



Finding Common Ground

August, 2021

Up Front

The Land Stewardship Circle is thrilled to announce that the **long-awaited solar PV array** is up on the barn roof! Thanks to all who helped out monetarily and otherwise, and to Paul in particular for bearing with the bear of process with numerous and unforeseen trials and tribulations.



CIRCLE NEWS

Membership & Marketing: We opened the month with a fabulous Celebration Open House. Upwards of 40 adults and children were greeted by many CGEV members who offered the latest community information, a variety of tours, music performances, children's games...and watermelon! The planning, publicity, and exceptional weather all contributed to a lovely afternoon with a list of new and interested people. The plan is to hold Open Houses on a regular basis with the occasional extra-special event like the one held on July 3rd. **Growing our membership is central to building our Village.** Connecting with people who are looking for community is multifaceted. In July, the Marketing and Branding Work Group of M&M focused on creating the CGEV branding messaging with input from many sources. Improvements to the

COMMON GROUND CALENDER



An exquisite sight snapped by Shari Hartline at the Earth Skills Sunday Banner above: Doug's painted mountain corn (photo by Jeffrey)

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

Racial Awareness Reading and Reflection Group,
Mondays, August 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, 6:30-7:30pm
Open House, August 7, 10-12am
Work Day on the Land, August 8, 9am-1pm
Fresh Take Info Session, August 21, 4-5:30pm
Simpler Living: Earth Skills Sunday Club, August 15,
9:30-11:30am

website was another focus including updating the section called “Who We Are”. **Kathleen, Jane and Lara launched the Bio Project** to encourage members to update or create new bios by interviewing one another. Results so far have been very positive: partners are getting to know each other which is building community and they are having fun doing it! And remember, growing our membership needs all of us to pitch in, not just M&M Circle members.



Celebration Open House—yummy food and conversation

Governance & Training has established an Information Technology SubCircle to help CGEV get on top of all administrative and systems, from member-to-member communications to data storage and accessibility to website support. The Simpler Living: Earth Skills Sundays is morphing to a “Club” format, involving all members who want to engage and share more deeply with the land.

Land Stewardship: Imagination and collaboration were the names of the game in coming up with about a dozen new trail signs. For a sampling, there’s “Persimmon Pond”, “Fern Forest”, and “Stone Circle”. **Thanks to Michelle for shepherding the naming process** and also offering to make the signs. Hopefully this will inspire us to spend more time on the trails. A special welcome to Michelle and Gonzalo who have joined the LSC! The Circle is thinking about how to do what we do in even better ways. As of press time, it’s premature to say too much more, but perhaps this will entice some non-Circle members to take a look at our agendas and minutes, or maybe come to a meeting or reach out to one of the Circle members. In the meantime, [check out this blog post](#) for a conversation about collaborative farming between Doug, our “old timer” farmer, and Lara, the “new intern.” **There will be a work day on August 8th**, so check your inbox for details.

Last Saturday event—TBA, August 28, 3-5pm

RACIAL AWARENESS READING & REFLECTION GROUP

Membership & Marketing Circle

Mondays, August 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, 6:30-7:30pm

Contact Lisa at welcome@commonground.eco to sign up & receive a Zoom link. Free of charge, & donations requested once-a-month

MARKETING & BRANDING GROUP

We are pausing our policy meetings in August

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT CIRCLE

- Wednesday, August 11, 6:30-8:30pm via Zoom
- Wednesday, August 25, 6:30-8:30pm via Zoom

RSVP to Anthony: weston@elon.edu

We have scaled back to two meetings for the “dog days” of August.

MEMBERSHIP & MARKETING CIRCLE

- Thursday, August 5, 7-9pm via Zoom
- Wednesday, August 18, 7-9pm via Zoom

RSVP to Lisa: Welcome@commonground.eco

Contact Lisa if you would like to observe a meeting.

We are very actively seeking new members!

GOVERNANCE & TRAINING “TEA”

Friday, August 6, 2:30-5:30 at the Nest

RSVP to Hope: hopematrix@fastmail.com

At this “G&TEA”, we’ll kick back and get to know each other for awhile before kicking around ideas and plans for governance training in the months to come.

Interested in this Circle? Come on over!



Jeffrey & Margret serve up a platter of July’s jewels

OPEN HOUSE

Take a Walk on the Wild Side

Sponsored by the Membership and Marketing Circle
Saturday, August 7, 10-12pm

Planning & Development: At the July “2nd Saturday Ecovillage News” we reviewed the comprehensive Architecture Portfolio (basic designs for all of the residence types) along with the newest Unit Mix (the numbers of each type of residence we propose to build). The next iteration was presented to the General Circle (GC), along with extensive spreadsheets to document the wide range of family and living-arrangement types that the residences are designed to accommodate as well as their overall affordability by HUD standards. We will post this information on the CGEV website as soon as we have the full package finished with a green light from the GC. Next steps include re-engaging with architects and site planner to begin detailed site engineering – coming up soon! We’ll also be revisiting the Common House design and design process. **On the financial side,** things are much brighter. Two new LLC members with investments of \$10,000 each have promoted 4-to-1 matching investments by the Catalyst, so we have an extra \$100,000 in the bank for pre-development costs. Yet we’re just halfway to our \$200,000 goal, so please continue to step up with your contributions! All of this is key to enabling the major pre-development expenditures soon to come for engineering and architecture. As for community financing, our lender is working hard to pave the way to submit our formal application to HUD. It’s taking longer than we like, but we feel we are in good hands.



Cinnabar chanterelle mushrooms; Ghost pipes

MEMBER HAPPENINGS

Is there something you are offering that you would like the community to know about? If so, contact Hope by the 25th of each month: hopematrix@fastmail.com

From Jessica Cudney & Michelle Rozek:

[Forest Temple Gathering - Lughnasadh/Lammas](#)

Sunday, August 1, 3-5pm

The best way to get a true feeling for Common Ground is to come to the Land, gather by the majestic oak tree and take a tour with Amy and Paul. You will visit the farm, barn, wooded trails and the future location of the village homes and common house. You will come away with next steps for being involved with this exciting project. (If you are not vaccinated, kindly wear a mask.)

LAND STEWARDSHIP CIRCLE

Tuesday, August 10, 7pm, via Zoom

RSVP to Randy: doddDOTrandyATgmailDOTcom

Observers are welcome.



Fascinating rhythm at the Celebration Open House

HEART SHARING CIRCLE

Taking August off—see you at September’s Second Friday, the 10th, 7-9:30

2ND SATURDAY ECOVILLAGE NEWS

Planning & Development Circle

Instead of a meeting, we’ll email the latest and most complete information presented to the General Circle in July. Keep an eye on your inbox if you want to stay up to date!

SIMPLER LIVING: EARTH SKILLS

SUNDAY CLUB—let’s get organized!

Governance & Training Circle

Forest Temple brings us together to honor Earth and celebrate the rhythm of the seasons. We are now called to mend our estrangement from the web of life, to remember our belongingness to land, and to allow space in our lives to be re-enchanted by the song of Earth.

Forest Walk Sunday, August 22, 4-5pm

Twice a month, we come together for one hour to cultivate mindful awareness within the context of nature as a personal and community wellness practice. Forest Walks are for those who want to experience the healing power of nature and to strengthen our connection to the "felt presence" of the living Earth.

From Lara Struckman:

New Moon Yoga & Ritual at the Nest, Sunday, August 8, 7-9pm, RSVP to Lara: struckman87@gmail.com

Come mark the beginning of a new lunar cycle with a gentle but enlivening yoga class—for all levels & bodies.

Full Moon Yoga & Ritual at the Nest, Sunday, August 21, 7-9pm, RSVP to Lara: struckman87@gmail.com

The full moon marks the culmination point of the lunar cycle. Come and dive into the practice of yin yoga which emphasizes deep stretching, longer held postures, and meditation—for all levels & bodies.

From Margaret Anderson:

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. Contact Margaret at bktittle@gmail.com with where you would like to go, and how long/far you prefer to hike! Sponsored by the M&M Circle.

From Marilyn Grubbs:

Compassionate Connection (aka Non-Violent Communication or NVC): Wednesday, August 25, 7:00 - 8:30pm 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

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.

Jane Meadows brings attention to a new monthly offering from Bioneers called Community Conversations. In August, the topic is *Cultivating Intentional Communities in our Workplaces*, with Karla McLaren, August 12, 10-12am PST.

Sunday, August 15, 9:30-11:30am on the land

RSVP to Hope: hopematrix@fastmail.com

It's been nearly a year since G&T has been hosting these monthly dives into the wonders of the Common Ground land, offering knowledge and skills to increase your enjoyment and capacity to engage. Now it's YOUR turn. What do you want to explore? What interests can you share with others? Let's come together in August to pool our thoughts and ideas and make a plan for the months to come. Where we go from here is up to all of us! (If you are not vaccinated, kindly wear a mask.)



Ren & Quai face the setting sun (picture by Margaret)

FRESH TAKE: An in-depth info session

Membership & Marketing Circle

Saturday, August 21, 4:00-5:30pm via Zoom

RSVP to Lisa: [Welcome@commonground.eco](mailto>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!

GENERAL CIRCLE

Thursday, August 26, 7-9:15pm, via Zoom

RSVP to Bailey: cgev.generalcircle@gmail.com

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

LAST SATURDAY

Saturday, August 28, 3-5pm

Topic TBA. Got something related to the CGEV mission that you would like to educate the community about? Contact Hope: hopematrix@fastmail.com

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

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 July offerings:**

- [Intro to Circle Work: Bridging the Gap Between Conflict and Community](#), August 10, 10-1:30pm
- [Working Constructively with Conflict in Community](#) with Laird Schaub, 5-week course starts August 26
- [Building Diverse and Inclusive Communities](#) with Crystal Farmer, 5-week course starts August 27



Rose pink profusion in the far field



*Mother-Son duo, Ruth & Jared, serenade at the pavillion
(photo by Margaret)*



Yellow swallowtail imbibing zinnia nectar (photo by Shari Hartline)