

Nerium News

NEWSLETTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL OLEANDER SOCIETY



November 2024 Newsletter

INTERNATIONAL OLEANDER SOCIETY

2024 Officers

President

Amber Jinkins

Vice President

Heidi
Coggeshall

Secretary

Sara Hawkes

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 if you
have an article*

Dearest members,

The Oleander luncheon on October 30th marked the end of our Oleander Year and the beginning of the Holiday Season. We will be reaching out to collect membership dues over the holidays so we will be ready to hit the ground running in January.

Hopefully, all our members are aware of the Betty Head Oleander Garden Park, located at 2624 Sealy, behind Moody Mansion. Named for a late president of the Oleander Society, the garden is home to 41 different species of oleander.

Galveston's International Oleander Society maintains this small, but lovely park in which many colorful varieties of the plant grow and bloom. A walkway, fountain and benches invite visitors to enjoy the garden, and the society holds events there, especially when the flowers bloom in summer through the fall.

Currently, the Oleander Society leases the park property from the Mary Moody Northern Endowment. The Endowment provides the funds for the lease to the Society in the form of an annual grant. The lease typically runs for a three-to-five-year period. This year, upon renewal, the Endowment added a 90-day lease cancellation clause that can be used to terminate by either party. The Society maintains the Park, pays the utilities and covers upkeep. Last year, we had a small building constructed to use as an education center.

In an effort to diversify our efforts to showcase the Beautiful Oleanders, we are embarking on a 5-year plan to implement an Oleander Trail that will take visitors around the Island to see and learn about different varieties of Oleander.

Have a Merry & Bright (and safe) Holiday Season!

Peace, love and Oleanders,
Amber



A new Oleander came from the expanses of Asia

This is an excerpt (Part 4) from the article written January 2019 by Irmtraud Gotsis with translation by James Nicholas and located in the Oleanderhaus website. (We will continue to add to the story each Newsletter):

“



“Europe set sail, and the search for new worlds began. New plants were especially important for the medical field, as most of the native plant material had already been researched. Thus, the first traveling researchers were pharmacists and doctors; they got involved in the hunt for “green gold” and this search was to last for hundreds of years. The “plant hunters” brought an immeasurable wealth of new botanical treasures back to Europe. Thus, botany traces its origins back to the study of medicine and healing.

Oleander plants from India reached Europe. The first mention of “*Nerium indicum*” and “*Nerium latifolium*” was in 1680 upon their arrival in Amsterdam. The plants came from Ceylon. Here is the corresponding illustration, drawn by Jan and Maria Moninckx.

HORTUS MALABARICUS the “Garden of Malabar”, contains the earliest writings regarding the flora of Asia and the tropics. It was written by **Hendrik Adriaan van Rheedee tot Draakenstein**, the governor of Malabar over a period of 30 years (1678-1693). The books (12 in number) primarily provide information about the flora of the west coast of India, from Goa to Kanyakumari, and detail the flora of Kerala.



Jan Commelin (1629-1696) published this work. He was an independent merchant and led the wholesale trading of medicinal plants in Amsterdam, and soon a garden of medicinal plants as well which later grew into the „**Hortus Botanicus Amsterdam**“, one of the oldest botanical gardens of all. This was the threshold of importation of plants into Europe on an enormous scale. The Dutch East India Company alone was able to procure many unknown plants and seeds from its overseas possessions. In 1683, Commelin published the first book of the flora of the Netherlands under the title „**Catalogus plantarum indigenarum Hollandiae**“. The collecting of plant material from around the world necessitated the creation of receiving stations. Here, this material was registered, researched, and further distributed. The first botanical universities and their gardens emerged as a result.”

Picnic in the Park

Another successful Potluck Picnic in the Park in September! Join us for the next one!



Sylvia the Shark in the Park!



We are pleased to host **Sylvia the Shark** through The Washed Ashore Project, which creates powerful art that captivates all ages and teaches environmental conservation and sustainability.

The Washed Ashore Traveling Exhibits feature collections of intricate, beautifully designed, giant sea life sculptures made entirely of marine debris collected from beaches. The sculptures of marine life graphically illustrate the tragedy of plastic pollution in our oceans and waterways.

Volunteer of the Month



In 2022, Sara Hawkes bid and won an Artist Boat silent auction item which was a membership to IOS, a IOS flag, and a tour of the Betty Head Oleander Garden Park. She attended the Fall Luncheon and was asked to be on the Board; she gladly accepted and has been Secretary on the Board for 3 years now. They moved to Galveston in 2018. ***“I love Galveston and wish we would have moved here a lot sooner”.***

She has her BFA from Sam Houston State University and met her husband, Matt, there and they’ve been married for 27 years. They have two sweet daughters, Macy (20) and Mia (17), who have helped us at the Festival through the Ball High Honor Society. Sara spent 20 years as an Account Manager for Pipeline Construction & Maintenance services. She now works with her husband at Network Funding (residential mortgages) in Galveston as the Marketing Manager. She stays busy with work, as President of her Neighborhood Association, Project Graduation committee at Ball High, Usher at Trinity Episcopal Church, and as Secretary for IOS

“I love IOS and its board and members. I enjoy learning about the different types of Oleanders and how to propagate and preserve Oleanders. “

Come join us on the Board or our activities – just email us!

Annual Luncheon

Our Annual October Luncheon was a success and we thank everyone for coming out!

Terry O’Connell, a Past President, spoke about the early days of the Society with Clarence Pleasants. Clarence moved here from Virginia. Terry O met Clarence in 1991. Clarence only completed school through the 7th grade. He taught Terry O how to propagate. Clarence walked everywhere. When Clarence saw a beautiful Oleander in town, he would knock on the door of the house and tell them what a beautiful plant they had and asked them if he could clip a cutting. Sadly, Clarence passed away in 1995. Per Kewpie: “He made all this happen”, “selfless man”. Per Betty Head, Clarence was the “Soul of Oleander Society”.



Pleasants Postoffice Pink (single medium to dark pink, large flowers, petals “keeled” down the middle lengthwise. Large shrub). Discovered on Postoffice Street in Galveston and named after Co-Founder Clarence Pleasants. Galveston variety.

We also appreciated hearing from the families of Betty Head, Kewpie Gaido and George Sealy.

Jenifer Head, one of Betty's granddaughters, talked about her mother and her memories of Clarence as he cared for the plants at Sea Arama. Her mother Betty thought Clarence to be very wise and, like Clarence, also carried clippers around with her always looking to preserve the oleanders of the island, which she loved. We all laughed as she said her mother did not always, like Clarence, ask for permission for the cuttings! We thank the Betty Head family who donated \$2500 to IOS!

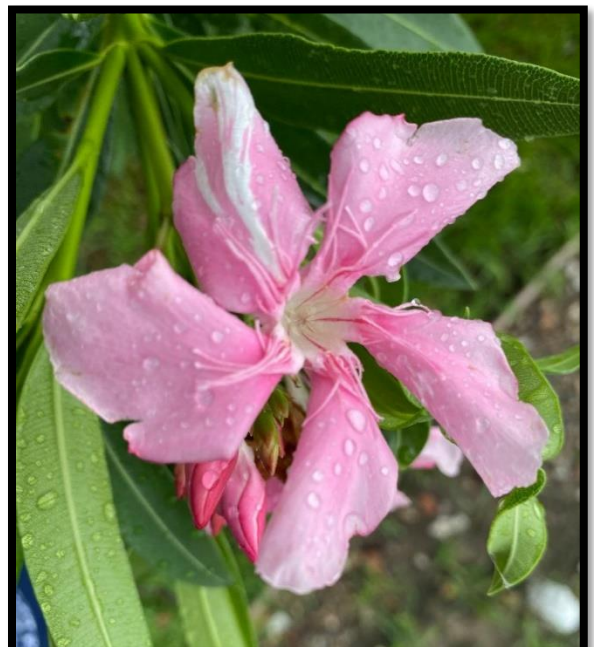
Kewpie's granddaughter, Kimberly Gaido, introduced Kewpie's great granddaughter Madison. Madison may be our youngest member! Kewpie spent 57 years preserving Oleanders moving her final greenhouse to her property at 38th and Seawall. Her legacy remains as she taught her children how to propagate oleanders and Michael (Kim's brother and Kewpie's grandson) taught the next generation with Madison how to propagate. Kewpie traveled and shared oleanders around the world including Germany and Hungary.



Jennifer Head and the Betty Head oleander below



Kimberly Gaido and the Kewpie oleander below



Finally, we heard from Peggy Elliott Hipple, who attended with her daughter, Tracy. Peggy is the granddaughter of George and Magnolia Sealy. Before the 1900 Storm, Magnolia Willis married George Sealy. They traveled the world and collected Oleanders from Europe, Florida, Egypt and planted seeds along Broadway Avenue in Galveston. Some of the Oleanders washed away with the 1900 storm, but seeds still made it and prevailed and rose again after the storm. The Women's Health Protective Association after the 1900 storm was very instrumental in continuing to plant seeds along 25th/ Broadway. It took 8 years to plant and they survived after the raising of Galveston. We were able to present Peggy with a Magnolia Willis Sealy oleander we propagated.



Peggy Elliott Hipple

*Magnolia Sealy Willis oleander
Also known as Mont Blanc*





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. Zeffy: please go to www.oleander.org for the link.
2. Email International.oleander@yahoo.com with your phone number and we will call you for credit card information.
3. Send a check made out to "International Oleander Society" to:

International Oleander Society
PO Box 3431
Galveston, TX. 777552

Please advise your membership choice below and include your name, address, phone number and email.

Renewable Annually

- | | |
|---------------|-------|
| 1. Individual | \$20 |
| 2. Family | \$30 |
| 3. Business | \$100 |
| 4. Lifetime | \$300 |

