

Currant Affairs

July 22, 2023 Edition

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

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

WORKSHOPS, WEBINARS, & SPECIAL EVENTS

****July 24-28**

Eklutna Community Garden Maintenance - Come join us from 10am till 2pm daily from July 24th through July 28th. We will be doing basic garden maintenance like moving wood chips into rows or sifting soil to remove big rocks. Bring gloves, proper shoes & bug repellent. No Smoking or Vaping. Water will be provided. Parking is at 26450 Eklutna Village Rd & the Garden is a short walk to the back. <https://fb.me/e/5Bis8aDOt>

****July 26**

AFPC Food Waste Committee monthly meeting. On Zoom. AFPC website has more info.

****July 27**

Calling all helpers to Boyer's Orchard. Please join us on Thursday afternoons between 4:00 – 7:00 pm in July & August to help with various tasks at the orchard. We would love help with mowing, weed whacking, thinning, planting, etc. Bring tools and gloves if you have them. It takes a community to care for an orchard! <https://alaskaorchard.org/category/whats-buzzin/>

****July 29**

Vermicomposting class taught by Tim Pritchett at Green Connection from 1-3 pm. Free. [Part of a larger compost class series.](#)

July 30

Anchorage Garden Club's annual garden tour! Six to eight gardens will be open for the public to visit. Check back a couple of days before the tour for a list of gardens. We are actively looking for gardens now. Email anchoragegc@gmail.com to nominate a garden. [Event page on Facebook](#) and [More info on their facebook page.](#)

****July 30**

Midtown Community Garden picnic – open to neighbors and friends of the garden as well as gardeners. 2930 Cheechako Street, starts at noon.

August 1

Join Anchorage Public Library for their final (part 4) stage of their **Growing Together gardening program series**. Starting August 1, they will be covering **Harvest and Storage**, including how to save seeds to grow the following year. To-go packets available at all APL locations for the duration of the month or as long as supplies last.

August 3

Anchorage Garden Club meeting: Processing Herbs and Vegetables. 7 pm at Central Lutheran Church. [Complete list of events on their website.](#)

****August 3**

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August 5

Workday at Rebarchek Plot, 12-4 pm. The projects are mainly to be determined (or finish what was not accomplished at the July workday). At the July workday, we could decide on any projects we would like to accomplish on the August workday. An example would be to fill the raised beds with soil or plant some perennials at selected locations.

August 5 & 6

Anchorage Garden Club's 78th Annual Flower Show. Starts at 1 pm Saturday. Visit the AGC website for more info and to see categories and rules. Contact Carol Norquist at norquistc1219@gmail.com or AlaskaGardenClubs@gmail.com with questions.

August 6

Backyard Composting (1-3 pm) and Vermicompost (3:30-5:30 pm) in northeast Anchorage backyard taught by Ivy and Jason. [Part of a larger compost class series.](#)

August 6-12

National Farmers Market Week. [Details on their website.](#)

****August 10**

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August 12

Anchorage Master Gardeners Annual Plant Sale at the Alaska Botanical Gardens. In addition to plants for sale, there will be three classes from 10:30 AM to 12:30.

August 12

Backyard composting class taught by Luis Lemus, Parks and Rec Horticulturalist from 1-3 pm. Free. [Part of a larger compost class series.](#)

****August 12**

Botanical Berries with Colored Pencil at ABG. Improve your drawing skills in this Botanical Berries colored pencil workshop. Sketch on location in the Alaska Botanical Garden. Practice color mixing, layering and shading, while drawing service berry, red currants, high bush cranberry or watermelon berry. A limited number of material kits are available for purchase, or you can bring your own supplies. [Website for registration.](#) 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM

****August 14**

Plant Nomenclature Walk at ABG. 5:45-6:45 PM. Come along on a world tour of the Garden via those botanical terms that you've always wondered about. Learn about the origins of the genus and species names of many of the native plants at the Garden. Patrick Ryan will be your host for this informative trek into botanical nomenclature. [Website for registration.](#)

August 16, 17, 18

Join Anchorage Public Library for our Growing Together gardening program series in person session on August 16, 17, and 18. In August we're covering Harvest and Storage, including how to save seeds to grow the following year. Times are 8/16 @ 5:30, 8/17 @ 12 and 4, and 8/18 @ 3. All classes are at the Mountain View Library. More details to come.

****August 20**

Yarducopia Bike Tour and Harvest Party – We're gathering at 11 am at the Spenard Community Garden (1303 West 33rd) to begin a pedal-powered, 2.5 hour, seven garden tour of Spenard and Midtown. But wait, there's more! We'll carry on to Airport Heights for a Harvest Party starting at 2 pm. RSVP with garden@akaction.org. Nibbles provided. Rain or shine! Check our [Facebook page](#) or [website](#) for UpToDate details.

****August 21**

August What's in Bloom Walking Tour - 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 as well as highlight plants in our collections chosen for their hardiness and differing bloom times. Wear comfortable walking shoes. Walks take place rain or shine so please dress for the weather. 5:45-6:45 PM. [Website for registration.](#)

August 22

Seed Saving class - Anchorage 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.

November 10-12

Alaska Food and Farm Festival will be at the Egan Center in Anchorage

PROGRAM and JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS and UPDATES

****Call for Volunteers and Native Plants** - To help support the vision of the Habitat Rehabilitation Project planned for the forested portions of the 5 acres the BP building sits upon, they are looking for donations of native plants to reestablish the forest understory. If you have an upcoming garden project and need to rehome any native plants, please consider letting us know. If you are interested in volunteer opportunities associated with this extensive project, we want to hear from you! You can contact our Director, Melody Price at mprice@alaskacf.org for more information.

****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.

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 vermicomposting. Knowledgeable teachers and a range of dates, times, and locations. 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).

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>

Midtown and Spenard Community Gardens weekly workdays on Sunday 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.

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 Yarduopia 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](#).

Yarduopia (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 Yarduopia 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

Anchorage soil and water conservation district created an **interactive map of farmers markets in Anchorage. Check it out! http://anchoragewcd.org/farmers_markets.html

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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 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](#).

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!