

Currant Affairs

February 12, 2023 Edition

Compiled regularly by Nick Riordan on behalf of Yarducopeia (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 16**

Irrigation Systems for Gardens Large and Small is part 4 of a Know Your Land series – a collaboration between the Homer SWCD, USDA-NRCS Homer field office, and KPC Kachemak Bay Campus Ag Program. Questions? email monica@homerswcd.org
Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7151014697>

****February 17**

Anchorage SWCD is hosting an **Urban Ag Workshop** from 1-2 pm. This workshop will be open to partner organizations and cooperators. We will have free snacks and beverages. The goal is to brainstorm urban agriculture project ideas and to rank those ideas, which will help inform our direction going forward. We will meet in the Augustine conference room at CoWork by RSD (1st floor). Please RSVP if you can join! anchoragewcd@gmail.com

****February 18**

Seed Starting is the next installment of AK Mill & Feed's yard and garden class series. Starts at 10 am. Register, see a complete list of classes, and learn more at [their website](#).

****February 18**

Beekeeping 101 is a 2 hour beekeeping class covering how to keep Honeybees and the basics of Beekeeping in the Last Frontier. Class will be held @ Rigereneration Nutrition (12812 old glenn hwy, Eagle River, Alaska 99577. 907-622-1829. Cost \$35 per person \$55 per couple. Contact @Nathan Broumley for more details

****February 19**

Anchor Gardens is hosting a **Winter Sowing Workshop** from 2-3pm at Green Connection! [Here's a link to the AG calendar](#) and their [facebook event page](#).

****February 20**

AMGA's February membership meeting is entitled "Troubleshooting Tropical Plants in an Arctic Climate" with Deanna Ercolani & Bridget Danielson. In person at Green Connection. 6:30 pm munch and mingle, program at 7 pm. Bring your own chair and if you ordered one, get your AMGA name tag!

****February 21**

A Brief History of the introduction of Invasive Plants. Do you ever wonder how invasive plants have made their way to Alaska. We'll go over some of the more interesting and impactful introductions of invasive plants to Alaska, and what has or could change to prevent these introductions from happening again. Register via Zoom <https://alaska.zoom.us/j/88348264974>

****February 21**

Seeds of Change 6th Anniversary Celebration. For our 6th birthday, we will be holding a dessert auction and cake walk. If you are interested in donating a dessert, please email sales@akseedsofchange.com. It is thanks to our community and community partners that we have been able to serve 200+ Anchorage youth. Please RSVP using this link: https://loom.ly/uKixW_c

****February 24**

Anchorage Parks and Rec offers a class on **Dig Those Dahlias**. This is part of a series on gardening skills held at the Lidia Selkregg Chalet and Mann Leiser Greenhouse. Registration and a complete list of classes at [their website](#).

****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 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**

Anchorage Garden Club 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 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 24**

Alaska Farmers Market Association Summit is from 8:30 to 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](#).

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

PROGRAM and JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS and UPDATES

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](#).

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](#).

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/>

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

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

Arctic Harvest Deliveries connects Anchorage residents to nearby grown fruit, veggies, meat, dairy, eggs, etc. Visit their website to shop and learn more about boxes and pickups

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. You can also view these events as a Google Calendar on Alaska Community Action on Toxics' Yarcucopia webpage (www.akaction.org/yarcucopia).