed and seedlings many years ago and I have lost track of that material. Also all plant people know how easy it is to mix up plant labels which I have probably done.

As fine a plant as R. laetum is, I find it unusual that it has only been introduced once. It certainly is a fine species and needs to be introduced again so that we can get new material and maybe discover different forms.

I had three great hybrids bloom this spring. R. 'Cair Paravel', 'Marshal Pierce Madison' and a unnamed hybrid of leucogigas X phaeocephalum. The unnamed hybrid was the best of the three -- pearl white with a little pink, nine flowers to the truss, each flower was 3 1/2 inches across, and the truss was about 11 inches across the top, plus a great fragrance. The best thing about all three of these hybrids was that they all bloomed on three year old wood (or three growth periods). If you have not seen Marshal Pierce Madison in bloom you have really missed something fine. Bill Moyles has shown it in the San Francisco area and it always blows the people away. BUT. All three of these plants have big wood and not many branches so new propagating material is slow to come by. All three of these hybrids should be put into tissue culture so that we could all have them to grow.

Yes, Please enroll me as a member of the Rhododendron Species Foundation.

This form is from the Vireya Vine

Enclosed is my check for \$_____ Please Print or Type:

Please charge my membership for \$_____ Name_____

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Membership Fees

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Student | \$15 |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Family | \$50 |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting | \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining | \$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron | \$500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Garden Society | \$1,000 |

Make checks payable to "RSF"
(in US Funds) and mail to:
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