

Currant Affairs

April 28, 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 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 1**

Native Plant Nurseries in Alaska webinar put on by the ANPS and CES.

<https://sites.google.com/aknps.org/alaska-native-plant-month/event-calendar/webinars>

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. \$40 includes your rootstock, scion and grafting instructions and supplies. Take home a hardy Alaskan apple tree and learn the ancient art of grafting. Class is limited to 10 people please contact us to reserve your spot. info@alaskaorchard.org

****May 4**

Make Your Own All-Purpose Fertilizer is the topic of the next gardening class at Alaska Mill and Feed. Class costs \$5 and is from 10 am – 11 am. Find out how you can formulate your own special, organic, home-made liquid fertilizer. Learn why it's highly effective at nourishing your seedlings, garden veggies, & fruits by addressing mineral deficiencies and feeding microbes. Come this summer, spray-apply your formula—then stand back as your garden bursts forth with healthier fruits & vegetables. <https://alaskamillandfeed.com/classes/>

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 8**

Native Plant Restoration in Alaska webinar put on by the ANPS and CES.

<https://sites.google.com/aknps.org/alaska-native-plant-month/event-calendar/webinars>

May 9

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

****May 10 & 11**

Community Art Event at the Midtown Garden Depot (2930 Cheechako Street). We'll be creating a mural for the garden. Family friendly - Food, music, and art supplies provided. Come join! Reach out to garden@akaction.org to learn more.

****May 11**

3 Secrets to Repelling Pests & Adding Soil Fertility is the topic of the next garden class hosted by Alaska Mill and Feed (10 am – 11 am). Come learn how to organically raise your soil's fertility, while minimizing weeds, pests, & diseases. Unlock the power of the 3 C's: Cover crops, Crop Rotation, Companion planting in your garden. <https://alaskamillandfeed.com/classes/>

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 15**

Native Plant Gardens of Alaska webinar put on by the ANPS and CES. <https://sites.google.com/aknps.org/alaska-native-plant-month/event-calendar/webinars>

****May 18**

Companion Planting class at 10 am hosted by AK Mill and Feed. This class will cover plant types that do better together and some you should never plant near each other. We will show you how to use plants for protection, shade and pest control while benefiting plants near them. <https://alaskamillandfeed.com/classes>

****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 22**

Local Wildflower Class hosted by ABG. A 4 day outdoor course. More info here - https://www.flipcause.com/secure/cause_pdetails/MjA3MDI5

****May 24**

Seedling Sale at APU from 12-5 pm on the Carr Gottstein lawn on APU's Anchorage campus

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 at 1300 West Benson (old DMV) from 9 am – 3 pm

June 1

Anchorage Garden Club Plant Sale at 3734 West 35 from 9 am – 5 pm. All kinds of hardy perennials and some annuals.

****June 1**

How to Build Your Berry Patch class at 10 am at AK Mill and Feed. Harvest a bounty of berries this summer! We'll learn all about raspberries and strawberries in this class including planting, pruning and preparing for winter. <https://alaskamillandfeed.com/classes>

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 on Saturday from 12-4 pm. They are inviting vendors and community partners to join us in making this a wonderful celebration. If you are an artist, vendor, or have other services to contribute please fill out this application <https://docs.google.com/.../1C5kRt8DE5YmQgLOYQ0jEGUE.../edit>

July 11

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

PROGRAM and JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS and UPDATES

****Job opportunity at CSS for a Food Hub Coordinator.** More details here -

<https://www.cssalaska.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Food-Hub-Coordinator-Job-Description.pdf>

****Midtown Garden Depot is open! Lots of free garden supplies to share.** We also accept donations of materials anytime. Gate is 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.

****ABG Plant Sale** begins May 11 at 11 am - <https://www.alaskabg.org/nursery-plant-sales>

****Alaska Food Policy Council website is getting a makeover with searchable, region-specific sections on jobs** (<https://www.akfoodpolicycouncil.org/food-systems-network-job-opportunities>), **Funding Opportunities** (<https://www.akfoodpolicycouncil.org/funding-opportunities>), **News** (<https://www.akfoodpolicycouncil.org/food-news>), and **partner events** (<https://www.akfoodpolicycouncil.org/partner-events>),. Sign up here - <https://www.akfoodpolicycouncil.org/newsletter-signup>

****Are you or someone in your village interested in starting a community garden? AK Village Initiatives** Ag-in-a-Box program is offering free hands-on subsistence agriculture workshops this summer. This is a free on-site course — our team will come to your village. All you need to supply is interest, excitement, and people. AVI is committed to help start, operate, and sustain community agriculture programs that provide locally grown, healthy, and affordable produce. It's all about food security in Alaska. Ready to get started? Click the contact us button and our community gardens team will take it from there!

****Get Growing with Your Library program** is up and running! Learn more here.

<https://www.anchoragelibrary.org/about/about-apl/library-news/get-growing-with-your-library/>

****The 2024 NACD PAC/SW Joint Region Meeting** is tentatively scheduled for September 11th through 13th, 2024 in Anchorage Alaska – themed Living with the Land from Ground to Glacier: A Journey of Discovery. <https://nacd.akvillage.org/>

****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://alaskaafb.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>

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.yhyeg7l5qas5

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 yardening 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/>

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

****Spring Creek Farm CSA sign ups are open!** CSA runs for 18 weeks and is either \$22/week or \$40/week depending on the small or large farm share.

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!