Mansfield Garden Club

OCTOBER 2026 NEWSLETTER



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I've been making a mental list of what I'd do differently in my garden next year. Some plants earned their place. Some took far more attention than I expected. And at least one will probably get another chance despite giving me no good reason to think it deserves one.

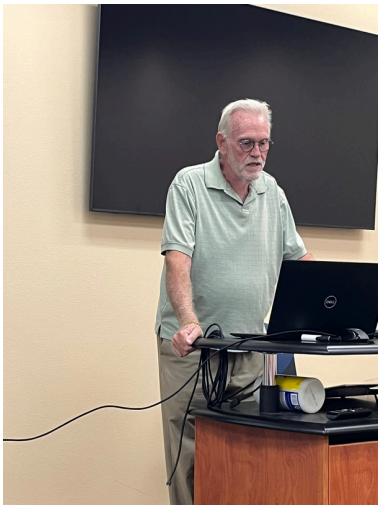
At our October meeting, we're playing plant bingo. I'm looking forward to a morning of good company, a little friendly competition, and finding out which plants everyone hopes to take home.

See you there!

Warmly,
Sonya

September 2026 Meeting recap

Mansfield Historical Society President Tom Leach presented on the historic Cook's Cabin recently completed at the Man House, as well as plans for a vegetable and herb garden. MGC members are providing research and advice on these garden projects, which featured flowers as well as vegetables.





Tom shared fascinating details about the types of crops grown in kitchen gardens, vs. the fields, and strategies for preserving vegetables for the winter. The 1870-era Cook's Cabin took five years to rebuild, and will be fully operational on Founders Day, October 3. Tom hand-built many of the furniture inside the kitchen. A beehive oven was also built outside the cabin.





October Mansfield Garden Club meeting
PLANT BINGO

- Tuesday, October 13 at 6 pm for refreshments with meeting following
- Location: Chris Burkett Service Center
- Plant Bingo!!!

Do you love plants and want to go home with a few new leafy beauties? Join us for the MGC bingo bash at our October meeting. Meet fellow MGC plant lovers, play bingo with a leafy twist, and snag some cool plants. No stress, just good vibes and green friends.

Bring a plant or two to share, and get ready to shout "Bingo!" surrounded by some awesome MGC friends and leafy plants ready for a new home.











UPCOMING EVENTS

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 sell plants and crafts. This is one of our biggest events and it's a great opportunity to inform our community about MGC. Below are some specific needs:
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    - We need 3 people for the tear down team from 4:15 PM to 5:00 PM
    - We need a Greeter from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM
    - We need Sales Team members (2) from 9:00AM to 1:00PM
    - We need Sales Team members (3) from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM
    - We need Plant Pickup Team members (3-4) 4:15PM
- Please sign up by contacting Russ Martin to donate or with any questions. www.mjmartin9921@gmail.com / text 817-682-3898

November MGC meeting

- Tuesday, November 10 at 6 pm for refreshments
- Ginny Schmidt and Mary Connell, Tarrant County Master Gardeners will discuss composting.

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.



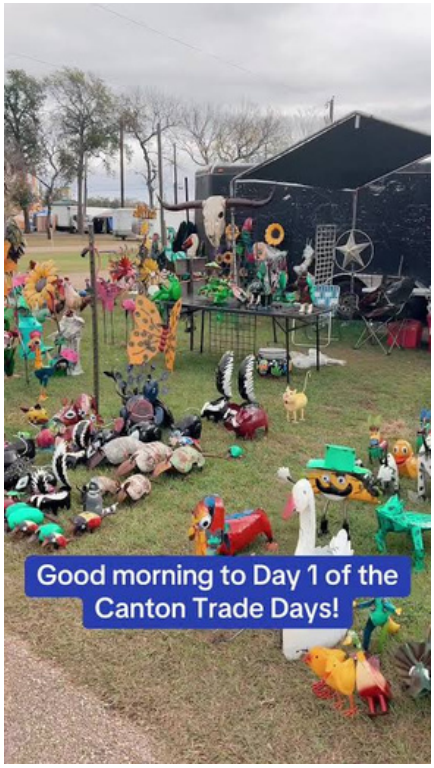




ADDITIONAL UPCOMING EVENTS

Shoppping in Canton/First Monday Trade Days

- October 30 --full day
- Carpool to site, about 1.5 hours from Mansfield
- According to Texas Monthly, Canton is known as the world's largest flea market. It is only open the first Monday and weekend of the month. It is an excellent site for finding garden accessories, plants, and a great place to start early Christmas shopping. Bring walking shoes, a hat and a bag for goodies. Reach out to Rosa at weith5@sbcglobal.net with any questions.







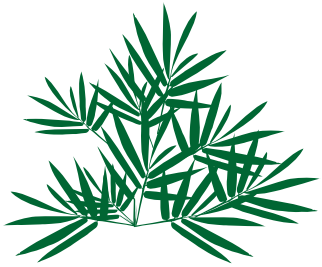
Metro Maples Field Trip

- Tuesday, November 17
- Field trip to a 6 acre nursery with over 15,000 trees, specializing in Japanese and Chinese (Shantung and Trident) maples. Metro Maples is in its 30th year as a quality grower and offers a wealth of information for gardeners who wish to grow these beautiful trees in North Texas. Please reach out to Rosa at weith5@sbcglobal.net to sign up.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Russ Martin shares that as soon as we get a break in the heat wave, we will be scheduling for fall clean up work days for all the gardens that we take care. Below is a quick update on our upcoming activities:

- **Burkett Service Center Demo Gardens**: Will need major weed removal and trimming . Help is needed to uncover the irrigation drip lines in each bed to improve our water distribution to all the plants. Our plan is to offer both Tuesday / Saturday work days to encourage our members to join and bring their kids or others that may wish to help and learn about our native plants.
- **Mansfield Library Butterfly Garden:** the passion vine has gone wild and there's quite a bit of weeding and trimming that needs to be done. This site offers some shady areas for volunteers to sit and weed.
- **Gazebo Garden:** this garden requires minor weeding and trimming. We might wish to begin preparing for Halloween decorations as this is a very Instagram-popular site. October annual planting is also around the corner.
- **Man House Plant Beds**: this site should be in good shape after Founders Day October 3 but may still require weed removal and trimming.
- **Man House Kitchen Garden**: Under design and stay tuned for more info as to the club's role in creating a historically accurate site.



UPDATES FROM MGC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Update to Bylaws

The executive committee, at the behest of our club president, has updated the bylaws. As MGC President Sonya Byrne shared in a recent email to all members “Most of the proposed revisions are intended to clean up and clarify the existing language and better reflect our current practices. The primary substantive change is the addition of a 6th Vice President — Membership, along with the responsibilities of that position.” She attached the proposed bylaws to that email for all members to review, since the bylaws call for members to receive two weeks’ notice before voting on changes.

Please take a moment to review the proposed revisions prior to our October 13 meeting. We will have an opportunity to discuss them at the meeting before voting.

Terrarium Building Field Trip: September 21













PLANT OF THE MONTH







Common Name	Prairie Penstemon (Foxglove Beardtongue)
Botanical Name	Penstemon cobaea
Plant Type	Perennial
Mature Size	up to 3' tall
Sun Exposure	full sun for best blooming
Soil Type	Acidic sandy loam, clay lome
Bloom Time	September until first frost
Flower Color	almost white to dark pink to lavender
Hardiness Zones	USDA 4-9
Toxicity	mildly toxic to both pets and humans.

Wild foxglove is not related to the true European foxglove. Showy tubular flowers may vary in color from almost white to dark pink to lavender. Cut back the stems after flowering, or wait for the seeds to ripen. This penstemon may go dormant during the summer and attracts a variety of moths, nectar-insects, and hummingbirds. It’s a larval host for the Dotted Checkerspot butterfly. Propagates from seed and germination is best with cold-moist stratification. Blooms April- May. Low water requirements.