

GALLATIN GRUBBER

April 2017

May 1 Meeting

At our Monday, May 1 monthly meeting, Michelle Flenniken, assistant professor in the Department of Plant Sciences



Prof. Flenniken in her lab

and Plant Pathology at MSU, will discuss her work with honey bees. Professor Flenniken is studying why honeybees,

the primary pollinator force of the nation's food supply, are experiencing high mortality. Flenniken's research comes at a time when the national beekeeping industry is facing high annual losses of honeybee colonies, about 32 percent a year. "Bee colony health is affected by many factors, including pathogens, agrochemical exposure, availability of quality forage (bee nutrition), weather and more," Flenniken said. "Therefore, it's important to investigate many factors in parallel in order to determine which are the most important to bee health."

Refreshments: Frank Erickson, Larissa Jackiw, and Mark Burr.

April 3 Meeting:

Barley and Brewing in Montana

Our April program will be presented by Michael D. Fox, Curator of History at the Museum of the Rockies and host to the museum's *Hops and History* and *Brews in the Big Sky* programs. His specialty is US Western History. He has worked at museums such as the Buffalo Bill Center of the West, the Autry Center for the Study of the American West and the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery. His presentation will be on barley growing and malting in the Gallatin Valley. It will focus on the brewing trade in Montana and the role that barley production played historically in both regional and national beer



Michael D. Fox

production. He will focus on the activities of regional brewers and of the Manhattan Malting Company from 1890 to 1916 and beyond. Mr. Fox will explain the ways in which barley production and its use in brewing have historically drawn communities together worldwide and more specifically the role that it has played and continues to play in the cultural history of Gallatin County.

As an aside, Mr. Fox has a series of interesting short videos on various aspects of Montana history posted online at <https://museumoftherockies.org/research/regional-history-team/michael-fox/>

The meeting will be on Monday, April 3 at the Hope Lutheran Church on South 19th Ave. beginning at 7 p.m.

Refreshments: Mary Ann Byerly, Chairman; Cathy Rechlin, and Yvonne Baskin.

Plant & Tool Sale

Now is a good time to begin thinking about what you might be able to contribute to the club's annual **Plant and Tool Sale, Saturday, May 27**. This could be garden tools that you no longer use, or it could be plants. Annual plants such as tomatoes and flowers sell well, as do perennial plants, especially various flowers and shrubs. We also need lots of boxes that our customers can put their plants into so be saving any of these you might have available. A size of 12" x 18" is about perfect but other sizes can also be used.

Market Garden News

The onions that club members helped to plant in February are now up and doing well and are getting a weekly trimming to make them robust for transplanting. We will have our next planting party on **Saturday, April 15 at 9 am** at the MSU Plant Growth Center to sow flats of broccoli, kohlrabi, kale, and cabbage. We will also have a planting party on **Saturday April 29** to transplant our tomatoes into 4 inch pots. These will eventually be transplanted into our high-tunnel greenhouse in mid-May. *As always, stay tuned to your email for possible time and date changes!*

Arbor Day Planting

Friday, April 28, 1 p.m.

Location to be announced.

Watch your email for details

Colorful New Web Page

Thanks to the tireless work and creative talent of Club President Susie Mathre, we now have an all new web page, and it is simply fabulous. Check it out and let us know what you think: <https://www.gallatingardenersclub.com/>.



Grant Recipients say “Thanks!”

Several of the groups we are supporting financially this year have written to thank us:

Cancer Support Community: “We are simply delighted with this opportunity you have provided to people affected by cancer to improve quality of life through gardening. Thank you so much for your contributions to our Garden of Hope.”

Gallatin Valley Farm-to-School: “Thank you for the recent grant of \$1,000... Your gift will directly benefit Gallatin Valley Farm to School’s ability to offer quality programs... Thank you for supporting healthy kids, vibrant farms and strong communities!”

MSU Pollinator Garden: “Thank you for supporting educational signage at MSU’s pollinator garden.”

Sage Gardeners: “...I would just like to give a ‘huge thank you’ to the Gallatin Gardeners Club for the generous grant...it allows so many seniors to put their hands in the dirt again this year. It means the world to us that you believe in us... Please know your funds will be put to good use.”

Eagle Mount: “Thank you so much for your generous donation in support of the Horticulture Program... With this gift, you are helping transform the lives of friends, family members and neighbors who have disabilities or are fighting cancer...”

Montana State University: “Thank you for your gift [Agriculture Named Annual Scholarships] in support of Montana State University. With this gift, you are helping us take steps to propel the university further down our transformative path...”

(More letters next month.)