



# Finding Common Ground

## June, 2021

### Up Front

**EXCITING \$\$ NEWS!** We have previously shared that we are in active discussions with a national lender that we believe will lead to our long-anticipated housing construction loan. This good news is now accompanied by yet further **\*\*REALLY STUPENDOUS NEWS!\*\*** One of the challenges we face is the need to complete our pre-development engineering and architecture before we can submit our final loan application to HUD (our loan guarantor). **This has always seemed formidable** because of the anticipated costs (in excess of \$150,000). **ENTER THE "CATALYST"!!!** This past week, we announced that an anonymous CGEV Member has generously agreed to cover the cost of two loan-related expenses (totaling about \$16,000). Even more, this Member issued a **challenge** to us: **For every new investment in our LLC, the Catalyst agreed, QUITE REMARKABLY, to match that investment 4-to-1!** To illustrate, if you become a new LLC investor at the minimum \$5,000 level, the Catalyst will invest an additional \$20,000! Your \$5,000 immediately becomes \$25,000 through the generous match!! These dollars will go to a restricted fund that will underwrite our pre-development obligations. **Our goal for this breathtaking matching initiative is to raise 🌱\$200,000🌱. YET MORE GOOD NEWS...** Within days, several members stepped forward to accept the challenge and have pledged to become new LLC investors. This places us confidently on the path to meeting our \$200K goal. **Will you please consider joining these generous new investors?** Contact Paul Voss: [voss@hawkweed.net](mailto:voss@hawkweed.net)



*The wood gnome is watching!*

### COMMON GROUND CALENDAR



*Large Twayblade, one of our native orchids! Banner: Hope & Michelle gaze into the dazzling wetland (photos by Jess)*

### GET INVOLVED!

Contact any of the Circle leaders listed below—they'll be happy to talk with you! **Note: all events are open to everyone unless otherwise indicated. Most (but not all!) Circle meetings are happening via Zoom. You must RSVP!**

**GOOGLE CALENDAR LINK**, courtesy of Ren  
<https://tinyurl.com/CGEV-Calendar>

### COMMUNITY EVENTS SNAPSHOT

*Full details revealed in the Calendar*

**Happy Hangout Weds.**, June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, 7-8pm  
**Racial Awareness Reading and Reflection Group**,  
Mondays, June 7, 14, 21, 28, 6:30-7:30pm  
**Heart Sharing Circle**, June 11, 7-9:30pm

**Do you like to go for walks and hikes?** Then how about visiting beautiful places with other CGEV members? As a group we can explore the area, be in touch with nature, and get to know one other. Monthly outings will be posted on our google calendar and appear in the newsletter. Margaret A. will be coordinating this effort, which is sponsored by M&M. Contact her at [bktitle@gmail.com](mailto:bktitle@gmail.com) and let her know where you would like to go, and how long/far you prefer to hike!



*Jess & Michelle witness an Eastern Painted Turtle lay and bury five eggs at the Nest!*

## CIRCLE NEWS

**Membership & Marketing:** The most exciting news for May is that 26 member households have returned Pre-Reservation Surveys indicating their strong commitments to living in the Village—it's a great start and about half of what we need. The Marketing and Branding workgroup is geared up to make the website even more engaging and with a message that speaks to diverse people seeking community. Plans are afoot to launch a **monthly Open House** both on the Land and virtually beginning in July. Thanks to small work groups working busily, special tasks like **updating Member bios** for the website are moving forward. Expect to be contacted soon to sign up for a fun (and painless) experience. M&M is operating on all cylinders to support members in their advancement processes.

**Margret & Jeffry advanced to Engaged level** in May and several more are in the pipeline. Finally, our Circle swelled with two new wonderful members in May. Yay! We are grateful for their energy and talents and welcome others to join in this very important work.



*Margret & Jeffry of Seeing Stars Farm receive lavish appreciation from members for all they have meant to CGEV so far.*

**P&D EcoVillage News**, June 12, 4-5:30pm-ish

**Fresh Take Info Session**, June 19, 4-5:30pm

**Simpler Living: Earth Skills Sunday—Bird Language**,

June 20, 9:30—11:30am, on the land

**How to Become a “Localist!” with Paul Voss**,

June 20, 3-4:30pm at the Nest, next to the land

**Summer Solstice Gathering**, June 20, 5pm convene;

6pm potluck on the land

**Last Saturday—The Membership Buzz**, June 26,

3-5pm

**SAVE THE DATE:** Saturday, July 3, Celebration Open House and Work Frolic on the Land!

## HAPPY HANGOUT WEDNESDAYS

Membership & Marketing Circle

Wednesdays, June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 7-8pm via Zoom

**RSVP to Ren** for information and a recurring Zoom link: [renenberg.cge@gmail.com](mailto:renenberg.cge@gmail.com)

*Come meet for an hour of unstructured social time. (No agendas! Yay!) Watch for an email that includes our recurring zoom link—weekly reminders will no longer be sent. No RSVP required. All members are welcome, and long-time members are encouraged to attend so new members can get to know you, too!*

## PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT CIRCLE

- Wednesday, June 2, 6:30-8:30pm via Zoom
- Sunday, June 13, 6:30-8:30pm via Zoom
- Wednesday, June 23, 6:30-8:30pm via Zoom

**RSVP to Anthony:** [weston@elon.edu](mailto:weston@elon.edu)

*Observers are very welcome, with RSVP*

## MEMBERSHIP & MARKETING CIRCLE

- Thursday, June 3, 7-9pm via Zoom
- Thursday, June 10, 7-9pm via Zoom

**RSVP to Lisa:** [Welcome@commonground.eco](mailto:Welcome@commonground.eco)

*Contact Lisa if you would like to observe a meeting.*

*We are very actively seeking new members!*

## MARKETING & BRANDING GROUP

Membership & Marketing Circle

Mondays, June 7, 14, 21, 28, 2-4pm via Zoom

**RSVP to Lisa:** [Welcome@commonground.eco](mailto:Welcome@commonground.eco)

*This group is for you if you'd like to help get the word out about CGEV. We're seeking new members for the website team and social media channels, among*

**Governance & Training:** Dave, Theresa, and Hope offered a terrific last Saturday session on how to facilitate—and participate in—meetings to get the most out of our time together. [Click here for a link to the recording](#) so you can listen and review this training. ([https://drive.google.com/file/d/1J\\_yNE55PZOL3tMAA\\_OKdK5gUwMUjGmeA/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1J_yNE55PZOL3tMAA_OKdK5gUwMUjGmeA/view)) We're thrilled to announce that G&T has established an **Information Technology SubCircle**, led by Quai, to bring order and coherence to our administrative and communications systems. We're seeking a few more folks to help us to achieve more clarity and connection! Contact Quai at [quaifranklin@gmail.com](mailto:quaifranklin@gmail.com). Speaking of connection, at the Simpler Living: Earth Skills Sunday, guided by Dave, we explored what **bird language** reveals about the world around us. It was so captivating that we're doing it again in June! Come learn what the robin knows.



Dave tells stories about what the myriad bird sounds we hear may be telling us (photo by Margret). Join Dave again on June 20.

**Planning & Development:** On the financial side, we are poised to sign the Engagement Letter that will begin the process of our loan application through Centennial Mortgage, essentially putting us on a one-year schedule toward beginning residential construction! You read about the amazing news about pre-development funding above. And many, many other pieces have to be moved into place for the loan to be approved:

- Completion of engineering and architectural planning
- Membership building
- Advancement of significant numbers of new members to Engaged Level and into major financial commitment
- Finalizing co-op by-laws
- Etc., etc.

Everyone has a part to play in this great moment! Other major current P&D initiatives include revisiting the schematic architecture. We're solid on some residential designs and are reviewing others along with

other initiatives. Contact Lisa for more information—this could be just the ticket for YOU!



Blazing Fire Pink on the McGowan Creek Trail (photo by Jess)

## RACIAL AWARENESS READING & REFLECTION GROUP

Membership & Marketing Circle

Mondays, June 7, 14, 21, 28, 6:30-7:30pm via Zoom  
Contact Lisa at [welcome@commonground.eco](mailto:welcome@commonground.eco) to sign up & receive a link. Free of charge, & donations requested once-a-month

## LAND STEWARDSHIP CIRCLE

Tuesday, June 8, 7-8:30pm

**RSVP to Randy:** [doddDOTrandyATgmailDOTcom](mailto:doddDOTrandyATgmailDOTcom)

Observers are welcome. **Note:** we may move meetings to the land. To decide, we need to know if you can attend only via Zoom, or if a meeting on the land works for you. Due to iffy internet on the land, it's an either/or thing. So please RSVP, ASAP!

## HEART SHARING CIRCLE

Marketing & Membership Circle

Monthly on 2<sup>nd</sup> Fridays, June 11, 7-9:30pm via Zoom

**RSVP to Ren:** [renenberg.cge@gmail.com](mailto:renenberg.cge@gmail.com)

Heart Sharing Circles are opportunities to get to know other members on a much deeper level as we practice both compassion and vulnerability. We will offer question prompts to help us get started, and we also share whatever is alive for us in this warm and accepting environment. This is one of the ways we nourish our community's roots. If you thirst for genuine connection, join us whenever you can.



Doug cradles fresh-picked broccoli & napa cabbage (photo by John W.)

the Common House. Come to the **ECOVILLAGE NEWS EVENT** on Saturday, June 12, to engage in this process. Policies and procedures for unit choice are being worked out by a special task group shared between P&D and M&M. With internal and external legal help, we are reviewing draft co-op by-laws. It's going to take a village to make one; step forward as you are able to bring your unique gifts.



*Burgeoning beaver activity to the east prompts Paul, John W., and Anthony forge a new, drier-ground path across the wetland.*

**Land Stewardship:** We had a super Memorial Weekend Work Camp, rain and all—**enjoy fun photos at the end of this newsletter.** As has been true for the past year or so, there continued to be a good deal transpiring around the garden/barn vortex. Gutters were installed and preparations made to move the current cistern that has been behind the pump house over to the barn and put a new FDA/potable water approved one in its place. Work is proceeding to wire more of the barn with electricity, and July is scheduled for the PV array installation. Gonzalo and Randy did an inaugural firing of the **biochar kiln**—stay tuned for more on that! There has been a bit of orchard expansion, with the addition of 9 raspberry plants and two pawpaw trees.



And finally, let's all extend a warm and hearty welcome to Doug's new intern, Lara Struckman, the first intern for the CGEV farm! Lara comes to us from Pennsylvania,

attracted by this great opportunity to live and work in community and learn from master farmers.

## 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](#).*

Margret recommends *Cultures of Habitat: on Nature, Culture, and Story*, By Gary Paul Nabhan. "This book showed up in a box of miscellaneous reading given to

## PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT ECOVILLAGE NEWS

Saturday, June 12, 4-5:30pm-ish, via Zoom  
**RSVP to Anthony:** weston@elon.edu

*As we enter this period of intensified planning and development, our Circle is offering updates—and inviting member feedback—on the second Saturday of every month. In June, we'll focus on **residential architecture** and explore the principles and intentions behind the current designs as well as their intended functionality. We want to hear from members and intended residents about these designs, from very specific questions (where is the stove air vent? why is there a door here and not there?) to larger wishes and hopes for the residences. As we begin to visualize ourselves in these buildings, what comes up? Where might there be small changes that could make big differences?*

## GOVERNANCE & TRAINING CIRCLE

Tuesday, June 15, 5:30-7:30pm via Zoom  
**RSVP to Hope:** hopematrix@fastmail.com

*We are seeking new members and you are welcome to observe!*



*Maria Teresa and Doug harvest new potatoes (photo by John W.)*

## FRESH TAKE: An in-depth info session

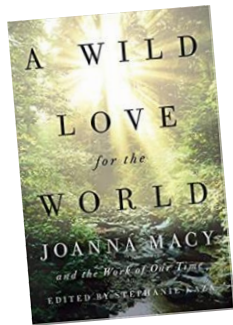
Membership & Marketing Circle

Saturday, June 19, 4:00-5:30pm via Zoom

**RSVP to Lisa:** Welcome@commonground.eco

*This "CGEV 101" session includes an up-to-date overview of where CGEV is now, what's next, and how you can get involved and contribute. You'll hear from other members and have a chance to ask questions. It's a great way learn a lot, fast!*

me by my friend Marsha. Even though it is nearly 20 years old, I find it absolutely relevant today. Nabhan is an ethnobiologist, who in this book concentrates on “cultures of habitat”; human communities with long histories of interacting with one particular kind of terrain and its wildlife.”



From Hope: “Do you know about Joanna Macy? This 92- year-old Buddhist eco-activist coined the term “the Great Turning.” Working Joanna changed my life 11 years ago and led directly to my commitment to actualize CGEV. [Here’s a recording](#) of a talk she gave about one of her THREE

new books coming out in 2021—*A Wild Love for the World: Joanna Macy on Grief, Gratitude, and Belonging*. Just hearing her voice infused me with inspiration & made me weep with love for the earth.”

## 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 25<sup>th</sup> of each month: [hopenatrix@fastmail.com](mailto:hopenatrix@fastmail.com)*

### Racial Equity Institute Training

We **strongly recommend** these 2-day virtual trainings as a way to begin a shared conversation about racism and social justice at Common Ground Ecovillage. Click <https://www.racialequityinstitute.com/new-events>

### Foundation for Intentional Community Resources

FIC offers many short events and continuing courses that are highly relevant to our work at CGEV. Visit this website (<https://www.ic.org/learn/>) to see what’s on offer in the months to come. **Some June offerings:**

- *How Housing Policies of the Past Impact the Diversity of Intentional Communities Today*, June 8, 4-5:30pm EDT
- Intro to Sociocracy—a Dynamic Governance Model for Communities, June 11, 1-2pm EDT
- Authentic Self-Expression as Foundation for Community, June 17, 4-6pm EDT

### Compassionate Connection (aka Non-Violent

**Communication or NVC):** Wednesday, June 23, 7:00 - 8:30 pm via Zoom. This is the “Chapel Hill” NVC training/practice group, held online until further notice. Facilitated by Marilyn Grubbs and Lila Rosa. For more information, email [marilyngrubbs@gmail.com](mailto:marilyngrubbs@gmail.com)



## *Three ways to play on the Summer Solstice*

### SIMPLER LIVING: EARTH SKILLS SUNDAY—Learning Bird Language

Governance & Training Circle

Sunday, June 20, 9:30-11:30am on the land

**RSVP to Dave:** [davew@pobox.com](mailto:davew@pobox.com)

*Bird language is used by birds and other animals to communicate what is going on in the environment around them using sounds and movements. Learn to tune in so you will know what is going on around you.*

### HOW TO BECOME A “LOCALIST”

Sponsored by the Planning & Development Circle  
Sunday, June 20, 3-4:30pm, at the Nest, by the land

**RSVP to Paul:** [voss@hawkweed.net](mailto:voss@hawkweed.net)

*Celebrate “[World Localization Day](#)” and the global movement that aims to restore the community fabric and human-scale, ecological economies with a focus on local food systems. Paul Voss will provide an opportunity for a lively, in-person conversation about what it means to be a “localist.” By bringing to life our agrarian ecovillage, we are already involved in this fast-growing movement. Come talk about the ways that “local is our future!” After this session, head over to the land for the yummy Summer Solstice Gathering.*

### SUMMER SOLSTICE GATHERING

Sponsored by the Membership & Marketing Circle  
Sunday, June 20, 5pm to sunset, on the land

**RSVP to Margaret A:** [bktittle@gmail.com](mailto:bktittle@gmail.com)

*The Summer Solstice is longest day of the year and the first official day of Summer! Meet on the Land to hang out and enjoy a casual potluck, fun activities, and to watch the sky for the latest sunset of the year. Mosey on over to the land around at 5 p.m. after the “**Become a Localist**” event. Potluck around 6pm.*

## MORE MOMENTS from the MEMORIAL WEEKEND WORK CAMP

*Brought to you by the mighty Land Stewardship Circle*

*Photos by John Witchger, Margaret Anderson, Amy Halberstadt, &  
Hope Horton*



*Paul and Anthony bridge a soggy gap on the new wetland crossing*



*A rainy-day project—insulating a barn wall with slip straw  
Theresa & Amy N. sift the clay; Margaret A. is slip-strawing away*



*Beloved children grace the day; Bob prepares to start insulating a  
wall with slip straw*

## GENERAL CIRCLE

Thursday, June 24, 7-9:15pm, via Zoom

**RSVP to Bailey:** baileygirly@gmail.com

*We welcome observers. RSVP two days in advance to  
receive the agenda, Zoom link, and documents*

## LAST SATURDAY

### The Membership Buzz!

Membership & Marketing Circle

Saturday, June 26, 3-5pm via Zoom

**RSVP to Lisa:** Welcome@commonground.eco

*These are exciting times for our community and your  
Membership and Marketing Circle is buzzing with  
activity and very interested in everyone's ideas and  
feedback. We'll give an overview of all the ways this  
Circle supports the community and share what we're  
actively focused on right now. We'll answer any  
questions you might have about how to advance in  
membership, membership benefits, and also enjoy an  
open brainstorm about how we can work together to  
market our community's vision and turn it into reality!  
If you've wondered how to help, even in small ways,  
this is the meeting for you!*



*Quai and Ren rock the fire drum circle*



*Anthony, Randy, and Doug relax into the rhythm*



*Wesley cheers on his grandmother, Amy H., as she bags up snap peas*



*Work is done for the day, and grandfather Anthony enjoys baby time*



*Randy and Paul conspire to create a concrete countertop*



*Lara pitches in to weigh the freshly harvested snap peas for Doug's CSA customers*