

Nerium News



NEWSLETTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL OLEANDER SOCIETY

July 2021 Newsletter

INTERNATIONAL OLEANDER SOCIETY

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

Dear Members,

Thank you for supporting the 2021 Oleander Festival which was especially important this year with the freeze damage.

Special thanks for donations of time/talent/treasure goes to:

Kandy Arena	RCC Resale
Mike Bailey	Carolyn Sayre/Jay Smith
Earth Creations – Rusty Rac	The Sanderson Family
G P Designs	Southwest Fisheries
Kellye Graham	The Tea Mistress
A J Jinkins III	Ron & Betsy Thomas

And to our volunteers: Marina Filchakova, Ginger Hopper, Cay Hughes, Mike Landry, Terry O'Connell, Susan Syler, Pat Turk and Lillian Quigley.

A big shout out goes to the musicians who provided entertainment: The Galveston Ukulele Society, Lyda Plummer and Geoff Fish!

Congratulations to Mike Landry for winning the Sunset Cruise raffle. And heartfelt thanks to everyone who purchased raffle tickets. The funds are used to get our garden back in shape after the freeze.

I want to thank the IOS Board for all their donations and time preparing for and working the Festival. I am very proud of our Board and the progress we have made thus far in 2021.

Thank you to City Council Member David Collins for reading the City of Galveston's Proclamation that named April 2021 Oleander Month on the Island.

We welcome any ideas for other events or seminars/webinars and look forward to our Fall Luncheon – **SAVE THE DATE: October 27!!** Details coming soon.

AND FINALLY (BREAKING NEWS) – a heartfelt thank you to the Mary Moody Northen Endowment for providing us a grant to make needed repairs to the Park, including replacing the old damaged water lines.

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

Peace, love & oleanders

Amber Jinkins

175 Years of Oleanders

Austria

Willi Hufnagl created the physical and virtual meeting place Oleander Haus for oleander enthusiasts around the world in Rax, Austria. It is dedicated to research, providing horticultural and historical information and preserving as many cultivars as possible, including a large number of the Galveston varieties which will always be threatened with extinction because of the frequent storms and hurricanes.

Willi has over 60 oleander varieties growing at his house, including one he collected from the wild in the High Atlas mountains of Morocco, where it frequently snows. The majority are in pots or large tubs that are brought into his polytunnels during the winter. He built a pavilion on his property with removable sides to protect the plants during the winter cold. He continues to experiment with winter protection and testing hardiness limits. More information on his experiments with growing oleanders in the cold can be found in his website.

At the bottom of the page is a wonderful photo of Willi's driveway entrance, with the pots of oleanders that he brings inside each winter. We also highlight the 'Sealy Pink' (known in Galveston as 'East End Pink'), which is Willi's favorite. In his region, the traditional varieties found are the double pink 'Splendens' type (of which Galveston's 'Mrs. Dyer' is a representative) and the single white Soeur Agnès (Galveston name: Sister Agnes). Other popular varieties found in front of restaurants and cafes are the 'Mont Blanc' (Galveston name: Magnolia Willis Sealy), 'Emile Sahut' (Galveston name: Scarlet Beauty) and the single-flowered yellow European cultivar 'Marie Gambetta'.



Pavilion built in 2014



Sealy Pink – Willi's favorite!



The Roots of Oleanders – but we don't mean the ones in the ground!

Jim Nicholas is not in agreement with the common view of how the word “oleander” is derived. “I’ve got a gripe regarding the oft-repeated and uncritically accepted statement that “Oleander” is derived from two words from two different ancient languages: the Latin “olea”, meaning “olive”, and the Greek “dendron” (dendron, in Modern Demotic Greek dentro), meaning “tree”. This makes no sense on two counts. First: there would be no good reason to mix two only distantly-related languages within the same word. Second: even the briefest scrutiny of the word will reveal that the root “dendron” is not actually present.

The true etymology is this: the plant was known in Medieval Latin as “**lauriandrum**” or “**oleandrum**”, respectively meaning “laurel-like” or “olive-like”. As Latin evolved into the vernacular Italian, “oleandrum” became “oleandro”, in accordance with the consistent pattern in which the vowel “u” in the final syllable shifts to “o” and the final consonant is dropped. When the plant reached Central Europe in the 15th century, German speakers adopted the Italian name, but in the Teutonized form “Oleander”.

Oleanders in Art: What variety did he paint? Vincent Van Gogh



This spring I went to the Metropolitan Museum of Art to see Vincent Van Gogh's painting:

Oleanders, 1888 – Oil on canvas.

As per the 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

Question: What variety is this? Google a close-up and then feel free to send me your opinion! (We do not know so cannot declare a ‘winner’ but it looked like a salmon to me)



Betty Head Oleander Park 2624 Sealy



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

The 2021 Winner! First Bloom!

And the winner of the first oleander bloom in the Park is Lane Taylor Sealy! It had no freeze damage.

Lane Taylor Sealy (Single, very large pale salmon flowers with red-stripped yellow throats, fragrant; compact shrub, cold-tolerant). Named by the prominent Galveston businessman and philanthropist George Sealy Jr. for his young son whom he engaged to "steal" cuttings during the 1940's. Lane Sealy only found out about this honor by chance from oleander expert Clarence Pleasants approximately fifty years later. Galveston variety.



Road trip to Louisiana:

On April 19th, Marcia Moly took a break from her volunteer work as a nurse providing vaccines to volunteer to drive to Louisiana with past Presidents Lydia Miller and Terry O'Connell to pick up 150 oleanders to sell at our Oleander Festival. With expenses increased this year of heavy pruning required due to the freeze devastation and costs to fix our irrigation system, we thank this team for driving over and back in a day!

The Terry O oleander in the Park was named after Terry O'Connell. We felt we should have called her red truck a Hardy Red! Two SUVs and one truck headed down State Hwy 112 in Louisiana to Richard's Nursery in Forest Hills. The oleanders arrived in great shape and sold well at the Festival.



Oleander Festival

The Oleander Festival was held on Saturday April 24, 2021. It was a great success. In addition to our pink, red and white varieties, we had some donated Kewpie's and Petite Pinks. The Kewpie's and dwarf varieties sold quickly...

The oleander sales went well and people enjoyed the information on growing oleanders from cuttings. Next year, we want to expand the educational materials next year and are open to other ideas from our members.



Betty Head, Bob Newding, Carolyn Sayre



*Sister Agnes (one of the whites)
Sister Agnes (= Soeur Agnès: single, pure-white flowers with yellow throat; slightly fragrant on warm, humid evenings; large, vigorous plant). Well-known old European variety, introduced by Félix Sahut in 1873*

Thank you for replacing the John Harris oleander!

Thank you to John Campbell for donating a John Harris to the Park. John Harris is his grandfather. Ours died last year and we are glad to replace it.



John Woods Harris (single, rich deep red, widely-separated petals, not fragrant; large shrub). Named for a prominent Galveston citizen who was the director of the Galveston Foundation. A hybrid of 'Emile Sahut' and 'Tangier'. The original cross was made by Bob Newding around 1993. Galveston variety.



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

SAVE THE DATE

Meetings:

August 19 – 6 pm

Events:

Fall Luncheon – October 27 – 11:30 am

And a big thank you to our business members!

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