

Currant Affairs

October 1, 2024 Edition

Compiled by Nick Riordan on behalf of ACAT and the AKFPC

****Marks new and updated items in this issue**

WORKSHOPS, WEBINARS, & SPECIAL EVENTS

****October 3 – Garden Tool Sharpening @ Anchorage Garden Club meeting** – 7pm at Central Lutheran Church

****October 4 – Invasive Species Talk @ ABG** from 2:30 – 3:30 PM -

<https://www.alaskabg.org/upcoming-events-workshops/invasive-species-talk>

****October 7 – AK Native Plant Society membership meeting** – 6 pm potluck / 7 pm meeting – Campbell Creek Science Center or via Zoom

****October 9 - Becoming an Alaskan Soil Scientist** - Please join Claire Benton, a soil scientist with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for the third fall 2024 webinar in AGI and USGS NCGMP's Early Career Professionals in Mapping webinar series. In this free webinar, Benton will discuss her work with soil classification and mapping in Alaska. 9 – 10 am Register here <https://www.americangeosciences.org/.../early-career...>

****October 10 – Worm Whisperers with the Wildflower Garden Club** – 10 am – Noon. Cental Lutheran Church and via Zoom.

****October 15 – Squash Mania** at the Seed Lab from 6-8:30 pm. Learn how to grow an abundance of winter squash varieties and cook them in new and delicious ways. Hosted by Anchor Gardens and Yarducopia

****October 16 – Anchorage Permafestival kicks off** with a class and film @ the Seed Lab from 6-8:30 pm. 6 pm film showing of Together We Grow: Building Communities that Thrive followed by PermaWhat?! A class and discussion on what the heck is permaculture @ 7 pm. Hot Cacao and Curry provided at each event. (All Organic, Vegan, and Gluten Free). Hosted by Yarducopia. Info on all the individual events here - <https://www.akaction.org/wp-content/uploads/2024-25-Anchorage-PermaFestival.pdf>

****October 17 & 18 - Alaska Compost Conference** - Interested in composting on a mid-large scale? This workshop is geared for folks at the community, small business, farm, municipal and commercial levels. Day one will be presentations in a classroom setting, Day two is outside getting your hands dirty! RSVP: please email Compost@muni.org.

****October 18 – City Nerd Night on Healthy Soils** – 6-8 pm at King Street Brewing
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/city-nerd-nite-healthy-soils-tickets-1020846388027>

****October 21 – AK Master Gardeners Anchorage meeting** – Board Meeting starts at 5:30, membership meeting at 6:30 pm. BP energy center. Summer picture sharing.

****November 4 – Lingonberries with Patricia Holloway** – 7 pm - Via zoom and/or in person is still TBD (commonly held at Campbell Creek Science center and over Zoom).

****November 7 – Anchorage Permafestival continues** with a showing of the film **Living the Change** @ the Anchorage Seed Lab. This is part of a free six-part film and class series centered around retrofitting our suburban landscape using permaculture ethics and principles: People Care, Earth Care, and Fair Share. Sponsored by Yarcucopia. Hot Cacao and Curry provided at each event. (All Organic, Vegan, and Gluten Free).

****November 16 – PermaWhat?!** From 6-8:30 pm at Green Connection. The class will answer the question, 'What the heck is permaculture?' and provide an opportunity to discuss and reflect on the topic. Hosted by Yarcucopia/Alaska Community Action on Toxics

****December 4 – Anchorage Permafestival continues! – Showing and discussion of the film INHABIT @ the Anchorage Seed Lab** – Permafest is a a FREE six-part film and class series centered around retrofitting our suburban landscape using permaculture ethics and principles: People Care, Earth Care, and Fair Share. Sponsored by Yarcucopia. Hot Cacao and Curry provided at each event. (All Organic, Vegan, and Gluten Free).

****December 11 – PermaWhat?!** From 6-8:30 pm at Green Connection. The class will answer the question, 'What the heck is permaculture?' and provide an opportunity to discuss and reflect on the topic. Hosted by Yarcucopia/Alaska Community Action on Toxics

****February 8 - Alaska Sustainable Beekeeping Conference** - 49th State Brewing Restaurant in Anchorage, from 8 am to 4 pm. Featured speakers include Etienne Tardif, Medhat Nasr, Yours Truly, Elle Roja (Happy Creek Farms), and our favorite local entomologist Alex Wenninger. I'm working on one additional beekeeping celebrity; I'll keep you posted. The tentative cost is \$75 each, which includes lunch. You all know I hate charging for things like this, but I've got to cover airfare, lodging, and meals for the speakers. Gauging the interest level will really help me with planning, so please email anchoragebackyardbeekeeping@gmail.com if you'd seriously consider attending. Actual registration won't open for another month or so.

PROGRAM and JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS and UPDATES

****Putting your garden to bed this winter video** – awesome video by Ellen VandeVisse on how and when to put your gardens to bed - [Winterize Your Alaska Garden with Ellie VendeVisse - YouTube](#)

****Saturday Morning Sourdough Series @ ABG** – October 5, 12, 26 - starter, bread, and discard – Yum! <https://www.alaskabg.org/upcoming-events-workshops>

Urban Ag trainings for free at [small farm courses website](#).

Rose Garden volunteer days – All summer, Tuesday from 1 – 4 pm

Pioneer Home Garden volunteer days – All summer, Wednesday from 1 – 3 pm

Statewide food-related job opportunities listed at AK Food Policy Council's website <https://www.akfoodpolicycouncil.org/food-systems-network-job-opportunities>

Statewide food-related funding opportunities listed at AK Food Policy Council's website <https://www.akfoodpolicycouncil.org/funding-opportunities>

Midtown Garden Depot is open! Lots of free garden supplies to share. We also accept donations of materials anytime. Gate is unlocked, come by at your convenience. 2930 Cheechako Street. Follow the link to the [Midtown](#) Garden Depot webpage. Coordinated by Alaska Community Action on Toxics.

Are you or someone in your village interested in starting a community garden? AK Village Initiatives Ag-in-a-Box program is offering free hands-on subsistence agriculture workshops this summer. This is a free on-site course — our team will come to your village. All you need to supply is interest, excitement, and people. Reach out to AVI for more info.

****The 2024 NACD PAC/SW Joint Region Meeting** is tentatively scheduled for September 11th through 13th, 2024 in Anchorage Alaska – themed Living with the Land from Ground to Glacier: A Journey of Discovery. <https://nacd.akvillage.org/>

Share Waste is a [handy website](#) for seeing where to drop off food waste to be used by neighbors in personal compost piles, fed to flocks, and used at community gardens. This isn't a 'new' website, but it might be new to you! In my experience, the more people using Share Waste (giving and receiving), the better it will work - <https://sharewaste.com/>

Yarducopia (a program of Alaska Community Action on Toxics) is accepting signups for gardeners looking for growing space, landowners offering space, and volunteers offering time to help make it all happen. Reach out to Yarducopia at garden@akaction.org or [their website](#).

Alaska Master Gardeners Anchorage and the **Alaska School Garden Network** compile a list of public garden projects and volunteer opportunities – [you can view it here](#).

FINDING FOOD: FARMERS MARKETS, FOOD PANTRIES, & FOOD HUBS

Farmers markets are still going strong – get over there and enjoy the amazing produce!

Anchorage soil and water conservation district created an **interactive map of farmers markets in Anchorage**. Check it out! http://anchoragewcd.org/farmers_markets.html

The Alaska Farmers Market Association new **Farmers Market Toolkit** for starting, enhancing, and supporting a farmers' market in your community.

The Alaska Farmers Market Association's [Market Directory](#) helps you easily find farmers markets you live near, the address, hours, etc.

Locally Grown Resource Guide made by the Mat-Su Cooperative Extension – [Link to PDF](#).

Arctic Harvest Deliveries – [a great source of local foods!](#)

Blue Market carries lots of locally grown and fermented foods throughout the winter. You can find **Happy Mushrooms**, **Common Root** kimchi and curtido, greens from **Seeds of Change** & much more.

City Farms is an indoor hydroponics farm in Anchorage. Their veggies can be found at New Sagaya, Natural Pantry, Fred Meyer, and Walmart. <https://www.cityfarmsalaska.com/>

Local Greens sell hydroponically grown veggies year-round in Anchorage. [Get a weekly or every-other-week subscription](#), and pickup at Double Shovel Cidery at your convenience

Far North Fungi grows and sells fresh and dried mushrooms in Anchorage & teaches fungi cultivation.

Anchorage Greens sells direct to consumers through a weekly Green Bag subscription as well as folks who stop by for on-site ala carte purchases. <https://www.anchoragegreens.com/>

Alaska Sprouts sells sprouts and microgreens online for pickup in Anchorage - <https://www.alaskasprouts.com/> . Read more about their story in a [2017 issue of Edible Alaska](#)

Thriving Greens sells sprouts, salad greens, and home sprout kits. Check them out on instagram to find their next pop-up sale.

Mat-Su Microgreens provides weekly deliveries of fresh microgreens to your door. Also available at Friday Fling in Palmer - <https://www.matsumicrogreensak.com/>

Local Food Pickups in Anchorage and Valley - goat milk, duck/chicken eggs, and chicken, turkey, goat, and rabbit meat. Call or text (907)-885-7732 Or (907)-312-6779

LunaChick Farm sells sustainably raised animals, eggs, etc with drop-offs on the Kenai Peninsula, Anchorage, and Valley. Learn more about the operation [here](#) or [here](#) or this [entertaining radio interview from 2020](#).

Whispering Bay Ranch has **local eggs for sale** in Anchorage on Thursdays, Mat-Su on Mondays. Chicken and Duck. (907) 885-7732

Support Alaska's American Indian Producers - <https://www.indianagfoods.org/alaska-1> & check out Ag Alaska's list of AK farms - <https://agalaska.org/alaska-farms/>

Alaska Food Hub opened for its 7th season, with pick-ups in Homer, Soldotna, Ninilchik, and Seldovia, with more locations in the works.

To **RECEIVE** Curreant Affairs, suggest items to **ADD, CHANGE EMAIL ADDRESS** or **UNSUBSCRIBE**, contact Nick Riordan at garden@akaction.org.

What did I forget?? Send along ideas and updates!