



Mansfield Garden Club

JULY 2026
NEWSLETTER



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Garden Club Members,



I hope you are all staying cool, keeping hydrated, and finding refuge in the air conditioning as we head into the absolute peak of our North Texas summer.

August is easily the most trying month of the year for both us and our plants. Right now, gardening in our area isn't about looking picture-perfect, it is about survival. It's about strategic watering, maintaining thick layers of mulch to protect what we have, and doing our best to keep our plants alive through the intense, dry heat.

But as tough as August is, it is also a season of quiet preparation. Behind the scenes, we are already starting to plan for fall and look forward to the relief that season will bring. Just like our yards, sometimes the best growth happens when we are simply focused on staying resilient and laying the groundwork for the next season.

Warmly,

Sonya Byrne
President, Mansfield Garden Club

CLUB ICE CREAM SOCIAL JULY 2026

We had a great turnout for our ice cream social which took the place of our July business meeting. Members enjoyed Blue Bell ice cream with all the toppings, including hand-roasted nuts brought by our treasurer, Baronda Bradley. Our thanks to Pam Smith for master-minding this event where members got to learn about River, the City of Mansfield's water leak detection dog. River was trained in Arkansas and his efforts help ensure that water leaks are detected quickly. A minor leak of just one gallon per minute can result in over 500,000 gallons of water loss per year, costing taxpayers thousands of dollars.





River brought goodies to share with MGC club members including water bowls, dog-shaped bag clips and dog-print bandanas. His handler, Brad Blan, explained River's training and work week as he responds to reports of potential water leaks. River was adopted from the Mansfield Animal Shelter at 7 months.

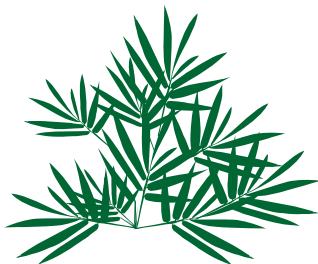
UPDATES FROM MGC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Fund Allocation Committee

In response to club members' suggestions, the executive committee has proposed creating a committee composed of five garden club members, including one board member. The committee would be charged with developing a list of suggestions for the allocation of funds for new projects or activities. The committee is expected to meet quarterly and actively engage with the membership to bring forth ideas as recommendations to the executive committee. More details will be forthcoming as your MGC leadership works on a draft of purpose and scope for this new group.

Update to Bylaws

The executive committee, at the behest of our club president, has updated the bylaws. Members will have an opportunity to review the updated bylaws and propose new amendments in advance of a vote at our September meeting.



POND TOUR

Several intrepid MGC members participated in the North Texas Water Garden Society's pond tour. The event showcased over 35 private ponds and water features across the DFW Metroplex, ranging from small stock tanks to massive 15,000-gallon koi habitats in backyards across our region. Members brought back lots of ideas for our gardens as well as new knowledge on the upkeep of ponds. Our thanks to Rosa Weith who helped spearhead this tour.



CLUB ACTIVITIES

The Mansfield Garden Club had a busy June despite the challenging heat. A total of 81 volunteer hours were logged-please share your hours working on any of our sites with Russ Martin. Below is a quick update on our activities this month from Russ:

- **Butterfly Garden at Mansfield Library:** we are ordering 60 bags of mulch and will need volunteers in July to spread it out. We are waiting for the city to fix an irrigation timing issues and remove dead shrubs.
- **Farmer's Market:** the June 13 market was another success with 11 volunteers and 44 hours of work. We earned \$504 towards our scholarship fund. We recruited volunteers to take plants home that did not sell and many came through. Our next Farmer's Market sale will be September.
- **Gazebo and Gardens:** waiting for irrigation upgrade from the city, new black urns and flag holders were installed. The front beds need to be watered every 2-3 days and we welcome volunteers!
- **Man House:** general weeding and watering continues.
- **Burkett Service Center Demo Gardens:** weeding needs to be done and watering has been uneven. All plot leaders will be receiving an email to coordinate individual plot work days.
- **Katherine Rose Park:** an irrigation line was installed near a future garden area. No further updates provided.
- **Future activities:**
 - explore which events we wish to sell crafts or plants at, in preparation for Christmas/holiday season.
 - we may participate in Mansfield's Hometown Holidays- typically the first weekend in December.
 - Founder's Day is Saturday, October 3 and we'll push to sell all crafts currently available, no need to make more as we have several bins-full. Watch for a call for volunteers to help us with this fun day!

UPCOMING EVENTS

NO AUGUST MEETING

Ask an Irrigator

- July 23, 2-3 pm
- Location: Chris W. Burkett Mansfield Service Center 620 S Wisteria St.

Not sure if there are issues with your sprinkler system? Need advice from a trusted professional who is not trying to sell you something? Join a free class from TRWD and ask a licensed irrigator!

- Register: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/3mwwsk7>

September Mansfield Garden Club meeting

- Tuesday, September 8 at 6 pm
- Location: Chris Burkett Service Center

MGC Plant Sale at Mansfield Farm and Cottage Market

- Saturday, September 12
- Volunteers needed to set up at 7 am, to assist customers from 8-12 and to tear down at 12 noon.
- Location: parking lot in front of Mansfield Thrift Store- 703 E Broad St
- Please contact Russ www.mjmartin9921@gmail.com / text 817-682-3898 to volunteer or donate plants.

Mansfield Founders Day

- Saturday, October 3, 10 am - 4 pm
- Location: Man House, 604 W. Broad Street
- volunteers needed for our booth as we'll see plants and crafts

MGC Plant Sale at Mansfield Farm and Cottage Market

- Saturday, November 14
- Volunteers needed to set up at 7 am, to assist customers from 8-12 noon and to tear down at 12 noon.
- Location: parking lot in front of Mansfield Thrift Store- 703 E Broad St
- Please contact Russ www.mjmartin9921@gmail.com / text 817-682-3898 to volunteer or donate plants. All proceeds benefit our scholarship recipients.

PLANT OF THE MONTH



Common Name	African Marigold
Botanical Name	Tagetes erecta
Plant Type	Annual
Mature Size	12"-30" tall by 12"-18"
Sun Exposure	Sun
Soil Type	well-draining
Bloom Time	Summer until first frost
Flower Color	orange
Hardiness Zones	USDA 2-11
Native Areas	North America, Europe and Asia
Toxicity	mildly toxic to both pets and humans. Contact with their sap or ingestion of large quantities can cause mild discomfort to humans.

Marigolds are helpful in your garden, plant them near vegetables or herbs as their strong aroma repels root-knot nematodes and common garden pests. To keep the plant tidy and encourage continuous blooming throughout the summer, regular deadheading is recommended. Known as cempasúchil, marigolds are the iconic flowers of Día de los Muertos. Their vibrant orange and yellow colors represent the sun, while their pungent scent acts as a beacon, guiding the spirits of the dead from their resting places back to the altars (ofrendas) prepared by their families.