

## **Currant Affairs**

### **April 25, 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**

### **April 26**

**Cooperative Extension Workshop - Composting Basics** at 12 pm taught by Jodie Anderson. Composting can be one part of your personal sustainable lifestyle - Here are the basics of composting to allow you and your family, neighborhood, or community a chance to make a great soil amendment from garbage and how this helps the landfill! Register in advance for this workshop: <https://alaska.zoom.us/j/82736156447> After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

### **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 the current museum exhibit, *Borealis: Life in the Woods*. [More Info](#).

### **April 27 – June 1**

**Online Gardening Class Series** offered by the **Kenai Peninsula Cooperative Extension Service** and taught by Casey Matney, the agriculture and horticulture extension agent for the Kenai Peninsula. Classes will be held online via Zoom at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesdays and will outline the steps to getting your garden ready. The Zoom links to register for each class can be found at [www.uaf.edu/ces/districts/kenai/](http://www.uaf.edu/ces/districts/kenai/). Send questions to [camatney@alaska.edu](mailto:camatney@alaska.edu) / 907-262-3443.

- April 27 — Raised rows, raised beds and how to make them
- May 4 — Herb gardening, inside and out
- May 11 — Seeding directly into the garden
- May 18 — Planting potatoes
- May 25 — Hardening plants and transplanting to the garden
- June 1 — Composting – no time to waste

### **May 2**

**Plant Propagation Workshop** offered by the **Alaska Botanical Garden** – [Read on!](#)

### **\*\*May 5**

**Cooperative Extension Workshop – An Overview of Alaskan Agriculture** from 12 – 1 pm.

This presentation will take you on a tour of agriculture in Alaska. We will explore our most important crops, animals and peek at the innovations in agriculture that are coming. [Zoom link.](#)

**\*\*May 7**

**Hot Composting Workshop** taught by Christine Wilcox at the soon-to-be Midtown Community Garden at 2930 Cheechako Street from 1-3 pm. Contact [garden@akaction.org](mailto:garden@akaction.org) to sign up

**May 13**

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

**May 16**

**Peony Growing** presented by Barbara Henjum at **AMGA's** monthly meeting at 7 pm

**\*\*May 18**

**Alaskan Pollinators: A Citizen Science Workshop** in person on Wednesday from 6-7 pm. Pollinators play an important role in our world, from the food we put on our tables to the plants we love in our gardens and the forests. Casey Burns, BLM's Wildlife and Threatened & Endangered Species Lead, and Sabrina Farmer with Fish and Wildlife Service, will cover the value of pollinators in Alaska; their conservation status, current monitoring and conservation efforts, and what you can do to promote pollinator conservation. [https://www.flipcause.com/secure/cause\\_pdetails/MTQ5NDQ0](https://www.flipcause.com/secure/cause_pdetails/MTQ5NDQ0)

**\*\*May 24**

**Cooperative Extension Workshop – Wild Harvesting in the Boreal Forest** from 12 – 1 pm. Alaska's boreal forest sustains a vast ecosystem that includes humans. Join **Tikaan Galbreath** of the Intertribal Agriculture Council in a conversation about how the boreal forest sustains families, communities and the state, and learn techniques and ethics for your own participation in this natural resource, including forest gardening and conscientious harvesting. [Zoom link.](#)

**May 26**

**Cooperative Extension Workshop – Alaska's Farmers Market Season is Here!** It's a big Dill! Join and Lettuce tell you all about Alaska's farmers' markets - they can't be Beet! But really, join the Alaska Farmers Market Association as they share what's in store for the 2022 market season. Learn where to find your nearest market and about their Farmers Market Toolkit project, National Farmers Market Week, and the Young and Beginning Farmers Coalition chapter. Kale yah! Join Zoom Meeting

<https://alaska.zoom.us/j/89497213315?pwd=U0xHREVva3hVLOFYMWVBSIB3OXFTZz09>

**\*\*May 26**

**Measure What Matters: Farmers Markets through the Lens of Global Sustainable Development Goals.** Presenter Joel Cladouhos will provide an overview of the SDG framework followed by an interactive discussion focused on these questions: How are the SDGs aligned

with farmers' markets in Alaska? What are the most relevant targets to be achieved and how are they measured? How can these goals, targets, and Indicators be improved? What are the opportunities and ways in which your business, non-profit or research project can leverage the SDGs? Join us via ZOOM– Meeting ID: 894 9805 0425 PASSCODE: 4777213. Or join by phone: (253)215-8782

## **PROGRAM and JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*\*Certified Backyard Composter / Vermi-Composter Master Composter** taught by **Ellen Vande Visse** this May and June. [More Info at Good Earth Garden School website.](#)

**\*\*New Midtown Community Garden** – Live in midtown and want to join a new community garden at 2930 Cheechako Street? Want to help setting up the garden? Garden beds are being built this spring. Reach out to Yarducopia at [garden@akaction.org](mailto:garden@akaction.org) to sign up & get more info.

**\*\*Anchor Gardens' manure/mulch pickup spots are stocked around town.** Check in with AG for details. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/anchorgardens/>

**\*\*Friends of Boyers Orchard** continues [fundraising to cover annual maintenance costs](#)

**\*\*Oceanside Farms has a YouTube Channel!** Learn about compost, fruit tree planting/pruning, and so much more! - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYk86mucrHeiOSJLQyhzFQ>

**Seeds of Change's Summer Apprenticeship Program** ([flier](#)) and **Farm Field Trips** ([flier](#)).

**Farm Manager Position at Pilgrim Hot Springs** – [More info on the Kawerak website.](#)

**Fundraising for Steller Secondary School Orchard** – [visit their GoFundMe page](#) to learn more and support the project. I think they have arranged matching funds every dollar donated!

**Calling All Young and Beginning Alaska Farmers/Ranchers** the Alaska Farmers Market Association is helping kick off an Alaskan chapter of this group. The first step is to [take this survey](#) and reach out to Kyra Harty if you need more information - [kyra@alaskafarmersmarkets.org](mailto:kyra@alaskafarmersmarkets.org) / 907-235-4068 ext 20

**Northern County Farm Service Agency** (FSA) office in Delta Junction, Alaska is hiring a **full time Program Technician** (PT). The deadline to apply is **April 27, 2022**. Duties include general office activities supporting FSA programs administered at the field level. Successful applicants must be reliable, have a professional attitude and enjoy working with the public. If you are interested or know of someone who might be interested, please share this information with them. Here is the direct link to the position with information on how to apply: <https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/647240700>. Contact Donna Kramer at 907-761-7753 if you have specific questions regarding the position.

**Catholic Social Services** is offering a new Americorp opportunity: Growing Roots – Refugee Economic Empowerment. The successful applicant will work with a wonderful team on a great mission involving Fresh International Garden and Grow North Farm – [more details 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](mailto:garden@akaction.org) or [their website](#).

**Solid Waste Services [Curbside Composting Program](#) just opened for registration!** Food scraps and yard trimmings make up about 1/3 of all residential solid waste. Composting helps promote community sustainability, reduces methane, and extends the life of the landfill. The program runs May through October for residents in SWS service territory in Anchorage. **Call 343-6250** today to register or find out if you are a SWS customer

**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**

**\*\*Spring Creek Farm CSA** - <https://www.alaskapacific.edu/csa/>

**\*\*The Alaska Farmers Market Association's [Market Directory](#)** is a simple and easy way to find and learn more about farmers markets you live by, locations, hours, payment options, etc.

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

**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](#) (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 [riordank@gmail.com](mailto:riordank@gmail.com).