

GALLATIN GRUBBER

May 2018

May 7 Meeting: John Austin

Legendary Bozeman gardener John Austin will speak on "Growing Long-Season Crops in a Short Gardening Season" at our May 7 meeting, 7 pm, at the Hope Lutheran Church. John has gardened in the Gallatin Valley since 1982. He was associated with the Tinsley House pioneer and Native American gardens for 14 years, has won numerous ribbons at the Gallatin County Fair for outstanding vegetables, and has searched the world for varieties suited to our challenging climate. Last year he trialed 150 vegetable varieties in his garden, including 35 bean, 18 pea and 18 tomato varieties. Join us for an informative and fun program.

Refreshments: Kim Kotur, Don Heyden and Pat Donovan.



John Austin displaying some of his pumpkins and squash

Plant & Tool Sale May 26

The club will hold its annual Plant and Tool Sale at the Ace Owenhouse parking lot, corner of Black and Babcock Streets in Bozeman, **Saturday, May 26, 8 to 11 a.m.** Bring your unneeded garden tools of any kind, along with any extra plants you might have—vegetables, annuals or perennials—to donate to the sale. We also need boxes for customers to carry their purchased plants in, especially the type of boxes that you get at a nursery. Pricing and labeling begin at 7 a.m. with sales to begin when we are ready, usually between 7:30 and 8 a.m. We can use lots of help in all aspects of the sale, but especially to interact with our customers who will come with many questions. It's always a fun time and you don't need to commit to the entire morning -- just stay as long as your schedule allows. If the weather is too bad, the sale will be postponed until the following Saturday, June 2.



Annual Plant & Tool Sale

Saturday, May 26
8 to 11 a.m.
Owenhouse Ace Parking Lot
(corner of Babcock and Black Streets)

Start your garden with our locally grown tomatoes and other vegetable seedlings, annual and perennial flowers, used tools, planters, and other useful odds and ends.

All proceeds support horticulture and gardening projects in Gallatin County.
(Cash or checks only, please.)

A sign-up sheet for posting the sale flyer will be available at our May meeting.

Also, tomatoes that club members special ordered will be available for pickup anytime during this weekend at the home of Don Mathre, 731 South 12th Ave. Please call Don ahead of time to make sure he is there at 406-587-8666 or 406-599-6312 (cell).

The plant sale was the club's first money-making venture and was started back in 1984. It grossed \$150. The tool sale portion was added in 1994.

Market & Garden Update

The onions we planted several months ago have received their final haircut and are ready to be transplanted into the garden in mid-May. The broccoli, cabbage and other cole crops are also doing well in the MSU Plant Growth Center and will be ready for transplanting about the same time as the onions. The tomatoes and peppers for our club hoop house are well underway and will be transplanted into the hoop house about May 15 or whenever the threat of a really hard frost is past. Helping with the work in our garden is a great chance to be of service to the club and to have a great time interacting with other members of our club. Most work sessions take between 1-2 hours. Come when you can. Stay tuned to your e-mail for announcements about the work sessions since sometimes there is a short interval for us to work due to changes in the weather. One big session will be to put up the deer and pea fences just as soon as the garden gets rototilled. The first Farmers' Market will be on Saturday, June 16 at the County Fairgrounds. A sign up sheet will be passed around at our May meeting for persons to help with the Saturday morning markets all summer long. We set up at 7 am, with sales beginning at 9 am. We finish by noon.

June 4 Meeting

Dr. Mac Burgess, assistant professor of Plant Sciences at MSU and our next door neighbor at the Hort Farm, will present the June 4 program. Details will follow in the June Newsletter.

Celebrating Arbor Day at Morningstar Elementary

On April 27 our club teamed up with the Bank of Bozeman, Cashman Nursery, and five student leaders to celebrate Arbor Day by planting two trees at Morningstar Elementary. Two surprises marked the day: it didn't snow (for once!), but after the long winter the ground was still frozen beneath the portion of the playground covered with wood chips. The students were enthusiastic excavators and, as always, the discovery of earthworms generated the greatest interest and several screams.



Arbor Day is one the club's oldest traditions, dating back to 1982, the year the club was founded. Glenn Welch, one of the club's original members, persuaded the department store where he worked to donate a tree, a spruce that club members planted in Manhattan, MT.

Don Mathre and Morningstar students excavating wood chips

The club has planted trees every Arbor Day since, an impressive 36 years! We've planted trees at the Bozeman Senior Center, Bozeman Deaconess Hospital, MSU arboretum, Eaglemount, East Gallatin Recreation Area, Aspen Point, Heart of Valley Animal Shelter and other locations.



Jerry Cashman, Clinton Gerst & Jim Keefer wrestling a maple

In recent years we've planted trees at the newer Bozeman Schools, including Hyalite and Meadowlark Elementary Schools and Chief Joseph and Sacajawea Middle Schools. Jerry Cashman and Cashman Nursery have faithfully provided trees and planting expertise for many years and for the past several years the Bank of Bozeman has joined us in purchasing a tree. We are grateful for their support.