



# Finding Common Ground May, 2022

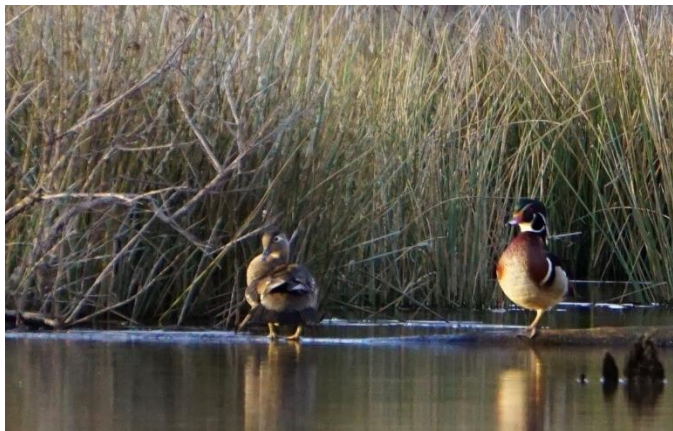
## UP FRONT

**Welcome to the CGEV Monthly Almanac!** No, we won't be providing astronomical information and weather predictions, but you will find monthly community news and events in every issue. And, no more confusing this issue with the Google Calendar! Whatever we call it, we hope you'll resonate with all our community news and events. Hope to see you on land and on screen soon!

**Training in Sociocracy** continues with new Empowered Learning Circle classes starting every month—the **next one starts May 5th!** This training is required for all members so that we all understand the structure, values, and processes that govern our work together in community. Contact [Becky](#) for details.

Speaking of working together, we have TWO very special events in May addressing critical issues for community success. **Facilitated conversations about power** (for members only) are happening May 21 & 22. The Last Saturday on May 28 focuses on **confidentiality** and is open to all.

And check out the **NEW Eco-Futures Reading Group** which will meet once-a-month. *The next reading is [Climate Change is a Crisis We Can Only Solve Together](#). Contact Nell for details: [hnkriesberg@gmail.com](mailto:hnkriesberg@gmail.com).*



*Famously elusive, this gorgeous wood duck pair was caught on camera in the wetland by Michelle. She's seen a waddling of baby chicks, too!*

## CALENDAR



*The joy of picking and gobbling fresh strawberries! (Photo by Amy L.)  
Banner above: Wild azaleas!*

## 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: At this stage in our development, terrain is unpaved & uneven & restrooms are not wheelchair-accessible.*
- ♦ **Google Calendar Link:** <https://tinyurl.com/CGEV-Calendar>  
*To add an event, email Ren at [ren.enberg2@gmail.com](mailto:ren.enberg2@gmail.com) with "Google Calendar Request" in the subject line. Thanks, Ren!*

## COMMUNITY EVENTS SNAPSHOT

- ♦ **Take a Hike!** May 1, time & place TBA
- ♦ **Forest Temple,** May 1, 3-5pm
- ♦ **Racial Awareness Reading and Reflection Group,** Every Monday, 7-8pm (*Note time change!*)
- ♦ **Sociocracy training—Session 1,** May 5, 7-9pm
- ♦ **Open House!** May 7, 10am-noon
- ♦ **Heart Sharing Circle,** on pause in May
- ♦ **Fresh Take Info. Session,** May 14, 2-3:30pm

## CIRCLE NEWS



*Spring beauty, one of the earliest flowers of the season*

**Marketing & Promotion:** Announcing...**brand new advertising** coming soon both online: [ic.org](http://ic.org) (Foundation for Intentional Communities), and in print: *Communities Magazine!* A task group has benefitted from consultations with two marketing specialists, Gary Phillips (a real estate marketing expert who specializes in non-traditional properties) and Sami Grover (a messaging and branding expert), and we are very close to having the solid branding/messaging from which all marketing flows. This will open the door to multiple avenues of promotion. ♦ We are also close to having an active **Instagram account**, so check us out there soon. Our Foundation for Intentional Communities ([ic.org](http://ic.org)) profile is almost fully updated and we continue to work on our overall marketing plan. ♦ Meanwhile, Ezekiel Bhasker has joined the **Website Subcircle** as a project manager for the redesign and to assist the community with other tech-related concerns. Expect to see gradual facelifts and an updated website flow over the month of May. ♦ It's going to be a busy month! Consequently, **we're asking committed members to join in to get vital projects done.** There are three forming Subcircles



*Serious strawberry picking! (photo by Amy L.)*

that we're eager to get up and running: **M&P-Outreach** (identifying ways to reach out and develop relationships with other intentional communities, local organizations, etc.); **M&P-Content Creation** (creating artwork, photography, copy writing for ads, social media, and articles and other print materials and merch); and **M&P-Visibility & Promotion** (taking what M&P-Content Creation did and distribute it through social media and other promotional channels and platforms.) Any of this up your alley? Yes! Contact Ren Enberg at [ren.enberg2@gmail.com](mailto:ren.enberg2@gmail.com)

- ♦ **Second Saturday Potluck**, May 14, 5:30-7pm
- ♦ **Earth Connection Sunday**, May 15—see listing for info
- ♦ **Members Only—Let's Talk about Power**, May 21, 3-5pm; May 22, 12-2:30pm
- ♦ **NEW Eco-Futures Reading Group**, May 22, 4-5:30pm
- ♦ **Last Saturday—Confidentiality**, May 28, 2-4pm
- ♦ **Take a Hike!** May 29, time & place TBA



*It's all good! (Photo by Amy H.)*

## GENERAL CIRCLE

- Sunday, May 1, 6-8pm
- Sunday, May 15, 6-8pm

**Contact Bailey for dates and to observe:**

[cgev.generalcircle@gmail.com](mailto:cgev.generalcircle@gmail.com)

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

## **\*Time Change\* RACIAL AWARENESS READING & REFLECTION GROUP**

Membership Circle

Every Monday, 7-8pm, via Zoom

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

## MEMBERSHIP CIRCLE

- Tuesday, May 3, 3-5pm via Zoom
- Tuesday, May 17, 3-5pm via Zoom

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

*We warmly welcome visitors and new members!*

## **\*Time Change\* PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT CIRCLE**

- Wednesday, May 4, 2-4pm via Zoom

**Planning & Development:** Housing reservations keep flowing in—contact Paul with questions: [voss@hawkweed.net](mailto:voss@hawkweed.net) and [Click here](#) for the Reservation Form. ♦The loan application process is underway and we have (more than!) done our part, thanks to endless and patient work by Katy and Paul. But we’ve not yet been able to conclude the pre-application meeting process due to complications within HUD. Once these are resolved, we can start gathering architectural and financial/legal information and drafting policies for the first stage of the actual application. The entire process is behind schedule due to these hold-ups, but we are hoping that we can proceed faster through later stages due to more exhaustive preparation upfront. ♦ In other F&L news, Theresa is making a valiant effort to consolidate the ByLaws we’ll need for establishing the co-op—building on Paul’s earlier valiant efforts. A small group also including Katy and Anthony is tending to this process. Look for another Last Saturday session on Bylaws soon. ♦ Jonathan Lucas, our architect, is preparing structural drawings so that we can talk seriously with HUD and potential contractors about straw-bale construction. Bobby Tucker and Nick Lauretta are deep into site planning. Site layout drawings have been shared with Land Stewardship, allowing us to stake out and mow village paths and house and Common House locations more accurately (come and see). Plans are consolidating!



Native climbing prairie roses; sweet gum blossom—what a surprise!

**Membership:** A big THANK YOU to the many members who have stepped up to serve as Buddies to the new Visiting Members. At last count there are 18 Buddies! This has truly become a community wide project. ♦ In the last several months, the Membership Circle took on the challenge of **improving the membership process**—simplifying, making it more transparent, and at the same time maintaining the quality of discernment. General Circle consented to a new policy; now for the implementation (no small task!). We’ll update you soon on revisions that affect your membership level and your role as a Buddy for new

- Wednesday, May 18, 2-4pm Via Zoom  
RSVP to Anthony: [weston@elon.edu](mailto:weston@elon.edu)  
*Observers are very welcome, with RSVP*



Carrots from Margaret’s and Lisa’s garden are a popular item!

## MARKETING & PROMOTION CIRCLE

Every Wednesday 6:30-8:30pm, via Zoom

RSVP to Ren: [renenberg.cge@gmail.com](mailto: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. We need new members—especially creatives, people with graphic design skills, and those with interest in outreach, visibility and marketing—to share in this essential*

## SOCIOCRACY TRAINING—Session One

Governance & Training Circle

Thursday, May 5, 7-9pm via Zoom

Contact Becky for details: [blaskody@gmail.com](mailto:blaskody@gmail.com)

*Training in these vital skills is required for member advancement. Plus, it’s a fun and interactive way to learn. Session One starts May 5. **Groups can then choose a time that works best for them for Sessions Two-Four.***

## WEBSITE Subcircle

Marketing & Promotion Circle

Fridays, May 6, 20, 27, 6:30-8pm

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

*Our current focus is website redesign. This is a work meeting rather than a policy meeting, so observers and new members may contribute to the process.*

## OPEN HOUSE!

Membership Circle

Saturday, May 7, 10am-noon

RSVP to Theresa with subject, “Open House”:

[tjensen1952@gmail.com](mailto:tjensen1952@gmail.com), 541-778-8273

members. ♦ A huge shout-out to our Circle for the **growing number of activities** that give members a chance to meet, hang out, and form new friendships. Check out the calendar for monthly hikes, open houses, and the new potluck suppers, all held on the land. The Heart Sharing Circle (on pause for May) happens online.

♦ **The Conflict Resolution Assessment Project**, led by Theresa, sponsored two community work sessions based on a survey and interviews that happened in January and February. First, we took a look at the **Five-step Process** used by the community [here](#). Next, we focused on **“Creating the Container” for Conflict Resolution and Relationship Repair**, learning some basic principles of Self Determination of the participants, and Impartiality of both the third-party Helper and of the process itself. **This is mighty work, and SO CRUCIAL** for the **success of communities**. Contact Theresa for the recordings and resource materials for the two sessions. [tjensen1952@gmail.com](mailto:tjensen1952@gmail.com)



*The littlest farmers (photo by Amy H.)*

**Land Stewardship:** The farm is bursting with Spring crops. Jeffry and Margret (Seeing Stars Farm) and Doug Jones (year-round CSA\*) are providing local, healthy food throughout the Triangle area. ♦ The Orange County Beekeepers’ Association has a First Year Cluster for new beekeepers and Lara Struckman, of our Pollinator Crew, has attended the first session, getting hands on experience with working with hives. We continue to expand our pollinator garden project, and the fruit trees planted last year are sending out masses of green leaves. ♦ In lieu of a Memorial weekend event, **keep a lookout for POP-UP opportunities for teams to pitch in on projects** such as trail-sign installation, limited tree and underbrush clearing, bio-char production and more. Watch for emails with details later this month. ♦ LSC is in the process of figuring out how to best use our growing circle’s talents and expertise. Stay tuned!

*Come on over and tour the land and farm. Hear the latest information on housing, our time line, and learn how to become a member. This is a great way to meet other members and get a feel for what we are all about. Bring your family and friends, too!*



*Redbud’s tenderhearted leaves*

## **HEARTWEAVERS Subcircle**

Membership Circle

Sunday, May 8, 3-4:30pm, via Zoom and in-person at the Nest in Mebane

**RSVP to Theresa with subject, “HeartWeavers”:**  
[tjensen1952@gmail.com](mailto:tjensen1952@gmail.com), 541-778-8273

*Envision invisible threads connecting each one of us to every other and the Earth, creating an intricate weaving of interconnection. We are the Weavers, tending to this web of life, or ‘interbeing’, with great care, ensuring its health and vibrancy. We cultivate and tend to relationships with each other and the earth, which are the Heart of our community. Join us!*

## **LAND STEWARDSHIP CIRCLE**

Tuesday May 10, 7-8:15pm via Zoom

RSVP to Randy: [dodd.randy@gmail.com](mailto:dodd.randy@gmail.com)

*Be sure to RSVP as meeting details may change!*

## **FRESH TAKE: An in-depth info session**

Membership Circle

Saturday, May 14, 2-3:30pm via Zoom

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

*Perfect for people exploring CGEV, this session includes an up-to-date overview of where we are now, what’s next, and how you can get involved and contribute. You’ll hear from other members and ask your questions. It’s a great way learn a lot, fast!*

## **SECOND SATURDAY POTLUCK**

HeartWeavers Circle

Saturday, May 14, 5:30-7pm, on the land

RSVP to Margaret: [bktitle@gmail.com](mailto:bktitle@gmail.com)

*\*Doug's Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program is custom-tailored to your own needs and is actively seeking new customers. [Click here](#) to inquire.*

## 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 25<sup>th</sup> of each month:*

*[hopematrix@fastmail.com](mailto:hopematrix@fastmail.com)*

**From Jessica Cudney & Michelle Rozek**

### **MAY 30: Lunar Wisdom Circle – New Moon Ritual**

The New Moon is a time for introspection, heightened intuition, surrendering to the unknown, opening to magik & conjuring visions. Together (on Zoom) we will align our energy to the potency of new beginnings as a way to set the stage for a new month ahead!

REGISTER: <https://www.wayofbelonging.com/event-details/may-new-moon-ritual>



*The Pink Full Moon of April (photo by Jess)*

## LOCAL EVENTS TO EXPAND OUR SOCIAL & CULTURAL HORIZONS

*Is something happening that you want our members to know about? Supply title, date, time, location, links, and description by the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month to Hope:*

*[hopematrix@fastmail.com](mailto:hopematrix@fastmail.com)*

### **Fundamentals of Anti-Oppression in Community**

**A new 5-Week Online Course** with Crystal Byrd Farmer Thursdays 5-7 pm, Starts May 12<sup>th</sup>! Identify best practices for anti-oppression work and support others in fostering inclusive communities that are welcoming of people across identities of race, LGBTQ, gender, and disability. It's ideal for those who are interested in taking a leadership role in our community around diversity, justice and equity issues and help to us create a team that is working on these issues. FIC offers great

*Everyone's invited! This is a simple way to hang out and enjoy getting to know each other. This will be very child-friendly and we'll have a camp fire!*



*Hickory leaves burst out of their confining buds (Photos-Michelle & Jess)*

## EARTH CONNECTION SUNDAY

HeartWeavers Circle

Sunday, May 15, 11am tour of [Bluestem Conservation Cemetery](#) near Hillsborough

RSVP to Margaret: [bktitle@gmail.com](mailto:bktitle@gmail.com)

*For something completely different, come together to learn about green burial in this new cemetery. It's the ultimate earth connection experience and something we hope to offer at CGEV someday.*

## GOVERNANCE & TRAINING CIRCLE

Thursday, May 19, 7:30-9pm via Zoom

RSVP to Becky: [blaskody@gmail.com](mailto:blaskody@gmail.com)

*We'll be scheduling & planning our next Cooperative Skills workshop and Empowered Learning Circles for training in [Sociocracy](#). Welcoming new members interested in administration, training, or facilitation.*

## LET'S TALK ABOUT POWER

### **For members only (Visiting and up)**

- Saturday, May 21, 3-5:30pm via Zoom
- Sunday, May 22, 12-2:30pm via Zoom

RSVP to Amy: [Amy.Halberstadt@ncsu.edu](mailto:Amy.Halberstadt@ncsu.edu)

**NOTE: space is limited** to 20 screens with two people per screen—RSVP for yourself and a friend.

*We are privileged to receive TWO facilitated sessions by students under the direction of Maria Silvia and Laird Schaub. After asking CGEV members, we elected to focus these sessions on issues of power in intentional community. How do we talk about and understand power? To what extent does power derive from privilege as opposed to being earned? What is the good use of power in a community like ours? How*

scholarships! If you sign up, please identify yourself as a member of CGEV so we can be in small groups together.



Theresa welcomed visitors to the Natl. Cohousing Day Open House

### The Personal Work of Racial Justice

Becky's new Arcadia neighbor, Tema Okun, is one of the presenters for this workshop. Tema's article, *White Supremacy Culture*, is a frequent handout at CGEV racial awareness events. This is an excellent way to deepen your work of racial justice. **The application deadline is May 1**, so don't delay if you think you might be interested. Details: [The Personal Work of Racial Justice](#)

### 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.

### 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/>

Consider running for a **2-year board position with Weaver Street Market**, our local food coop. Board members get training in cooperative skills and receive an annual stipend in store credit. Applications will be accepted in June and the election is held in September. [Sign up](#) for the coop newsletter for news of this and other volunteer opportunities.



Wallflowers and poppies for the bees! (photo by Nell)

*do we have a conversation about power if someone feels that it's being misused? If there's time, we'll look at how to decide our housing selection process.*

## NEW ECO-FUTURES READING GROUP

Land Stewardship Circle

Sunday, May 22, 4-5:30pm via Zoom

*The conversation focus is paradigm shifting in our relationships with other species, the environment as a whole and thus, each other. We meet the 4th Sunday of the month, from 4-5:30 via Zoom (next meeting May 22) A couple of weeks ahead of time we will post a digital copy of the reading, e.g. an article or book chapter with some discussion prompts to get us going. Our next reading is [Climate Change is a Crisis We Can Only Solve Together](#), If interested please email Nell Kriesberg at [hnkriesberg@gmail.com](mailto:hnkriesberg@gmail.com).*



Baby beech leaves (photo by Nell); The bobbling toucan lays an egg



## LAST SATURDAY—CONFIDENTIALITY INS & OUTS

Membership Circle

Saturday, May 28, 2-4pm

**RSVP to Theresa with "Confidentiality" in the subject line: [tjensen1952@gmail.com](mailto:tjensen1952@gmail.com)**

*We'll be looking at many aspects of confidentiality: why is it important, who offers it, and what are the limitations? We'll talk about what this means for guided conflict resolutions, relationship repair processes, and other community settings and interactions. Come and share your thoughts as together we consider what we would like our agreements to be around confidentiality.*

## TAKE A HIKE!

Membership Circle

Sunday, May 29, time and place TBA

**RSVP to Margaret is essential: [bktittle@gmail.com](mailto:bktittle@gmail.com)**  
Check the [google calendar](#) or email Margaret for details.

