

## **Currant Affairs**

### **June 1, 2021 Edition**

Compiled regularly by Nick Riordan on behalf of Yarcucopia, Alaska Community Action on Toxics and the Alaska Food Policy Council

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

## **WORKSHOPS, WEBINARS, CONFERENCES, & SPECIAL EVENTS**

### **June 2**

Cooperative Extension's '**In the Virtual Garden Series**' continues with **Fabulous Flower Design** from 12:00 to 1:00 pm. [Register here.](#)

### **\*\*June 3**

The Cooperative Extension is hosting a series of **Alaskan Agriculture Classes** on Thursdays from 6 – 7 PM. Each class will be an opportunity to hear directly from farmers about what they grow in different parts Alaska. On June 3 we will be hearing from dahlia farmers, vegetable farmers and beekeepers from Southcentral. These farmers will be telling you who they are, what they grow/farm, what their farming practices are, where you can find their products, and above all - why Alaskan Agriculture is so important. [Join the Zoom meeting here.](#)

### **\*\*June 5, 6, 8, and 10**

**Help create Anchorage's newest community food forest and community garden at Chanshtnu Muldoon Park!** We have many shrubs to plant and other related tasks. This is an outdoor, family friendly, covid safe activity (masks optional). Tools will be provided, but you might want to bring your own gardening gloves. Saturday June 5 and Sunday June 6 from 10AM-2PM, and Tuesday June 8 and Thursday June 10 from 6PM-8PM. Parking available at the new parking lot (Boston and Debar: take Muldoon to E 12th Court, turn right on Boston). **Contact Kristi Wood for details** (email: [bikemoredriveless@hotmail.com](mailto:bikemoredriveless@hotmail.com) phone/text: 278-2453).

### **\*\*June 6**

Join Anchor Gardens and Dohnn Wood for another "**Coffee, Roots and Shoots**" conversation from 11 – 1 PM, at Chanshtnu Muldoon Park. Bring a coffee and your questions on all things gardening in Anchorage, on the traditional lands of the Dena'ina Athabascans.

### **\*\*June 10**

The second installment in the Cooperative Extension's **Alaskan Agriculture Class series** will be from 6 – 7 PM. This week's session will focus on Southwest Alaska. [Join the Zoom meeting here.](#)

### **June 16**

Cooperative Extension's '**In the Virtual Garden Series**' continues with **Terrific Tomatoes** from 12:00 to 1:00 pm. [Register here.](#)

## **\*\*June 17**

The third installment in the Cooperative Extension's **Alaskan Agriculture Class series** will be from 6 – 7 PM. This week's session will focus on Southeast Alaska. [Join the Zoom meeting here.](#)

## **June 19-20**

**Taste of Homer Food Festival** is on! [Read more about this event on Edible Alaska's website.](#)

## **\*\*June 24**

The Cooperative Extension is hosting **16 Steps to Alaskan Gardening** from 12 – 1 PM. "Believe it or not, Alaska is one of the easiest places to garden. However, to be successful, you have to unlearn practices you might have learned outside the state. This presentation will present the 16 essential techniques to be a great gardener in the 49th state." [Join the Zoom meeting here.](#)

## **PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*\*The Alaska Farmers Market Association's [Market Directory](#)** is a simple and easy way to see what farmers markets you live by, where they are, hours, and their acceptable forms of payment. Check this site out!

**\*\*The Spenard Community Garden** is up to its old tricks again, with weekly garden gatherings on Wednesdays from 6-8. Live in the neighborhood? Pop on by. [You can learn more about the garden here.](#)

**Garden Tours** – Many garden clubs are hosting tours this summer. If you're a member, be on the lookout for summer schedules. Very Exciting!

The **Alaska Master Gardeners** will be offering another **Advanced Master Gardeners course** taught by Brenda Adams this fall. Details TBA. [Sign up here for more information.](#)

**Anchor Gardens** gardening materials pickup spots are stocked and open! Details on timing and location on [their calendar](#), along with a schedule for their core group and coaches' meetings. A wonderful group of supportive gardeners right in your neighborhood.

Want to become an Agronaut?! The **Space Farming Institute** is offering spring and summer classes for students and families on **hydroponic gardening** (and other topics). [Read on.](#)

[AnchorageFood.org](#) provides a list of **Food Pantries** in Anchorage, their hours, addresses, etc

**Looking for a place to grow your own food? To learn how to garden? Or support with a gardening project in Anchorage?** Yarducopia might be able to help. [You can read more and sign up on our website.](#) Or reach out to [garden@akaction.org](mailto:garden@akaction.org)

The Cooperative Extension Service's Heidi Rader will be teaching the next **Online Master Gardener Class** from August 23 to December 3. Registration is open. [More details here.](#)

## **GRANT OPPORTUNITIES**

**USDA community compost and food waste reduction projects.** You can find the solicitation at <https://www.grants.gov> by searching for notices posted by the Department of Agriculture or for [Funding Opportunity Number USDA-NRCS-NHQ-CCFWR-21-NOFO0001112](#).

**Graduate Students** can apply for up to \$10,000 block grants to support AK Grown specialty crops from DNR. [More info here](#)

**Alaska Village Initiatives' agAlaska program** has a [variety of funding opportunities](#) to support agriculture across the state supporting beginning farmers, conservation efforts, and high tunnels.

## **OPEN POSITIONS & INTERNSHIPS**

**\*\*Family Nutrition Programs Manager** position open in the State Department of Health and Social Services. It looks like [an excellent opportunity to work in nutrition and food policy](#).

**Sun Circle Farm** is hiring [a few seasonal employees](#) to work on the farm over the summer.

## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES & REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE**

The **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](#).

**Anchor Gardens** is recruiting **neighborhood garden coaches**. Coaches serve as community mentors for those interested in learning about growing food in their own neighborhoods and assist in linking people to resources. Reach out to [anchorgardensanc@gmail.com](mailto:anchorgardensanc@gmail.com).

To **RECEIVE** Currant Affairs, suggest items to **ADD, CHANGE EMAIL ADDRESS** or **UNSUBSCRIBE**, contact Nick Riordan at [riordannk@gmail.com](mailto:riordannk@gmail.com).