



Finding Common Ground

April, 2022

NEWSLETTER

Want to know all about what's happening on the Village development and financing front? **WATCH THIS VIDEO** (courtesy of Caleb) and hear Anthony talk you through the site plan! Then, come to the Last Saturday event sponsored by Planning & Development Circle on April 30 from 3-5pm. Details are in the calendar.

Cooperative Skills and Governance Training is coming on Saturday, April 9, from 9-12am. This is a powerful way to learn what it means to live in a cooperative community and make decisions collectively. Contact Becky for details: blaskody@gmail.com *Training in these vital skills is required for member advancement.*

Update on Housing Reservations: There are now 35 living units spoken for by 47 adults and 12 children. If you're planning (or even thinking about) someday calling CGEV your home, **now is the time** to get your housing reservation (and reimbursable deposit of \$500) sent in ASAP! Contact Paul with questions: voss@hawkweed.net. [Click here](#) for the Reservation Agreement and [click here](#) for the FAQ.



Volunteers from Community Church of Chapel Hill pitch in to help inoculate logs with shitake mushroom spores

COMMON GROUND CALENDAR



Beaver taking a sunset swim in the wetland pond (Photo by Michelle)
Banner above: Bloodroot blooming—a sure sign of Spring's arrival

GET INVOLVED

- ♦ Contact any of the Circle leaders listed below—they'll be happy to talk with you! **All events are open to everyone** unless otherwise indicated, and **you must RSVP!**
- ♦ Most (but not all) Circle meetings are happening via Zoom. For in-person events, please follow CDC [COVID safety guidelines](#).
- ♦ Accessibility: terrain is unpaved and uneven and restrooms are not wheelchair-accessible.
- ♦ Google Calendar Link: <https://tinyurl.com/CGEV-Calendar>
To add an event, email Ren at ren.enberg2@gmail.com with "Google Calendar Request" in the subject line. Thanks, Ren!

COMMUNITY EVENTS SNAPSHOT

- ♦ **Racial Awareness Reading and Reflection Group**, Every Monday, 6:30 - 7:30 pm
- ♦ **Open House!** April 2, 11-1pm
- ♦ **Cooperative Skills & Governance**, April 9, 9-12am
- ♦ **Heart Sharing Circle**, April 15, 7-9pm
- ♦ **Earth Connection Sunday**, April 17, 1-3pm
- ♦ **Conflict Process Task Group**, April 23, 1-2:30pm

CIRCLE NEWS

Governance & Training: The current Empowered Learning Circle group is learning all about Sociocracy in a fun and interactive way. The next group will start up in April at a time of their own choosing. Contact Becky and tell her you want to be in a group! blaskody@gmail.com

Planning & Development: Katy and Paul continue as lead negotiators for weekly meetings with a small and very supportive task force at Centennial Mortgage Inc., our prospective lender. They all met last week for the first time with representatives from US Department of Housing and Urban Development to obtain our go-ahead for the first stage of *formal loan application*. A follow-on meeting will be scheduled soon to give the HUD folks more time to get themselves better oriented. ♦ **Site planning** is mostly in the very capable hands of our site engineers, Bobby Tucker and Nick Laretta, and is proceeding smoothly. For the latest version of the layout, we have put up a new site layout page under the “Village Design” tab on the website: go [here](#) for more. You’ll see some exciting changes also explained in the text. The new page also includes a link to a [new video](#) made by our own Caleb Buchbinder that features Anthony riffing on the new site plan with a 3D model playing backup! ♦ **Architectural work** is resuming with our Asheville architect, Jonathan Lucas, who is currently working up detailed drawings for the 2BR, 1-story house— needed for the next stage of our loan application. Next up, the Common House!



Early friendships forming! (photo by Margaret)

Membership Circle: March blew in like a lion and left our heads spinning with grateful feelings of accomplishment. An impressive number of members answered the call to become **Buddy volunteers**. They are now paired up with visiting members (8 new ones in

- ♦ **Creating the Container for Conflict Resolution/Relationship Repair**, April 23, 3-4:30pm
- ♦ **Potluck, Saturday**, April 23, 5-7pm
- ♦ **Last Saturday—Village Update**, April 30, 3-5pm
- ♦ **Take a Hike!** May 1, time & place TBA



March Open House fun just for children (photo by Lisa)

OPEN HOUSE!

Membership Circle

Saturday, April 2, 11am-1pm

RSVP to: welcome@commonground.eco

We welcome people of all ages and especially families to this Open House. There will be children’s activities, tours of the land and farm, opportunities to talk with members, and all the latest information concerning the timeline for building the village, housing options and how to become a member. Come explore and see if Common Ground is the right community for you!

GOVERNANCE & TRAINING CIRCLE

Sunday, April 3, 2-4 via Zoom

RSVP to Becky: blaskody@gmail.com

We’re seeking new members, particularly those interested in administration, training, & facilitation.

GENERAL CIRCLE

- Sunday, April 3, 6-8pm
- Sunday, April 17, 6-8pm

Contact Bailey for dates and to observe:

cgev.generalcircle@gmail.com

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



March alone). We need additional volunteers along with a Buddy Co-manager. ♦ The General Circle consented to revisions to a **streamlined membership** process proposed by the Membership Circle. This process will support members to advance to the Engaged Member level required to live in the village. You will soon be learning the details of these changes.



In the sights of a beautiful barred owl (photo by Jess)

♦ The **Conflict Resolution Task Group** (Theresa, Amy H. and Jane) presented a Last Saturday program attended by more than 20 people. Using drawing, small group discussions and guided imagery, they shared community survey findings and led us in new ways to examine our experiences with relationship conflict, repair and nourishment. See the calendar for sessions to come to help our community further a culture that values and develops relationship skills. ♦ Other March highlights: the **Open House had a special focus on families** (children's activities organized by Margaret, Krystal and Amy L.); a **potluck/fire circle** was sponsored by the HeartWeavers sub-circle (organized by Margaret) with plans to become a monthly tradition if there's interest—the next one is on April 23!



Margaret & Lisa's first strawberry, grown on the land. Red maple blossom just emerging

Land Stewardship: Our mighty farmers continue to supply abundant, nourishing food despite patchy freezing conditions. There are plans to improve the washing station area to increase capacity. Doug's year-round Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program is **actively seeking new members** for this program, custom-tailored to your own needs. [Click here](#) to

RACIAL AWARENESS READING & REFLECTION GROUP

Membership Circle

Every Monday, 6:30-7:30pm, via Zoom

This Group is reading My Grandmother's Hands, by Resmaa Menakem. To join, contact [Lisa](#)

MEMBERSHIP CIRCLE

- Tuesday, April 5, 3-5pm via Zoom
- Tuesday, April 19, 3-5pm via Zoom

RSVP to Lisa: welcome@commonground.eco

We warmly welcome visitors and new members!

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT CIRCLE

- Wednesday, April 6, 6:30-8:30pm
- Wednesday, April 27, 6:30-8:30pm
- Additional meeting TBA

RSVP to Anthony: weston@elon.edu

All meetings are via Zoom. We are seeking new members and observers are very welcome.



March's "Take a Hike" group—all are welcome to come along!

MARKETING & PROMOTION CIRCLE

- Every Wednesday, 6:30-8:30pm, Zoom
- 3rd Wednesday: website design work meeting

RSVP to Ren: renenberg.cge@gmail.com

Please RSVP for Zoom link and to find out if we'll be having a policy or a work meeting (specific projects). All are welcome to observe policy meetings and participate in work meetings. Seeking creatives and those with interest in outreach, visibility and marketing to share this essential and urgent work.

COOPERATIVE SKILLS & GOVERNANCE TRAINING

Governance & Training Circle

Saturday, April 9, 9-12am

RSVP to Becky: blaskody@gmail.com

Creating a culture of cooperating doesn't just happen;

inquire. ♦ We hosted a very successful afternoon workday on Saturday, March 5, following a lively morning Open House. Several projects promoted CGEV's agrarian goal of aligning ourselves within natural cycles as much as possible. ♦ Michelle and Nell revived **Cob Haven's "green roof"**, adding soil and seeds that will result in more beauty, cooling, and CO2 absorption. Just add rain and sunlight!



♦ Jane Meadows ably led a crew to **inoculate logs with Shitake mushroom spores** which are expected to mature come fall. Thank you, Jane! ♦ Invasive species control continued by hauling dead Ailanthus trees to the **Biochar area**. (Biochar is a slow burning process which converts dead wood into a soil enhancer which we then use as soil amendment.) ♦ Another group marked and lightly cleared a route for an eventual path from the farm to the pond. This path will form the southern edge of the village and include a swale for rainwater retention. ♦ **A hearty thank-you and shout-out to some new people and groups joining in the efforts and fun that day:** folks from the Community Church of Chapel Hill as well as people new to CGEV wanting to get better acquainted. A lot of good conversations going on!



Turtles soak up the sun on their favorite perch (photo by Jess)

MEMBER HAPPENINGS

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

it has to be learned and practiced. Come and learn what it means to live in a cooperative community and make decisions collectively with Sociocracy. This vital skills training is required for member advancement

LAND STEWARDSHIP CIRCLE

Tuesday, April 12, 7pm via Zoom

RSVP to Randy: dodd.randy@gmail.com

Be sure to RSVP as meeting details may change! Interested in joining? Contact Randy.

HEARTWEAVERS SUBCIRCLE

Sunday, March 13, 3-4:30pm

RSVP to Theresa: tjensen1952@gmail.com, 541-778-8273. *Via Zoom and in-person at the Nest in Mebane.*



HEART SHARING CIRCLE

Membership Circle

Friday, April 15, 7-9pm via Zoom

RSVP to Ren: renenberg.cge@gmail.com

The facilitator is Doug Jones. This is an opportunity 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. If you thirst for genuine connection, join us when you can.

EARTH CONNECTION SUNDAY— Especially for Children

HeartWeavers Circle

Sunday, April 17, 1-3pm on the land

RSVP to Margaret: bktitle@gmail.com

This is an opportunity for young ones to explore the natural world and experience the wonder of Spring! We'll have several organized activities for children,

From Jessica Cudney & Michelle Rozek

Lunar Wisdom Circles

April 1: [New Moon Ritual](#), 7- 8:30pm

April 16: [Full Moon Ritual](#), 7 - 8:30pm

Gather in community every New and Full Moon to develop a committed eco-spiritual practice that strengthens your relationship to nature's cycles. Click on the links above to register.

Spring Ecosomatic Retreat, April 30, 1-5pm

Our Spring Retreat will be a 4-hour ecstatic experience sensing the orgasmic expression of earth's Spring body through a practice we call *Earth Bonding*. This practice is a creative response to the challenges we face as individuals and as a collective. Through an embodied exploration of self in relationship to life, we will make contact with the energy of Spring and lean into our relationship to aliveness through the sensual delights of earth's unfolding. Location: Common Ground EcoVillage



From Melanie Yukov

Melanie is offering a Flower Essence Retreat at Maple Spring Gardens in Cedar Grove on Saturday April 30th (which happens to be the new moon!). This is a perfect time to set intentions while making an essence that helps you reach your goals. Flower essences work on the emotional imbalances we all deal with as perfectly imperfect humans. Ever heard of Rescue Remedy? Edward Bach made the magic of flower essences known with his essences. We will have the opportunity to craft our own with flowers at the gardens, and she will have Bach's along with other essences available for us to use. More details can be found at www.root2risewellness.org/book-online

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

families, and adults of all ages. (Be sure to RSVP—this event is weather dependent.)



Margaret loves to hold babies! The first Christmas fern fronds unfurl

CONFLICT PROCESS TASK GROUP

HeartWeavers Circle

Saturday, April 23, 1:00-2:30pm via Zoom

RSVP to Theresa: tjensen1952@gmail.com, with "RSVP" in the subject line

CGEV is re-evaluating our current conflict navigation 5-Step Process. This session will focus on challenges people brought up in the survey/interviews about this process. We'll make suggestions about how to address those challenges.

CREATING THE CONTAINER for Conflict Resolution/Relationship Repair

Saturday, April 23, 3:00-4:30pm via Zoom

RSVP to Theresa: tjensen1952@gmail.com, with "RSVP" in the subject line

Our focus will be on the following basic guiding principles, which are key to setting up a stable and safe container for doing conflict resolution or relationship repair work. Some of the questions we'll be exploring together:

- *Can a process be voluntary while still having an expectation that people will engage with each other?*
- *Is anyone truly neutral? What does it mean to be neutral or impartial as a Helper? What does an impartial process look like?*
- *What does it mean to meet participants' needs for safety?*

Crystal Cavalier for Congress Events

<http://www.voteformcrystalcavalier.com/>

Crystal Cavalier is a member of the Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation. As a part of our community commitment to JUSTICE you are encouraged to explore Crystal's Campaign who, if elected, would represent OUR COUNTY as part of District 4. This is a powerful opportunity for our community to enact our responsibility of being in right relationship with the land and original stewards of this area. [Click here](#) to learn more about Crystal's powerful vision, qualifications, and upcoming events.

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 here](#) for information and to register.

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/events/>) to see the array of intriguing options for the months to come. **April free webinars include:** Laird Schaub on *7 Membership Questions All Cooperative Groups Need to Address*; the *Unleash the Power of our Differences* series; and more.



Native spicebush in bloom (photo by Michelle)

Workshops with "Planty" Kim Calhoun

Kim is a fabulous local resource for learning about local plants, wild food and plant medicine. She offers massage and yoga, too! Contact Kim at <https://abundancehealingarts.com/>



Little ones pitch in on a blustery day at the farm (photo by Lara)

- *What are the different aspects of confidentiality: for the helpers, for the participants, for the community?*

All sessions will be recorded and available to all.



Hope guides the "Meet the Trees" event; Aspen tracks coyote activity. (photos by Nell)

JUST A POTLUCK

HeartWeavers Circle

Saturday, April 23, 5-7pm, on the land

Everyone's invited! This is a simple way to hang out and enjoy getting to know each other. Some potlucks may have a special themes. We want to make the potluck a monthly event if there is enough interest.

LAST SATURDAY—VILLAGE UPDATE

Planning & Development Circle

Saturday, April 30, 3-5pm

RSVP to Anthony: weston@elon.edu

TAKE A HIKE!

Membership Circle

Sunday, May 1, time and place TBA

RSVP to Margaret is essential: bktittle@gmail.com

Check the [google calendar](#) or email Margaret for details.



Walking in fields of Kale (photo by Doug)

