

# GALLATIN GRUBBER

January 2019

## Jan. 7 Program

Our next meeting will be Monday, Jan. 7 at the Hope Lutheran Church on South 19th Ave. beginning at 7 p.m. The speaker will be Alex Nordquest, forester for Bozeman's Parks and Recreation Department. Prior to Bozeman, he lived in Columbus, Ohio where he obtained a BS in Forestry and Wildlife Studies from Ohio State University. Alex has ten years of experience in the urban forestry field. His will present an overview of the Forestry Division's responsibilities, including their unique tree planting programs and long-term planning for the community.

**Refreshments:** Frank Erickson, Don Mathre and Maggie Spinelli. (A sign-up sheet for future meetings will be passed around at the Jan. meeting.)

## Christmas Party

Forty-six people attended our Christmas dinner at the Story Mansion, catered by the Fork and Spoon Restaurant. It was a great affair and the food was excellent. We have already booked the Story Mansion for our 2019 dinner.

## 2019 Program Schedule

Here's the proposed schedule for our monthly membership meetings in 2019. We have lined up a variety of interesting speakers and topics:

- **January 7**— (see notice at left.)
- **February 4**— Jay Visser, Visser Greenhouses
- **March 4**— Sam Blonquist, Gallatin Valley Farm-to-School program.



*Farm-to-School kids*

- **April 1**— Maddy Pope, Trust for Public Lands, on the Story Mill Park.
- **May 6**— TBA.
- **June 3**— Question and Answer Panel.
- **July**— Summer Picnic. Date, time and location to be announced.
- **August**— Garden tours. Dates, times and locations TBA.
- **September 9**— Mac Burgess' student research findings.
- **October 7**— Club members share their gardening experiences at the annual "What worked and didn't work" meeting.
- **November 4**— Club Garden video.
- **December 2**— Annual Christmas Dinner, Story Mansion.

## Containers Needed

Over the winter we need for you to save the following: plastic grocery bags with handles and paper grocery bags with handles. We use them for a variety of purposes related to our farmers' market sales. Bring them to any of our meetings throughout the winter or spring. We don't need any plastic boxes due to a tremendous supply we have on hand.

## 2019 Grants

The club executive board has sent out requests for project proposals to a variety of individuals and nonprofit organizations and has asked that proposals for funding in 2019 be received electronically by the board no later than Jan. 16, 2019.

The board will then review these proposals at an executive board meeting on Monday, Jan. 21 at 1 pm at Hope Lutheran Church. Any of you are most welcome to attend this meeting, especially if you have ideas or concerns about any proposals the board may receive. This will be your chance for input.

At the regular member meeting on Feb. 4 an up or down vote will then be taken on the recommendations that come out of the Jan. 21 board meeting. We have about \$19,000 available for funding projects in 2019.

## Dues due!

For those of you who were not at the Christmas dinner and have not paid your dues for 2019, now is the time to send in your check to our treasurer, Janne Hayward. The dues are \$10 for individuals and \$15 for couples. Her address is 325 Concord, Bozeman, MT 59715. **DON'T FORGET!**

## Whittier School Greenhouse

*(Among the grants we awarded in 2018 was \$2,000 to Whittier Elementary School in Bozeman to build a greenhouse. Here is part of their account of their greenhouse adventure!)*

In August of 2018, a longtime dream came to fruition – Whittier Elementary School's greenhouse arrived! This project was a true collaborative effort, bringing together Bozeman School District administration, Whittier School



staff, students and parents, local nonprofits and businesses. It would not have been possible without the generous support of the Gallatin Gardeners Club grant program. The greenhouse beds were installed and filled with dirt with help from the Montana Dietetic Internship at

Montana State University. It was a "barn-raising" of sorts, in conjunction with Gallatin Valley Farm to School.

The initial planting in the greenhouse included salad greens, radishes, and starts donated by local farms.

We were a bit overzealous in planting kale – but it proved to be a terrific environment for a late season crop. Last month during Harvest of the Month lessons, students harvested kale from the greenhouse and made kale chips and kale smoothies. Just in one month of use, the greenhouse proved itself as a catalyst for healthy eating behaviors, as kindergarten teacher Mrs.



Lawton explains: "When one of my students' moms remarked that he wanted kale for dinner and could they go shopping, I smiled knowing the lesson had made a strong impact on him. Seriously, what five-year-old requests kale for dinner?" The Whittier Greenhouse team will be fundraising to add 3 raised beds surrounding the greenhouse in 2019.