

Nerium News



NEWSLETTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL OLEANDER SOCIETY

February 2021 Newsletter

INTERNATIONAL OLEANDER SOCIETY

2021 Officers

President

Amber Jenkins

Vice President

Heidi Coggeshall

Secretary

Betsy Thomas

Treasurer

Kellye Graham

Internet/ International Correspondent

James Nicholas

Garden Chairperson

Marcia Moley

Public Relations Chairperson

Mike Bailey

Dear Members,

My name is Amber Jenkins and I am proud and excited to be your new IOS President.

I was born and raised in Galveston, The Oleander City. My love for Oleanders goes back as far as I can remember. My dad taught me to propagate cuttings which is a hobby I have enjoyed my whole life.

I would like to introduce our current board members:

Past President – Lydia Miller

President – Amber Jenkins

Vice President – Heidi Coggeshall

Secretary – Betsy Thomas

Treasurer – Kellye Graham

Mike Bailey – Public Relations Chairperson

Marcia Moley – Garden Chairperson

We are planning a fun and successful 2021 with the outdoor Oleander Festival on April 24th in the Spring and our members Annual Luncheon and Silent Auction in the Fall. A few of our goals are to build a Memorial path in the garden, promote the International Oleander Society to increase membership, create an Oleander Trail highlighting some of the historic oleanders and their tributes around the Island as well as raising community awareness and education for both the flower and our group. We want to add a few board positions as well as new committees.

This is going to be an exciting year for the International Oleander Society and I look forward to my new role and getting to know the members.

Thank you for your continued support of the International Oleander Society.

Peace, love & oleanders

Amber Jenkins

175 Years of Oleanders



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Visit our website to learn more about us and the flower!

And follow us on Facebook: International Oleander Society



Preserving the rare Henry's Red!

As of January 2021, we are only aware of two possible locations of Henry's Red:

- 1) Corner of Henry's Restaurant at 2823 Broadway
- 2) The home of Jim Nicholas, our International Correspondent and an oleander gardener himself.

Jim Nicholas, our Internet/International Correspondent for the IOS and the European oleander community, lives in Hartford CT and has been growing oleanders in pots for almost 30 years. Asked how he got started, he recalls that he was immediately attracted to the oleander plants when he first saw them as a teenager on a vacation in Hawaii. Fortunately for us, he speaks German, Hungarian, Czech and French, allowing us to have a relationship with the oleander community in Central Europe. (Hungary is actually the most oleander-crazy nation on the planet and the oleander is the most beloved container plant in Germany.) And for those of you who didn't know, he is also a volunteer firefighter. Next trip he can tour our new firehouse next to the Park!



In 2015 on a visit to Galveston for our Annual Luncheon, Jim brought clippings of Henry's Red to his home in Connecticut and raised five plants, away from the hurricane zone. Since that time, we do not know if the oleander has survived here in Galveston.

In order to preserve Henry's Red here on the Island, the Society plans to procure a clipping either from Henry's Restaurant or from Jim himself, propagate the flower and add it to the Oleander Park. We await the spring blooms to determine if the oleander is still at the Restaurant and if not, Jim has agreed to provide us a clipping from CT. Please stay tuned to see if we successfully ensure this variety is preserved locally in Galveston.

Henry's Red: (single, intense fuchsia-red; compact but wide growth habit, very short internodes. The broad leaves form a very attractive geometric pattern along the stems). Very rare; discovered next to Henry's Mexican Restaurant at the corner of Broadway und Martin Luther King Boulevard in Galveston. Galveston variety.



Jim sent us a photo of his Henry's Red with the evergreens in the background: "Of all the oleanders I've grown, this is probably the healthiest and best-suited to the North. It's less bothered by mites and scale than any of the others I've grown, because of the thick leaves; also shows less winter damage from fungi like *Stemphylium* and *Ascochyta* than any of my others. Blooms continually, and is mildly fragrant as well."



Is the Hardy Pink actually hardy?

The oleander has many followers in Europe. Wilhelm (Willi) Hufnagl who created Oleander Haus provided this update of his cold winter experience this year with the Hardy Pink. For those of you who did not meet Willi when he visited Galveston in 2015, he is a native of Vienna and went on to become a photographer and publisher, among other things. He retired to Rax, a small town in the province of Burgenland, Southeastern Austria, where the oleander is a tradition going back for centuries. He created the Oleander Haus website as a type of physical and virtual meeting place for oleander enthusiasts.



Oleanders growing inside!

The large plant with balloon-shaped buds is also known in Galveston as Pink Beauty. The Hardy Pink is its correct name and that is how Monrovia Nurseries, (a nursery in CA who developed new oleander varieties), introduced it in its 1965 catalog. Hardy Pink was planted outdoors in SE Austria, in a climate very similar our international liaison James Nicholas' home in central Connecticut. Willi explained:

"This winter, nighttime temperatures for all of January have constantly reached down to -7 degrees C (19.4 F), with below-freezing temperatures even during some days. Lots of rain and bad weather, hardly any snow (where we are - in Western Austria and in the Alps there is snow, which there hasn't been for a long time). Only in the last few days has there been a little sun - sometimes - and it's been cold in between.

"And yet - Hardy Pink - unprotected, planted outdoors in open air, is undaunted; it will have little or no damage, and is a beautiful big green bush. AND it has opened its mature seed pods!"

Hardy Pink (known as Pink Beauty in Galveston): single, large, lightly fragrant medium-pink flowers with characteristic, swollen, balloon-like buds. Vigorous plant, cold-tolerant. Introduced by Monrovia Nurseries by the name 'Hardy Pink' in 1965. Known as 'Hardy Pink in Europe' and NOT the same as the extremely large and vigorous plant sold under the name 'Pink Beauty' in Europe, which is another Monrovia introduction from the year 1952. 'Hardy Pink' from 1965 has the balloon-like buds; 'Pink Beauty' from 1952 does not.



The buds in Austria this winter



Hardy Pink

Betty Head Oleander Park

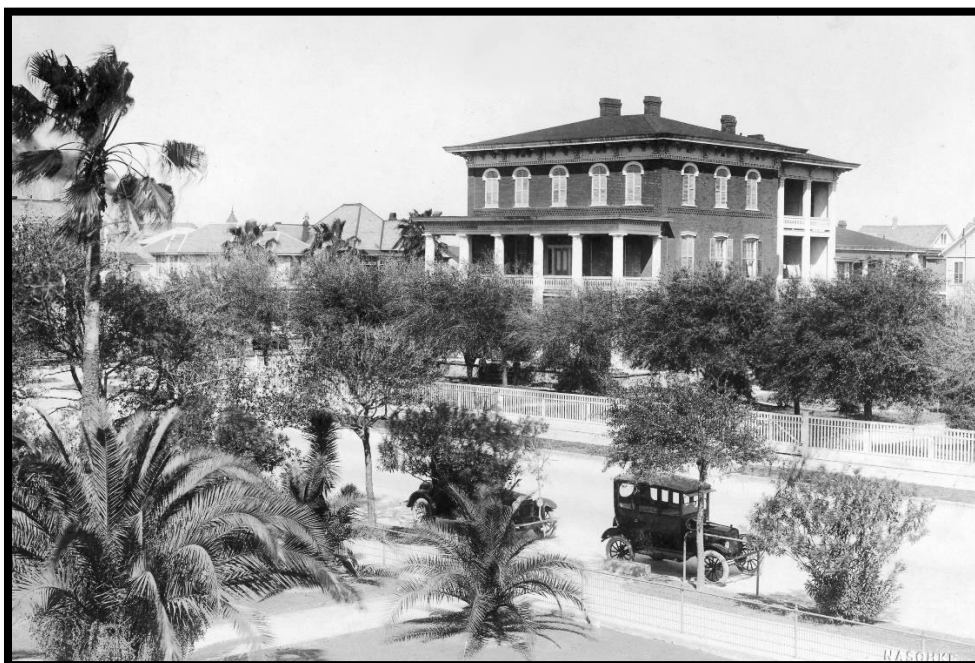
**Save the Date! –
OLEANDER FESTIVAL
Sat. April 24, 2021**



Annual Haircut: Many of us had fewer visits to the hair salon during the pandemic but not the Park! Our team of “weed warriors” under the direction of Marcia Moloy has been busy pruning the garden and placing two pallets of mulch all around the garden. Thank you again to this team! Anyone who would like to spend an hour or so weekly (or as convenient), please let us know. In addition to maintaining the Park, it is always great mentally and physically to get some fresh air and meet some new friends! ✂ ✂

Brick Paths: One project completed this winter was to create decorative paths around our fountain and flowers with historical bricks from the home of Colonel William Lewis Moody Sr. (May 19, 1828 – July 17, 1920). His home had been located at 1304 Tremont. Colonel Moody was an American entrepreneur who founded the Moody family business in Galveston, Texas. Their story begins in Virginia, where Col. William Lewis Moody, owning not much more than a law degree from the University of Virginia, ventured west in 1852 seeking opportunity and a comfortable place to settle a family. After visits to Austin, San Antonio and Houston, he decided on Galveston because of its potential as a port and mercantile center. Col. Moody started the family business in the 1850s through cotton trading.

The bricks were preserved through the efforts of Mrs. Mary Moody Northern, Colonel Moody’s granddaughter. She led the effort to preserve architectural treasures from her grandparents’ home. The patio at Moody Mansion across from the Oleander Park and the serpentine wall are also made from the bricks. And Moody Mansion provided 100 of these bricks to repair the east wall of the Ashton Villa Carriage House. The bricks are called Cedar Bayou bricks and are softer than newer bricks. It would not have worked to insert new bricks into the older walls so GHF was thankful to be able to maintain the historical integrity of the structure.



Colonel Moody's House

Below are photos of the three new work-in-progress bricked areas: 1) the fountain, 2) the southwest ring and 3) "named" bricks.

These projects have spruced up the park! The "named" bricks were previously around the oak tree but were moved as the tree roots started to push the bricks out of their settlement. We will put a bird bath in the center.

We continue to sell bricks as a fundraiser for the organization. If you would like to purchase a brick, please contact us by emailing international.oleander@yahoo.com.



*Cool weather in the park
pre-spring blooms so time to
move some bricks*



*Relocation of the "named"
bricks moved from the oak
tree – Phase 1*



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Visit our website to learn more about us and the flower!



And follow us on Facebook: International Oleander Society



Any questions: international.oleander@yahoo.com

SAVE THE DATE

Meetings:

- Feb 24 – 6 pm (via Zoom)
- May 20 – 6 pm
- Aug 19 – 6 pm

Events:

- Oleander Festival – April 24
- Fall Luncheon – TBD

And a big thank you to our business members!

COASTAL GARDENS, INC.
MCDONALD CONSULTING

You may sign up on our website www.oleander.org via PayPal or mail your membership or donation to the address below:

International Oleander Society
P.O. Box 3431
Galveston, TX 77552-0431

Please indicate the membership of your choice and include both your mailing address and email address.

Renewable Annually

- (1) Individual \$20.00
- (2) Family \$30.00
- (3) Lifetime \$300.00
- (4) Business \$100.00

(Business members will receive a certificate to display in their business, listing in our newsletter and on our website)

____ Or donation of any amount is appreciated.

THANK YOU