

GALLATIN GRUBBER

June 2017

First Market June 17

The first Farmers Market of the season will be **Saturday, June 17** at the Gallatin County Fairgrounds. We will be in the same space we've occupied in the past but we have been given an additional five feet of space so we now have plenty of room for all of our produce, especially our gladiolas and sunflowers. We need volunteers to help set up from 7 to 9 a.m. and then sell produce 9 a.m. to noon. We have a core group of regulars who work most Saturdays, but we need one to two additional volunteer for each Saturday market through Sept. 9. To this end, Don Mathre will pass around a sign up sheet at the June 5 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-buying public.

June 5 Meeting: Montana Heritage Orchards

Montana Heritage Orchards will be the topic of our next monthly meeting on **Monday, June 5, 7 p.m.** at the Hope Lutheran Church on South 19th Ave. Speaking will be Toby Day, MSU Extension Horticulturalist who, along with Lewis and Clark County Agent Brent Sarchet, is spearheading an effort to locate and preserve these old orchards.

“When you think of states known for their fruit production, Montana is probably last on the list. However, parts of Montana have a rich history of fruit production. Historically, orchards were planted throughout Montana by orchardists and homesteaders just trying to make a living and many of those orchards are still intact. One of the first things many homesteaders did after moving west and settling their land was to plant fruit trees. Because of their value, fruit trees and small orchards used to be a prized component of many farms, ranches and communities.



Heritage orchard near Townsend

Remnants of these orchards are scattered around the state, hidden in little sanctuaries located off the beaten path. Some of these orchards hold prized trees of many old cultivars that may be over 100 years old and still producing. Imagine what we can learn from these heritage orchards, and how they can assist us in rebuilding localized fruit production across the state.”—from the Heritage Orchard website: <http://www.mtorchards.org/about.html>

Toby Day grew up in Bozeman, received his BS and MS degrees in horticulture from MSU and served as County Agent in Butte before becoming the state-wide extension specialist in horticulture for MSU. He serves as a panelist on the PBS program Montana Ag Live. He’s a great speaker. This will be our last monthly program this spring until we

Garden Video

We are looking for a few new "victims" for the fifth Gallatin Gardeners Club video project. What this entails is walking around your garden and talking about it, while Frank Erickson videotapes you. We do the taping in August when gardens look their best. Frank then edits the video for presentation at November's meeting. So far, Felix and Maggie Spinelli have volunteered their garden for the project. We need three more gardens to make a nice program. If interested, please contact Frank at 435-979-0118 or frnknmry@icloud.com.

Club Picnic 7/10

Our July meeting is our annual picnic and will be held on Monday, July 10 at 6 p.m. at the home of Joe and Cynthia Yates, located on Lower Rainbow Road south of Four Corners. (Directions will be included in the July Newsletter.) The meal is a potluck. Members whose last name begins with A-H are asked to bring a main dish, I-M a dessert, and N-Z a salad or side dish.

Don't Forget!

The **Plant and Tool Sale** is this **Saturday, May 27** in the parking lot next to the Owenhouse Ace bike shop (corner of Babcock and Black). Come at 7 a.m. if you have items to contribute and/or want to help set-up. Come between 8 a.m. to noon to make purchases of plants, tools and other garden miscellany. See you there!

start up again in September.

Refreshments: Ray and Ardie Kelm, Julie Geyer, Karen James.

Garden Update

As of this writing, a good portion of the garden has been planted, with just the beans, cucumbers, squash, and some late seeded beets yet to be planted. Many thanks to all who have come out to help. The cole crops were transplanted



*Putting up the deer fence
(photo by Cara Priem)*

May 20, and are doing very well. Of the crops early seeded in early May, only the spinach has emerged. Peas, lettuce, carrots, and beets 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 having survived a couple of below freezing mornings. Thanks to Susan Hellier and Mike for installing a drip system for the peppers last year which are growing in very large pots and it seems to be working well. Finally, the raised beds are now all planted with either seed or transplants. We have five beds, one each for onions and garlic, radishes, salad turnips, pac choi, and lettuce.

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.