

## **Currant Affairs**

### **March 9, 2022 Edition**

Compiled regularly by Nick Riordan on behalf of Yarcucopia (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**

### **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**

**From Bud to Fruit: Surviving Cold – Requiring Heat** – a presentation by club president Mark Wolbers at APFGA’s monthly membership meeting at 7:00 PM. [Link to Join](#) – and consider becoming a member of the club!

### **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 13**

**Seed Exchange** hosted by the Alaska Botanical Gardens and Anchor Gardens. Free. No registration needed. 1-4 pm with a seed starting workshop from 2-3 pm. [More info](#).

### **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 6<sup>th</sup> 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.](#)

**\*\*April 4**

**How Kelp Benefits Your Body and The Earth (Virtual)**, a part of Anchorage Museum's Urban Harvest series, and taught by Noble Oceans Farms. 6-7:30 pm. [More Info.](#)

**\*\*April 8**

**2022 Alaska Farmers Market Association Summit & Annual Meeting.** Join for a day dedicated to all things farmers markets. [Updates](#) / [Registration.](#)

**\*\*April 8**

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

**\*\*April 16**

**Beyond Compost: Other Ways to Build Soil (Virtual)** from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm, taught by Ellen Vande Visse at the **Good Earth Garden School**, hosted by Alaska Mill & Feed. [More info](#)

**\*\*April 18**

**Garden Insect Ecology** presented by Alex Wenninger at **AMGA's** monthly meeting

**\*\*April 22**

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

**\*\*April 23**

**Pre-emptive Protection from Plant Diseases (Virtual)** from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm, taught by Ellen Vande Visse at the **Good Earth Garden School**, hosted by Alaska Mill & Feed. [More info](#)

**\*\*April 26**

**Wild Harvesting in the Boreal Forest (in person)**, a part of Anchorage Museum's Urban Harvest series, and taught by Tikaan Galbreath. Highly recommended. 6-7:30 pm. In connection with current museum exhibit, *Borealis: Life in the Woods*. [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.](#)

**The Microgrants for Food Security Program** offered by the AK Division of Agriculture are accepting applications through **March 30 Deadline** – [more info on their website](#).

**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](#).

**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](mailto: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](#).

**\*\*Vertical Harvest Hydroponics' Sunny Pro XL** is a modular and convenient grow cabinet that can produce fresh produce all year. Could be a great fit for your organization or community.

## **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](http://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 [riordannk@gmail.com](mailto:riordannk@gmail.com).