

Currant Affairs

July 7, 2022 Edition

Compiled regularly by Nick Riordan on behalf of Yarcucopia (a program of Alaska Community Action on Toxics) and the Alaska Food Policy Council

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

WORKSHOPS, WEBINARS, & SPECIAL EVENTS

July 9 (and 23rd!)

Stickleback Farm "Build and Beautify" days from 4 to 8 pm. Free bags of lettuce for volunteers, free BBQ, art activities for youth. Located at 3rd and Ingra, near Brother Francis Shelter. Contact anangookwe.wolf@akseedsofchange.com with questions.

****July 11**

Alaska Botanical Garden: What's in Bloom Walking Tour. 6-7 pm - [Register here.](#)

****July 11**

Alaska Botanical Garden: Gala - Summer Celebration during the garden's peak bloom with local artwork, live jazz, etc. 6-9 pm - [Read on.](#)

****July 13**

Composting & accepting pesticide-free green waste at the [Midtown Garden Depot](#), 6-8 pm. Contact garden@akaction.org / 907 717 4392 to rsvp.

****July 17**

Yarcucopia Garden Bike Tour from 2-6 pm – Peddling Spenard, garden to garden. [More details on Yarcucopia website.](#) RSVP with garden@akaction.org

****July 20**

Alaska Botanical Garden: [Nomenclature Walk](#) led by education specialist Patrick Ryan. 6-7 pm.

****July 20**

Eat Your Weeds taught by Anchor Gardens' member Cindee Karns is a free class at the Eagle River Senior Center to grapple with the question - Why do we work so hard growing gardens when there is so much healthy stuff to eat that grows all over the place? In this class we will learn how to find, use, store the weeds that grow everywhere around your house. If you'd like a booklet to take home with you with 8 common weeds/recipes, bring \$5 for printing costs. Contact Cindee at anchorgardensanc@gmail.com for more information.

****July 21**

Matanuska Experiment Farm and Extension Center Class on **Food Preservation: Canning Fish in Jars** (via Zoom). [More info on their website.](#)

July 23

Stickleback Farm "Build and Beautify" days (Round Two!) from 4 to 8 pm. Free bags of lettuce for volunteers, free BBQ, art activities for youth. Located at 3rd and Ingra, near Brother Francis Shelter. Contact anangookwe.wolf@akseedsofchange.com with questions.

****July 28**

Matanuska Experiment Farm and Extension Center Class on **Food Preservation: Making Jelly and More** (via Zoom). [More info on their website.](#)

****July 30**

Alaska Botanical Garden three-day course: Creating a Botanical Sketchbook - More information and registration on the [ABG website.](#)

****August 13**

Anchorage VegFest is back! Save the date and [check out their webpage for more info.](#)

PROGRAM and JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS and UPDATES

****Food For Thought** food fridge in Mountain View is once again the topic on AK Public Media, this time as part of a full hour Talk of Alaska – Check the earlier piece and radio show [here](#) and [here](#). Amazing work Ziona and the FFT team!

****Midtown Garden Depot** has started accepting fresh 'green' waste to compost on select days and by special arrangement (e.g. pesticide-free grass, yard waste, and food scraps). Check with garden@akaction.org for more info and to lend a hand & learn about small-scale composting.

Anchor Gardens is hosting a **Garden Questions Hotline** called Roots and Shoots every Tuesday starting at 7 pm. [Sign up for Anchor Gardens to learn more, get the link, etc.](#)

Urban Harvest (a program of Anchorage Museum) has posted their July/August lineup of classes – As always, great topics – [Check it out.](#)

AK Food Policy Council - We are working on a **statewide map of the state food system resources**. If you wish to add yourself or your organization to this map, please visit this page to read more about this important effort to provide an inclusive map of all our state food system resources. [Link to info.](#)

Summer Garden Tours have begun! Many of the organizations listed above and below host garden tours all summer long. I encourage you to join a garden club (or three!) and attend their tours. It can be a great way to be inspired, learn from others' experiences, and meet fellow enthusiasts and friends.

Midtown Community Garden – a new community garden at 2930 Cheechako Street has space and materials to construct more garden beds. Reach out to Yarducochia at garden@akaction.org to sign up & get more info, or drop by during one of our gatherings (see above).

Chanshtnu Community Garden in Muldoon still has a few spaces available!

Anchor Gardens' I Street Garden Depot info - anchorgardens.org/stockpiles

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

****The Alaska Farmers Market Association** launched a **New 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](#).

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

APU Farmstand this Wednesday from 3:00-6:30 with kale, bok Choi, salad greens, sorrel, and more! Come get your early summer fix of fresh greens!

Grow North Farm Farmstand open 4-7 pm Mon-Friday. Thursdays feature global cuisine to-go from a rotating Grow North Farm farmer! SNAP and WIC welcome.

Arctic Harvest Deliveries – produce share sold out, [meat and seafood shares still available](#)

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 riordannk@gmail.com.