

Nerium News

NEWSLETTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL OLEANDER SOCIETY



November 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,

A great November event - Breakfast in the Park – was held in conjunction with the Moody Mansion Yard Sale for Galveston non-profits. We were able to clean out our closets to raise funds to maintain the garden. Many thanks to the Moody Mansion for including us in this wonderful event for the community. And we thank our many members who volunteered at both the garage sale and the breakfast. Congrats to our raffle winners: Mike Miller, Glynda Oglesby, Debra Valdez and Kathleen Maca.

Many yard sale visitors and IOS members stopped by the Park for breakfast and hear the Galveston Ukulele Society play. Their music is always fun to hear and their shirts are as colorful as the garden!

As a reminder, we do not have a professional landscaper and have relied on our 'weed warriors' and one-off landscapers to help with the large maintenance projects. Due to the workload, we are looking at hiring more frequent help and the Yard Sale and Fall Raffle will help us fund this maintenance.

We are also excited that Barry Landry, Marcy Moly and Terry O'Connell are growing oleanders from cutting, including many rare varieties for planting this spring!

As we move into 2022, if you have any ideas to help us or any speakers we should consider, please let us know! We love our members, volunteers and their ideas.

Please Save the Date for our Annual Luncheon on **Wednesday, January 26, 2022** at Moody Gardens. We have postponed the event twice due to Covid. But January is a great time to bring some "Spring and Flowers" to our members. We will keep you posted on more details and how to buy tickets for you and your friends. Stay tuned..

Peace, love & oleanders

Amber Jinkins

175 Years of Oleanders

Rare Tyche Oleander returns to the Island!

Lynette Haaga, our former IOS Vice President, Secretary and Festival Chairperson, and David Schuler donated a rare Tyche oleander to the Betty Head Park in October. She moved the oleander from her home in Galveston to her new home in League City four years ago. Lynette grew the flower in a pot from cuttings that Jim Nicholas mailed her from Connecticut from the collection of Mrs. Irmtraud Gotsis, a longtime overseas member of our group. Mrs. Gotsis had sent the cuttings to Jim from Greece so this oleander has had quite a journey to the Park!

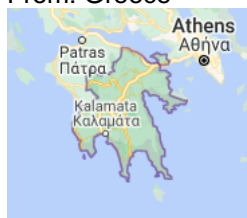
Lynette explained that “my Tyche oleander is the lone survivor of dozens of cuttings and has endured a lot of perils besides moving to the mainland - I’ve hauled it in and out of the garage too many times to count to protect it from severe storms, scorching heat, high winds, and freezing temperatures.”



“It has lived on my kitchen counter, my patio, and my front porch, and survived curious cats and invading aphids. After the great Texas freeze this year, it dropped most of its leaves and I feared it might be lost even though I had brought it inside. But Tyche came through and bloomed beautifully this spring. Special thanks to Marcy for prepping the new garden planting spot in our park and to David Schuler for assisting in hauling and planting.”

Jim believes Lynette may have had the only surviving specimen of this variety in the US so in addition to donating her oleander to the Park, she sent Jim and Barry Landry some cuttings to grow.

From: Greece



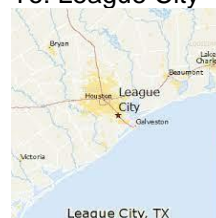
To: Connecticut



To Galveston:



To: League City



To: Oleander Park



Jim Nicholas provided us the following background on the variety:

Irmtraud Gotsis (born Irmtraud Sühs) is a native of Vienna, Austria. When her husband, a surgeon and a native of Greece, retired, the family moved back to his home region of Agrilis, in the western Peloponnesos. There, Mrs. Gotsis, a self-taught gardener, created a spectacular garden of tropical and subtropical plants through much trial and error and against all odds, given the rocky, dry, and unpromising soil. Her special love is the oleander, and she has written extensively with regard to its history and botany. You can find her oleander story in the Oleanderhaus.at website in its original German and an English translation by Jim.

She is also a passionate proponent of growing oleanders from seed, as only by propagation from seed can new varieties arise.

In the garden in Agrilis, a multitude of new varieties were raised by Mrs. Gotsis from seed. They were named after gods and other characters from Greek mythology, as a homage to the new cultivars' country of origin. Their names were chosen to reflect a particular trait of the mythological figure which was also reflected in some feature of the plant. Many of Mrs. Gotsis' new cultivars can be found in the Oleanderhaus.at website (section: **Blooming Oleanders of the Greek Collection / Irmtraud Gotsis**).

Jim has two of her oleanders: the Tyche (cuttings sent from Lynette to Jim) and an Athena which are pronounced as:

ah - thee - NAH (accent is on the last syllable; "th" as in "think". 'ah-thee-NAH" refers to the goddess; "ah-THEE-nah" means the city of Athens).

TEE - hee (the "h" with a partially closed throat, the same sound as the Spanish J in Jimenez).



Lynette's Tyche growing in League City



Jim's Athena growing in CT



Marcy Moley preparing the ground



Lynette Haaga and David Shuler at the Park



See how large an oleander can grow in a pot!!

(Europeans grow many oleanders in pots and move them inside during the winter)

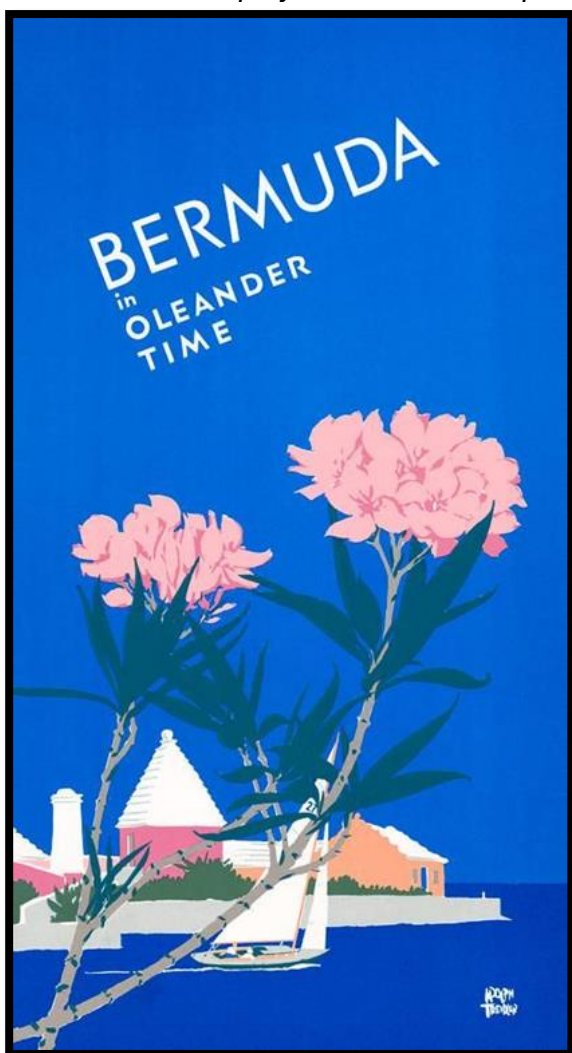
Art is not just visual!

When exploring the wonderful island of Bermuda, my friend introduced me to the perfumery Lili Bermuda. Lili Bermuda was founded in 1928 by William Blackburn (W.B.) Smith and his daughter Madeline Smith. The founders were taught their skills by a French perfumer. In 2004, Isabelle Ramsay-Brackstone and her late husband Leslie Kirby Brackstone acquired the Perfumery and moved its operations to Stewart Hall in the historic town of St. George. The Perfumery still creates and makes its own perfumes in Bermuda as compared to being outsourced to a large company who makes perfumes for numerous brands.

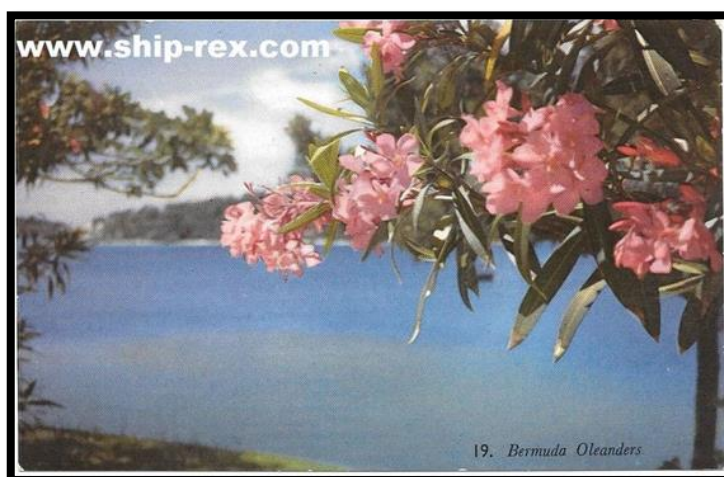
Isabelle told me that “perfumers are artists and our art is to give you a sensorial experience using a theme – the theme can be everything that smells as well as abstract ideas that don’t smell anything, but that can inspire what we call a “fantasy” fragrance such as the sky or hibiscus. Just like a painter will paint a scenery using paint, which can exist or not, out of his imagination. Perfumes are made using essential oils, and us perfumers, create, by blending these essential oils what we want to convey according to that theme.”

One of the fragrances is Oleander. Oleanders are everywhere in Bermuda and particularly spectacular in May and June. This particular fragrance was created back in 1931 and is a very classic fragrance. Isabelle calls it the “little black dress” of our Lili Bermuda collection because “it truly is a timeless fragrance. Some fragrances go in and out of style and others are simply eternal, and Oleander is one of them. It is a lovely fragrance of musk, vanilla, and orris with a sparkling top note of champagne.

Stop by the Lili Bermuda perfumery if you are in Bermuda – worth the visit – I did!



The Lili Bermuda Perfumery with oleanders by the door!



A postcard from Bermuda

**Betty Head Oleander Park
2624 Sealy
Galveston, TX**



Park Maintenance – White Flags in the Park!

Due to the number of weeds in the Park and the physical strength required to mulch the Park, the Board decided to hire a professional landscaper to help us for a one-off major cleanup. The Park looks great and the oleanders are trimmed headed into Spring. Many are blooming and we hope to avoid a heavy long freeze again.

Barry Landry is in the process of growing both replacement and 'never been in the Park' varieties of oleanders. He planted white flags where he plans to plant the new varieties. Stay tuned for his journey!

Marcy Moloy and Terry O'Connell also have ongoing projects of growing oleanders at their home and Moody Gardens so stay tuned!



Breakfast in the Park – Saturday November 13th



The Galveston Ukulele Society



Our many volunteers helping out in November!!





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

Annual Luncheon – Wednesday, January 26 2022

And a big thank you to our business members – MCDONALD CONSULTING

A GIFT MEMBERSHIP FOR A FRIEND OR FAMILY IS A GREAT WAY TO SUPPORT US! Just send in the below or pay on-line and tell us the name/address/email of the gifted member and we will send them a certificate! (or we can send you the certificate directly – just let us know) !



Or buy an engraved brick for the garden!

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