



Marshall Pierce Madison
Vireya of the Year

VIVA VIREYAS!

HAWAII CHAPTER AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

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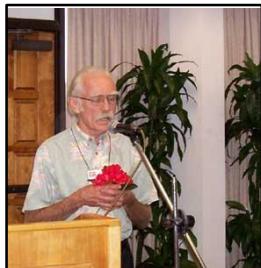
Issue 3

March 2006

Notes from the President's Desk:

I've had numerous emails and phone calls telling me what a wonderful experience they had at our Feb. 2006 Vireya Seminar. I am always awed by the support and the beautiful "spirit of community" ever displayed by our members. Thank you, thank you, thank you for all you do to support our Hawaii Chapter events.

As you know, we won't be able to use the Keau Community Center for a few months while it undergoes construction. The ladies at the Hilo Coffee Mill in Kurtistown



Henry Horton

are willing to allow us to meet there for our March meeting. Directions are on the last page of this newsletter. Our main business will be to set up the next 3 to 4 meeting places, as well as, to get your feedback on the seminar.

Till then, stay warm and dry.
Viva Vireya & Happy Gardening
Sherla D. Bertelmann



Veryl Ann Grace, Dale Dinsmore, Dorothy Wakabayashi

Mitch's Corner

By Mitch Mitchell

I made a screen saver for my computer with this photo. As such it is the first thing I see when I turn the computer on. It was taken from my studio which I call my Tree House. Why that name? Well, when I sit at my desk and look at this view with a bit of a stretch I can imagine that I am indeed up in the trees with the birds. And our forest birds are beautiful with lovely songs. I call the photo, "Narnia



Photo by Mitch Mitchell

amongst the Hapu'u (*Cibotium chamissoi*) and Ohia lehua (*Metrosideros polymorpha*), and to me it is a great combination of Vireyas growing naturally with native plants and trees. A woodland garden like ours really invites Vireyas to be at home here, and I seem to hear them say "Thank You, Thank you..

Vireya Seminar 2006 Recap

By John Barbour

Consequent of its deplorable weather, the month of February came to be allotted the least number of days of all the months of the year. Few would argue with the idea of reducing it still further by another week or two. Yet our club brazenly chose February in which to hold our International Vireya Seminar. Madness you say? Insanity? No, not at all, for we are fortunate enough to have the world's most astute meteorologist, Richard Marques, as a member of our organization. Amidst wind-whipped, dripping foliage beneath dark and threatening skies just days before our seminar was to begin, Richard calmly forecasted "that though our halls and conference rooms might be stormed by avid vireya loving attendees, there would be no further storming of any kind during our scheduled events". In keeping with Richard's a priori prognostications the rain fell, stumbled and crashed upon our membership and its honored speakers only minutes after the conclusion of the official closing ceremonies. Thank you, Richard! Thank you must go to all those members whose dedication and hard work made the seminar the success that it was.

The event began where it also was to end – in the smoke-filled chambers of the Kea'au Community Center. While our guests visited the private gardens of our membership, preparations were under way at the Center. Tables were decorated with island foliage. Others set for the many food dishes soon to be brought in by our members turned chefs for the day. Outside coals were being ignited for the evening's barbecue. All seemed to be running smoothly

as the first guests began to arrive when suddenly a shift in the winds carried billowing clouds of teriyaki flavored smoke from the outdoor patio through the open windows of the hall and into the dining area. George Argent, a guest speaker from Edinburgh, must have thought he was back on the moors of Scotland! Did some one put shoyu in the haggis? Windows were promptly shut and the air eventually cleared as Sherla, our president, welcomed everyone to the seminar and bid them to enjoy all the refreshments. (We never did find that haggis!)

Next day, Saturday Feb. 18, serious business began with morning lectures at the Hilo Hawaiian Hotel. Kaye Hagan, Neil Puddey and George Argent gave presentations of their gardens, nurseries, and expeditions featuring, of course, awe-inspiring vireyas both cultivated and wild. Particularly amusing was George's account of his adventures in Borneo where he stumbled upon a mountain trail strewn with "sweetie papers". Envisioning some exotic species of vireya with which no one seemed acquainted, it was only after George's wife, Sue, broke in to explain that "sweetie papers" were what we call here "candy wrappers" that everyone burst into laughter. Kaye

Hagen's photos of her immaculate garden in Tasmania (no "sweetie papers") brought us back to civilization. Neil Puddey's vireya notes from a nurseryman's perspective wound up the morning's program.

After lunch and a root pruning demonstration by Rick Worley we reconvened to listen to Fred Renich relate his woes of gardening in the harsh climate of California where drought and the Santa Ana winds are less than vireya friendly. The day drew to a close with Graham Smith's photos of everybody's dream garden, the Pukeiti Gardens in New Zealand. Graham is the director (of the gardens, that is. I believe they leave the directing of New Zealand to someone else, though Graham is doing such a brilliant job....perhaps?)

Suddenly it was Sunday, the final day of activities. Everyone wished there was more time. Additional gardens were visited followed by the closing festivities back at the Center where it all began, which included a surprise slide presentation by E. White Smith from Oregon. New knowledge & new friendships were made, and old acquaintances strengthened as the Hawaii International Vireya Seminar 2006 drew to a close....

And Richard said: "Let there be rain!"



Our Guests (left to right)

*Sue Argent
George Argent
Neil Puddey
Kaye Hagan
Graham Smith
Fred Renich
Dora Smith*

(For your information from the book "Rhododendrons 1956 by the American Rhododendron Society.)

Glossary

By C.T. Hansen

The study of Rhododendrons, especially the species, is fairly complex for the amateur who does not have the proper background. The descriptive terms used in the "Species" book are usually beyond the scope of the ordinary layman. In trying to track down a species, I usually arm myself with a dictionary and two or three other horticultural books having glossaries. Finding this too cumbersome when I wanted to track down a single leaf, I finally started my own glossary.

One day, not so long ago I happened to tell the editor of this book about my project. He thought such a glossary might be useful to others and asked to use it, so here it is. Remember-it is not intended as a scientific treatise but only as a layman's help for other laymen.

Aberrant. Differing from the common type.

Acuminate. Tapered to a long point.

Acute. Sharply pointed but not long tapered.

Appressed. Growing in contact with a stem but not adhering to it.

Agglutinate. Joined by adhesion.

Alveolate. Full of hollow cells: honeycombed.

Annular. Ring shaped; marked with rings.

Anther. The part of the stamen that bears pollen.

Anthesis. The time of expansion of a flower.

Apex. Tip or free end.

Apices. Plural of apex.

Appressed. Pressed closely against

Aristate. Having a beard-like or bristled appendage; awned.

Attenuate. Thin' small or fine' slenderly tapering.

Auricle. An ear-shaped appendage.

Auriculate. Bearing auricles.

Axil. The angle between a leaf and a stem.

Axillary. Borne in an axil.

Basal. Pertaining to or at the base.

Bistrate. Two-layered.

Bract. A modified, reduced leaf in a flower cluster.

Bracteole. A little bract, on a pedicel.

Bullate. Having a blistered or puckered appearance.

Calyx. The outerset or parts (sepals) of a complete flower at the base of, and external to the corolla.

Campanulate. Bell-shaped; cup shaped.

Candelabroid. Shaped like a candelabra.

Canescent. With gray pubescence.

Capitate. Collected into a head or dense cluster.

Capsule. A dry seed vessel splitting at maturity.

Cartilaginous. Gristly.

Cespitose. Growing in tufts.

Chartaceous. Writing paper texture.

Cilia. Small, sometimes microscopic, hair-like processes.

Ciliate. Fringed with hairs.

Ciliolate. Minutely ciliate.

Clavate. Club-shaped.

Clone. A horticultural variety propagated asexually, by cuttings, grafts, or layers, and not by seed.

Cm. Abbreviation of centimeter, approximately two-fifths of an inch.

Conic. Cone-shaped; conical.

Conoid. Nearly conic.

Contiguous. Adjacent; joined at the edge.

Convex. Curved outward, as the outer surface of a sphere; opposed to concave.

Cordate. Heart-shaped, with two rounded lobes at the base.

Coriaceous. Leathery in texture.

Corolla. The part of the flower just outside the stamens, usually colored, and consisting of separate or more or less united petals.

Corymb. Cluster of flowers, flat-topped due to unequal length pedicels and flowering from the margin inward.

Corymbose. Borne in a corymb.

Crenate. Dentate with rounded teeth.

Crenulate. Minutely crenate.

Crispate. Having a crisp or curled appearance.

Crustaceous. Of hard and brittle texture.

Cultivar. Horticultural variety or group.

Cuneate. Wedge-shaped.

Cupular. Cup-shaped.

Cuspidate. Tipped with a sharp, stiff point.

Cylindric. Shaped like a cylinder.

Deciduous. Falling off at maturity; not evergreen.

Declinate. Curved downward.

Decumbent. Reclining, with tip ascending.

Decurrent. Applied to a sessile leaf having its base extended downward along the stem.

Dehiscing. Gaping or opening, as of a seed capsule.

Deltoid. Triangular; shaped like the Greek letter Delta.
Dentate. Having teeth that point outward rather than upward.
Dimorphic.. Occuring in two forms.
Discoid. Having the form of a disc.
Dorsal. Pertaining to the upper surface of a leaf.
E glandular. Without glands.
Elepidote. Without scales.
Ellipsoid. A solid figure havig every plane an ellipse or circle.
Elliptic. Oval; oblong narrowed to rounded ends.
Emarginate. Having the margin notched or indented at the spex.
Entire. Not cut or toothed.
Epiphyte. A plant growing non-parasitically upon another.
Erose. Having an irregular toothed margin, as if gnawed.
Evanescant. Fleeting or liable to disappear.
Exserted. Protruding from surrounding parts.
Farina. White powder.
Farinose. Covered with a white, meal-like powder.
Fasciate. Characterized by a flat or ribbon-like growth.
Fastigiate (branches). Erect and near together.
Ferruginous. Rust colored.
Filament. The stalk or support of an anther.
Filiform.. Thread-like; filamentous



Above a new bird species "honeyeater" And a new giant rhododendron on right.

Fimbriate. Fringed.
Flexuous. Bending alternately in opposite directions; slightly wavy.
Floccose. Having tufts of soft hairs or wool.
Floriferous. Bearing flowers.
Foliaceous. Leaf-like; having leaves.
Foveolate. Having foveola or little pits.
Fulvous. Tawny.
Gamete. A mature male or female sex cell.
Genus (pl. Genera). A group of species which are similar in many respects and presumably more closely related to each other than to other species.
Gibbous. Irregularly rounded; lumped or swollen on one side.
Glabrescent. Shedding hair; becoming glabrous.
Glabrous. Not rough or hairy; smooth.
Glandular. Bearing glands.
Glaucous. Covered with a bluish-white bloom.
Globose. Spherical.
Glomerate. Compactly clustered.
Glutinous. Besmeared with sticky or slippery moisture.
Heterozygous. That condition of an individual in which any given factor has been derived from only one parent, so that half the gametes will contain this particular factor, half will lack it; such an individual will not breed true with respect to this particular character.



Hirsute. Covered with rather coarse, straight hairs.
Hispid. Rough, with stiff hairs or bristles.

Homomorphic. Having the same form.
Homozygous. That condition of an individual in which any given genetic factor is doubly present, hence such an individual produces gametes of only one kink and breeds true with respect to a given character.

Hyaline. Glassy surfaced; translucent.
Hybrid. A cross-breed, usually with two or more species in its ancestry.

Imbricate. Overlapping like shingles.

Indumentum. Hairy or scale-like covering, often felt-like on the under side of the leaf.

Inflorescence. The flower cluster or flower arrangement.
Internode. The part of a stem between nodes or joints.

Lacunose. Furrowed or pitted.

Lamina. The blade or flat expanded portion of a leaf.

Lanceolate. Tapering like the head of a lance.

Lepidote. Scurfy with minute scales.

Ligulate. Strap-shaped.

Linear. Very narrow and elongate with margins parallel.

Lobate. Divided into lobes.

Lobe. A rounded projection or division.

Lobulate. Having small lobes.

(Cont. next issue...)

Dec. 2005 Foja Expedition

The lost world largely untouched by humans that was recently unearthed on West Papua may be the last such find on Earth, an expedition scientist says.

His comments follow the discovery of a world teeming with new species, giant flowers and rare wildlife showing no fear of humans.

Vireya Clean-up Time

By Sherla Bertelmann

This winter has brought sunshine, rain, wind, cold again and again and again. Our vireya are reacting with leaf spots and insects are appearing.

Most of what I'm seeing are on plants in pots rather than in the garden. Plants in pots often are the first to show problems. Makes sense because they are growing in a limited space versus garden planted vireya and, thus are more subject to stresses especially from the environment.



This photo is an example of what's happening, browning edges and brown leaf spots.

At one point of our winter weather we had low night temperatures and strong warm winds. This combination of "very cold ground and a warm drying wind causes the leaves to lose more water than the roots can absorb, and as such, the plants actually suffer from drought injury".

There are many different kinds of leaf spots. For example, there is

Botrytis Leaf Blight that enters a plant with physical damage or environmental stress. Having lots of wet weather helps them to enter the hosts. Symptoms of infection are alternating light- and dark-colored areas.

Pestalotia Leaf Spot also invade plants after winter damage, sunscald, or other injury. Symptoms are light-colored spots, usually with brown margins that later enlarge and join to form large lesions. Defoliation may result if infection is severe enough.

And there is cold injury that first appear as a water-soaking and later a browning of the leaf margins. It can move toward the middle and sometimes the entire leaf.



Though spots may vary in size, shape and color the control is about the same for all.

1 (Most important) Remove as many of the infected leaves as practical.

2. Clean up under the plant, too, and dispose of the infected leaves. You do not want them around to re-infect your plants.

3. Increasing light and air around the plants will also help. With your help, as the weather improves, the plants will usually grow through this.

As for insects, check for mealybugs (puffy, white, soft bodied bugs) around your big buds. It's the vireya with the large leaves with lots of indumentum (hairy covering) whose buds seem to attract mealybugs. You can wipe them away with alcohol and a cotton swab or use something gentle like insecticidal soap to deal with them.

Remember those crazy ants last year that were going into the flowers and sealing the centers, as well as, hiding in curled leaves? They are just beginning to show up again. Insecticidal soap seems to deal with them immediately on the flowers. Ants, though, usually have nests you don't see. If they become a bigger problem for you, you may need to use an ant bait.

References:

- (1) Rhododendron 1956- American Rhododendron Society
- (2) Compendium of Rhododendron and Azalea Diseases- Duane L. Coyier & Martha K. Roane



Kaye Hagan
Dorothy Walker
Neil Pudsey



Ardith Harms
Charles Martin
Ray Greuel



Neil Pudsey
John Barbour
Christa Barbour



Marina Trommer
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Viva Vireyas!

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Past President: Richard Marques

Director Emeritus: Mitch Mitchell

Next Meeting: Sunday, March 19, 2006

Time: Potluck lunch 12:00 noon

Meeting time: 1 pm to 3pm

Place: Hilo Coffee Mill

Directions:

Between the 12 & 13 mile marker (from Hilo) on Volcano Hwy 11, closer to mile 13. There should be a sign on the left (makai side) as you go up. If you pass the 13 mile marker, you have gone too far.

Much thanks to Hilo Coffee Mill for giving us a place to meet. We will be setting up our next 3 to 4 meeting places.

Please join us for fun, food, & lots of beautiful flowers.