

GALLATIN GRUBBER

April 2021

Garden Report

The onions that club members planted in February are now up and doing well and are getting a weekly trimming to make them robust for transplanting. Our next planting party will be on Saturday, April 10 at 9 a.m. at the MSU Plant Growth Center to sow broccoli, kohlrabi, kale, cauliflower, and cabbage. We will work in two different rooms so we should be able to accommodate all who would like to help. But be sure to bring and wear your mask. We will gather for refreshments after we are finished so bring any goodies you might like. Coffee will be provided. We will also transplant tomatoes into pots on May 1, 9 a.m., at the Plant Growth Center. These will eventually be transplanted into our high-tunnel greenhouse sometime about the middle of May. Watch your email for updates.

Arbor Day 4/29

At this point, we are planning on participating in Arbor Day on April 29. Jerry Cashman is organizing this event which will probably be at one of the newer local schools. Details will be provided in an email.

Picnic 7/12

Circumstances permitting, we will host our annual picnic on July 12. More details will be provided later.

April Meeting: “Amber Waves”

This month’s virtual meeting will be a PowerPoint presentation by MSU professor Cathy Zabinski about her new book, Amber Waves: The Extraordinary Biography of Wheat, from Wild Grass to World Megacrop. When Zabinski decided to write this, her first book, she steered away from topics she has studied for nearly



Dr. Zabinski

three decades: soil ecology, remediation of damaged ecosystems and crop rotations. Instead, she picked a new topic, one she could learn about along with her readers. For her main character, she chose the humble wheat plant. “I thought learning about a new topic could be a really good way to keep in mind this process of discovery and communicating to an audience who is learning about that topic just as I am... This book was very much written for the public. I wrote this to give us a sense of the history of our food production, and that background is what I think is really helpful as we’re addressing the big question of how to produce enough food for the upcoming decades with a growing human population. It was a journey that I had not really anticipated when I set out, and that was both interesting and rewarding.” The book was published last Sept. 15 by The University of Chicago Press. Her talk can be accessed on the Gallatin Gardeners Club YouTube channel at: https://youtu.be/7cyomk_BXNo

Plant & Tool Sale May 29

We will hold our annual Plant and Tool Sale Saturday, May 29 at the downtown Owenhouse Ace parking lot. In preparation, club members should search your garages and sheds for garden tools that you no longer use, or start plants to sell. Annual plants such as tomatoes and flowers sell well, as do perennials and shrubs. We also need lots of boxes that our customers can put their plants into so be saving any of these you might have available. A size of 12" x 18" is about perfect but other sizes can also be used.

Reminder: If you want to order tomato plants from Don Mathre, please get your orders to him by April 15. For details, see last month’s newsletter.

Contact Don at donmathre2@gmail.com