

--Pass this along to anyone you think might be interested. Thanks!--

Currant Affairs

February 4, 2021

Compiled once a month by Nick Riordan on behalf of Yarducopia / Alaska Community Action on Toxics, the Alaska Food Policy Council, and Alaska Pioneer Fruit Growers Association

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

VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS, WEBINARS, & CONFERENCES

February 11

The Alaska Pioneer Fruit Growers Association have invited **Steve Masterman** from Fairbanks to present **Paper to Plants, 1,300 plants on 2.5 acres: site layout, clearing, soil prep, planning for the varieties, economics, harvest thoughts, and horticulture** from 7:00 – 8:00 PM.

Masterman maintains the info-rich website [Alaska Fruit Trees](#). This is one of APFGA's monthly membership meetings that occurs the 3rd Thursday of every month during the winter. Free. [Learn more about APFGA and their news and events here.](#)

February 15

The Alaska Master Gardeners Anchorage hosts a monthly membership meeting on the 2nd Monday of each winter month from 6:30-8 PM. **Anchorage-based climatologist Brian Brettschneider** will be the speaker. [Learn more about AMGA and their news and events here.](#)

****February 17**

Join "**Pesticide Free Anchorage**" - **Protecting our neighborhoods, parks, watersheds, and health** on February 17 at 6:00 PM for a conversation with **Pamela Miller, Executive Director of Alaska Community Action on Toxics**, Co-Chair of the International Pollutants Elimination Network, and 30+ year resident and gardener in Anchorage. ACAT's organic gardening coordinator and Miller will be having a conversation about the risks associated with pesticide use, existing ordinances and regulations for Anchorage, and best practices according to current science. [Register here.](#)

February 18

Alaska Botanical Garden hosts an online workshop, **Making a Garden Journal**, from 6:00 – 7:00 PM. Winter is a great time to think about gardens. The seed catalogs are arriving earlier each year, tempting us with new varieties and old favorites. Creating a garden journal is a great way to plan. In this online workshop, join **Education Specialist Patrick Ryan** in preparing your own garden journal for the new season ahead. Small fee. [Learn more/Register here.](#)

****February 23**

The Alaska Food Policy Council, Alaska Farm Bureau, and Alaska Farmers' Market Association are hosting a webinar for **Alaska Cottage Food Producers**. Alaska Food Code allows the sale of

non-potentially hazardous foods sold directly to the consumer without a permit as long as certain conditions are met. Presenters from the Alaska DEC and Municipality of Anchorage Food Safety and Sanitation programs will provide an overview of cottage food regulations and requirements and answer questions. [Learn more/Register here.](#)

February 25

Alaska Common Ground's **Climate Action Plan Series** continues with **Land Use and Transportation**. Free. 7:00 - 8:30 PM [Learn more about this series and register here.](#)

March 1

Good Earth Garden School, led by **Ellen Vande Visse**, offers **What's What with Potting Media?** an online, hour-long discussion to 'pool our knowledge and experience' on the subject. 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM. [Learn more/Register here.](#)

March 5 & 6th

Save the date! The annual **Spring Garden Conference** hosted by the Alaska Botanical Garden will be virtual this year. Details to come.

March 11

Join **Sarah Lewis** and the Cooperative Extension Service, as part of their Reset, Refocus, and Recharge series, for an hour-long cooking class - **Veggie Slam: A Week of Vegetables in One Hour** from 6-7:00 PM. [Learn more/Register here.](#)

March 11

AK Pioneer Fruit Growers Association has invited UA's Matt Carlson & Justin Fulkerson to present on **Pollinators and Their Habitat** at their March membership meeting. 7:00 – 8:00 PM

March 15

Alaska Master Gardeners Anchorage monthly membership meeting 7:00 – 8:00 PM – topic TBA

March 18

Southeast Alaskans can now apply for a workshop to learn how to start their own **mariculture** farm. Registration priority given to Southeast Alaska Native residents. [More info here.](#)

****March 20**

Alaska Farmland Trust, Alaska Farm Bureau, Homer Soil & Water Conservation District, Matanuska Experiment Farm & Extension Center & UAF CES Anchorage are bringing you a VIRTUAL **Alaska Women in Ag Conference** in March. Registration opens on February 1. Save the date & stay tuned for more details.

March 25

Alaska Common Ground's **Climate Action Plan Series** continues with **Food Systems**. The Muni Climate Action Plan goal is to 'support local, sustainable food systems', and the event will

consist of 10+ speakers giving short presentations on this topic. 7-8:30 PM [Learn more/Register here.](#)

SIGNUPS & PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

Anchorage Community Garden signups will open at the end of March or Early April. Keep a look out on [their website](#) for updates (Currently it has outdated 2020 information).

WIC and Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program will have open enrollment for farmers, farms, farm stands & farmers' markets interested in participating starting ~ February 15. Applications to receive WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition coupons close May 15. [More info here.](#)

Arctic Harvest winter orders are ongoing; Summer subscriptions start up in April. [More info](#)

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

****Alaska Division of Agriculture 2021 Mini Grants** - \$1.8 million to distribute state-wide – **Due on February 15.** Recent [press release](#) and link to their grants page: http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/ag_grants.htm. Write up on the [Sitka Local Foods Network website.](#)

OPEN POSITIONS & INTERNSHIPS

****Local Foods Coordinator for the Alaska Food Hub - Cook Inlet Keeper** - [Read more here.](#)

Application period opens for **APU Farm Internship at Spring Creek Farm – [Read on!](#)

****Alaska Botanical Gardens** is advertising for several 2021 garden positions. [Read more here.](#)

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES & REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE

TBA

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