




Mansfield Garden Club

MAY 2026
NEWSLETTER



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



May really is that turning point, isn't it? Everything we saw just starting to wake up is full, green, and alive. It is the time of year where all that early effort starts to show, and it is hard not to feel a little proud of it.

I have been thinking about the past few weeks and how much you have all poured into this club. Earth Day, the Farm & Cottage Market, our work around the city, the steady, behind the scenes care. It adds up. Anyone can admire a beautiful space, but you actually show up and create it. That matters. Thank you for that.

As things get busier and hotter, I hope you give yourself a minute here and there to enjoy what you have built. Whether it is your own garden or one of our shared spaces, pause long enough to take it in. That is part of this too.

I am grateful for the heart, creativity, and consistency you bring to this group. It shows in everything we do.

Here is to a beautiful month of growing together.

Sonya Byrne
President, Mansfield Garden Club

SPRING FLING MAY 2026

We had a great turnout for our May 12 Mansfield Garden Club Spring Fling, held at the Mansfield Town Park Pavilion. It was a beautiful evening of fellowship and enjoying delicious food.

John and Sarah DeMore played toe-tapping music and were joined by Steve Cosio, our local podcaster and flautist. The Club provided pulled chicken and pork sandwiches along with iced tea. Members contributed an array of delicious side dishes, appetizers and desserts.

We also had a number of winners in our **Scholarship Raffle**. Thanks to all that donated prizes. The proceeds go towards our scholarship fund.



WINNERS

Congratulations to two winners of **Fort Worth Jr. Stock Show Ag belt buckles** funded by the Mansfield Garden Club. Rebecca Sales, Vice President for Youth and Education reported that two winners were selected:

- Grand Champion Horticulture Show: Amaya Juarbe-Lopez - Mansfield FFA
- Reserve Champion Horticulture Show: Annistyn Brunson - Mansfield FFA

In addition, Avery Mathews was awarded the **Mansfield Garden Club scholarship**. Avery is a senior at Legacy High School and a focused overachiever. According to Rebecca Sales, Avery impressed the judges last year when her terrarium entry won for her category in the 2025 Tarrant County Junior Livestock Show. She currently volunteers at Dalton elementary school, also served as an MISD Agriculture Education Intern for high school agriculture teachers and was tasked with creating lessons for the Principals of Agriculture class that were used with great success; and juggles a part-time job. She has received acceptance letters from all the colleges she applied to, and chose Texas Tech. Her \$1500 scholarship will support her goal of pursuing a degree in agricultural education.



APRIL MEETING RECAP

WILD BIRDS UNLIMITED

Sherry Williams from Wild Bird Unlimited offered a variety of tips for not only attracting birds to your yard and garden, but for also helping our feathered friends thrive. She suggest only providing high quality, and high energy food for wild birds as well as Bark Butter Bits, peanuts and suet. Loaded with fat and protein, these products and ingredients will help ensure a healthy future for our feathered friends as they begin building their nests, courting and raising their young. She generously provided bags of seed for members to try, as well as a list of native plants that attract birds.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Tour of Tarrant County Master Gardener Demonstration Garden

- Date: Tuesday, May 19, 9:30 am
- Location: meet in designated parking lot at 8:30 am
- RSVP to Rosa via text at 817-709-4013
- Tour of 2 acre site with numerous blooming gardens; lunch will be provided and master gardeners will be available to answer your questions. Bring a hat, water and wear comfortable walking shoes.

Lavender Ridge Farm Tour

- Friday, June 5, 10 am- 4 pm
- Leave Mansfield for Gainesville, TX at 8:30 am
- A beautiful lavender farm with animals, gift shops, plants, cafe and more. A sweet brother and sister team that appreciate our support.
- RSVP to Rosa via text at 817-709-4013

Mansfield Garden Club Plant Sale

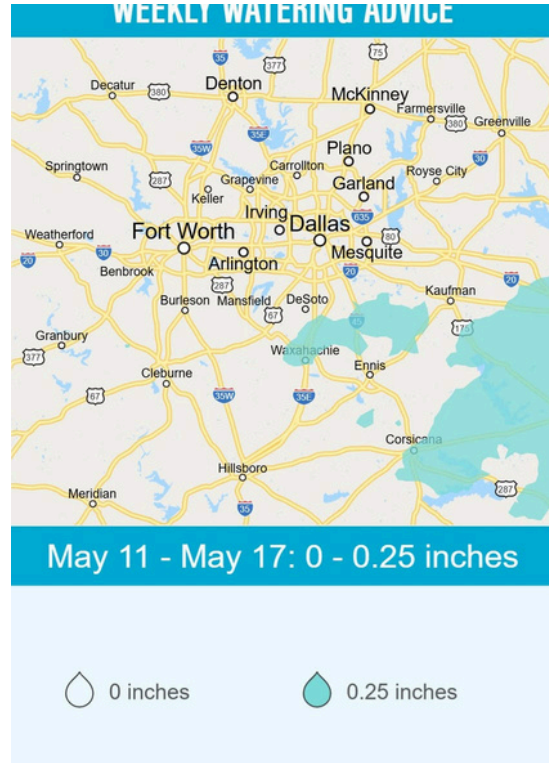
- Saturday, June 13, 8 am- 1 pm
- Volunteers needed to help set up, starting at 7 am, staff our stand at the Mansfield Cottage and Farmers Market, and tear down when the market closes at noon. Lots of fun as you answer questions and offer suggestions to Mansfield residents seeking to grow their gardens.
- Please let Russ Martin know when you can help at mjmartin9921@gmail.com

North Texas Garden Society Backyard Ponds Tour

- Sunday, June 14, 11 am- 5 pm.
- If you've dreamed of creating a pond in your backyard or curious to see some amazing gardens with ponds, join us for a self-guided tour of 30+ ponds across the entire DFW Metroplex. We will split the cost (\$20 per carload-\$5 or less depending on car size) amongst participants.
- The tour book guide features all the pond listings, descriptions, special instructions and color pictures. It also includes a map and pond and garden related articles of interest.



Mansfield’s Firefly Experience is back. This is a great outing for families and an opportunity to see a natural ecosystem in our own backyard. Bring mosquito spary, water and your sense of wonder. Details on Facebook using the hashtags #MansfieldFireflies or #FireflyExperience. RSVPs through Facebook Messenger.



Keep your sprinklers off! Did you know that water-wise homeowners can keep their irrigation systems off an average of 25 weeks out of the year? Overwatering your lawn leads to more weeds. Sign up to get notices for when to turn your sprinklers on at <https://waterisawesome.com/>

UPDATES

Reminder on reimbursements

- If you have an expense to submit to the club for reimbursement, please send them using our official email: mansfieldtxgardenclub1999@gmail.com

Updates on Projects

The club has a long history of service to our community, and participation in our projects also build friendships and skills. Members are invited to participate and support these efforts. We also acknowledge that some members may have limitations (working full time, childcare or health challenges) and we welcome your participation in whatever form it takes, including contributing food to meetings, welcoming new members or assisting with special projects. Please feel free to reach out to any member of the board with your questions.

Below is a list of a few of the many projects in which we are engaged. Please reach out to Russ Martin at mjmartin9921@gmail.com with your questions.

1. **Chris Burkett Center Demonstration Gardens.** Members recently spread 100 cubic feet of mulch in preparation for Earth Day.
2. **Butterfly Garden at Mansfield Public Library Courtyard.** Volunteers cleared up the dead shrubs and trimmed passion vine and other plants to get ready for the arrival of monarchs.
3. **Gazebo and Gardens.** The gazebo at the corner of Broad Street and Country Club Drive was built in 1990 and has served as a backdrop for prom and holiday pictures. The gazebo was dedicated in honor of longtime member Lucretia Mills in 2017. The club maintains the flowers surrounding it, as well as decorate this iconic structure for holidays including Valentine's Day and 4th of July.



CLUB ACTIVITIES

It's been a busy start of Spring for our club. Members participated in Mansfield's Earth Day celebration held April 25 at the Chris Burkett Center, where we sold an array of plants and other goodies.



Garden club members also got to meet River, the City of Mansfield's newest employee, charged with detecting water leaks across our city. River, and his handler will be stopping by a future meeting to share more details about his important job.



Mansfield Garden Club members did a fair amount of work at the historic Man House, which represents life in Mansfield between 1850 - 1880s. It is located at 604 W. Broad St. Below is a group of hardy club members who weeded beds, cleaned up various areas and checked on bulbs recently planted at the Man House



PLANT OF THE MONTH



Common Name	Yarrow
Botanical Name	<i>Achillea millefolium</i> L.
Plant Type	Perennial
Mature Size	1-3 ft
Sun Exposure	Sun, part shade
Soil Type	Drought Tolerant
Bloom Time	Apr , May , Jun , Jul , Aug , Sep
Flower Color	white, pink
Hardiness Zones	USDA 3-9
Native Areas	North America, Europe and Asia
Toxicity	Toxic to dogs but rarely fatal

Yarrow has a long history as a medicinal plant. Civil War soldiers documented its use to treat fevers, hemorrhaging and as a poultice for rashes. A tea used by Native Americans to cure stomach disorders was made by steeping the leaves. Easily propagated by seeds, yarrow has no branches except near the top. The leaves are alternate, 3-5 inches long, with many leaflets on each side of the midrib and these are further divided into smaller leaflets, giving them a delicate, fernlike, lacy appearance. Yarrow requires little maintenance beyond watering when plants are first established. They thrive in full sun and care must be taken to not overwater. A staple for native gardens, yarrow is a top-tier, low-maintenance perennial that acts as a natural pest control station by attracting beneficial insects like ladybugs, hoverflies, lacewings, and parasitic wasps. Its umbrella-shaped flowers provide easy-to-access nectar, serving as a vital food source for these predators that devour aphids and caterpillars