



Mansfield Garden Club

MARCH 2026
NEWSLETTER



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

March is here, and with it that particular feeling that gardeners know well. Something is shifting, and we're all a little restless in the best way.

I love this time of year partly for the gardens, but mostly for what happens among us. The conversations, the shared excitement over what's coming up, the comfort of being around people who just get it.

I'm so glad to be part of this group. Here's to a beautiful spring together.

Sonya Byrne President, Mansfield Garden Club



GENERAL MEETING MARCH 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:

Michael Smith

As the co-founder of the Dallas-Fort Worth Herpetological Society, and author of *Herping Texas* and *The Wild Lives of Snakes and Amphibians*, often teaches herpetology to local classes of master naturalists who may encounter critters in their gardens. By day, he is a licensed psychological associate and lives in Arlington, Texas.



EVENT FEEDBACK MEET-UP

The MGC 2026 Special Events Tour has started. Your garden club board members are eliciting suggestions for tours and other activities for the next two upcoming years. On February 2, 15 members met at the Mexican Inn to share ideas and provide their feedback. If you have ideas to share, please reach out to Pam Smith at kcsnana65@live.com



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 enrolled 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, MGC Vice President of Youth and Education Programs at beccasales57@gmail.com or 817-371-0656
- Details and application on the Mansfield Garden Club webpage: <https://mansfieldgardenclub.org>

Tarrant County Master Gardener Association Spring Plant Sale

- Date: Saturday, April 18, 2026, 8 am- 1pm
- Location: 1801 Circle Dr. Fort Worth, TX 76119
- Native and perennial plants, hanging baskets, education classes, tool sharpening, kids activities and snacks.

Earth Day and First Mansfield Garden Club Sale

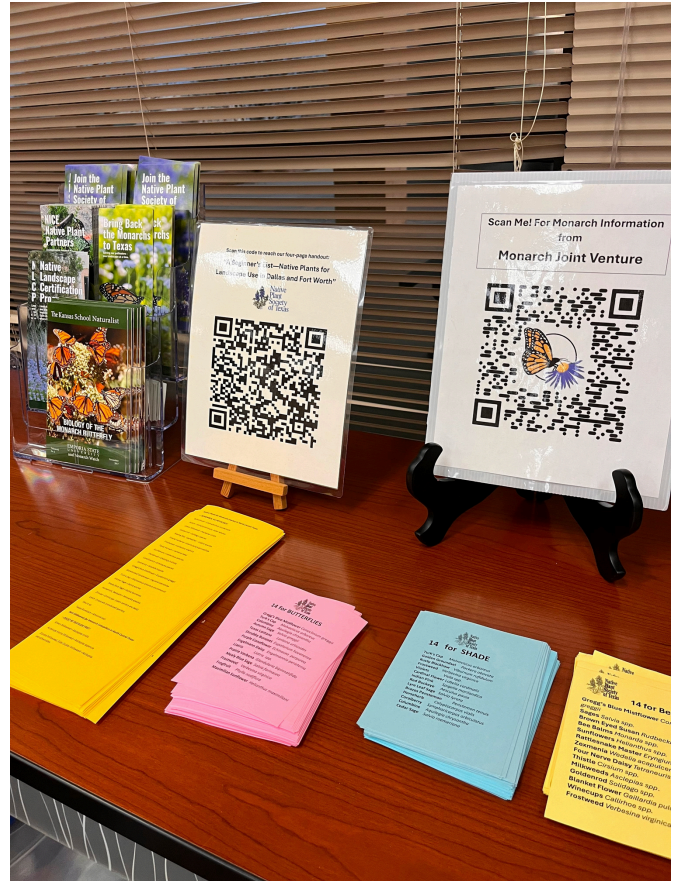
- Date: April 25, 2026. 9 am- 1 pm.
- Location: Chris Burkett Service Center, 620 S. Wisteria St
- Details: this family-friendly event offers a variety of giveaways including trees (while supplies last), educational booths, kids' crafts, live music and a butterfly release.

Mansfield Garden Club Spring Fling Picnic

- Date: May 12, 2026, 5-9 pm
- Location: Town Park, 500 N. Main Street, Mansfield 76063
- Details: a gathering and potluck by club members and their families. Music and games, along with great garden club fellowship.

FEBRUARY 2026 MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Carol Clark, the “Butterfly Lady,” and 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 presented a very informative program. She also brought a variety of native seeds for members to purchase as they grow their butterfly habitats.



Expect to see monarchs in our North Texas region in late March through May as the head north to feed, so Carol suggested that we plant a variety of native plants and milkweed to keep them fed through their journey. The butterflies head south by early June and will need the nectar from our flowers to make this arduous journey. She also cautioned against growing tropical milkweed which harms butterflies' growth and keeps them from migrating. More info:

- Monarch Joint Venture: <https://monarchjointventure.org/>
- Native Plant Society of Texas <https://www.npsot.org/>
- Texas Master Gardener List of butterfly-friendly plants <https://txmg.org/smith/files/2010/04/Butterfly-Garden-Brochure-web.pdf>

PLANT OF THE MONTH



Common Name	Turk's Cap
Botanical Name	<i>Malvaviscus arboreus</i> var. <i>drummondii</i>
Plant Type	Perennial
Mature Size	3-6 ft
Sun Exposure	Sun or shade; flowers heavier in sun, but the foliage is more attractive with some shade
Soil Type	Drought Tolerant
Bloom Time	Summer until frost
Flower Color	Bright red, pink, white
Hardiness Zones	USDA 7b-11
Native Areas	South Texas
Toxicity	Not toxic to pets or humans

A Texas Superstar, rapidly growing plant that produces a profusion of “turban–like” flowers in various colors ranging from bright red to pink to white. Flowers attract hummingbirds and butterflies. Plants produce abundant suckers from the base and the upright stems branch infrequently. Turk's cap is native to south Texas, where it becomes an established perennial, but in north Texas is should be used as an annual. Turk's Cap is very drought tolerant once established. The cultivar 'Pam Puryear' has soft pink flowers; and 'Fiesta' is a variegated form with yellow and white splotched leaves.

Tidbits

Tarrant Water District Sprinkler Evaluation

- Sign up for a FREE evaluation of your sprinkler system by a licensed contractor paid by Tarrant Water District.
- A detailed report with recommended changes to help increase efficiency and reduce water waste will be provided.
- <https://savetarrantwater.com/sprinkler-evaluation/>

Tarrant Water Rebate

Spring Go N Grow Gardens are now available for sale! Two NEW garden types available:

- Monarch Magnet
- Pocket Prairie

Go N Grow Gardens have all the plants you need to create an entire 125 sq. ft. garden – complete with 24 plants perfect for Texas home landscapes, planting and care guides, and example designs so you can plant by number.

Save Tarrant Water is offering special opportunities for two garden rebates! Get a \$20 rebate for attending an online class **or** get a FULL rebate for removing a portion of your lawn to make way for the garden.

Apply for a FULL \$95 rebate on your Go N Grow Garden.

Here's how:

1. Choose a 125 sq ft section of healthy turf to remove to make way for your new garden.
2. Submit a pre-application showing us photos of the area of turf you plan to remove.
3. Purchase a Go N Grow Garden.
4. Remove the section of turf and plant your new Go N Grow Garden.
5. Submit a post-application showing us photos of the turf removed and garden planted.
6. Receive a rebate of \$95 to your method of payment after approval.

Rebates are only available to Tarrant County residents or residents in TRWD's service area. More info at <https://savetarrantwater.com/gongrow/>

Thanks

Thank you to all members that attended the Mansfield Garden Club December Holiday Party, and those that could not attend but supported this effort. We raised \$470 for Mansfield Mission Center, and the MGC board approved a donation of an additional \$530. The Mission Center director was most appreciative of our gift and we thank you all for your generosity!



December 19, 2025

Mansfield Garden Club
PO Box 1119
Mansfield, TX 76063-0160

Thank you so much for your generous donation. Your kindness is a beautiful reflection of Christ's love and is already making a meaningful impact on families in our community.

Because of your support, the Mansfield Mission Center can continue offering food, encouragement, and essential resources to neighbors who are walking through difficult seasons. The generosity of so many helped us share hope in powerful ways to thousands in 2025 and your gift will help us continue to meet the need of many as we head into 2026.

We are deeply grateful for you and pray that God blesses you richly in the year ahead.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian McFadden".

Brian McFadden
Executive Director

Raffle Items

Are you cleaning out your garden shed and finding useful "treasures"? Feel free to bring your clean, items that may still be in good condition as raffle items to our next club meeting. Seed packets, extra plants, tools and decorations are welcome and the raffle proceeds help support the many projects in which your MGC is engaged.