

GALLATIN GRUBBER

March 2018

April 2 Meeting

Dr. Nina Zidak, Director of the Montana Certified Seed Potato program at MSU, will speak on growing potatoes in the home garden at our April 2 monthly meeting.

Refreshments: Maggie and Felix Spinelli, Don Mathre and Larissa Jackiw.

Tomato Plants

As part of our club's fundraising, Don Mathre will again be growing tomato plants for sale at the Plant and Tool Sale as well as for sale to individual club members. The cost will be \$1.50 per plant (4-inch pots), available about Memorial Day weekend. Varieties will include Big Beef, Whopper, Early Girl, New Girl, Taxi (yellow), Black Krim, Sungold, Sweet 100, and Juliet. If you have other varieties you would like to have planted, let Don know (mathre@q.com) and get the seed to him by April 15. Also, we have received seed of six Russian-origin tomatoes from early-season tomato expert John Austin. If you would like to try one or more of these varieties, let Don know. If you grow them, we'd like for you to keep some records on them such as first flowering date, date of first ripe fruit, etc.

March 5 Meeting: Moveable Greenhouses

"Moveable Greenhouses" will be the topic of our next monthly meeting on Monday, March 5 at the Hope Lutheran Church on South 19th Ave. beginning at 7 pm. The program will be presented by David Baumbauer, who wears many horticultural hats including manager of the MSU Plant Growth Center, supervisor of the MSU Horticulture Farm, and candidate for the PhD. in Plant Sciences. David will speak on the research project for his PhD. which involves using mobile hoop houses to extend the growing season for vegetables in the Gallatin Valley.

Refreshments: Yvonne Baskin, Debbie Daniels and Carol Flaherty.

Market Garden Update

We got our garden season off to a great start with our annual onion planting party on Feb. 17 with 22 folks showing up to help. It was great fun for all and we even had time to enjoy each other's company with refreshments in the Plant Growth Center atrium. The next event will be a planting party to get the broccoli, cabbage, etc planted in flats. It will be on Saturday, April 14 at 9 am in the Plant Growth Center. More details will be forthcoming via e-mail. On Saturday, April 28 we will have a tomato transplanting party to get our tomatoes for the club hoop house going. It will also be at 9 am in the Plant Growth Center. Depending on the weather, we will have our first work party for the main garden in late April or early May to put up the deer fence and pea fences as well as getting all the rows staked out. Again, stay tuned for the exact date and time.

New Board Members

Following the amendment of the club bylaws at the February monthly meeting, two new directors have joined the club's board: Don Mathre, market and garden manager; and Yvonne Baskin, director-at-large, appointed by the board to serve until the November election.