

GALLATIN GRUBBER

June 2024

Garden Report

by Don Mathre

Market and Garden Manager

The club garden is finally off to a great start. We had excellent turnouts of folks to get the pea fences erected and the rows staked out last week and then the next day we got all the onion and cole crop transplants out. With this good moisture, they are in excellent shape even though most of the moisture came in the form of snow. The tomatoes in the hoop house are doing well and the irrigation system is installed so that they won't get dry. This coming week we hope to get all of the direct seeded crops in the ground including spinach, carrots, beets, chard and perhaps the gladiolas. Then all that remains will be sweet corn, beans, cucumbers and squash. So after a late start, we are in very good shape thanks to the many folks who have shown up to lend their hand. The first Farmers' Market will be June 15 at the Gallatin County Fairgrounds and we should have rhubarb, lettuce and pak choi for sale along with tomato plants and house plants. Many thanks to all the volunteers who made all of this possible. Stay tuned to your email for notices of upcoming work days.

June 3 Meeting: Biocontrol of Weeds

Our June 3 speaker will be Todd Breitenfeldt, program director of the Whitehall Biological Weed Control Project in Jefferson County. Breitenfeldt manages a project that utilizes tiny insects



Todd Breitenfeldt

to get rid of noxious weeds. He describes the technique as elegant, "because you are using the plant's own enemies against them as opposed to other methods like chemical sprays and goats. You can spray herbicides, but herbicides don't kill the seeds and don't last. So over time the weeds come back. If you release the insects and get them established, they will stay. They will never eradicate the weed but they'll bring it down to a level that can be tolerated." In addition to providing a landowner with hundreds of thousands of beneficial insects, the weed control program employs high school and college students in a summer job that provides education for the students and public alike. Join us in learning about this interesting and innovative approach to weed control. The meeting will be begin at 7 p.m. at the Hope Lutheran Church, 19th and Graf, in Bozeman. It is open to anyone interested. *(Note: this will be our last monthly meeting until September.)*

Arbor Day: Wet but Successful!

A handful of club members joined Jerry Cashman and his crew and students of the Gallatin High AP History Class in planting five trees on the school's campus in celebration of Arbor Day, April 26. Although rain drenched all participants the students stuck with it and completed the task at hand. The club has been planting trees on Arbor Day every year since 1982.

