



Finding Common Ground October, 2020

UP FRONT

Opulent October, you say? Yes! Though the days are getting shorter, abundance from the land—and our community—continues to overflow. **Fall farm crops** such as sweet potatoes, peppers, black beans, greens, root veggies, sesame (yes, sesame!) are burgeoning, along with **fruits freely given from the land** like ripening black walnuts, yummy mushrooms, and luscious wild persimmons. As for the human side of the equation, here are a few of the treats to come:

- Meet autumn edible and medicinal plants on the land at our **Simpler Living: Earth Skills Sunday** event on October 18th
- Deepen your **cooperative skills** and **learn about sociocracy** the last weekend in October
- **Halloween hijinks** will happen on October 31st
- **The barn is rising!** The roof is (mostly) on and there's much to do and much to learn as we finish this project—help is welcome.

It's the best of times to engage! All outdoor events are COVID compliant and meetings happen via Zoom unless otherwise noted.



Ailanthus webworm moth on goldenrod (photo by Margret)

COMMON GROUND CALENDAR



*It's sweet potato time! (photo by Margret)
Banner above: The barn's lower roof has its hat on*

GET INVOLVED!

*Circle leaders would be very happy to talk with and guide you as you become more involved. Contact any of the leaders listed below. **Note: all events are open to everyone unless otherwise indicated. Most (but not all!) Circle meetings are happening via Zoom. Observers are encouraged and **RSVP is essential!*****

LAND STEWARDSHIP CIRCLE

Sunday, October 4, 3:00 - 5:00 pm, on land or via Zoom (tbd).

RSVP Randy: (dodd.randy@gmail.com)

Observers and prospective members are welcome - please RSVP several days in advance if interested.

RACIAL AWARENESS READING & REFLECTION CIRCLE

Membership & Marketing Circle

SEPTEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Planning, Design, & Development:

PDD is now pivoting from our Raising Sights Initiative to address other decisions that are critical to moving forward expeditiously. Along with the Financial & Legal and Membership & Marketing Circles, we are organizing to prompt and support the planning work of the people who hope to be among the first to move onto the land in the first or second phases of village build-out. There is much to be sorted out together. First, a definite site layout establishing the placement and size of all buildings needs to be laid out for the whole village, even though we will probably build the homes in phases. Site engineering and sitework construction needs to be done for the whole village.

Site layout in turn requires us to finally decide on Unit Mix: how many of which kind of units we will build. We have already made a fair amount of progress on unit mix, but it now needs to be nailed down. Input from committed members will help us give shape to the Phase 1 mix, but larger values are at stake with the mix overall.

Among other things, our Raising Sights work has moved us toward greater commitment to earthen building methods for the walls of the residences. Look for strawbale construction to figure heavily in our building. We have also been struggling to pilot the use of “hemcrete” for the bathhouse at the barn as a lead-in to possibly using this promising new/old material for residences as well, though we’ve most recently been disappointed again over availability and cost issues. Stay tuned...



Cooking up colors for the barn (photo by Margret)

Land Stewardship: The barn complex continues to emerge thanks to many helpers and Anthony’s ongoing leadership. Margret, Jeffry, Doug, and others continue to tend the great bounty flowing from the growing garden. *The First and Who Knows Maybe Only Late Summer Productive Frolic* happened as advertised

Mondays, October 5, 12, 19, 26, 630-7:30pm

Free of charge, & donations requested once-a-month

Contact Maria: mariasilviapini@gmail.com

Our next book, ***Me and White Supremacy***, by Layla Saad, is designed to be worked through with reflective journaling prompts. It is available in hardback and is free on Kindle Unlimited. **Before asking to join**, please watch the video that summarizes our first book, [White Fragility](#), by Robin Diangelo, and then contact Maria for further steps: mariasilviapini@gmail.com. This is a perfect time to join in the journey of waking up to racism in our culture and in ourselves.

PLANNING, DESIGN, & DEVELOPMENT CIRCLE

Wednesday, October 7, 6:30-8:00pm, via Zoom

RSVP Anthony: weston@elon.edu

Observers are always welcome, with RSVP

MEMBERSHIP & MARKETING CIRCLE

Thursday, October 8, 6:30-9:00pm via Zoom

RSVP Marilyn: marilyngrubbs@gmail.com

To observe, contact Marilyn several days before the date to receive the Zoom link and agenda/attachments

MEET & GREET

Membership & Marketing Circle

2nd Wednesday, October 14, 7:00-8:15pm via Zoom

RSVP Lisa for a link: lberley@yahoo.com

This is designed for people who have recently heard about us and for those who want to meet other new members. We’ll get to know each other and review some history and basics about CGEV. Interested? Let’s hang out!

FINANCIAL & LEGAL CIRCLE

Thursday, October 15, 6:30-9:00pm, via Zoom

RSVP Paul for a link: voss@hawkweed.net

Observers are welcome with RSVP. We encourage members to join in the work of this Circle.

with roughly 15 folks joining in over the course of Labor Day weekend, with the fruition including sprucing up the entrance, attending to some rough cut timber, fruitful barn and Tree of Heaven activities, and, by all appearances, no violations of labor laws or weary-to-the-bone workers. At the end of the month, dozens of folks toured the barn, garden, fields and woods, and simply hung out as part of an "Open House" on the land. Rainey organized an old time music jam to coincide with a cook out for the afternoon's the grand finale.



Jeffrey lines up a sweet potato parade (photo by Margret)

IN THE KNOW...

Have you read/seen/heard something inspiring lately that you'd like to share with the community? Please send in your recommendations to [Hope](#).

Yes! magazine's Fall 2020 Black Lives issue talks about rebellions past and present and invites Black writers, artists, and activists imagine what's possible now. Some articles are available online: <https://www.yesmagazine.org/> This quarterly publication is routinely packed with encouraging news and is well worth a subscription.

LOCAL EVENTS TO EXPAND OUR SOCIAL & CULTURAL HORIZONS

Is something happening that you want our members to know about? Please send your listing to Hope by the 25th of each month: hopematrix@fastmail.com

Racial Equity Institute Training

Sponsored by Organizing Against Racism (OAR)
We **strongly recommend** these 2-day trainings as a

SIMPLER LIVING:

EARTH SKILLS SUNDAYS

Edible & Medicinal Plants with Gumby Montgomery

Sponsored by Governance & Training Circle

Sunday, October 18, 11:00am-1:00pm, on the land
RSVP to Maria is a MUST as space is limited due to COVID restrictions: mariasilviapini@gmail.com

Join us **every third Sunday of the month**, as we learn Earth Skills following the guidance of local **Wilderness First Responder Gumby Montgomery**. A successful ecovillage requires that we learn to live more simply and understand that this land is part of ourselves. In this way we'll honor the native peoples whom our ancestors took this land from and have a chance at living in justice and harmony. This month, we'll walk in the woods to explore which plant peoples live there and what gifts they offer for our sustenance. We'll emphasize ways to harvest honorably and communicate with these plants. **Cash contributions and a barter gift for our guide are requested** for an equal exchange of energy, although no one will be turned away for lack of funds.

PLANNING, DESIGN, & DEVELOPMENT CIRCLE

Sunday, October 18, 4:30-6:00pm via Zoom

RSVP Anthony: weston@elon.edu

Observers are welcome, with RSVP

GOVERNANCE & TRAINING CIRCLE

Tuesday, October 20, 4:00pm – 6:00pm via Zoom

RSVP Hope: hopematrix@fastmail.com

Please RSVP for a link. If this time is difficult for you, please contact Maria: 919-444-1193

A FRESH TAKE ON CGEV!

Membership & Marketing Circle

Saturday, October 24, 4:00-5:30pm via Zoom

Contact Lisa for a link: lberley@yahoo.com

Want an up-to-date overview of where CGEV is now, what's next, and how you can get involved and contribute? This session is for YOU!

way to begin a shared conversation about racism and social/environmental justice at Common Ground Ecovillage. Check OARalliance.org for details.

ForestHer NC Wildlife Webinar: Invasive Plants and Their Impacts on Wildlife & Landscaping for Wildlife

Thursday, October 8, 1-2:30pm

Free of charge; [registration](#) required

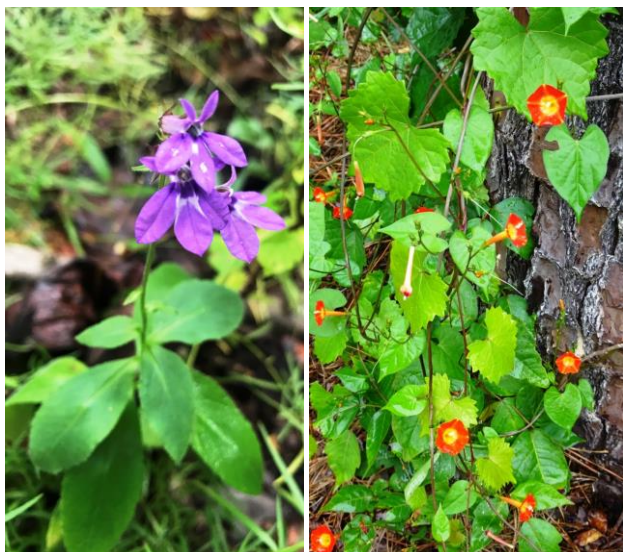
Join ForestHER NC landowners, natural resource professionals, and others for a series of interactive webinars about managing for wildlife! In this webinar we will discuss common invasive plants of North Carolina, how they adversely impact wildlife, and some of the challenges with invasive plant control. We will also introduce you to landscaping with native plants and highlight some favorite trees, shrubs, perennials, vines and grasses that benefit pollinators, birds, mammals, and other wildlife. **Register here:** https://ncsu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_PIYYGDE8TGK4dvYnMVfPXA

Save the Dates for future ForestHer workshops:

November 12, 1 to 2:30 p.m. Managing Woods for Wildlife; Managing Fields for Wildlife

December 10, 1 to 2:30 p.m. Human-Wildlife Interactions Identifying Wildlife: Tracks, Markings, Scat

Compassionate Connection (aka Non-Violent Communication or NVC): Wednesday, October 28, 7 - 8:30 pm. The "Chapel Hill" NVC training/practice group, now on Zoom until further notice, meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month and is led by Marilyn Grubbs and Lila Rosa. Contact Marilyn Grubbs (marilyngrubbs@gmail.com) for more information.



Southern lobelia; comingling scarlet creeper & grape vines
(Photo by Margret)

PLANNING, DESIGN, & DEVELOPMENT CIRCLE

Wednesday, October 28, 6:30-8:00pm, via Zoom

RSVP Anthony: weston@elon.edu

Observers are always welcome, with RSVP

GENERAL CIRCLE

Thursday, October 29, 7:00-9:15pm, via Zoom

RSVP Bailey: baileygirly@gmail.com

We welcome observers, with RSVP

COOPERATIVE SKILLS (Friday) & GOVERNANCE TRAINING (Saturday)

Governance & Training Circle

Friday, October 30, 6:30-9:00pm via Zoom

Saturday, October 31, 9:30-noon via Zoom

RSVP Hope by OCTOBER 15th so that she can send you a handbook: hopenatrix@fastmail.com

*This training is **mandatory for new members** and crucial to understanding how our Circles work and the culture of radical cooperation we are trying to build at Common Ground. New members consistently report feeling overwhelmed when observing, or attempting to participate, in the work of our Circles before taking this training, so we hope to see you there. This is open to other communities as well. We **STRONGLY ENCOURAGE** members to repeat this training!*

LAST SATURDAY

2ND ANNUAL HARVEST FESTIVAL

Saturday, October 31, Late afternoon to early evening

RSVP Marilyn: Marilyngrubbs@gmail.com

or Margaret: bktittle@gmail.com

Pumpkin carving, festive food and drink, and spooky creatures lurking in various places...sound good to you? Then come on over for COVID-compliant fun for all ages (meaning a bit scaled back from last year). Costumes are encouraged (adults, too!). More details TBA. Contact Marilyn and Margaret with questions or to help create this event.

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