

Nerium News

NEWSLETTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL OLEANDER SOCIETY



January 2023 Newsletter

INTERNATIONAL OLEANDER SOCIETY

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

Dear Members,

Although we slowed down for the holiday season, several members have been performing repairs on the fountain pump and reservoir. The Nerium Nippers continue to cultivate oleanders (thanks to Moody Gardens allowing us to use their greenhouse!)

We hope you will renew your membership! Only \$20 allows us to maintain the Park – the largest collection of Nerium varieties in the US! Instructions on the last page.

We are re-introducing our Oleander Festival Luncheon to be held on the Wednesday before the Saturday Festival so please SAVE the DATES: Wednesday April 26th at 11 am at Moody Gardens is the Luncheon followed by the Festival on Saturday April 29th from 8-12. Details will be sent soon!

And as we move into the New Year, we are always looking for new volunteers and Board members to help us so please just let us know if you are interested. Preserving Oleanders and keeping Galveston on the map as “The Oleander City” is very important and rewarding.

Again, I do hope you will renew your membership as well as help us bring in new members.

I hope to see you at the April Luncheon and Oleander Festival!

Peace, love & oleanders,

Amber Jinkins

175 Years of Oleanders

Phoenix

Have you ever been to Phoenix? Oleanders are all over the town! In Paradise Valley, they are commonly used as shrubs to beautify the roads. A section of Phoenix history from Wikipedia on its [Post-World War II explosive growth](#):

A town with 65,000 residents in 1940 became America's fifth largest city by 2020 - a population of nearly 1.6 million, and millions more in nearby suburbs. After the war, many of the men who had undergone their training in Arizona returned with their new families. Learning of this large untapped labor pool, many large industries moved their operations to the area. In 1948, high-tech industry, later a staple of the state's economy, arrived in Phoenix when Motorola chose Phoenix as the site of its new research and development center for military electronics. Seeing this, other high-tech companies, such as McDonnell Douglas, followed and opened manufacturing operations. By 1950, over 105,000 people resided in the city and thousands more in surrounding communities. The 1950s growth was spurred on by advances in air conditioning, which allowed homes and businesses to offset the extreme heat during its long summers. There was more new construction in Phoenix in 1959 alone than from 1914 to 1946.



*Left:
Salmon
oleanders on
the street.*



*Right:
Pink oleanders
in the entry to
Valley Ho Hotel*



*Left:
Red oleanders
bushes in the
back yard*



*Right:
White very tall
oleander
bushes in the
back yard*

Oleander taste warning of its poison:

A reader asked us:

"I'm interested to know how anyone would know the following, as stated on your site...

The extremely bitter and nauseating taste of the sap (much like a rotten lemon) causes a mechanical reflex in the stomach which rejects and expels the vile substance."

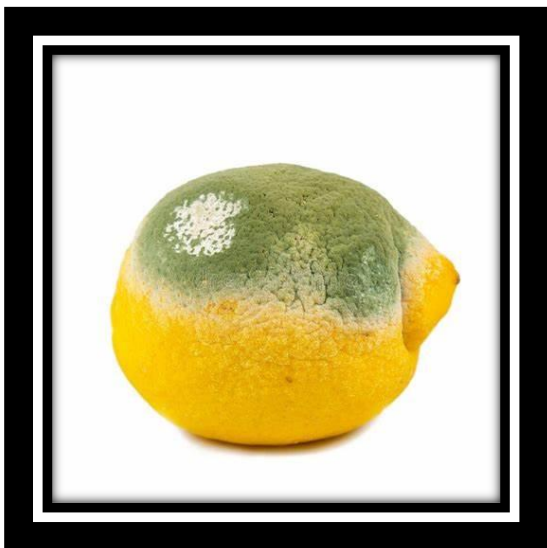
So, I asked Jim Nicholas if he knew and he said:

"Actually, believe it or not, I do - and from personal experience! Being of Greek background, and evidently having inherited a good dose of skepticism as well as scientific curiosity from my ancestors, I decided to test this for myself. The ancient Greek names for oleander were **ροδοδένδρον**, rhododendron, "rose tree" or **ροδοδάφνη**, rhododaphne, "rose laurel", but today it is known as **πικροδάφνη**, pikrodaphne, "bitter laurel".

I decided to test the statement regarding the bitter taste of the sap a couple of years ago. I put a drop of it on my tongue (with a glass of water handy to rinse it out). It is EXTREMELY, INTOLERABLY bitter. I had to rinse my mouth several times to get rid of the bitter aftertaste. I can't imagine that anyone could voluntarily swallow even a drop that size without the natural reflex to vomit being activated.

This summer I was pruning and must have touched a fingertip to my mouth at some point because I again experienced that extremely unpleasant bitter taste from just the dried residue before I had a chance to go inside and wash my hands. Again, I had to spit it out and rinse my mouth out repeatedly.

I have never tasted a rotten lemon, so I can't vouch for the similarity!"



A rotten yellow lemon



and a yellow Turner's Kim Bell



The George Sealy oleander:

*Single, light-to-medium pink,
fragrant, medium size shrub*

Thanks to our oleander expert and friend, Mrs. Irmtraud Gotsis, who found this video in the Rosenberg Library archives/ Texas Archive of the Moving Image on the Seals as below:

You can view the oleanders blowing through the island, very beautiful even in black and white.

Mrs. Gotsis was born in Vienna, and became an expert on oleanders while living in Southern Europe. She wrote "My Oleander Story" located on our website



The Rosenberg Library Collection - Oleanders (1931)

https://texasarchive.org/2016_02128 (this link will bring you to the video)

Description:

This 1930s home movie captures members of the Sealy family in Galveston, including prominent businessman George Sealy Jr.; his wife, Eugenia; and their two eldest children, Jean and George. The family first attends an event in town. Later, they retreat to an opulent beach-side home, whereabouts unknown. While the footage appears black and white to the human eye, the film is actually shot in color on a film stock called Kodacolor. Accessing the color hidden on the film, however, requires specialized technology that most films laboratories do not possess. The Texas Archive of Moving Image hopes to raise the necessary funds to outsource the process of decoding the color information and thereby preserve the film as it was originally shot.

Betty Head Oleander Garden Park



Another freeze – yikes! However this one was not as long and most if not all the oleanders were surviving. Thanks to Marcy Moloy, Pat Turk, Sara Hawkes and Heidi Coggeshall for helping cut back the oleanders after the freeze. Some of the trimming needed to be done anyway for the spring. We will know in March how the flowers are doing. Fortunately, there has been plenty of rain.

We continue to cultivate and grow our own oleanders for sale thanks to Moody Gardens graciously allowing us to use their greenhouse. Given their growth, we plan to move them outside for their last month before we put them up for sale at the Oleander Festival in April but we are waiting until after February in case there is another freeze.

Marcy is also arranging for the Aggies to come help us again on their Service Day. We have started replacing the mulch with sod because of the number of weeds all over. Fortunately, this has been working well so far and we plan to do another two pallets. The work is hard not as much because of the carrying the heavy sod but more because we need to rip up all the weed liner previously placed in the ground. So, thank goodness for the Aggies!



They may look brown but looking closely, you can still see green so we hope they are all still alive! More green is evident in the oleanders more protected from the wind behind the benches.



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