

THE PLUMERIA SOCIETY OF AMERICA
GENERAL MEETING
January 15, 2019

The general meeting at the Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion, 1500 Hermann Drive, Houston, Texas was called to order at 7:28 p.m. by Ray Allison, President.

Ray passed out plumeria seeds to visitors. He announced that signup sheets are available to volunteer for the February and March home shows. As German will no longer be working as the plant sales coordinator, Ray asked for a volunteer to serve in that capacity. The meeting was to be broadcast on Facebook Live.

Presentation – Melissa Garcia of the Plumeria Society of South Texas (PSST)

Melissa is a registered nurse who works in home health and hospice care. She has been a member of the PSST for one year. She is the newsletter editor and webmaster. She also volunteers at the South Texas Botanical Gardens and Nature Center. Melissa spoke about the history, present, and future of the PSST.

History

1993 - Robert Owen announced there will be an organization meeting for all those interested in forming a society dedicated to plumeria. The Plumeria Society of South Texas had 19 members by the time of the next meeting on 10/27/1993. The PSST was formed under the umbrella of the Texas Garden Clubs, District 7. The PSST is also a member of the Corpus Christi Area Garden Council. In 2005, the PSST voted to become a member of the Plumeria Society of America.

Present

The plumeria grove is located at the South Texas Botanical Gardens and Nature Center. Four major workdays occur annually in the Plumeria Grove with multiple opportunities to volunteer in the grove.

The PSST plumeria collection was in place at the Botanical Gardens prior to the 1996 dedication of the Botanical Gardens Exhibit House, Orchid House, and Visitor's Center. It was established with more than 100 plumerias from the members' personal gardens. In 1996, the collection was moved to its current more prominent location around the Willoughby Viewing Platform. The Willoughby Viewing Platform was dedicated on September 14, 2016 in honor of Lucian Willoughby, who passed away in 2004 and was a guiding force in the Plumeria Society. The display grew with donations and purchases until it had over 200 plumerias, making it, at one time, the largest display in the continental United States. The collection consisted of approximately 98 large trees before the freeze of 2016. The PSST is busy rebuilding the collection after massive losses. The collection is on display from early March until mid-November. It is in full bloom by mid-June and is still blooming in November when the collection is stored for the winter.

Volunteers for the plumeria collection come from PSST members, high school students, boy scouts and girl scouts.

There are two plant sales:

- Big Bloom Sale on April 6, 2019 at the South Texas Botanical Garden and Nature Center, 8545 South Staples, Corpus Christi, Texas. Rooted cuttings from PSST members and rooted cuttings that were purchased will be available.
- Plumeria Plant Sale on July 20, 2019.

Future

Goals of the PSST include:

- Update our plumeria collection with new varieties and cultivars for the public to enjoy.
- Continue to grow with new members.
- Attract more viewers to the website <https://plumeriasocietyofsouthtexas.com>.
- Establish the Moragne collection of plumerias.
- Increase presence on FB and Snapchat.
- Establish scholarship fund.

Other Information

The Plumeria Society of America presented a donation of \$1200 to the PSST for maintenance of the plumeria area at the South Texas Botanical Garden and Nature Center.

There were several questions from audience members following the presentation:

When are plumerias taken out of storage for the spring?

March 2 is scheduled for plants to be taken out, with March 9 as a backup date.

What are the requirements to sell at the plant sales?

For the April 6 sale, the cost is \$10 per table, and you can sell separately from the PSST. For the July sale, sellers must be active members of the PSST and meet volunteer requirements.

How much space is available for expansion of the plumeria collection?

While space is somewhat limited, NOIDs can be removed and replaced with named varieties. There is room for about 200 trees.

Ray will send out an inventory list of plumerias currently in the collection for members to review before sending plumeria donations.

Lisa said that a bus trip can be arranged to visit the South Texas Botanical Gardens and Nature Center if there is interest.

Melissa brought some Oaxacan pottery from Laredo that was given as a door prize. Other door prizes were also distributed.

The meeting concluded at 8:20 p.m.

After the meeting, Renee Riley spoke with German and Ray and agreed to be the coordinator for plant sales.