

GALLATIN GRUBBER

February 2026

Feb. 2 Meeting: Mushrooms!

Our Feb. 2 monthly meeting will feature Chance Noffsinger, a mycologist with MSU's



Chance Noffsinger

Department of Plant Science and Plant Pathology Department. He will speak to us on "Mushrooms of the Intermountain West: exploring common, edible and unique fungal species." The meeting will start at 7 p.m. at the Hope Lutheran Church, 19th and Graf, Room 123 and is open to all interested gardeners (and mushroom hunters).

Also, we are currently looking for speakers for our March, April and May monthly meetings, so if you have suggestions please let one of the club board members know.

Dues due!

Club dues for 2026 are now due. Please mail cash or a check made out to the Gallatin Gardeners Club to Janne Hayward, 325 Concord, Bozeman, MT 59715. Dues remain at the bargain rate of \$10 per individual or \$15 per family.

2026 Proposed Grants

The club's board of directors is proposing to award 15 grants totaling a \$18,475 in 2026. Funding for the grants is provided by sales from our market garden and donations. The membership will be asked to vote on this proposal at the February 2nd meeting.

MSU Horticulture Scholarships	Scholarships for horticulture students.	\$4,000
Montana Ag Live	Montana PBS ag and gardening call-in program.	500
Belgrade Community Library	Support restocking of seed library.	500
Belgrade FFA	Add orchard to community farm.	1,000
Belgrade Senior Center	Upkeep of raised beds.	1,000
Hawk's View Plant Center (BHS).	Purchase plants and support vocational field trips.	500
Bozeman Library	Replenish seed library.	750
Bozeman Senior Center	Fresh fruit for meals-on-wheels program.	2,000
Cancer Support Community	Tools, supplies and seeds for Gardens of Hope.	500
Eagle Mount	Add shade sails to garden.	1,500
Family Promise	Tools and supplies for homeless community garden.	475
Gallatin Gateway School	Establish school garden.	1,250
Gallatin Valley Food Bank (HRDC)	Support Story Mill garden.	2,000
Haven	Support shelter garden.	\$1,000
Headwaters Food Bank	Support food bank garden.	500
Sage Gardeners	Provide accessible gardening spaces for seniors.	1,000
Total		\$18,475

Looking Ahead to 2026

The club garden at the MSU horticulture farm is resting for the winter beneath an unusually thin blanket of snow (as of 1/26/25), leaving us wondering what the coming season will bring. Among the things we can control are a few changes are in store for 2026. With the help of the Townes Harvest team, the entire garden plot was fall tilled, and the east half was seeded with a cover crop and will not be used to grow cash crops in 2026. The hope is that this will help replenish the soil that we have relied on for so many years and over time help us get a better handle on the ever increasing weed problem. We will be adding a small plot to the north to help make up for the reduction in size of the main garden. We are hoping that better utilizing and tending the remaining west half of the garden, hoop house and raised beds we will be able to maintain an acceptable level of production. Seeds and plants have been ordered, and in the coming months tomato, peppers and cold crops will be sown under cover for transplanting into the garden and hoop house later. As always, the success of the garden will depend on our cadre of volunteers who tirelessly donate their sweat and tears (but hopefully not blood!) Volunteer opportunities will be available in the later Spring and Summer. As Don Mathre always said, "Stay tuned."



The club garden in July, 2010



Report from Haven

Through our grant program, the Gallatin Gardeners Club supports a variety of community organizations, including Haven. Haven provides confidential support, legal advocacy, counseling, and a safe place to stay for anyone and everyone impacted by domestic violence, sexual assault, sex trafficking, and stalking. They work to empower survivors, elevate their voices, strengthen our community, hold abusers accountable, and stop the cycle of abuse. We are proud to support their community garden. Here is a letter of thanks:



Gallatin Gardener's Club Report 2025

In 2025, Haven's community garden continued to move forward. During the summer, we made minor improvements to the garden space, and with the help of a volunteer who is a former participant in our programs, we continued to host weekly garden sessions for participants, staff, and community members from June through November. We grew a variety of vegetables, including kale, tomatoes, beans, tomatillos, and summer squash, which supplied both residents and staff with fresh produce throughout the summer and well into the fall. We also implemented a new system for tracking the number of people who participate in garden activities and other community events, although unfortunately this system was not implemented until November, so we will be able to better report on exact numbers associated with the garden.

Haven had requested \$2500 from the Gallatin Gardener's Club last year for an archway trellis, planters, and additional garden beds. 2025 was a particularly change-filled year for Haven, with the exciting implementation of two new programs (transitional housing and a full legal services program), many distracting issues around funding sources, and a 23% increase in our service numbers. We also welcomed a new executive director, Katie Madison, who was previously our COO. These changes placed heavy demands on our facilities operations, particularly around opening new rooms at the shelter as transitional housing units, and as a result we pushed our plans for additional garden construction to summer of 2026.

The community garden continues to be a space of healing and connection, as well as providing nutrition to a variety of people associated with Haven. It serves as a space for participants and staff alike to re-center and work through trauma. Staff sometimes take stressful phone meetings in the garden as a way of cultivating more calm in the situation, and also use the space to decompress after stressful interactions. As we've taken a greater focus on the mental health and wellbeing of our staff, who experience secondary trauma on a daily basis, the garden space has been important on-campus aid to coping. It also continues to be a space that draws participation from the wider community, important in meeting our goal of providing places for survivors to reconnect to the larger community.

We are so grateful for the Gallatin Gardeners Club's ongoing support for Haven's work and for survivors in Gallatin County.

Sincerely,

RJ Watters
Grant writer and coordinator