

Currant Affairs

August 7, 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

August 6-12

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

August 10

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/>

****August 12**

Anchorage Master Gardeners Annual Plant Sale outside the Alaska Botanical Gardens from 10 AM to 3 PM. Featuring plants, gently used tools and pots, and three classes from 10:30-12:30.

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 12**

Kellogg Fall Festival Saturday, August 12 from 9 AM – 6 PM - 6404 N Lossing Road in Palmer. APU's Kellogg Campus invites you to celebrate the summer harvest and honor the longstanding legacy of Louise Kellogg at our Kellogg Fall Festival. Held on the 800-acre campus in Palmer, the Kellogg Fall Festival is an all-ages and family-friendly event featuring a 5K race through our trails, a croquet tournament, food, and art vendors, a beer garden, face painting, bubbles, educational booths, and a community art project. Join us at 11 a.m. for the World Eskimo Indian Olympics, Arctic Winter Games, and Native Youth Olympics demonstrations and games hosted

by the Chickaloon NYO Team with special guest Nicole Johnson, 2014 Alaska Sports Hall of Fame Inductee.

****August 13**

Healing Our Future with special guest Debra Denker, Energy Healer, Intuitive, author, & Earth Healer from NM., 2pm – 5pm on Sunday, August 13 in Palmer at Ellen Vande Visse's home. Suggested donation \$20. Contact Good Earth Garden School at evvisse@gmail.com to register and to get more information / directions.

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 8**

Seeds of Change Block Party in the Koots parking lot from 2-5 pm. This is a celebration of the Seeds community and showcase of youth engagement and afterschool opportunities.

<https://fb.me/e/1rpt943jY>

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](#)

****August 23**

AFPC Food Waste Working Group meeting from 6-7 pm. Making a list of existing food waste diversion activities in Alaska, discussion of how to promote food waste diversion, connect food waste diverters, and

****August 26**

FAIRBANKS - Come to the **inaugural Far North Currant Festival** for cooking demonstrations by Indigenous Chef Flora Deacon, berry taste tests, activities designed by UAF Nutrition Students in Biology 120x, youth activities and more! 1-4pm on August 26, 2023. Admission is FREE. Minors must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. <https://fb.me/e/3qx428Alv>

****September 16**

Harvest Moon Local Food Fest in Soldotna. <https://www.kenailocalfood.org/>

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. More info at <https://www.akfoodpolicyCouncil.org/2023-festival-conference>

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 gardening 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 and composting worms! 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 Yarcucopia 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](#).

Yarducopia (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 Yarducopia 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!