

Mansfield Garden Club

**FEBRUARY 2026
NEWSLETTER**



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As we settle into the rhythm of a new year, I've been thinking a lot about what makes our Garden Club so special and where we're headed together.

What stands out to me most is that our club isn't just about plants or projects. It's about shared care. Care for our town, for the spaces we tend, and for one another. Over the years, that collective spirit has shaped everything we do, from the gardens we maintain to the friendships we've grown alongside them.

Looking ahead, my hope is that we continue building on that foundation with intention. That means staying rooted in our traditions while also listening closely—to fresh ideas, thoughtful feedback, and the perspectives of our members. Your insights help guide how we grow, what we take on, and how we make the club meaningful for everyone involved.

Thank you for the time, energy, and heart you bring to this group. I'm grateful to be part of this moment with you, and excited about what we'll continue to grow together in the months ahead.

Warmly,
Sonya



GENERAL MEETING

FEBRUARY 10, 2026

Social hour at 5 pm and meeting at 6 pm at the Chris Burkett Service Center, 620 S. Wisteria St. Mansfield.

February Speaker:
Planting for Monarchs and Other Pollinators
Carol Clark, Texas Master Naturalist



Learn why Texas is pivotal to the Monarchs' success, and which native plants offer the most benefits when you are planting to support Monarchs and other pollinators. We'll also touch on best timing for maintenance practices like mowing and pruning.

Carol Clark is a long-time member of the Native Plant Society of Texas , Chair of the Bring Back the Monarchs to Texas committee of NPSOT, and a Monarch Watch Conservation Specialist. When she isn't busy teaching others about pollinators or native plants, she enjoys looking after her own colossal Monarch Waystation and wildlife refuge in Cooke County.

More info on the Texas Master Naturalist program <https://txmn.tamu.edu/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mansfield Garden Club Scholarship

- Deadline for entries: April 19, 2026
- Details: A graduating senior from Mansfield ISD will be eligible for a \$1500 scholarship. Applicants must be pursuing post-secondary training at a college, university, or technical school. They must be enrolling in a program related to Horticulture, Environmental Science, Forestry, Agriculture, Conservation, Landscape Design, Agronomy, Environment Management/City Planning, Botany, Plant Pathology, or other related subjects.
- Contact: Rebecca Sales, Vice President of Youth & Education Programs for MGC, at beccasales57@gmail.com or 817-371-0656
- Details and application on the Mansfield Garden Club webpage <https://mansfieldgardenclub.org/>

Earth Day and First MGC Plant Sale

- Date: April 25, 2026
- Details: in past years, this family-friendly event offered tree tree giveaways of trees (while supplies last), educational booths, kids' crafts, petting zoo, pony rides, live music, food vendors, butterfly release, rain barrel silent auction. Mark your calendar and stay tuned for more details.

Mansfield Garden Club Spring Fling Picnic

- Date: May 12, 2026
- Location: Town Park, 500 N Main St, Mansfield, TX 76063
- Details: A gathering and potluck by club members and their families, Music and games, along with great garden club fellowship.

Mansfield Garden Club June meeting

- Date: June 9, 2026
- Details: Linda Fidelis from the Fields of Fidelis Lavender Farm will present on growing lavender in North Texas and will bring a variety of products for sale. <https://www.edibledfw.com/summer-2022/lavender-fields-forever/>

JANUARY 2026 MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Howard Redfearn, Assistant Director of Environmental Services for the City of Mansfield discussed a number of issues:

- **Solid waste and recycling:** Landfill vouchers are no longer available so instead, 3 days per month, residents can bring bathroom/kitchen remodel materials they wish to discard to bins at Environmental Collection Center (616 S. Wisteria St).
- Residents are encouraged to look at Frontier Solutions website for more info <https://frontierwaste.com/city-of-mansfield/> and sign up for notifications for weather events.
- **Mosquito control:** officer sets up 5 traps per week across 10 sites across the city. Tarrant Public Health Dept. lab tests for us every other week; can conduct property site evaluations if residents are having mosquito problems.
- **Street Sweeping:** we have one sweeper in Mansfield. It takes a full month to do all residential street and subsequent focus on all major thoroughfares.
- **Drainage Capital Program:** responds to complaints on flooding, building regional detention ponds, erosion protection, improve underground systems. More education needed on what cannot be dumped into our drains and sewers.
- **Environmental Collection Center (ECC)** opens (616. S. Wisteria) on the 2nd Saturday of every month 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and the Thursday and Friday before the second Saturday from 3 to 7 p.m. Proof of residency is required. Residents can dispose of tires, car/engine oil, aerosol cans, paint, cleaning products and electronics. Residents disposing of construction materials need this form <https://www.mansfieldtexas.gov/201/Collection-Center>
- **A Help YourShelf Reuse room** is available at the ECC. Used paint, chemicals and cleaners in like-new condition are offered free of charge to Mansfield residents with proof of residency. Materials are offered on a first-come basis during Hazardous Waste Disposal days. Residents can also donate usable materials.

PLANT OF THE MONTH



Common Name	Frost Weed
Botanical Name	<i>Verbesina virginica</i> L.
Family	Aster
Plant Type	Herb
Mature Size	4-7 ft
Sun Exposure	Part Shade/Shade
Soil Type	Moist
Soil pH	High
Bloom Time	July-Dec
Flower Color	White flowers
Hardiness Zones	USDA 5-9
Native Areas	North Texas woodlands
Toxicity	Not toxic to pets or humans

This easy-to-grow *Verbesina* lends stately, dark green leaves and white, autumn flowers to the dappled shade found at the edges of woodlands, where it can form sizable colonies with its spreading rhizomes. Each stem has soft, fleshy green flanges running longitudinally down its length. When winter weather brings freezing temps, the stems exude water that freezes into fascinating shapes, hence its common name Frostweed. This plant is best suited for naturalizing rather than formal landscapes. It is a vital nectar-rich host plant for pollinators (Monarchs, bees and hummingbirds). *Verbesina encelioides* (Golden Crown Beard) is a different species known to cause toxic, sometimes fatal, symptoms in livestock.

TIDBITS

Mystery Seeds

Gardeners across Texas have received “mystery” packet of seeds which appear to originate in China. Texas’ Agriculture Commissioner issued a warning to gardeners and ranchers to avoid planting these unsolicited seeds. Since February 2025, the Texas Department of Agriculture said it has collected 1,101 seed packages sent to more than 100 locations across the state. The TDA said the seeds could pose a serious threat to the state’s agricultural and environmental safety. If you receive a mysterious packet of seeds, contact the Texas Department of Agriculture at 1-800-TELL-TDA for instructions.

Tarrant County Master Gardener Program Free Classes

- **From Grass to Plants Landscaping.** Saturday, Feb. 7, from 10 am to 12 noon. Master Gardener Jim Parker will share strategies for conserving water by replacing your water-hogging lawn with beautiful flower beds. Location: Resource Connection, 1801 Circle Drive, Fort Worth 76119. Register at shop.tcmga.org and click on Link at top of page TCMGA 2026 Education Classes.
- **Wildflowers at Home.** Tuesday, Feb. 25 at 7 pm. This free virtual (Zoom) session will be led by Tarrant Regional Water District and Plant Ecologist Heather Bass. She’ll discuss strategies for turning a neglected patch in your yard into a wildflower garden that attracts local pollinators. Register at shop.tcmga.org and click on Link at top of page TCMGA 2026 Education Classes.

LUCY'S LINES - NORTH TEXAS

If this forecast sticks - it could cause some evergreens to have a lot of damage and even be a killing freeze-so take this time to cover your plants. If you can't cover everything cover the plants you love the most.

Usually I say that roses don't need covering in Texas winters- but this time I'm saying do cover them if possible.

Because of the duration of this freeze even established hardy evergreens may suffer damaged leaves depending on how much protection they have from the north. Cover your rosemary regardless of variety.

Do not trim plants until after February 14