



# Finding Common Ground July, 2022

## UP FRONT



We're trumpeting the news that we've nearly reached our housing reservation goal and are starting a waiting list! If you are planning to someday call CGEV your home, **now is the time** to get your housing reservation (and refundable deposit of \$500) sent in ASAP! Contact [Paul](#) with questions. [Click here](#) for the Reservation Agreement and [click here](#) for the FAQ.

### Come on out for an Open House & Watermelon Social.



Can't you just smell the freshness, taste the sweetness and feel the juices running down your chin? Oh, and enjoy the company of other new members as well? Meet on the land this Saturday,

July 1, from 10-noon and savor the summer.

The **Marketing & Promotion Circle** wants to empower all members to get the word out about our community. Go to the "[Spread the Word](#)" page of our website for all the tools you'll need.

<https://www.commonground.eco/spread-the-word/>

## CIRCLE NEWS

**Membership Circle:** It is by design that the Common Ground membership process takes time to complete, and it is a **fact that members need to be at the Engaged level to join the cooperative and live in the village.** For several months, our Circle has been working to streamline the advancement process both to address

## MEETINGS & EVENTS



Joyfully installing gorgeous NEW trail signs, lovingly carved by Michelle; stained with our own black walnut & painted by Margret (photo by Jess)  
Banner above: A surprise visitor graces the land (photo by Anthony)

## GET INVOLVED

- ♦ **All events are open to everyone** unless otherwise indicated, and **you must RSVP** for details, links, and last-minute changes.
- ♦ **COVID:** For in-person events, we follow [CDC safety guidelines](#). Please bring a mask in case you or others need greater safety.
- ♦ **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/change an event, email Ren at [ren.enberg2@gmail.com](mailto:ren.enberg2@gmail.com) with "Google Calendar Request" in the subject line.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS SNAPSHOT

Scroll down to the "**All About Events**" section below for details.

- ♦ **Open House & Watermelon Social**, July 2, 10am-Noon or so
- ♦ **Racial Awareness Reading and Reflection Group**, Every Monday, 7-8pm (Note time change!)
- ♦ **Heart Sharing Circle**, July 8, 7-9pm
- ♦ **Community Potluck, & Sing-along** July 9, 4-7pm
- ♦ **Fresh Take Info. Session**, July 16, 4-5:30pm





Happy hikers take a finish-line selfie (photo by Doug)

the timeline and to give members all the information they need to move forward—all this while maintaining a solid discernment process for the benefit of all. We are so excited to say that the new membership process has gone “live!” **Here is the essential information:**

- Membership Levels Chart: [Here](#)
- Guide to moving from Visiting to Exploratory Level: [Here](#)
- Guide to moving from Exploratory to Engaged Level: [Here](#)
- All guidelines are posted on our website: [Here](#)
- Recording from our June 25 Membership Process seminar which will walk you through the stages: [Here](#) (the passcode is h6\*EMqnC)

♦ New Members are arriving at a rate of 1-2 per week and Amy H. is assigning them to Buddies. ♦ At a storytelling event on the land called *Tales of Common Ground*, long-time members shared some of the big decisions and whacky things that have happened over the past 10+ years. This was followed by an especially delicious potluck supper, organized by Margaret. ♦ We’re continuing to distill takeaways from the Integrative Facilitation Training on Power. ♦ Talks with members about vaccination in the village continue and are leading the way to a community conversation. ♦ A Circle Task spreadsheet, developed by Kathleen, is helping Circles get more help as members find their niche to volunteer. Click [Here](#) to see if there is something you’d like to offer!



- ♦ **Earth Connection Sunday**, July 17, 10am-noon
- ♦ **Eco-Futures Reading Group**, July 24, 4-5:30pm
- ♦ **Last Saturday—Topic TBA**, July 30, 3-5pm
- ♦ **Forest Temple: Lughnasadh**, July 31, 3-5pm

## CIRCLE MEETINGS DIGEST

*Most meetings are on Zoom. Visitors are very welcome to attend with **RSVP** in advance. Interested in participating? Contact the leaders listed—they’ll be glad to talk with you!*

### General Circle

- Sunday, July 3, 6-8pm, via Zoom
- Sunday, July 17, 6-8pm, via Zoom

**RSVP to Bailey** 2 days in advance for materials: [cgev.generalcircle@gmail.com](mailto:cgev.generalcircle@gmail.com)

### Membership Circle

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

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

### HeartWeavers Subcircle

Sunday, July 17, 3-4:30pm, via Zoom & in-person at the Nest in Mebane. **RSVP to Theresa** with subject “HeartWeavers”: [tjensen1952@gmail.com](mailto:tjensen1952@gmail.com), 541-778-8273  
*We cultivate and tend to relationships with each other and the earth.*



Nate and Hope discover tiny Ghost Pipes under the pine straw during the Earth Connection Sunday forest walk. (Photo by Margret)

### Marketing & Promotion Circle

- Every Wednesday, 6:30-8:30pm, via Zoom
- RSVP to Ren:** [renenberg.cge@gmail.com](mailto:renenberg.cge@gmail.com) to find out if we’ll be having a policy or a work meeting (specific projects). Seeking new members.



**Planning & Development:** Our biggest news for the month is that we are in the midst **searching for and hiring a professional Development Manager.** We will need this expertise as we move ever more intently to nail down the big loan for the project, secure HUD support and meet multitudinous HUD requirements. Can't say more about that right now (other than that we have a very promising candidate!) but hopefully you will see a major community announcement soon.

♦ **Engineering and site planning work** is nearing completion and road permits have been secured.



*Exuberant flowers in the farm pollinator garden (Photo by Margaret)*

♦ On the architecture side, we are nearing closure on the fundamentals of wall design using strawbales, and preparing to resume planning work for the Common House. The updated sample schematic residence design—for HUD submission—is largely done. We'll be updating all of the residence schematic designs after the Common House is done. ♦ Financially, we've been able to carry this planning work so very far due to funds raised from members via the Catalyst Challenge Match. **And please note: more Challenge match funds remain unclaimed!** An investment of \$5000 will be matched 4-to-1 by the Catalyst— generating money we are definitely going to need, as none of the stages ahead will be cheap! Please remember that all LLC Investments will be repaid in full at loan closing... but first, of course, we have to get there! Contact Paul, [voss@hawkweed.net](mailto:voss@hawkweed.net), for more information.

**Land Stewardship:** It's a dynamic time for our Circle. We are attracting a number of new people (which is great!) and one of our driving goals is to make it easier for new folks to find their footing and 'right place' within the large range of our land-based LSC

### **Website Subcircle**

Fridays, except July 8, 6:30-8pm, via Zoom

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

*This is a website redesign working session, open to those who want to contribute—and who want to join!*

### **Land Stewardship Circle**

- Tuesday, July 12, 7pm, via Zoom
- Tuesday, July 26, 7pm, via Zoom

**RSVP to Randy:** [dodd.randy@gmail.com](mailto:dodd.randy@gmail.com); For info. about the Circle, Contact Nell:

[hnkriesberg@gmail.com](mailto:hnkriesberg@gmail.com)

### **Planning & Development Circle**

- Wednesday, July 13, 2-4pm via Zoom
- Wednesday, July 27, 2-4pm via Zoom

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

### **Governance & Training Circle**

- Thursday, July 21, 7:30-9pm, via Zoom

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

## **ALL ABOUT EVENTS**



### **OPEN HOUSE & WATERMELON SOCIAL!**

Membership Circle

Saturday, July 2, 10am-noon or so

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

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



*Family fun on the big swing by the creek*





Lara proudly displays the new re-usable veggie bag designed and created by the farm team for Doug's CSA

tasks. Hence, we're considering creating 3 Subcircles to focus on the farm, the forest, and possibly community services (such as trail maintenance). We're excited about the potential! ♦ Speaking of trails, we now have 18 beautiful, hand-crafted signs to help us to stay oriented. Michelle labored for many months to shape and carve the markers. Margret painted the lettering and coated them with a rich stain that Hope harvested from our own black walnut trees. Jeffrey helped place the signs on the trails. Hooray! ♦ On the farm, flavor-full summer crops like tomatoes, okra, eggplant, squash, cucumbers, and green beans are just burgeoning into production. A patch of black-eyed susans, yarrow, milkweed, and sunflowers have burst into bloom in the midsummer heat and are seething with bees and butterflies! Get on the local produce train by joining Doug's [Community Supported Agriculture](#) plan and visiting the Seeing Stars Farm tent at the Chapel Hill Farmer's Market every Saturday morning and Tuesday afternoon. ♦ The Eco-Futures Reading Group continues to add members. Topics vary as we explore the paradigm shifts possible in our relationship with nature and how this relates to CGEV. See the calendar for details about our July 24 meeting.



Here is a [short video](#) of a Canada Goose Family on the pond, taken by Jess with our trail camera.

**Governance & Training:** As our membership increases and the pace of development accelerates, we're being

## 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](#)*

## HEART SHARING CIRCLE

HeartWeavers Circle

Friday, July 8, 7-9pm via Zoom

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

*Seeking facilitators. 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.*



## COMMUNITY POTLUCK & SING-ALONG

HeartWeavers Subcircle

Saturday, July 9, on the land

- Sing-along and conversation: 4pm
- Potluck: 5:30-7:30pm

No RSVP needed. **Got Questions?** Ask Margaret: [bktitle@gmail.com](mailto:bktitle@gmail.com)

*Everyone's invited—children and friends. Enjoy an evening spending time together. For the singalong, Rise Up lyric books will be provided and you're encouraged to bring your instruments. For the*



called to evolve our Circle structure and re-evaluate leadership roles and governance practices. Jerry Koch Gonzalez of [Sociocracy for All](#) is consulting with us and we aim to make some new recommendations very soon.



Lush Milkweed in the Far Field (photo by Jess)

## MEMBER HAPPENINGS

Is there something you are offering, or something you've heard about, that you want the community to know? If so, contact Hope by the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month: [hopematrix@fastmail.com](mailto:hopematrix@fastmail.com)

**Lunar Wisdom Circle: Full Moon Ritual**, Wednesday, July 13, 7-8:30pm, via Zoom

The bright light of the Full Moon reflects a time of illumination and abundance. This is a powerful time to give thanks and to acknowledge the beauty of life and all you have brought into being. Energy is heightened, thus emotions are amplified. Together, let's honor this moment of culmination!

**Grieving Earth**, Tuesday, July 19, 7-8:30pm, via Zoom  
Grieving Earth is a space where you are invited to metabolize, lament, and ritualize your grief through meaningful dialogue, journaling, music, artistic expression and guided practices.

**Summer Eco-Therapy Immersion: Pleasure**, Saturday, July 23, 1-5pm, in-person  
Eco-Therapy Seasonal Immersions are half-day guided experiences where you will be introduced to the foundations of Eco-Therapy and supported in developing a healing relationship with the natural world.

**Plant Walk with Melanie Yukov**, Sunday, July 24, 10-noon, in-person  
Join herbalist and holistic health practitioner, Melanie Yukov, for an immersive bioregional plant walk experience! [Click here](#) to register.



St. John's Wort on the McGowan Creek Trail

*potluck, bring a dish to share and something for the grill. We'll be setting up and cleaning up together in true community spirit!*

## FRESH TAKE: An in-depth info session

Membership Circle

Saturday, July 16, 4-5:30pm 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!*



*From Earth—finding a fat, green caterpillar...to the skies—Jeffry sets up his telescope to view a meteor storm (photos by Margret)*

## EARTH CONNECTION SUNDAY— Forest Bathing at RambleRill Farm

HeartWeavers Subcircle

Sunday, July 17, 10-noon, 913 Arthur Minnis Rd., Hillsborough. **Open to 10 participants.**

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

*Awaken your senses and relax in the present moment during a slow, mindful walk through the forest and gardens at RambleRill Farm in Hillsborough. Farmer Jane Saires will invite you to partake in sensory experiences that will enhance your self-awareness and deepen your connection with nature. Jane is a registered horticultural therapist who is studying to become a certified forest therapy guide. This forest bathing experience is part of her course practicum.*

## ECO-FUTURES READING GROUP

Land Stewardship Circle

Sunday, July 24, 4-5:30pm via Zoom

**RSVP to Nell:** [hnkriesberg@gmail.com](mailto:hnkriesberg@gmail.com).



**Lunar Wisdom Circle: New Moon Ritual**, Thursday, July 28, 7-8:30pm, via Zoom

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



Cucumbers and eggplant, abundant, ripe, and ready. (Photo by Lara)

## OUTSIDE EVENTS/WEBINARS/READINGS 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](#).

### 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.



Our baby orchard: 3 Fig trees, planted by Margret and Jeffrey. These will probably be the first cultivated tree fruits to bear at Common Ground! Also growing rapidly in this perennial strip: Pears planted by Nell, apples by Randy, and Asian Persimmons by Paul (photo and caption by Doug)

Join in paradigm-shifting conversations about our relationships with other species, the environment as a whole and thus, each other. In July, we're reading [Local is our Future](#), by Helena Norberg-Hodge, and watching a related documentary, [Planet Local: A Quiet Revolution](#). [Click here](#) for details. Those who RSVP will receive discussion prompts to get us going.

## LAST SATURDAY—Topic TBA

Saturday, June 25, 3-5pm

There are plenty of important issues to discuss and up-to-the-minute information to be conveyed, so **save the date** and stay tuned for details!



Deer in the Far Field (Photo by Jess)

## FOREST TEMPLE—Lughnasadh

HeartWeavers Subcircle

Sunday, July 31, 3-5pm, on the land

RSVP to Jess here: [Way of Belonging](#)

Lughnasadh is the third of the four Gaelic fire festivals celebrating harvest season. By this time, the daytime interval is getting noticeably shorter each day, and the night-times are lengthening, informing us of colder days ahead. Yet, it's a time of great festivity and reveling in mid-summer abundance.



Michelle points the way (photo by Jess)

