

# GALLATIN GRUBBER

June 2018

## First Market: June 16

The first Farmers' Market of the season will be Saturday, June 16 at the Gallatin County Fairgrounds. We will be located in the same space we've occupied in the past including an additional five feet of space so now we have plenty of room for all of our produce, and especially for our gladiolas, sunflowers and sweet corn (for the first time). We need volunteers to help set up and then sell the produce. Set up starts at 7 a.m. with the sale beginning at 9 a.m. and it usually takes us most of two hours to get ready to sell. The sale ends at noon.

We have some "regular" sellers who work most Saturdays but we need at least one person or couple in addition for each week until the last market on Sept. 8. To this end, Don Mathre will pass around a sign up sheet at the June 4 meeting. So, be thinking about whether this is something you might like to help out with.

It's lots of fun and you meet a wide cross section of the vegetable and flower buying public.

## June 4 Meeting: Towne's Harvest Garden

Mac Burgess, assistant professor plant sciences at MSU, will speak at our next meeting on Monday, June 4, 7 p.m. at Hope Lutheran Church on South 19th Ave. Mac's areas of expertise include small-scale horticulture and agronomy and



*Mac Burgess and a fine onion*

he is in charge of the Towne's Harvest Garden, a three-acre diversified vegetable and educational research farm supporting a student-run, community-supported agriculture program. The Towne's Harvest Garden promotes learning about food production, the value of eating and supporting local foods, community building, and individual empowerment. The garden is named after the Towne family, one of the

original homesteaders in the beautiful Gallatin Valley. It is located north and west of the our club garden at the MSU Horticulture Farm. (We often admire the early crops growing in their greenhouses!) Mac is an enthusiastic proponent of small-scale agriculture and will no doubt provide an interesting talk!

This will be our last program of the spring before we break for the summer. After this, our next monthly meeting will be Sept. 10. During the summer we will host our annual picnic on July 9, and several garden tours, dates and times to be announced.

**Refreshments:** Mark Burr, Bonnie and Charlie Hash, and Pat Donovan.

## Plant & Tool Sale Successful!

The club's 34th annual Plant and Tool Sale, held Saturday, May 26, was a fine success. The weather was atypically gorgeous and many members turned out to help sell and provide helpful advice to buyers. While tools were in somewhat short supply this year, plants and supplies were abundant thanks to donations from club members and the Gallatin Valley Garden Center, Cashman Nursery, Kenyon-Noble, Murdoch's, Toby Day and Planet Natural. Thanks to everyone who helped and everyone who came by and made a purchase.



*President Pat, ready to deal*

## Club Picnic 7/9

Our July meeting is our annual picnic and will be held on Monday, July 9 at 6 pm at the home of Don and Diane Heyden. Persons whose last name begins with A-H should bring a main dish, J-M a dessert, and N-Z a salad or side dish. More details will be provided in the July newsletter.

## Garden Update

As of this writing, a good portion of the garden has been planted, with just the beans and some late seeded beets yet to be planted. Many thanks to all who have come out to help. The onion and cole crops were transplanted May 17, and are doing very well. Of the crops early seeded in May, the spinach, beets, and peas have emerged. Lettuce, and carrots have yet to emerge but there is now good soil moisture so once we get some heat, they should come roaring out of the ground. We also transplanted the peppers and tomatoes into the greenhouse on May 15 and they are doing quite well. Thanks to Susan Hellier and Mike, they installed a drip system for the peppers this year which are growing in very large stock tanks and it seems to be working well. Finally, the raised beds are now all planted with either seed or transplants. We have six beds, one each for garlic, radishes, salad turnips, pak choi, lettuce and Barese Swiss chard.

The next events to occur in the garden are the installation of our drip irrigation system, installation of the stakes to hold up the tomatoes and weeding parties to keep the thistle, mallow, and red root pigweed under control, plus some dandelions. They too are all growing very well. Stay tuned to your e-mail for the dates and times of work sessions in the garden.



*Planting gladiolus. Flowers have become an increasingly important part of our market offerings the past few years.*