

## **Currant Affairs**

### **November 27 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**

**\*\*December 1 – Mushroom Cultivation Workshop** @ ABG from Noon to 2 pm, [Registration](#)

**\*\*December 2 – Mushroom Tincture Workshop** @ ABG from 5-7 pm, [Registration](#)

**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 9 – Finding Healing in Alaska Native Traditional Foods** - Join CES for a lunch and learn session with Chef Amy Foote via Zoom or in person at the UAF Matanuska Experiment Farm and Extension Center, 1509 Georgeson Road, Palmer. We will talk about Alaska Native traditional foods and healing ourselves and our community. Please register via the Zoom link

**December 11 – PermaWhat?!** From 5:45-8:30 pm at the Seed Lab. 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. Dinner provided

**\*\*December 10 & 12 – Bonsai for Beginners @** 219 E International Airport Road, suite 100, Anchorage. Learn the ancient art of bonsai from Paul Marmora, past president of the Cook Inlet Bonsai Study Group, and a longtime florist. All materials, trees, and tools are provided for this in-person class. You will leave with your own miniature tree and the knowledge to keep exploring on your own and grow your skills and bonsai trees. Cost: \$80. Registration deadline is 11:59 p.m. Dec. 8. No refunds after 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 7. Register using this online form.

**\*\*December 12 – How to improve cold hardy apples through breeding with Steven Edholm (of Skillcut fame) @** APFGA membership meeting from 7-9 pm

**\*\*December 18 – PermaHow?! A deeper dive into permaculture @** the Seed Lab 5:45 –8:30 pm. This class is for those who are familiar with Permaculture and interested in getting into the

weeds together and exploring how it applies directly to Anchorage. Hosted by Yarcucopia/Alaska Community Action on Toxics. Dinner provided

**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 9 – What Integrated Pest Management is for Alaska and some of the common issues that he sees in a growing season with Joey Slowik (UAF IPM specialist)** @ APFGA membership meeting from 7-9 pm

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

**\*\*January 23 - AK Food System Network Gathering** brings Alaska's food community together every quarter. The Alaska Food Policy Council hosts these gatherings to connect community leaders, farmers, food businesses, enthusiasts, and everyone in between. These were born from a desire for more frequent food system connections. Each meetup has a different focus, and the webinars will be based on the interests current Alaska Food System Network members expressed to us.

<https://secure.alaskafoodpolicycouncil.org/a/alaska-food-system-network-gathering-january-2025>

**January 30 – Suburban Resilience Class Series (Part 1) - Retrofitting Anchorage built environment for greater resilience.** Hosted by Yarcucopia / 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 3-7 - AK Forum on the Environment - AFE 2025 - Alaska Forum on the Environment 2025**

**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=oddttdtcreator>

**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 13 – Various Poultry and their usefulness regarding growing fruit with Ray Saft** @ APFGA membership meeting from 7-9 pm

**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 13 – Which insects are pollinating our apple trees with John McCormack (UAA) @ APFGA** membership meeting from 7-9 pm

**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**

**\*\*Share Waste** (this [handy website](#)) is closing down at the end of the year. Check it out before 2025 and connect with your fellow composters via this platform while you can.

**Statewide food-related opportunities** listed at AK Food Policy Council’s website <https://www.akfoodpolicycouncil.org/food-system-network-portal/>

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

**Farmers markets have moved 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](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 **Common Root** kimchi and curtido, greens from **Seeds of Change** & much more.

**Far North Fungi** grows and sells 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/>

**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](mailto:garden@akaction.org).

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