

GALLATIN GRUBBER

September 2019

Fall Meetings

Our regular Monday monthly meetings at the Hope Lutheran Church will resume starting in September.

Sept. 9, 7 p.m.— (a week later than our normal meeting date of the first Monday of every month due to Labor Day) Our program will be presented by students working with Dr. Mac Burgess, sustainable agriculture professor in the Department of Plant Science and Plant Pathology at MSU. Mac has each of his students do a research project on a variety of things related to growing vegetables and fruit in the home garden. While the specific topics each of these students will discuss is unavailable at this time, it should be a very interesting and timely program.

Refreshments: Ivan and Jan Flock, Julie Geyer and Ardie Kelm.

Oct. 7, 7 p.m.— Our most popular meeting of the year is our October meeting when each club member talks about "what worked and what didn't work" in their own garden in 2019. Always fun and informative. With all of the pluses and minuses that many of us encountered in our gardens this year, this should be a very interesting meeting.

Refreshments: Janice Hand and Shannon Brightman.

Market and Garden News

We have been selling produce now for a number of weeks with the last market coming up on Sept. 14. It has been a very challenging season due to a cold, wet May and a severe hail storm in mid-June that impacted seed germination, survival of transplants, and slowed plant growth. The results were reduced yields and later-than-usual harvests. As a result, our income is down for the year. But we are finally getting back into the "over \$1000" market sales with three



Don M. prepping cauliflower for sale to the Co-op kitchen

more markets to go, plus outside sales to the Community Food Co-op kitchen and Heeb's and T&C markets. Remaining to harvest and sell are beets, carrots, beans, squash, cucumbers, onions, shallots, and leeks, with perhaps some broccoli and a few cabbages as well. And, of course, tomatoes! Our sales of sunflowers, dahlias, and gladiolas have been over expectations thanks in large part to the care given them by Yvonne Baskin and her able assistants who have sold every flower that was salable. To all of you who have helped with the garden over the summer, many thanks. Once the garden has finished producing we will have one or more cleanup days to remove the tomato vines and stakes from the greenhouse, dig and process the gladiola corms, shallots and red onions, take down the pea fences and remove the drip irrigation system. Stay tuned for the dates and times, probably the last two weeks of September. We will likely have excess produce to sell at the end of the season, so if any of you are interested in large quantities of ripe tomatoes to process, we offer a discount off our regular price. Please let Don Mathre know via e-mail (mathre@q.com), or phone (406-599-6312) if you might be interested. These will be available after the last market on Sept. 14.