

Dayton Rotary Club enjoys a cool presentation!

DAYTON - The Rotary Club of Dayton traded the Texas heat for thoughts of nine-degree temperatures during its weekly meeting, when Jeremy Lockett of Moody Gardens presented a behind-the-scenes look at the creation of the popular ICE LAND holiday attraction at Moody Gardens.

Rotarian Dr. Jessica Johnson along with Dr. Luke Chachere, brought the special program to the club, giving members an opportunity to learn just how much planning, ice and international craftsmanship go into creating the massive seasonal attraction each year. Lockett, Manager of Seasonal Attractions at Moody Gardens, has worked with the organization for approximately 13 years. He began his career in the education department before advancing into supervisory and management roles. A native of La Marque and graduate of Manvel High School, he now helps lead the teams responsible for some of Moody Gardens' largest seasonal attractions.

This year, ICE LAND returns with the theme "Caribbean Christmas." The attraction is scheduled to run from November 21, 2026, through January 2, 2027, as part of Moody Gardens' Holiday in the Gardens celebration. Creating the attraction is a project that begins months before the first visitor walks through the door. Lockett told Rotarians that the first blocks of ice for this year's exhibit began freezing in February 2026 at the Flying Penguin facility in Bryan, Texas. By the time ICE LAND is completed, approximately 7,000 blocks of ice will be used. "Each block weighs roughly 300 pounds, bringing the total to an extraordinary two million pounds of ice," stated Lockett. "A reverse-osmosis process is used to produce the crystal-clear ice needed for many of the

sculptures. When color is required, milk and tempera paint are used to create the colorful frozen displays," continued Lockett.

Another surprising part of the presentation was learning how ICE LAND itself is constructed. Each year, Moody Gardens builds a temporary structure in its parking area to house the attraction. Construction begins in September and takes approximately four to five weeks. The structure is divided into warm and cold areas. Visitors enter through the warm side, where they can prepare for the experience and obtain the parkas offered by Moody Gardens. "Then comes the dramatic temperature change. The ICE LAND exhibit is maintained at approximately nine degrees Fahrenheit to preserve the sculptures."

"The attraction encompasses approximately 28,000 square feet, providing enough room for towering sculptures, themed displays, photo opportunities and even an ice slide," the presenter reported. "Some of the most intricate work is performed by a team of professional ice carvers who travel to Galveston from Harbin, China,

internationally known for its ice and snow sculpture tradition. Approximately 30 carvers work on the attraction, taking about 36 to 37 days to complete their portion of the project. Because of the extremely cold working environment, the artists work in rotations. Several supervisors remain at Moody Gardens after construction is completed to maintain and repair sculptures throughout the season."

Lockett explained that Kung Lu leads the artistic direction of the carving team and helps turn each year's selected theme into the detailed frozen scenes visitors experience. The themes change from year to year. This season is Caribbean Christmas, while Lockett told the club that the planned theme for next year is Rainforest. ICE LAND itself includes an ice slide and Shivers Ice Bar, where the bar and seating are made from ice. Guests interested in watching the attraction take shape can also follow construction through Moody Gardens' live webcam system as the professional carvers transform thousands of blocks of ice into the finished exhibit.

ICE LAND may be the centerpiece at Moody Gardens, but

Lockett explained that Holiday in the Gardens includes much more. Visitors can experience a mile-long holiday light trail, ice skating, the Arctic Slide, holiday movies, children's train rides, Breakfast with Santa, holiday dining experiences and children's baking activities. Another addition to the holiday lineup is "A Very Electric Christmas," presented in partnership with Lightwire Theater. The illuminated stage production follows the adventures of a bird named Max traveling from the North Pole to the South Pole.

After the presentation, Dr. Jessica Johnson and Speaker Jeremy Lockett put Rotarians to the test with a trivia contest based on Lockett's presentation. Moody Gardens provided five prize packages, each containing four value passes that can be used for admission to multiple Moody Gardens attractions. Five winners walked away with Moody Gardens passes and bragging rights for playing the trivia game successfully. The club thanked Jeremy Lockett for sharing an entertaining and educational look at the behind-the-scenes of Moody Gardens' ICE LAND.



DAYTON ROTARY TRIVIA WINNERS
(L-R) Trivia Winners: Rotarian Livia Callahan, Rotarian Jennifer Perkins, ICE LAND presenter Jeremy Lockett, Rotarian John Gable, Rotarian Dr. Luke Chachere, and Rotarian Tammy Alexander.

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Kimberly Brightwell, SU30, 5x10. furniture & misc. items.
Trina Monroe, SU5, 5x10. Furniture & misc. items.10/13B-DVA

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of **Alida Lou Fontenot** were issued on September 21, 2026, in Cause No. 26CC-PR-00198, pending in the County Court, Liberty County, Texas, to:
Alcide Miguel Fontenot.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
c/o Christina Chrisco
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Dayton, Texas 77535

SIGNED on September 25, 2026.

CHRISCO LAW PLLC
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Dayton, Texas 77535
(936) 256-3434

By:
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Syrila Bossert, WHNP-BC
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Syrila is a native of Louisiana and was raised in Abbeville, Louisiana, by her single parent mom, Clementine Thibeaux. She graduated with her BSN from Southeastern Louisiana University. While in nursing school she realized her desire to provide specific care in women's health. She was blessed to start her first year working as an RN on a Labor and Delivery floor. While working and living in Port Arthur, Texas, she had the opportunity and desire to return to school to become a Nurse Practitioner. After years of experience with women on labor and delivery it was a natural segue to specializing as a Women's Health Nurse Practitioner. She received her master's degree from University of Texas Health Science Center-Houston. She and her husband, Dean, live in Dayton and work in Liberty. They have sent three grown children out into the world.

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