

Currant Affairs

April 1, 2024 Edition

Compiled by Nick Riordan on behalf of AK Community Action on Toxics and the AK Food Policy Council

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

WORKSHOPS, WEBINARS, & SPECIAL EVENTS

April 1

Alaska Native Plant Society's April 1 meeting from 7 - 9 pm via Zoom features a presentation on **Southeast Alaska: the mossiest place in North America**, presented by Martin Hutten and a brief update on the Aquatic Plant family Lentibulariaceae (bladderwort family) by Beth Baker

April 2

Soil Testing and Interpretation for Garden and Farm - Spring Gardening Series hosted by the Kenai Peninsula CES. 11 classes. Start at 5:30 pm. See the full list and Zoom links here - <https://www.uaf.edu/ces/garden/webinars/index.php>

April 4

Cold Climate Gardening – Anchorage Garden Club monthly meeting at 7 pm at Central Lutheran Church <https://www.alaskagardenclubs.org/anchoragegc>

April 6

Boyer's Orchard Scion Sale. More details to come.

April 9

Fruit Tree Pruning - Live Demo is the eighth lunch and learn hosted by Rural Caps Grow Program. 12-1 pm, registration info can be found - <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100076532388913> **In Anchorage? You are also welcome to watch in-person** at Boyers Orchard. Community pruning will commence afterward from 1-2 pm

April 9

Working with Fertilizers and Compost - Spring Gardening Series hosted by the Kenai Peninsula CES. 11 classes. Start at 5:30 pm. See the full list and Zoom links here - <https://www.uaf.edu/ces/garden/webinars/index.php>

April 11

Rock Garden Construction – Wildflower Garden Club monthly meeting – Central Lutheran Church – 10 – noon.

April 11

Garden Soils 101 is part of the 2024 Know Your Land series offered by the HSWCD, USDA NRCS, and Kachemak Bay Campus. In person in Homer and Zoom. Register online at <https://www.homerswcd.org/>

April 12

Herb Study Group monthly meeting – Herb seedling exchange

****April 13**

Paper Flower Bouquets class at the AK Botanical Gardens from 10:30 – Noon.

<https://www.alaskabg.org/upcoming-events-workshops/paper-flower-bouquets>

April 13

Grafting Workshop hosted annually by the AK Pioneer Fruit Growers Association is open to members at noon (join the club!) and opens to the public at 1 pm. Ends at 3 pm. There are ungrafted apple trees for sale, a variety of scion wood to choose from, and helpers to show you how to graft your trees. Great event. The moose will really appreciate all your efforts (just kidding; consider a little fencing though haha)

April 15

Soil Conservation and Nutrient Development is the topic of the March AMGA membership meeting. Jessica Anderson will be presenting in person at the BP Center, starting around 6:30. Check out the club email or website for registration and login info.

April 16

AFMA hosts a Food Access Forum once a month! We meet 11AM - 12:00 PM via ZOOM. We encourage market managers, farmers, and others interested in food access to join in the conversation. Each month we will discuss a different Food Access topic.

April 16

Warming things up with plastic, glass, and mulch - Spring Gardening Series hosted by the Kenai Peninsula CES. 11 classes. Start at 5:30 pm. See the full list and Zoom links here - <https://www.uaf.edu/ces/garden/webinars/index.php>

April 16

Backyard Pollinators class offered through CES in person and online. Join us to learn more about the pollinators in your backyard. We'll cover some of the lifestyles of bees and how to recognize some of our common bees and other pollinators in Alaska. We'll also cover some ways to attract pollinators and how to be good pollinator stewards in your own gardens. Please register in advance for this class using this link: <https://bit.ly/3RPo0XO>

April 18

Boyer's Orchard Pruning workshop –Thursday from 5-7pm

April 23

How to Plant a Tree is the ninth and final lunch and learn hosted by Rural Cap's Grow Program. 12-1 pm, registration info can be found - <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100076532388913>

April 23

Raised Rows, Raised Beds, and How to Make Them - Spring Gardening Series hosted by the Kenai Peninsula CES. 11 classes. Start at 5:30 pm. See the full list and Zoom links here - <https://www.uaf.edu/ces/garden/webinars/index.php>

April 23

Urban Harvest: Whether you're designing a pollinator garden, or thinking about transforming your lawn, you might be curious about Alaska's hearty native plants. Learn from naturalist Patrick Ryan about the "jewels of the North" and how to incorporate the wildflowers of Alaska into your yard. Free; registration recommended. Materials provided. [More info on museum website.](#)

April 24

AFPC Food Waste Committee

6 pm – 1 hour working group meeting. All welcome. You can learn more about the group on the Ak Food Policy Councils website - <https://www.akfoodpolicycouncil.org/foodwaste>

****April 25**

Girdie's Party for Birds & Blooms is a fundraiser for the Bird Treatment & Learning Center hosted by ABG. 6 – 9 pm. An evening of fun and games for gardeners and birders (and birds?). <https://www.alaskabg.org/upcoming-events-workshops/girdies-party-for-birds-blooms>

April 25

Minimize Feed Costs by Optimizing Your Pasture is part of the 2024 Know Your Land series offered by the HSWCD, USDA NRCS, and Kachemak Bay Campus. In person in Homer and Zoom. Register online at <https://www.homerswcd.org/>

April 27

Midtown Mall Garden Day – A fun event at the Midtown Mall with many clubs and businesses selling seeds, seedlings and supplies. Alaska Master Gardeners, Anchor Gardens, and much more!

April 30

Herb Gardening: Inside and Out - Spring Gardening Series hosted by the Kenai Peninsula CES. 11 classes. Start at 5:30 pm. See the full list and Zoom links here - <https://www.uaf.edu/ces/garden/webinars/index.php>

May 2

Pruning Snow Crushed Trees & Shrubs - Anchorage Garden Club monthly meeting - <https://www.alaskagardenclubs.org/anchoragegc>

May 2

Boyer's Orchard Grafting workshop, Thursday from 5-7pm

May 7

Seeding Directly into the Garden - Spring Gardening Series hosted by the Kenai Peninsula CES. 11 classes. Start at 5:30 pm. See the full list and Zoom links here -

<https://www.uaf.edu/ces/garden/webinars/index.php>

May 9

Spring cleanup of wildflower trail at ABG – Bring gloves & favorite garden tools. 10–11 am

May 14

Planting Potatoes - Spring Gardening Series hosted by the Kenai Peninsula CES. 11 classes. Start at 5:30 pm. See the full list and Zoom links here -

<https://www.uaf.edu/ces/garden/webinars/index.php>

****May 18**

Service Project at the AK Wildlife Conservation Center near Portage. Organized by the Wildflower Club of Alaska. This is a Spring cleanup of the AK Native Plant Garden. Bring gloves and your favorite garden tools! Depending on the snow presence, an alternative day may be required at the beginning of June.

****May 19**

Seedling Exchange hosted by the Anchorage Permaculture Guild and Anchor Gardens. Tentatively scheduled for 1 – 4 pm. Location TBD. Check here for updates.

<https://anchorgardens.org/events/annual-permaculture-guild-anchor-gardens-seedling-exchange/>

May 20

Mushrooms and Fungi presentation by Gabe DeGange at Far North Fungi – AMGA Monthly membership meeting

May 21

Hardening Plants and Transplanting Them into the Garden - Spring Gardening Series hosted by the Kenai Peninsula CES. 11 classes. Start at 5:30 pm. See the full list and Zoom links here -

<https://www.uaf.edu/ces/garden/webinars/index.php>

May 28

Composting: No Time to Waste - Spring Gardening Series hosted by the Kenai Peninsula CES. 11 classes. Start at 5:30 pm. See the full list and Zoom links here -

<https://www.uaf.edu/ces/garden/webinars/index.php>

June 1

Wildflower Garden Club Plant sale – 9 am – 3 pm

June 1

Anchorage Garden Club Plant Sale

June 6

Growing Garlic - Anchorage Garden Club monthly meeting -

<https://www.alaskagardenclubs.org/anchoragegc>

June 10-13 (sessions in July & August too)

Calypso Beginning Farmer Training for Rural Communities. Led by Indigenous farmers in partnership with Calypso Farm in Fairbanks, this hands-on program will teach participants how to grow vegetables in a way that is transferable to village communities. [More info here](#)

June 15

Blossom Festival at Boyers Orchard from 12-4 pm

July 11

Wildflower Garden Club summer tour (members and family only) from 11 am – 2 pm

PROGRAM and JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS and UPDATES

****Job opportunities as season gardeners with Anchorage parks and Rec -**

[https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/moa?department\[0\]=Parks%20%26%20Recreation%20Department&sort=PostingDate%7CDescending](https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/moa?department[0]=Parks%20%26%20Recreation%20Department&sort=PostingDate%7CDescending)

Alaska Farm Bureau is seeking applicants for the Executive Director position

https://alaskafb.org/wp-content/uploads/ED-Job-Description_2024.pdf

The University of Alaska Fairbanks is hiring an Integrated Pest Management Research

Technician to be located in Palmer or Fairbanks doing work primarily at the two farms. The position will be managing research plots aimed at developing IPM strategies for farmers and invasive species managers. See the job description at the link below and apply soon.

<https://careers.alaska.edu/jobs/search?query=527911>

New petite market featuring local artisans happening at Organic Oasis focused on Food & Wellness! This market happens the 1st & 3rd Monday every month through the end of May from 4-7:30pm. Live Music from local artists will also be featured from 5:30-7:30pm every market. Businesses include Pepper Palate, Fanniak Bakery, Roux Bakery, Concoction Breads & Provisions, Bema Roasters, The Happy Mushroom, AyurLife Care blends of chai, herbal teas, medicinal cacao blends, medicated salves and oils, Common Root's specialty probiotic rich ferments, Lovewise Kombucha, Lovely Farms, and Beach Tribe sodas.

Fairbanks soil and water conservation is hiring for Summer 2024 - <https://fswcd-weeds.squarespace.com/get-involved>

ABG job opportunities abound! - <https://www.alaskabg.org/employment>

Growing a Productive and Sustainable Garden class taught by UAF's Heidi Rader this spring 2024. Read more about the class here <https://itgrowsinalaska.community.uaf.edu/learn/>

Kodiak Soil and Water Conservation District has a job opening for a Seasonal Invasive Plants Field Technician. It is posted on our website (<https://www.kodiaksoilandwater.org/jobs>)

Arbor Day grants of \$200-500 available to government agencies and non-profit organizations to help celebrate Arbor Day in Alaska. Alaska's official Arbor Day falls on the third Monday of May each year. https://docs.google.com/document/d/1x5n2UkfTPBwRpY_vgABwzv-ERrGHxt6/edit#heading=h.yhyeg715qas5

Class list for 2024 offered by Seeds of Soil online and in person out in Palmer. <https://seedsandsoilorganics.com/product-category/alaska-gardening-classes-growing-guides/>

Job opportunity at UAF working on weed management issues in small grains and cover crops. All with the goal of continuing to supply certified weed free straw for various uses in Alaska. [Check out the job listing on their website.](#)

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. Meetings are held virtually using Zoom and in person and are free and open to the public. Please email anchorageherbstudygroup@gmail.com for information on upcoming winter topics and how to join

Job opportunity at Seeds of Change – Shift Lead - Reach out to Sara Renard via email - srenard@akbh.org for a copy of a detailed job description and job preview.

AFPC's Food Waste Working Group is compiling a living archive of food waste activity across the state. Take their survey here - <https://www.akfoodpolicycouncil.org/foodwaste>

Alaska Farmers Union call for new members. This organization advocates for the needs of local growers. More members = a better sense of what those needs are. [Consider signing up here.](#)

The 'Teaming with Microbes' podcast series with Jeff Lowenfels and Jonathan White promotes organic gardening and addresses Alaska and Anchorage specific gardening and gardening issues. Available through the Anchorage Daily News

Southcentral Alaska Beekeepers Association monthly meetings. We're a friendly and diverse group of Alaskans with a common interest: Bees! SABA meets the fourth Monday of each month (except December) at the VFW Post 9785 10527 VFW Rd. Eagle River, AK from 6:30 - 8:30pm. Meeting reminders emailed out each month to members.

AG Matters on Palmer's Big Cabbage Radio has tons of new content. Check out past episodes here - <https://www.radiofreepalmer.org/category/ag-matters/>

Midtown Garden Depot will be opening soon! Lots of free garden supplies to share. We also accept donations of materials anytime. Gate is always unlocked, come by at your convenience. 2930 Cheechako Street. Follow the link to the [Midtown](#) Garden Depot webpage. Coordinated by Alaska Community Action on Toxics.

Treats for your Chickens available at 3740 Williams Street on Mondays and Thursdays. These are vegetables and fruits collected from a nearby commercial kitchen and made available by ACAT's Yarducochia program. Bring your own container, keep things tidy, and text or call Nick @ 907-717-4392 to get on the group text that lets you know when the bins are full and when they're empty. Leftovers go to our chickens and compost piles.

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/>

Yarducochia (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 Yarducochia 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

Anchorage soil and water conservation district created an **interactive map of farmers markets in Anchorage**. Check it out! http://anchoragewcd.org/farmers_markets.html

The Alaska Farmers Market Association new **Farmers Market Toolkit** for starting, enhancing, and supporting a farmers' market in your community.

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

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

Arctic Harvest Deliveries – [a great source of local foods!](#)

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](#)

Thriving Greens sells sprouts, salad greens, and home sprout kits. Check them out on instagram to find their next pop-up sale.

Mat-Su Microgreens provides weekly deliveries of fresh microgreens to your door. Also available at Friday Fling in Palmer - <https://www.matsumicrogreensak.com/>

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

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/>

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

To **RECEIVE** Currant Affairs, suggest items to **ADD, CHANGE EMAIL ADDRESS** or **UNSUBSCRIBE**, contact Nick Riordan at garden@akaction.org.

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