

Currant Affairs

June 23, 2023 Edition

Compiled regularly by Nick Riordan for Alaska Community Action on Toxics and the Alaska Kood Policy Council

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

WORKSHOPS, WEBINARS, & SPECIAL EVENTS

June 23

Potential Distribution Systems for Kenai Peninsula Farmers – A Comparison of Various Models – on Zoom from 3-4 pm. More info on the [Homer SWCD facebook page](#).

****June 24**

Certified Backyard Composter Class at the Mountain View Library's Teaching Garden, 1-3 pm. Organized by Anchor Gardens. [More info and registration here](#). - [See the full series flier here](#).

****June 25**

Young and Beginning Farmers in person meetup. On the 25th there's an opportunity to gather in-person with other beginning and young farmers around the Homer area! Please come if you're able. We'll share food, stories, farming techniques, and help [Lone Birch Farm](#) up-root their perennial plants so they have an easier time moving locations this summer. They are currently located past Fritz Creek off East End Rd. Fill out the [form](#) to RSVP and be sent location details. This meetup is coordinated by the [Beginning & Young Alaska Farmers Network](#) – a project supported by Alaska Farmers Market Association.

****June 25**

Picnic Tour to Boyer's Orchard with Anchor Gardens. 6-8 pm More info - <https://anchorgardens.org/events/picnic-tour-for-june/>

****June 29**

The Grow North Farm farmstand will be opening again on June 29, 2023! Customers can stop by the farm stand Mondays through Fridays from 4-7PM to buy fresh produce picked day-of, as well as cottage goods and sweets. Plus, every Thursday features global cuisine to-go from rotating Grow North Farm farmers! Not only that, but WIC and SNAP are accepted, and all produce is half-off for SNAP/EBT users.

****July 8**

Vermiculture Class (worms make compost) at Mountain View Library's Teaching Garden. 1-3. Learn how worm composting can work for you. You can turn your vegetable scraps into useful material in minimal space and no odors. Contact: Rayette Sterling, Manager at Mt View library 907-343-2907 or Margaret Timmerman, Anchor Gardens timmermanmargaret851@gmail.com

****July 9**

Backyard Composting Class at the Midtown Garden Depot from 1-3 pm taught by Christine Wilcox and organized by Anchor Gardens. Free. Part of a larger class series. [Register here.](#)

July 13

Wildflower Garden Club of Alaska's garden tour – 11 am to 2 pm. [More info on website](#)

****July 14**

Come join **Spring Creek Farm** for a FREE educational workshop on pest management, hands-on farm experience, and a community BBQ! Program for adults and kids. Special guest speaker Patti Armbrister. Register using QR code on flier - <https://www.alaskaresiliencefarms.org/events.html>

July 16-19

Alaska Peony Retreat - <https://alaskafb.org/event/alaska-peony-retreat/>

July 17

ABG's What's in Bloom Walking Tour from 6-7 pm. Make the most of our short growing season and learn to identify Alaskan plants and find out what's blooming in our collections with one of our monthly walks in the Garden. Each month will highlight the different flowering plants in the surrounding boreal forest and highlight plants in our collections chosen for hardiness & differing bloom times https://www.flipcause.com/secure/cause_pdetails/MTc5MjM5

****July 18**

Plant Nomenclature Walk with ABG's Patrick Ryan. [Complete info and registration here](#)

****July 25**

Fishing in the City (ANC Museum's Urban Harvest Program) from 1-3 pm. [More info](#)

July 30

Anchorage Garden Club's annual garden tour. [More info on their facebook page.](#)

August 12

AMGA Plant Sale – Save the date – more details to come.

August 13

Midtown and Spenard Community Garden Harvest Party - We'll be celebrating the summer bounty of these two amazing spaces together at the Midtown Garden from 2-5 pm.

****August 22**

Seed Saving (ANC Museum's Urban Harvest Program) from 5:30 - 7 pm. [More info](#)

September 23

Veg Fest from 10 am – 4 pm at the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts. Website for more details.

PROGRAM and JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS and UPDATES

****Alaska Food Policy Council** is searching for an Operations and Strategic Planning Coordinator. Learn more here <https://www.akfoodpolicycouncil.org/job>

****Composting class series** offered through Anchor Gardens, Mountain View Library, and SWS. Backyard composting and,ermicomposting. Knowledgeable teachers and a range of times, All free. Check out the class dates and topics [here](#).

****Matanuska Community Farmers Market** is a new farm and food-specific market in Palmer so you can buy food directly from the amazing growers in the area. Market started Wednesday June 14 and will go through September every Wednesday from 4-7 pm in the parking lot of the United Protestant Presbyterian Church of 1,000 Logs (713 South Denali Street).

Garden Tour season is upon us. Check out your favorite garden clubs' websites and newsletters to learn more about what amazing spaces and generous hosts we'll be treated to this summer. I know AMGA's tours are typically on Monday from 6-7 pm. See you out there!

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/>

Herb Study Group - 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. These meetings will be held virtually using Zoom and are free and open to the public. Please email anchorageherbstudygroup@gmail.com for information on how to join

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>

Stickleback Farm Volunteer Workdays - a summer-long, Friday and Monday from 12–4 pm

Midtown and Spenard Community Gardens weekly workdays at 10–1 and 2-5 pm respectively. Follow the links to the [Midtown](#) and [Spenard Garden](#) Facebook pages

Midtown Garden Depot has weekly composting workshops on Tuesdays 6-7pm. This is an opportunity to bring your compostable organics, learn how to compost them, and take home a great soil amendment. The **Depot also has regular 'office hours'** on Wednesday from 6-7 pm. Come chat, figure out how the Depot works in person, lend a hand, and get help loading and unloading materials.

Healthy and Equitable communities grant program for Alaska through the USDA.

Third annual Veg Fest to your calendar. Scheduled for Saturday, September 23 from 10 am – 4 pm at the Performing Arts Center

Treats for your Chickens available at 3740 Williams Street on Monday's and Thursday's. 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/>

Harvest of Hope Garden at the Lutheran Church of Hope is run by Don Bladow, producing thousands of pounds of fresh produce each summer distributed by the Lutheran Social Services Food Pantry. Learn more at Don's blogspot for the garden.

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

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

The Alaska Farmers Market Association launched a **Farmers Market Toolkit** for starting, enhancing, and supporting a farmers' market in your community. Well done AFMA!

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

A List of Anchorage Food Pantries can be found at AnchorageFood.org (Address, hours, etc.)

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

****Seeds of Change/Evie's Brinery** is for sale weekly at the ANC Market Social every Sunday from 11 A.M. to 5 P.M. in Town Square (E Street, between 5th and 6th Avenue)

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

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

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

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/>

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](#)

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!