

Currant Affairs

October 23, 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 23 – Creepy Crawlies of Alaska (Spooky Science Series) - 12 –1 pm via Zoom

<https://www.uaf.edu/ces/classes/index.php?trumbaEmbed=view%3Devent%26eventid%3D1203679633>

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 two 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 Yarducopia. Hot Cacao and Curry provided at each event. (All Organic, Vegan, and Gluten Free).

November 9 – Anchorage Garden Club Holiday Flower Show

****November 12-14 - 25 years of AKISP: Learning from the past and looking to the future** – The 2024 AK Invasive Species Partnership is in Fairbanks. More info - https://alaskainvasives.org/?page_id=134

November 14 – Wildflower Garden Club meeting @ 10 am, Central Lutheran Church

****November 14 – AK Pioneer Fruit Growers Assoc. membership meeting** via Zoom

November 18 – Alaska Master Gardeners Anchorage membership meeting 6:30-7:30 pm @ old BP energy center

November 21 – 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 Yarducopia/Alaska Community Action on Toxics. Contact garden@akaction.org with questions

****November 26 – Last day to submit applications for the second round of Micro Grants -** The next round of USDA funding opened today! For more information about the Micro-Grants for Food Security program or to apply for a grant, visit the [Alaska Division of Agriculture website](#)

****November 27 – AFPC Food Waste Diversion working group** @ 2 pm via Zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81279657719?pwd=d1lOeWIJSW5JL3lvTldxU0xjNFIBdz09>

****December 2 – AK Native Plant Society meeting** – Moonwort Madness presented by Cindy Johnson. Via Zoom and at the Campbell Creek Science Center, 7-9 pm -
<https://aknps.org/upcoming-events/>

December 4 – Anchorage Permafestival continues! – Showing and discussion of the film INHABIT @ the Anchorage Seed Lab – Permafest is 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 Yarducopia. Hot Cacao and Curry provided at each event. (All Organic, Vegan, and Gluten Free).

December 5 – Anchorage Garden Club Christmas Party

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 Yarducopia/Alaska Community Action on Toxics

****January 6 – AK Native Plant Society meeting** – AKNPS field trips. Via Zoom and at the Campbell Creek Science Center, 7-9 pm - <https://aknps.org/upcoming-events/>

January 20 – AMGA membership meeting – 6:30 pm @ old BP energy center

****January 30 – Suburban Resilience Class Series (Part 1) - Retrofitting Anchorages built environment for greater resilience.** Hosted by Yarducopia / Alaska Community Action on Toxics. More details to come!

****February 3 – AK Native Plant Society meeting** – Seaweeds. Via Zoom and at the Campbell Creek Science Center, 7-9 pm - <https://aknps.org/upcoming-events/>

****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. Cost is ~\$75 each, which includes lunch. Please register here - <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/alaska-sustainable-beekeeping-conference-tickets-1045470499407?aff=oddtcreator>

Friday's February – March - Ellie Vande Visse's sustainable gardening classes – new format, same amazing teacher and content - [REGENERATIVE GARDENING IN ALASKA - PALMER - Common Ground Alaska](#) \$200 for 6 classes over 6 weeks

February 17 – AMGA membership meeting – 6:30 pm @ old BP energy center

****February 27 – Suburban Resilience Class Series (Part 2) - Retrofitting yards, green spaces, and growing food for greater resilience in Anchorage.** Hosted by Yarducopia / Alaska Community Action on Toxics. More details to come!

****March 3 – AK Native Plant Society meeting** – Via Zoom and at the Campbell Creek Science Center, 7-9 pm - <https://aknps.org/upcoming-events/>

March 17 – AMGA membership meeting – 6:30 pm @ old BP energy center

****March 27 – Suburban Resilience Class Series (Part 3) - Reconsidering Anchorage’s social environment - how living situations, ways we support each other, and decision making offer a path for greater resilience.** Hosted by Yarducopia / Alaska Community Action on Toxics. More details to come!

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.

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 moving indoors – Bells nursery, maybe the Midtown Mall...

The 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'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.

Common Root fermented foods available at Blue Market Thursdays 11 am – closing

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.

Happy Mushroom & Far North Fungi grow and sell fresh and dried mushrooms in Anchorage **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

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/>

To **RECEIVE** Currant 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!