

Nerium News

NEWSLETTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL OLEANDER SOCIETY



April 2022 Newsletter

INTERNATIONAL OLEANDER SOCIETY

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Russel Rac

Newsletter:
Heidi Coggeshall
(please email
international.
oleander@
yahoo.com) if you
have an article

Buy or sell tickets for our raffle to maintain the Betty Head Oleander Garden Park!

Cooler full of alcohol and snacks!



You can purchase 1 ticket for \$5.00 or 5 for \$20.00. There will be other items available with the raffle: the wine basket, the garden basket and items from the festival vendors.

See page 6 for payment options

Dear Members,

It's Oleander Month as proclaimed by the Galveston City Council on March 24, 2022!

Thank you for your continued support of the International Oleander Society! We look forward to the Oleander Festival on Saturday, April 23, 2022. We will be selling oleanders and there will be vendors. If anyone is aware of other vendors, please let us know! The hours are 9-1 and if you would like to volunteer for a shift, please email us. And again, the Galveston Ukulele Society will be playing from 10-12 – always a festive group!

Thanks to the Aggies! They participated in their annual "Big Event" Service Day on March 26, 2022 by helping us spread sod in one section of the garden. We are finding it is just too much to maintain the weeds even with mulch. In order to cut the cost of maintenance (both in \$ and in time), we are testing switching from mulch to sod. We will know this summer if this has been a successful strategy.

Finally, we hope you will renew your membership for 2022 for only \$20. The funds are critical for our monthly maintenance costs and ability to preserve our oleander varieties. The membership form is on the last page.

Peace, love & oleanders

Amber Jinkins

175 Years of Oleanders

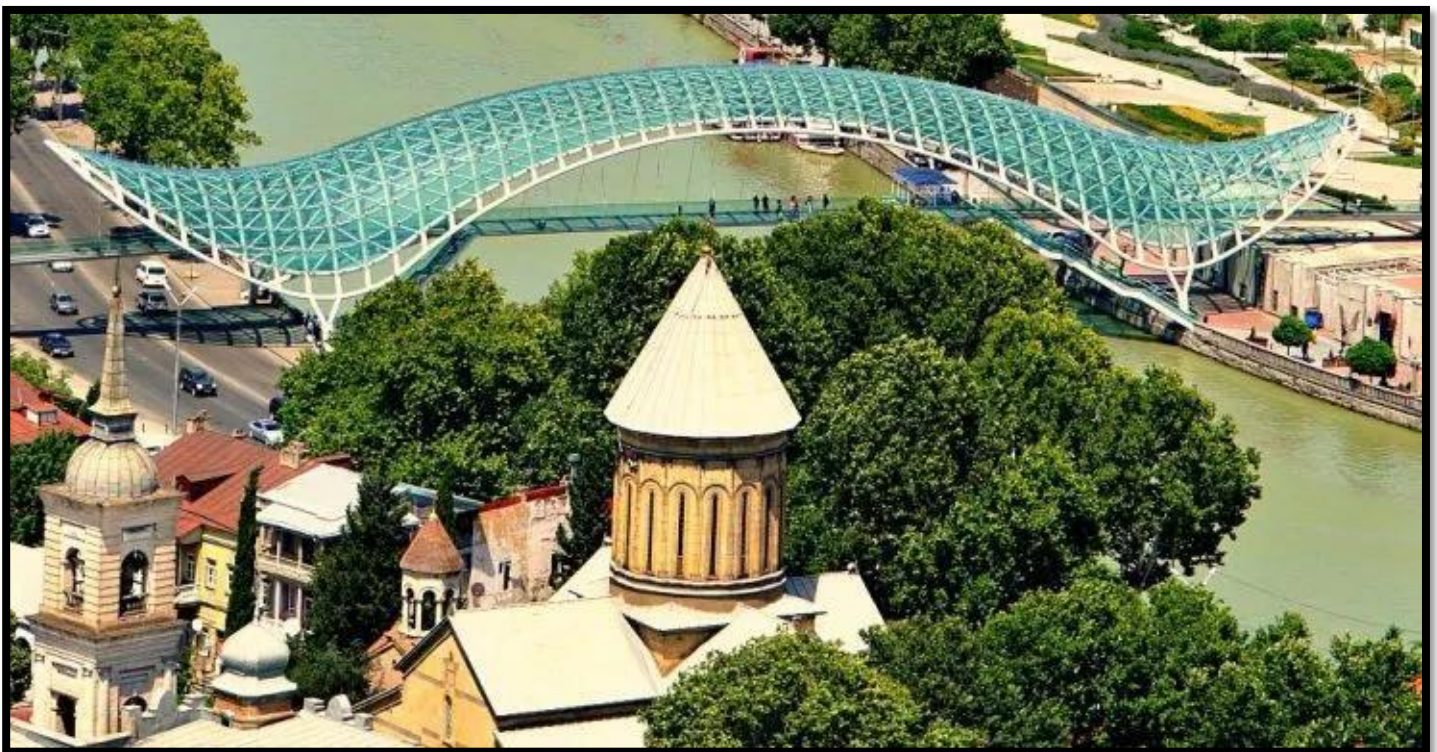
Republic of Georgia – Peace in the World

Given the situation in Ukraine, we bring you photos of their ally the Republic of Georgia. We wish for peace in the area.

We also attach their spelling of oleander, given the beauty of their language. **ოლეანდრი**



This is known as the Bridge of Peace in Tbilisi, Georgia. The bridge is composed of many large curved steel beams with multiple glass panels. Around each panel are multiple LED lights.



Vincent Van Gogh

As you may remember from our July 2021 Newsletter, we had a photo of Vincent Van Gogh's famous oleander painting from the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. We asked members if they had any opinion on what type of oleanders they were. Two members (Barry Landry and Jim Nicholas) both thought it was the Provence.

Barry Landry sent us a link to the Italian nursery Meilland Richardier which sells the Provence and had a nice photo of the flower.

Jim Nicholas provided us the following information on the highly fragrant oleander:

Provence *Triple corollas, Salmon-pink tinged with yellow. Very large flowers; very fragrant. Vigorous shrub. Blooms early but not a long-season bloomer. Origin: France, Jean Rey, 1973.*

"Jean Rey introduced a whole slew of new oleanders to the trade in that year, but he also marketed some old, tried-and-true ones under new names which he made up. I wonder if 'Provence' is actually one of those old varieties whose origins are now lost/forgotten?"

Mr Peter Schaar of Houston has a shrub of it from a cutting which came from Hungary. Jim Nicholas believes it is the only one in the US. Peter confirmed the shrub was still alive however much smaller since the Texas freeze of 2021. 'Provence' is supposedly pretty cold-tolerant. Somebody overwintered one next to a building in Prague, Czech Republic.



Metropolitan Museum of Art - display marker. For Van Gogh, oleanders were joyous, life-affirming flowers that bloomed "inexhaustibly" and were always "putting out strong new shoots". In this painting of August 1888, the flowers fill a majolica jug that the artist used for other still lifes made in Arles. They are symbolically juxtaposed with Emile Zola's *La joie de vivre*, a novel that Van Gogh had placed in contrast to an open Bible in a Nuenen still life of 1885.

Gift of Mr. and Mrs. John I. Loeb, 1962

Friends of Moody Gardens discussion / Scorch Disease

Our Past President, Lydia Miller, and member Mike Bailey presented a power point on “The History of the Oleander Society and Looking at Oleanders Anew” to the Friends of Moody Gardens (“FOMG”) on March 24, 2022. Many of our members have served on the Board of the FOMG, including Kewpie Gaido, Betty Head and Lydia Miller.

One of the discussion topics was oleander scorch disease. Lydia and Mike explained that scorch disease is said to have originated in California. It is spread internally throughout the plant. Tips of lower leaves browning and spreading upward could be an indication of scorch. Eventually the plant will die. The insect invades the plant through the lower main branches working its way up. As the lower plant dies it cuts off the nutrients to the upper part of the plant thus causing the plant to die. Sometimes the insect will not die making it difficult to control.



City Council Oleander Month Proclamation

Lydia and Mike’s day was busy! That afternoon, they along with Amber Jenkins attended the City Council meeting. The City of Galveston proclaimed April as Oleander Month. We distributed our oleander coasters to the City Council as a reminder of the flower.



Aggie "Big Event" Service Day

March 26, 2022



Contact us to Buy a Named Brick! - \$50

Thanks to the Aggies! Six participated in their annual "Big Event" Service Day on March 26, 2022 by helping us spread sod in one section of the garden. We are finding it is just too much (\$ and time) to maintain the garden and remove the weeds on our own, even with mulch. We believe it will be easier to mow the sod than pull all the weeds. We will be leaving space around the oleanders to allow them the freedom to grow. We will know this summer if this has been a successful strategy. In order to spend less on sod, we laid the pads in a diagonal formation to let the grass grow in between.



This corner is named Pat's Corner because she pulled out the ginger in the Park – a nightmare!



WWW.OLEANDER .ORG

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

To Join, you may:

- 1) Sign up on our website www.oleander.org via PayPal
- 2) Venmo to @internationalOleander-Society
- 3) PayPal: International.oleander@yahoo.com
- 4) Email us at International.oleander@yahoo.com with your phone.
We will call you back to get your credit card number.
- 5) 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, email address and phone.

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