



Finding Common Ground

August, 2022

UP FRONT



Jeffrey and Margret would like everyone to know that we have decided to make 2022 our last year of market farming. As some of you know, we have been year-round

members of the Chapel Hill Farmer's Market, attending about 75 markets a year for over 14 years, and we are ready to retire from this "second career" at the end of the year. We will continue to farm at home, at a more sane pace, to feed ourselves and no doubt friends and neighbors. The implications for CGEV are that we are relinquishing that center bed on the farm to whomever/whatever entities feel moved to take it on. You will continue to see us on the land in other capacities as our farming year winds down. We would like to express our deepest gratitude for the community space, support, and camaraderie that farming at Common Ground has provided. *(Note to members: we are brewing an opportunity to show our collective gratitude to Jeffrey & Margret soon – stay tuned!)*

Save the date for a Humdinger of an Open House/Fall Festival on October 22nd!



Melanie Yukov's plant walk ends with a plant-based cookie munch!

MEETINGS & EVENTS



Exquisite Egret scanning the wetland pond for lunch (photo by Michelle)
Banner above: It's Elderberry time!

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 with "Google Calendar Request" in the subject line.

COMMUNITY EVENTS SNAPSHOT

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

- ♦ **Racial Awareness Reading and Reflection Group,** Every Monday, 7-8pm (Note time change!)
- ♦ **Heart Share,** August 12, 7-9pm

CIRCLE NEWS



A wetland respite (photo by Shells)

Governance & Training: Two Sociocracy training groups are happening in August! The next [Empowered Learning Circle](#) sequence is being scheduled for Tuesday evenings in September/October. Contact [Hope](#) now if you are interested—space is limited. ♦ G&T is working with all of our Circles to develop more flexible ways to enable all members to contribute to the community in ways that work for them. This involves creating Subcircles and defining task roles that people can enjoy from near and far. It's a dynamic time to be involved in governance—we welcome new members to our Circle!

Marketing & Promotion: Common ground T-Shirts are coming! Watch for announcements about how/when to get yours. ♦ We're renewing our ad in the Fall Issue of *Communities Magazine*. ♦ This month we will be initiating our **first Subcircle gatherings** to meet each other, organize ourselves and talk about goals. We're seeking full members as well as operational members that focus on specific tasks:

- **Outreach:** developing relationships with other organizations and communities, giving presentations about CGEV, doing writing, calling, and brainstorming.
- **Visibility & Promotion:** general marketing planning, defining goals and task offerings.
- **Content Creation:** seeking writers, photographers, artists, videographers, musicians, etc. to work on tasks; also a coordinator to track and communicate results.
- **Website Redesign:** focused on working together on the website.

Check the Circle Meetings Digest section → for meeting dates—open to all member levels. RSVP to [Ren](#) and indicate the sub-circle that interests you.

Planning & Development: We are soooo close to being able to introduce a **new professional Development Manager** to the community! We trust she'll enable a major step-up in coordination and assist in the loan application process with HUD, help us to

- ♦ **Build up the Barn!** August 13, 12-4pm
- ♦ **Community Potluck**, August 13, socialize and tours at 4pm; potluck 5:30-7pm
- ♦ **Fresh Take Info. Session**, August 20, 4-5:30pm
- ♦ **Earth Connection Sunday**, August 21, 9:30-11:30am
- ♦ **Last Saturday—COVID Vaccine Dialogue**, August 27, 2:30-5pm
- ♦ **Eco-Futures Reading Group**, August 28, 4-5:30pm



Basking in the glow of Jane Saires' Forest Bathing event

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!*

Membership Circle

- Tuesday, August 2, 3-5pm via Zoom
 - Tuesday, August 16, 3-5pm via Zoom
- RSVP to Lisa** with subject "Membership Circle": welcome@commonground.eco

HeartWeavers Subcircle

- Sunday, August 14, 3-4:30pm, via Zoom & in-person at the Nest in Mebane.

RSVP to Theresa with subject "HeartWeavers":

tjensen1952@gmail.com, 541-778-8273

We cultivate and tend to relationships with each other and the earth.





After a long hiatus...a potluck at the Nest to welcome two visitors

select a suitable general contractor, and serve as Owner's Representative when we begin construction. She'll also bring an independent and up-to-date perspective on many aspects of the project. This will be a costly but crucial step which will require raising funds, though we'll be able to roll her costs into the big loan when we finally do achieve it. ♦ Speaking of the loan, the process continues to be slow but the loan originating company is very supportive and reassuring and we are making progress! Other financial aspects, such as a detailed Limited Equity proposal, are now taking shape as well. ♦ **Site engineering is nearly complete** except for the Common House which needs to be re-positioned due to the fact that the big oak tree can actually be saved. This is wonderful news overall...and very awkward at this stage...and of course we'll figure it out! ♦ With our architect we are just returning to the **Common House** for some significant redesign from the 2020 schematic plan. watch for more information on that shortly.



Circling round the Grandmother Oak after Melanie's Plant Walk

Membership Circle: We are thrilled to have **2 more marvelous operational members** to help with the work of our circle—Jane Meadows and Jeffrey Friedman! Among other things, Jeffrey is creating gorgeous event fliers, suited for posting on social media and elsewhere. Jane is on the task group addressing conflict resolution

Marketing & Promotion Circle

- Wednesday, August 3, 6:30-8:30pm, via Zoom
RSVP to Ren: renenberg.cge@gmail.com
M&P is offering new ways to be involved in this crucial work. Take a look at these subcircles and contact Ren to see how you can participate!

Outreach Subcircle

- Wednesday, August 17, 6:30-8pm, Zoom
RSVP to Ren: renenberg.cge@gmail.com
Developing mutually beneficial relationships with organizations and communities

Visibility & Promotion Subcircle

- Wednesday, August 24, 6:30-8pm, via Zoom
RSVP to Ren: renenberg.cge@gmail.com
Focus on marketing research, planning, & action



Swamp Milkweed in the wetland (photo by Michelle)

Content Creation Subcircle

- Wednesday, August 31, 6:30-8pm, via Zoom
RSVP to Ren: renenberg.cge@gmail.com
Seeking creatives to provide content; need coordinator for these efforts

Website Subcircle

- Thursdays, August 4-25, 6:30-8pm, via Zoom
RSVP to Ren: renenberg.cge@gmail.com
A website redesign working session

Planning & Development Circle

- Wednesday, August 10, 2-4pm via Zoom
- Wednesday, August 24, 2-4pm via Zoom
RSVP to Anthony: weston@elon.edu

Land Stewardship Circle

- Tuesday, August 17, 7pm, via Zoom
RSVP to Randy: dodd.randy@gmail.com; For info. about the Circle, Contact Nell: hnkriesberg@gmail.com

and on the team for event planning. ♦ In **Membership Advancement News**, 8 new people have joined as Visiting Members and 6 Visiting Members have become Exploratory Members under the new membership process. Many are working on advancing to the Engaged level—a prerequisite for living in the village—and we encourage all who are interested to take this step soon! Please call on us for help if you have questions or feel stuck. ♦ Plans are underway for a **Labor Day weekend Saturday Open House**, complete with holiday games. Also, we're planning a **Humdinger of an Open House/Fall Festival** with live music on October 22. Interested in helping? Contact Lisa: lberley@gmail.com



A newly-emerged Luna Moth grows and spreads its wings in mere miraculous minutes (photo—and experience— by Margret)

Land Stewardship: We're excited to be creating **two new Subcircles focusing on the Farm and Forest**. This will help us to better organize and direct our endeavors in these vital—but very—different areas. And, we are having conversations about task and role sharing for our “parent” Circle, **opening opportunities for people to get involved from near and far**. For example, someone local might regularly snap photos for the Almanac while another person, maybe at a distance, writes this Circle entry. Local members could work on forest thinning while others could look into coordinating the range of forest stewardship tasks from a distance. ♦ On the challenging side, the well water booster pump stopped working about a month ago. It was sent to Arizona for repair, a process masterfully expedited by Jeffry. Luckily, there was enough rain in July to avoid a big crop loss. The pump should be back and running by the time you read this Almanac. ♦ Doug has been in a conversation with a **microbiologist interested in identifying the specific micro-organisms in our soil**. This information would become part of the ongoing project to utilize the ash resulting from biochar burning of forest debris as fertilizer for our farm. ♦ Our “*Ailanthus* Taming” project continues as Randy and Hope continue to weed and treat skads of new Tree of Heaven small shoots emerging everywhere. August is a

Governance & Training Circle

- Thursday, August 18, 7:30-9pm, via Zoom
RSVP to Becky: blaskody@gmail.com

General Circle

- Sunday, August 21, 6-8pm, via Zoom
RSVP to Hope 2 days in advance for materials:
Hopematrix@fastmail.com

ALL ABOUT EVENTS

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 SHARE

HeartWeavers Circle

Friday, August 12, 7-9pm via Zoom

RSVP to Ren: renenberg.cge@gmail.com

Facilitator: Ren. Seeking facilitators for future months. 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.



Doug and Holly prepare dried Skullcap for tincturing

BUILD UP THE BARN!

Saturday, August 13, 12-4pm on the land

RSVP to Anthony: weston@elon.edu

Come and help build shelves to better organize crops, supplies and equipment in the barn. A chance

crucial month in this endeavor. **interested in helping?**
Contact Hope: hopematrix@fastmail.com



Lara tends to the soil under the July sun (photo by Nell)

MEMBER HAPPENINGS

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

Lunar Wisdom Circle: Full Moon Ritual, August 11,
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!

Lunar Wisdom Circle: New Moon Ritual, August 26,
7-8:30pm via Zoom

The New Moon is a time for introspection, heightened intuition, surrendering to the unknown, opening to magick & 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!

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 25th of each month to Hope.

Ren brings this to our attention: The Foundation for Intentional Community, ic.org, has started a podcast about intentional community. It's called *Inside*

to learn some carpentry and to help out! Trail work is also possible if we have lots of folks.

COMMUNITY POTLUCK & TOURS

HeartWeavers Subcircle

Saturday, August 13, 4pm socializing & tours, 5:30-7pm potluck, on the land. Kid friendly. No RSVP needed. **Got Questions?** Ask Margaret: bktitle@gmail.com

Everyone's invited—children and friends! Hang-out and tours start at 4pm. Bring a dish to share and something for the grill. We'll be setting up and cleaning up together in true community spirit!

Weather dependent: check email before coming out.



We sure can do sumptuous potlucks!

FRESH TAKE: An in-depth info session

Membership Circle

Saturday, August 20, 4-5:30pm via Zoom

RSVP to Lisa: 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!

EARTH CONNECTION SUNDAY—In the Flow: Water Over, Under, & Through the Land, Part 1

HeartWeavers Subcircle

Sunday, August 21, 9:30-11:30am, on the land

RSVP to Theresa with subject "RSVP Water 1":

tjensen1952@gmail.com

Let's appreciate and learn about the precious water sources and cycles of Common Ground. We will learn about the area watersheds, streams and rivers; the

Community and it started in January. The host is Rebecca Mesritz and the link is www.ic.org/podcast/ What I've listened to so far is excellent and has really got me thinking on another level about the realities of building and living in a close community!



Amy's in her happy place—immersed in flowers!

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.

Two Indigenous-led events from 7 Directions of Service:

Rights of Nature, Rights of Water Workshop with

Crystal Cavalier, August 17, 10am - noon ET
This online workshop will focus on securing rights for the Haw River through the NC General Assembly, as we gear up for the Jan 2023 legislative session. We are inviting our legislators and grassroots advocates to attend and become familiar with successful examples, the legislative process in NC and our strategy. **RSVP to participate:** <https://actionnetwork.org/events/rights-of-nature-rights-of-the-river-workshop>

Indigenous History Teach-in (Durham), Sunday, August 21, 7-8:30pm

Our monthly Indigenous History Teach-In Series is in collaboration with local Indigenous scholars and historians, namely the brilliant elder Beverly Scarlett. We are inspired to offer these free, outdoor educational events in popular public spaces across The Triangle to bring to light the true and often untold history of the land we are on, and to center Indigenous perspectives. Bring your lawn chairs! **RSVP to attend:** <https://actionnetwork.org/events/southeast-indigenous-history-teach-in-2/>

pond, wells and irrigation for the farm, and more. What better way to find commonality?

LAST SATURDAY— COVID Safety: Vaccine Choices and Beyond...

Membership Circle

Saturday, July 27, 2:30-5pm

We want to acknowledge that the issue of Covid vaccines has touched us as human beings in different ways. In an effort to break down the polarization that exists in society around this topic, we will come together to speak about, listen and understand how each of us has been impacted and has made choices about vaccines. We will take time to identify what we are needing right now, as we gather in different events and settings, and make requests of each other. We will then project ourselves into the future when we are all living together in the village, and will be asked to anticipate what we will need from each other in a variety of situations and settings. From that place, we will practice making specific requests of each other, and responding to those requests. Note: We will not be attempting to develop any policies related to mandating or not mandating vaccines for Covid or any other health emergency or pandemic. The purpose of this session is to humanize each other and the variety of choices we have all made, by inviting empathy, understanding and the sharing of information.



Ghost pipes in the woods

ECO-FUTURES READING GROUP

Land Stewardship Circle

Sunday, August 28, 4-5:30pm via Zoom

RSVP to Nell: hnkriesberg@gmail.com.

We focus on our relationships with other species, the environment as a whole and thus, each other. In August, we will continue with our July resource: [Local is our Future](#), by Helena Norberg-Hodge there is so much here that relates to CGEV that we will spend two months with this book!

