

Currant Affairs

February 24, 2023 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 25**

Seedy Saturdays is a four-part series of seed exchanges organized by Anchor Gardens this spring. The first event will be at the AK Botanical Gardens from 12 – 3 pm.

March 2

Cover Crops & Crop Rotation is part 5 of a Know Your Land series – a collaboration between the Homer SWCD, USDA-NRCS Homer field office, and KPC Kachemak Bay Campus Ag Program. Learn how cover crops and crop rotation can improve your soil health, help control pests, build organic matter, and conserve water in your garden. Learn what cover crop species grow best, when to plant and terminate, and how to incorporate an efficient system in your garden plan. Learn about plant families, compatible plants, and how to plan a crop rotation that achieves your goals. Bring your questions and your curiosity. . Questions? Email monica@homerswcd.org
Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7151014697>

March 2

Starting from Seed is the topic of the next Anchorage Garden Club meeting. Usual time and place (7 pm at Central Lutheran Church)

March 4

The second **Seedy Saturday** seed exchange will be held at the Anchorage Museum from 12 – 3:00 pm. More info on the [Anchor Gardens website](#).

March 6

Alaska Native Plant Society February meeting includes presentations by **Marilyn Barker** about "Lycopodium" Aquatic Families, Justin Fulkerson on Ruppiaceae (Ditch Grass) and Najadaceae (Water Nymph) families, and Beth Baker presenting *Artemisia spp* (A part of their Mini-Botany Series on Medicinal Plants).

March 8-11

ABG Spring Garden Conference will be held on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. Visit the [ABG website for more details](#). A great time with well-organized sessions & wonderful speakers.

March 9

Alaska Pioneer Fruit Growers Association monthly meeting features a presentation by Zach Miller from Montana State on **Cold Climate Fruit Research**. The programs begin at 7:00 pm on Zoom and are for members only. We welcome new members, and folks can sign up for \$16 at www.apfga.org.

March 9

Wildflower Garden Club of Alaska's February meeting will be a presentation by Julie Riley entitled, '**Riley's Believe it or Not: Alaska Insects**'. The meeting will be held at Central Lutheran Church from 10 am – Noon.

March 9

The Alaska Pioneer Fruit Growers Association's monthly membership meeting topic is Cold Climate Fruit Research with Zach Miller from Montana State University.

March 10

The Herb Study group meets the second Friday of each month from noon - 1 p.m. for lively discussion and hands-on activities that center around specific herbal topics. These meetings will be held virtually using Zoom and are free and open to the public. Please email anchorageherbstudygroup@gmail.com for information on how to join

March 10

Seed Starting: Time to Turn Up the Heat presented by Anchorage Parks and Rec. Did you know our Parks & Recreation Horticulture team starts more than 50,000 plants from seed every year? Learn to start your seeds using the high-efficiency techniques, tools, and timing that our horticulturalists have been cultivating for decades. We will discuss how to adapt our professional growing techniques to your home environment. Participants will receive a 10"x10" plug tray full of soil and seeds. [See the full class line-up here.](#)

March 11

Seedy Saturdays is a four-part series of seed exchanges organized by Anchor Gardens this spring. [The third event will be at the Eagle River Library.](#) Time to be announced

March 18

Alaska Garden Clubs State Convention is in Fairbanks this year. 64th annual! [Here's the flyer.](#)

March 18

Seedy Saturdays is a four-part series of seed exchanges organized by Anchor Gardens this spring. [The fourth event will be at the Mountain View Library.](#) 12-2:30 PM

March 20

Alaska Master Gardeners Anchorage's March membership meeting will be on **SNAP Tool & Climate Change in Gardening** presented by Nancy Fresco.

March 24

Alaska Farmers Market Association Summit is from 8:30 - 4 pm. [Register here.](#)

March 24

Fertilizer Fundamentals: What's Up with NPK – hosted by Anchorage Parks and Rec. Fertilizer is plant food. Just like us, plants need a healthy, balanced diet to thrive. Learn which nutrients your plants need and how to deliver them in a way that fits your budget and your schedule. Learn the difference between compost and fertilizer, and how to use the two together to make your garden bloom and boom. Registration and a complete list of classes at [their website.](#)

**April 6

How to Create a Low-Cost Water Feature is the topic of the next Anchorage Garden Club meeting. Usual time and place (7 pm at Central Lutheran Church)

**April 11

Anchorage Museum's Urban Harvest series: Weeds vs Invasive Plants starts at 6 pm. [Event details and registration info can be found here.](#)

**April 13

Wildflower Garden Club of Alaska's regular monthly meeting for April is **Growing Arctic Garlic presented by Deb Blaylock.** Usual time and place (10 am at Central Lutheran Church)

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

PROGRAM and JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS and UPDATES

****Catholic Social Services** is hiring a **Summer Associate to help support their Refugee Enterprise & Agriculture Program.** [More information about this amazing program and the job can be found here.](#)

Party in the Garden! Registration is open for the Alaska Master Gardeners annual statewide conference on April 7-8 in Anchorage. Registration and all the info [can be found here.](#)

****Alaska Food Policy Council** published their [2022 Annual Report](#) and [Food Security Action Plan & Executive Summary.](#) Check these out!

****AK Botanical Garden summer camp registration now open.** Full Day and Half Day options available; Monday – Friday from 8:30am to 4:pm; Full Day 8:30am to\ Noon Half Day (morning only) or 12:30 to 4pm Half Day (afternoon only). Full Day/child/week: Members, \$285 / Non-Members \$300; Half Day/child/week: Members, \$195 / Non-Members \$210. All camps take place in our unique outdoor garden classroom and on 110 acres of boreal forest! Expert staff lead campers through fun, hands-on, science-based environmental education activities. Each unique camp offers a chance for your child to go in depth into the subjects that interest them

the most! All camp materials are provided as well as weekly take-home projects. [More Information and Register.](#)

Spring Creek Farm is hiring! Apply to join the farm crew for the summer season as a paid Farm Intern or as the Assistant Production Manager. SC farm places a strong emphasis on Community Based Agriculture, and these positions support their CSA program and other veggie production venues. Both include housing on the farm, and opportunities to learn more about sustainable agriculture in Alaska. Visit the APU website to learn more and to apply for these positions: <https://www.alaskapacific.edu/careers/>

Alaska Botanical Garden is hiring a handful of summer positions – [Check out the list here.](#)

****Calypso Farm (near Fairbanks)** is hiring a **Summer Farm Educator** for ages: 16 and up for May 30 to August 11 (with the possibility to extend); Part & Full Time (40 hours/week on camp weeks and 20-30 hours/week on non-camp weeks) Compensation: \$15/hour and a weekly veggie share. Number of positions available: 2-3. Summer Farm Educators will work primarily as camp counselors at Calypso's youth summer camps. This position is open to ages 16+ who have a strong interest in hands-on, outdoor education. It's a great opportunity for anyone looking to develop leadership skills, learn techniques for working with youth, and learn all about (and practice) principles of place-based education! **Application Deadline: March 15**, Preference will be given to Fairbanks residents! [Learn More & Apply!](#) *Please note: applications will be reviewed as they are received, so we encourage you to apply early!

****Calypso Farm (near Fairbanks)** will be hosting a 'Beginning Farmer Training Program' this summer (June 12-14 / July 17-19 / August 7-9). Led by Indigenous farmers in partnership with the farmers at Calypso, this hands-on program will teach participants how to grow vegetables in a way that is transferable to village communities. Visit calypsofarm.org/indigenous-agriculture

Homer Grown gardening show has a new episode on **Nome Grown**. You can listen to this and their other insightful programs at the [KBBI radio website](#)

AG Matters on Palmer's Big Cabbage Radio recent episodes with APFGA and USDA. Check out this and past episodes here - <https://www.radiofreepalmer.org/category/ag-matters/>

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/>

****Harvest of Hope Garden** at the Lutheran Church of Hope is run by Don Bladow, producing thousands of pounds of fresh produce each summer distributed by the Lutheran Social Services Food Pantry. Learn more at Don's [blogspot for the garden.](#)

Urban Harvest (a program of Anchorage Museum) often has food and garden-themed topics in their class lineup – [Check out their list here.](#)

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

The Alaska Farmers Market Association launched a [New Farmers Market Toolkit](#) for starting, enhancing, and supporting a farmers' market in your community. Well done AFMA!

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

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

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

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

APU Farmstand this Wednesday from 3:00-6:30 with kale, bok Choi, salad greens, sorrel, and more! Come get your early summer fix of fresh greens!

Grow North Farm Farmstand open 4-7 pm Mon-Friday. Thursdays feature global cuisine to-go from a rotating Grow North Farm farmer! SNAP and WIC welcome.

Arctic Harvest Deliveries – produce share sold out, [meat and seafood shares still available](#)

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

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/>

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](#)

To **RECEIVE** Currant Affairs, suggest items to **ADD, CHANGE EMAIL ADDRESS** or **UNSUBSCRIBE**, contact Nick Riordan at garden@akaction.org. Also available at www.akaction.org/yarducopia/resources/currantaffairs/