

Currant Affairs

February 24, 2022 Edition

Compiled regularly by Nick Riordan on behalf of Yarducochia (a program of Alaska Community Action on Toxics) and the Alaska Food Policy Council

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

WORKSHOPS, WEBINARS, & SPECIAL EVENTS

****February 24**

How to Start your First Garden Part 1: Where and What to Plant hosted online by the Homer Soil & Water Conservation District starting at 6 pm. [More info here](#) & [Zoom link](#).

February 25

Anchorage Parks & Rec is hosting a class on **Seed and Plant Starting** at the Dr. Lidia Selkregg Chalet from 5:30 – 7:30 PM. \$15. [Register here](#).

****February 28**

2021 Review & 2022 Outlook & Training for Alaska Food Hub Producers hosted by Cook Inlet Keeper, Homer Soil & Water Conservation District and Alaska Food Hub – [more info here](#).

March 1

From the Ground Up! A class series put together by Kenai Soil and Water Conservation District and the UAF Cooperative Extension Service's next installment is **Conservation Programs and Other Resources that Benefit Producers**. [More info and registration](#).

****March 3**

The Anchorage Garden Club's March membership meeting will be on **Seeds, Winter Sowing, and Traditional Seed Sowing Methods**. Everyone is invited to attend. 7:00 – 8:30 PM. Email anchoragegc@gmail.com to get the zoom link.

****March 5 or 6??**

A Seed Exchange is in the works for the weekend of March 5 and 6. Exact location and time to be decided. Watch the Anchor Gardens Facebook page and Alaska Botanical Gardens website for more info.

****March 8**

Encouraging Natural Predators in Your Garden is a virtual class offered by the **Mat-Su Experimental Farm** at Noon on Tuesday March 8 – [More info here](#).

March 10

UAF Cooperative Extension is hosting **Food Storage: Making the Harvest Last** from 12-1pm - How can you construct a storage area to keep fresh vegetables and fruits from freezing in fall/winter as well as from spoiling during the hot summer? This class will look at building materials for thermal moisture control, ventilation as well as pest control on helping your harvest to last. [Zoom link](#).

****March 10**

How to Start your First Garden Part 2: Breaking Ground hosted by the Homer Soil & Water Conservation District starting at 6 pm. [More info here](#) & [Zoom link](#).

March 10

APFGA's monthly membership meeting at 7:00 PM on the 2nd Thursday of each winter month.

March 11

Anchorage Parks & Rec is hosting a class on **Tool Selection and Maintenance** at the Dr. Lidia Selkregg Chalet from 5:30 – 7:30 PM. Cost \$15. [Register here](#).

****March 11-12**

ABG's annual Spring Garden Conference will be held virtually for 2022. [More info here](#).

March 17

UAF Cooperative Extension is hosting **Sustainability within your local food system** from 12-1pm - What does it mean to have a sustainable food system? Is it achievable in Alaska? Learn about the potential for sustainability within your local food system and the part you can play to make it a reality – [Zoom link](#).

March 18-19 (with film screening on March 17)

2022 Alaska Food Festival and Conference – The 6th annual semi-annual conference to talk about all things Alaska and food! There will be an in-person and virtual options of attendance. [Read more at the AK Food Policy Council Website](#). And don't forget the movie on March 17 – **Food for the Rest of Us** with **Caroline Cox** (Director) & **Tiffany Ayalik** (Producer).

March 21

Alaska Master Gardeners Anchorage Monthly Meeting: Gino Graziano presents 'Invasive Plants in Alaska and How You Can Help'. 7:00 – 8:00 PM.

March 22

UAF Cooperative Extension is hosting **Food Preservation Basics** from 12-1pm - Why food is preserved, methods of preservation, and causes of food spoilage will be discussed. General tips will also be discussed. [Zoom link](#).

March 24

UAF Cooperative Extension is hosting **Ethical foraging** from 12-1pm - Why food is preserved, methods of preservation, and causes of food spoilage will be discussed. General tips will also be discussed. [Zoom link.](#)

March 25

Anchorage Parks and Rec is hosting a class on **Compost Made Easy** at the Mann Leiser Greenhouse, from 5:30 – 7:30 PM. \$15. [Register here.](#)

March 29

UAF Cooperative Extension is hosting **Food Dehydration Basics** from 12-1pm - One of the oldest food preservation methods, dehydration is an excellent way to extend your wild or garden harvest. In this class you will learn about equipment and techniques for drying meats, vegetables, fruits, and herbs for use in your home cooking throughout the year. [Zoom link.](#)

March 31

UAF Cooperative Extension is hosting **Chicken University** from 12-1pm - A backyard flock is fun & a great way to include Alaskan food security and sustainability. This class will enable a novice to start their first flock. Breed selection, incubation, nutrition, coop design, disease management, cold weather tips & even chicken psychology will be covered. [Zoom link.](#)

**April 2

2022 State Alaska Master Gardeners Conference – You Can Grow It! - will be on Saturday, April 2 from 8:00 am - 5:30 pm at Evangelo's Restaurant off the E Parks Hwy in Wasilla. This year's program has a focus on beginning and new-to-Alaska gardeners. [More info.](#)

PROGRAM and JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

****Catholic Social Services** is hiring a new team member to work alongside their Refugee Agriculture Program Coordinator from April into October at the Fresh International Garden and Grow North Farm in Mountain View. Inspiring work and people. [Read the advertisement here.](#)

****SPRING MASTER GARDENER CLASSES** registration is open. Topics covered will include botany, soil science, entomology, greenhouse design and management, organic and conventional fertilization, lawn care, and vegetable-growing techniques specific to Alaska and more. **STEVE BROWN** and **GINA DIONNE**, Master Gardener Program coordinators for the UAF Cooperative Extension Service, will teach the series. The **Anchorage classes** will be in person at the Loussac Library each week on Mondays from 5 to 8pm Beginning on February 28. The **Palmer classes** will be held in person at the Matanuska Experiment Farm and Extension Center on Tuesdays from 6 to 9pm beginning March 1 through May 24. **Registration deadline is**

February 25. Follow these links to register and for more info on [Anchorage classes](#) and the [Palmer series](#). You can also contact Steve Brown at scbrown4@alaska.edu or call 907-745-3639.

****The Microgrants for Food Security Program** offered by the AK Division of Agriculture are accepting applications through **March 30** – [more info on their website](#). **You can apply for a microgrant to cover tuition for the Master Gardener Class described above.**

Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association is hiring a **Youth Agriculture Project Manager** in Emmonak this summer. [Check out the job description for more info](#).

Alaska Botanical Gardens has listed their summer term positions in Horticulture and Education [on their website](#) - Be a part of the team during our peak bloom season!

Blue Market in Spenard is kicking off a **Talk and Tinker Series** and hosting regular pop-ups by local vendors. Currently featuring visits from **Farm 779, Raven's Creek Farms, and Common Root**. More to come. [See their events page for up-to-date details](#).

APU's Spring Creek Farm is hiring for two positions: **Assistant Production Manager** and **Farm Intern**. They are a non-profit educational farm and are looking for individuals who want to learn about agriculture in AK and are ready to work hard. Summer positions include on-farm housing. Apply on the APU website: <https://www.alaskapacific.edu/careers/>

The Harvest of Hope Memorial Garden is seeking to fill volunteer roles: a grant writer, blogger, and volunteer coordinator. The grant writer would look for grant opportunities and write up proposals, the blogger would assist with posting and updating the existing blog, and the volunteer coordinator would coordinate activities like garden tours and enlisting volunteers. If interested, please contact Don Bladow at (907) 830-5723 or email him at dfbladow@gmail.com.

Camp Counselor/Farm Education Intern at **Calypso Farm & Ecology Center** in **Fairbanks** for summer 2022. Apply now to be a Camp Counselor at Calypso's summer Farm Camps! Develop your leadership skills, learn techniques for working with children and youth, and learn all about (and practice!) principles of hands-on, outdoor education. **Application Deadline: March 1**. For more information, contact Leila at leila@calypsofarm.org. Details and Application Instructions are at <https://calypsofarm.org/employment/>

Alaska Seeds of Change has many volunteer opportunities this winter. Many of their summer interns and employees head back to school in the fall/winter, so it's a good time to step up to help this great organization. Sign up for a shift using [Seeds Sign Up Genius](#) here, or if it's your first-time volunteering, email volunteer@akseedsofchange.com for an orientation.

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](#).

FOOD PANTRIES, WINTER GROWERS, & SHOPPING LOCAL FOODS

****ABG** opened registration for their **Guided Gardening: Learning Summer CSA** – [more info](#).

****Foundroot's** Alaska-hearty seeds are for sale. [Mailed from Haines with love](#).

A List of Anchorage Food Pantries can be found at [AnchorageFood.org](#) (Address, hours, etc.)

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/>

Arctic Harvest has an [online winter farm stand](#), sells all sorts of veggies, meats, milk, eggs from growers in the Valley and further afield in AK. Submit your order from 3 pm Friday to 9 pm Sunday for pickup/delivery next week.

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](#)

Space Farming Institute has an [8-week microgreens subscription](#) and sells hydroponic towers for growing your own plants at your school, home, office, etc. This is a wonderful non-profit and whether you're buying greens or a tower garden, well worth a visit to their Living Lab. Lots more info about their many programs and resources at <https://www.agronauts.org/>

To **RECEIVE** Currant Affairs, suggest items to **ADD, CHANGE EMAIL ADDRESS** or **UNSUBSCRIBE**, contact Nick Riordan at riordank@gmail.com.