

Currant Affairs

July 6, 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 8**

Volunteer work party at Chanshtnu Park and Food Forest from 10 am – 2 pm (8100 DeBarr Road, behind the Muldoon Mall). Tools will be provided but you may want to bring your own work gloves. We have a variety of tasks to perform, such as weeding, planting shrubs, pruning old raspberry canes, applying compost tea, and spreading soil amendments (this task involves physical labor with wheelbarrows, buckets, and shovels). Contact Kristi Wood for more information, bikemoredriveless@hotmail.com or 907-278-2453

****July 8**

Backyard Composting Class taught at the Central Transfer Station by Deb Luper and Susan Opperman. 10-Noon. Free. Register through Anchor Gardens. [Part of a larger compost class series.](#)

July 8

Vermiculture Class (worms make compost) at Mountain View Library's Teaching Garden. From 1-3 pm. 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. [Part of a larger compost class series.](#)

****July 8**

Vermiculture Class at Chugiak/Eagle River Sr. Center taught by Ellen McDermott. 2-4 pm. Free and organized by Anchor Gardens. [Part of a larger compost class series.](#)

July 9

Backyard Composting Class at the Midtown Garden Depot from 1-3 pm taught by Christine Wilcox. Part of a [larger class series](#) organized by Anchor Gardens and sponsored by SWS. Free. [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 integrated 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 15**

Vermicomposting class taught by Cindee Karns at the Central Transfer Station from 10 am – noon. [Part of a larger compost class series.](#)

July 16-19

Alaska Peony Retreat - <https://www.thefloralsource.com/alaska-peony-retreat-2023>

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 19**

Wildflower Discovery Hike will be held from 1-2:30 pm at the Campbell Creek Science Center. Each summer the boreal forest transforms into a lush and colorful landscape of plants and flowers. Join naturalist **JULIE** on a wildflower discovery hike. Learn skills to identify common plants, discover plant adaptations, and explore why flowers matter. This event is \$5 per person. Registration is required at <https://www.recreation.gov/ticket/facility/10089159>.

****July 20**

Nature Nerd Convos: What's that smell? will be held from 6:30 to 8:pm at the Campbell Creek Science Center. Once a month this summer, nerd out on ecological topics and figure out together with fellow audience members the question of the night: What is that smell? This is a fun, interactive event with a 20-minute talk on aromatic chemical compounds found in plants and in the soil, scientific activities, and discussion. This event is \$5 per person. Registration is required at <https://www.recreation.gov/ticket/facility/10089159>.

****July 19, 20, 21**

Join the Anchorage Public Library and our expert presenter on a Learning Walk at 3pm on July 19, 20, or 21 at Cheney Lake Park. We will be discussing how to identify common Alaskan plants and weeds and what can be done with them. We will walk the circuit around the lake starting from the park, which is a 1.1 mile walk so please prepare accordingly.

****July 22**

Summer plans for MMGA Rebarchek plot. 12-4 pm. A few volunteers will be bringing supplies and materials, and we will be able to handle as large a work crew as would show up. The plan: 1) Move the arbor to center it in the front of the lot, then plant kiwi vines on it. 2.) Construct a castle block raised bed in one of the plot's corners. 3.) Figure out what is going on with the handicap accessible raised beds; possibly set them up. 4.) Deliberate about and mark out where and if we want to put other future projects, e.g., perennial beds, hedge/shrub line/fence, educational plaque. If you are going to attend one of the workdays, please send an email to: matsumastergardeners@gmail.com. Work can be counted towards master gardener volunteer hours.

July 25

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

****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.](#)

****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 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 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 13

Midtown and Spenard Community Garden Harvest Party - We'll be gathering to celebrate the summer bounty of these two amazing spaces at noon on Sunday at the Spenard Garden adjacent to Lutheran Social Services Food Pantry (1303 West 33rd). The gardens are a collaboration between LSS, community gardeners, ACAT, neighbors, and many more. RSVP with garden@akaction.org. Lunch provided.

****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 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

****Alaska Native Plant Society's 2023 Alaska Botany Bioblitz!** July 1-15. You can join the iNaturalist project now at <https://www.inaturalist.org/.../alaska-botany-bioblitz-2023>.

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).

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 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 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

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!