

Currant Affairs

May 29, 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

May 30

Anchor Gardens Compost Class series spring kick off at SWS Thursday from 5:30 – 8 pm. More info at <https://anchorgardens.org/events/spring-kick-off-of-the-2024-anchor-gardens-backyard-composting-class-series/>

****May 31**

Planting Workshop and Rachel Carson Birthday Celebration hosted by Yarducopia at 1557 Airport Heights Drive. Planting workshop from 3-5 pm and 5-7 pm a celebration of Rachel Carson. Tools and food provided - RSVP with Theresa at theresa@akaction.org

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 2**

2nd Annual Dandelion Festival 12-2 pm in Spenard – Woodland Park
<https://anchorgardens.org/events/2nd-annual-dandelion-celebration/>

****June 4**

Roots and Shoots zoom sessions hosted by Anchor Gardens starting up for the summer!
<https://anchorgardens.org/events/roots-and-shoots-tips-tricks-to-make-the-most-out-of-limited-garden-space/>

****June 5**

Tree Grafting 101 and Hazelnut Research class in Palmer at Experimental Farm. 6-8 pm. [More info here.](#)

June 6

Growing Garlic - Anchorage Garden Club <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

****Statewide food-related job opportunities** listed at AK Food Policy Council's website <https://www.akfoodpolicycouncil.org/food-systems-network-job-opportunities>

****Statewide food-related funding opportunities** listed at AK Food Policy Council's website <https://www.akfoodpolicycouncil.org/funding-opportunities>

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.

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. Reach out to AVI for more info.

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/>

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

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 Yarcucopia 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/>

Yarcucopia (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 Yarcucopia 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!