

# Nerium News

NEWSLETTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL OLEANDER SOCIETY



February 2024 Newsletter

INTERNATIONAL OLEANDER SOCIETY

## 2024 Officers

### President

Amber Jinkins

### Vice President

Heidi  
Coggeshall

### Secretary

Sara Hawkes

### Treasurer

Stephanie Tong

### Assistant

### Treasurer

Kay Terry

### Internet/

### International Correspondent

James Nicholas

### Garden

### Chairperson

Van Phipps

### Historian

Barry Landry

### Community Outreach and Education

### Chairperson

Marcy Moley

### Newsletter:

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

Dear Members,

Time is flying by! We are busy planning the Oleander Festival which is scheduled for Saturday, April 27, 2024 from 8am to noon in the Betty Head Oleander Garden Park at 2624 Sealy. Mark your calendars and stop by or volunteer to work a shift. Contact Heidi or shoot us an email at [international.oleander@yahoo.com](mailto:international.oleander@yahoo.com). We are also asking the members to donate wine, liquor or snacks for our alcohol raffle.

We will be pre-selling tickets for the liquor raffle. We are selling tickets at the Festival and drawing the winner at noon that day. Some of the other exciting things we will offer at the Festival are entertainment from 10 to 12 by Galveston Ukulele Society, approximately a dozen vendors, Oleander Plant sale (many varieties), a raffle featuring items from the vendors and other donations and much more!

We held our first Member Meeting of 2024 on February 21st at Shrimp n Stuff. We voted to add Kay Terry to our Board as Assistant Treasurer. She will be handling our HOT Tax Account and Membership. Kay will be working with our new Treasurer, Stephanie Tong. We are very fortunate to have Stephanie and Kay join the Board!

The Board has set big goals for this year. We started with our volunteer Board setting goals:

Heidi:

1. Help Van with Signs
2. Write 4 Newsletters

Amber:

1. Increase membership by 20%
2. Hold two fundraisers (Liquor raffle in April (Festival) and Silent Auction at Luncheon)

Sara:

1. Increase awareness of the Oleander Society and its purpose by hosting events at the park and adding more educational signage in the Park
2. Have a larger Oleander Festival with more vendors

Van:

1. My goals are to work toward a gradual improvement in the garden pathways
2. Working out a better solution for weed control on the pathways that limits overspray and ensures new grass is reviewed quarterly by a lawn specialist to ensure our investment stays healthy

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Marcy:

1. Paint new Oleander Learning Center
2. Visit one school to share knowledge of oleanders in Galveston
3. Create 4 educational signs to install throughout the garden (possible species Magnolia Willis Sealy aka Montana Blanc', Elizabeth Head, Ed Barr, Lane Taylor Sealy)

Anyone else interested in specific projects? We are on board!

THE AGGIES ARE COMING ON MARCH 23<sup>RD</sup>!

Texas A&M has a wonderful tradition called The Big Event. Since its introduction in 1982, The Big Event has become the largest, one-day, student-run service project in the nation. Each spring, tens of thousands of Texas A&M students come together to say "Thank You" to the residents of their community. For the past 40 years, Aggie students have participated in this annual event to show their appreciation to the surrounding community, completing service projects such as yard work, window washing, and painting for residents of the community. Although The Big Event has become the largest one-day, student-run service project in the nation, the message and the mission remain the same – to simply say "Thank You." For Many years, IOS has been blessed to be a part of The Big Event, hosting Aggie students who have painted benches, pulled weeds, laid sod and a host of other projects in our Garden Park. The Aggies love Marcy and our Garden and like us, they take a lot of pride in working to keep it beautiful!

In closing, how can you help? Donate your time or alcohol for the raffle, attend the Festival, help us find new members and be involved! We love hearing from you!

See you at the Festival!

Peace, Love and Oleanders,

Amber Jenkins  
President

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Board Member Spotlight – Kay Terry – Meet one of our recent volunteers!



Kay wrote us recently that she would like to volunteer with us! She is our new Assistant Treasurer and we are excited for her help.

Kay is a native Texan, graduated from University of Texas in Austin with a BA in Business Administration. She has two children and three grandchildren. Kay runs an independent bookkeeping service for small businesses. Some of her other volunteer work includes having supported the Pregnancy Help Center and serving on the board of Resource Crisis Center.

"I look forward to learning more about IOS and helping with their mission." Welcome aboard!

## The OLEANDER - a Time Traveler

This is an excerpt (Part 1) from an article written January 2019 by Irmtraud Gotsis with translation by James Nicholas and located in the Oleander Haus website. (We will continue to add to the story each Newsletter).



"The genus *Nerium*, whose best-known representative is *N. oleander* L. existed in Europe as early as the later Cretaceous period, and indeed was found in Central Europe as well as in Southern Europe at that time; it was still present during the Tertiary period also.

Even during the earliest Tertiary period, a plant related to our current oleander existed in Southern France (Meximieux and Valentine), and Ferdinand Pax has recently described a *Nerium bielzii* from the Tertiary strata of Hermannstadt in Siebenbürgen [Transylvania] (Grundzüge Pflanzenverbr. Karpathen II (1908)23). On the basis of this fact, it is quite impossible that the oleander reached Europe only in historic times; the northern limits of its range were merely shifted southward as a result of the glacial period." (Victor Hehn, Berlin 1870).



## Turner's Shari D



We highlight one of our yellows this month! Turner's Shari D. Barry Landry took the photo and advised that the flower was bred in Corpus Christi. Unfortunately, both Mr. Turners are deceased and no one at their nursery has breeding records.

In the Park, the Shari D is located on the Fire House side.

The Shari D is a dwarf plant with large flowers on tight bouquets.



## Betty Head Oleander Park

Van Phipps, our volunteer Garden Chairperson advised that the Park seems to have survived the winter. Probably less than 5 that were bit back all the way to the ground. Attached are some current photos plus a few from the past in full bloom. We look forward to welcoming the Spring!





# 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](mailto:international.oleander@yahoo.com)

To Join, you may:

- 1) Sign up on our website [www.oleander.org](http://www.oleander.org) via PayPal
- 2) Venmo to @internationalOleander-Society
- 3) PayPal: [International.oleander@yahoo.com](mailto:International.oleander@yahoo.com)
- 4) Email us at [International.oleander@yahoo.com](mailto:International.oleander@yahoo.com) with your phone number. 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 |

\_\_\_\_\_ Or donation of any amount is appreciated.

THANK YOU