



# Finding Common Ground

## March, 2021

### Up Front

*And what do I risk to tell you this, which is all I know?  
Love yourself. Then forget it. Then, love the world.  
- From To Begin with, the Sweet Grass, by Mary Oliver*

**Announcing...our NEW YouTube channel!** The premier video is created by Caleb Buchbinder, Doug's amazing farm assistant. It beautifully showcases how we are realizing our dreams to become an agrarian community. Bookmark, Subscribe, & Comment [here!](#) [Talk to Caleb](#) about your video projects.

**Save the Date for the Governance & Cooperative Skills training** on April 16-17 (Friday pm and Saturday am) via Zoom. This workshop is crucial for us to live and work together in harmony— it's also required for all new members. More details next month!

### CIRCLE NEWS

**The Financial & Legal Circle** is in transition. After **eight years of incredible work**, Paul Voss is stepping down as Operational Leader of the Circle. (A deafening round of applause for Paul, please!) This critically important function is shifting to the Planning, Design, and Development Circle (PDD) so that we may better coordinate and carry out all of our development efforts.



*Doug's luscious winter celery (photo by Jackie Quirk)*

### COMMON GROUND CALENDAR



*Witches butter mushroom*

*Banner above: Raindrops on grass blades (photos by Margret)*

### 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>

### **NEW! MARKETING WORK GROUP**

Membership & Marketing Circle  
Mondays, March 1, 7, 15, 21, 29, at 2pm  
**RSVP to Lisa:** [Welcome@commonground.eco](mailto:Welcome@commonground.eco)  
*This group is for you if you'd like to help get the word out about CGEV. We're seeking new members for the website team and social media channels, among other initiatives. Contact Lisa for more information—this could be just the ticket for YOU!*

The **Governance & Training Circle** recommends three great ways to learn about **facilitation and conflict navigation** in communities. There's no doubt about it – the more capacity each of us gains, the stronger we are as a community. **Look under Community Events below.** Contact [Hope](#) with questions.



*Maria displays a comfy mat she made of wild broom sedge during last Sunday's Earth Skills event with Gumby Montgomery*

**Membership & Marketing** cooked up something new in February - a **Heart Sharing Circle** on Valentine's Day. It was designed for members to get to know each other by speaking and listening from their hearts. The experience was so positive for the 12 participants that it was offered again on February 27th. This format will surely continue on as one of our tools to foster a close-knit community.

**Land Stewardship Circle:** Front and center as far as “on the land” activities goes is a **big shout out to the intrepid “land stewards”** who, through the wet and cold, continue to grow vegetables and prepare to expand the garden to grow even more, build a barn and prepare to electrify it (hopefully with a new solar array), stabilize a muddy road, plant trees, host an intern in 2021, maintain and improve the trails, and in the midst of all of this and a pandemic, endeavor to figure out how to connect with and include the broader community as we formulate and unveil our plans and collective dreams. The list of intrepids includes (but is not limited to) Doug, Caleb, Anthony, Jeffry, Margret, Paul, George, Nell, and Randy. **LSC has also “locked in” upcoming workdays for March 20th (equinox), April 25th, Memorial Day weekend (May 30, 31), and July 3rd.** Last but not least, the Circle is preparing for the monthly **Last Saturday event on March 27th.**

## **RACIAL AWARENESS READING & REFLECTION CIRCLE**

Membership & Marketing Circle

Mondays, 6:30-7:30pm, weekly via Zoom

Contact Lisa at [welcome@commonground.eco](mailto:welcome@commonground.eco) to sign up & receive a link. *Free of charge, & donations requested once-a-month*

## **PLANNING, DESIGN, & DEVELOPMENT CIRCLE**

Wednesday, March 3, 6:30-8:00pm, via Zoom

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

*Observers are always welcome, with RSVP*

## **HAPPY HANGOUT WEDNESDAYS**

Membership & Marketing Circle

Wednesdays, March 3, 17, 24, 7:00 – 8:00 pm

**RSVP to Ren** for a recurring Zoom link:

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

*The **Land, Love, and Laughter group** gets together weekly to enjoy smiles, sharing, laughter, and importantly, **NO AGENDAS!** We have so much fun it's hard to stop at an hour! (March 10<sup>th</sup> is a Meet & Greet where we welcome new members—how about YOU come, too?)*

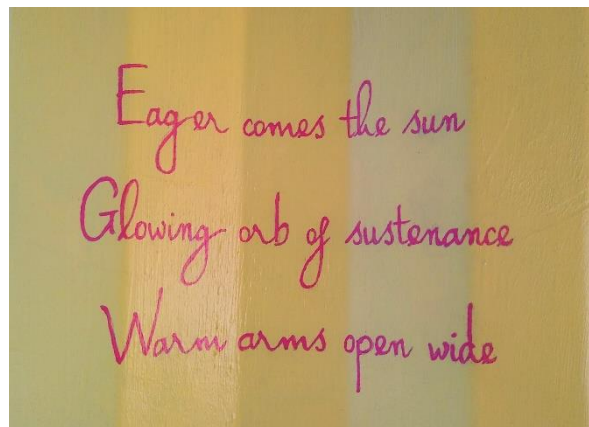
**\*change\***

## **LAND STEWARDSHIP CIRCLE**

Tuesday, March 9, 7pm, likely via Zoom

**RSVP to Randy:** [doddDOTrandyATgmailDOTcom](mailto:doddDOTrandyATgmailDOTcom)

*The LSC has shifted its monthly meeting(s) to the second (for sure) and fourth (if needed) Tuesdays starting in March. Contact Randy to observe.*



*SPRING IS COMING! Sunrise haiku on the east inner barn wall. Poetry and calligraphy by Margret Mueller.*



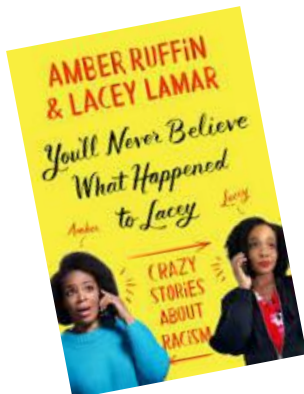
**Planning, Design, & Development** saw a return to setting parameters for a comprehensive site plan and settling on a working unit mix determination (how many of which types of units we will plan to build). Along with the Financial and Legal Circle we held a **very successful community-wide meeting on February 6th** to bring everyone up to date on financial and development planning and current options and to solicit feedback from members. Also alongside F&L, Katy and Paul produced **an excellent Development Plan**, the centerpiece of our outreach to potential lenders, which is already out there doing its job. We'll be returning to **architectural questions** in March as part of our general project of consolidating all the pieces and decisions we'll need to hand the next step of detailed planning work off to architects and site engineer. **Get ready for a very full and productive year for CGEV!**



Raccoon wandering in the wetland

### 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](#).



From Hope: *You'll Never Believe What Happened to Lacey: Crazy Stories about Racism*, by Amber Ruffin & Lacey Lamar. These stories bring home the crushing impact of everyday racism, yet they are told with the absurdity they deserve. I couldn't put it down.

### MEET & GREET

Membership & Marketing Circle  
Wednesday, March 10, 7:00-8:15pm via Zoom  
**RSVP to Lisa:** [Welcome@commonground.eco](mailto:Welcome@commonground.eco)  
*This is highly recommended for new members! We'll all share our stories about desire for community along with maps and pictures of the land. Interested? Let's start getting to know each other.*

### MEMBERSHIP & MARKETING CIRCLE

Thursday, March 11, 7-9:30 pm via Zoom  
**RSVP to Lisa:** [Welcome@commonground.eco](mailto:Welcome@commonground.eco)  
*We'll be adding a 2nd monthly meeting soon, so keep in touch. Contact Lisa if you would like to observe a meeting. We welcome new members!*

### PLANNING, DESIGN, & DEVELOPMENT CIRCLE

Sunday, March 14, 6:30-8:00pm via Zoom  
**RSVP to Anthony:** [weston@elon.edu](mailto:weston@elon.edu)  
*Observers are always welcome, with RSVP*

### GOVERNANCE & TRAINING CIRCLE

Tuesday, March 16, 4:00pm – 6:00pm via Zoom  
**RSVP to Hope:** [hopematrix@fastmail.com](mailto:hopematrix@fastmail.com)  
*You are welcome to observe! If this time is difficult for you, please contact Hope.*

### FINANCIAL & LEGAL CIRCLE

*This Circle is merging for the time being with Planning, Design, and Development. If you are interested in being involved in this exciting work, contact Paul: [voss@hawkweed.net](mailto:voss@hawkweed.net)*

### SPRING EQUINOX WORK DAY

Land Stewardship Circle  
Saturday, March 20, 1-5pm  
**RSVP to Margret:** [earthbound52@gmail.com](mailto:earthbound52@gmail.com)  
*What better way to celebrate the coming of Spring than by being on the land? There are so many fun and useful COVID-compliant ways to engage for people of all inclinations and abilities. More details coming soon. Save the date!*



Gathering broomsedge from the meadow on a chilly morning to make cozy grass mats: Gumby, Jackie, Dave, Maria, Lisa

## 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 25<sup>th</sup> of each month: [hopematrix@fastmail.com](mailto:hopematrix@fastmail.com)

### Racial Equity Institute Training

Sponsored by Organizing Against Racism (OAR)  
We **strongly recommend** these 2-day trainings as a way to begin a shared conversation about racism and social justice at Common Ground Ecovillage. Check [OARalliance.org](http://OARalliance.org) for details.

### Integrated Facilitation Training (IFT)

Laird Schaub, with our members Maria and Joe  
A new cycle of this tried-and-true training begins **March 4-7—enroll immediately if you want to participate.** You can attend this first weekend as a full student (\$400) or an auditor (\$275) and there's no obligation to commit to any additional weekends of training--you can see how you like it. **Please contact Maria** ([mariasilviapini@gmail.com](mailto:mariasilviapini@gmail.com)) NOW for information and to save your (virtual) seat.

### The Art of Facilitation for Cooperative Groups

The Foundation for Intentional Community  
5-week course, begins March 11  
Veteran trainer, Laird Schaub, will help you gain the confidence and skill you'll need to facilitate your group, team, or community towards greater effectiveness and cooperation. [Register here](#)

### Working Constructively with Conflict in Community

The Foundation for Intentional Community  
5-week course, begins April 22

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

Membership & Marketing Circle

Saturday, March 20, 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!*

## SIMPLER LIVING: EARTH SKILLS SUNDAYS



### Spring Fire, with Gumby Montgomery

Governance & Training Circle

Sunday, March 21, 11:00am - 1:00pm

**RSVP to Maria is a must:** [mariasilviapini@gmail.com](mailto:mariasilviapini@gmail.com)

*Join us as we learn about humanity's best friend—FIRE. With Gumby's guidance, we'll do some one-match challenges, focus on building and caring for a fire, and explore fire related skills. Cash contributions and a barter gift for our guide are required, although no one will be turned away due to lack of funds. Due to COVID restrictions of physical distance this event is limited to 15 people. Your RSVP is a must: [mariasilviapini@gmail.com](mailto:mariasilviapini@gmail.com)*

## PLANNING, DESIGN, & DEVELOPMENT CIRCLE

Wednesday, March 24, 6:30-8pm via Zoom

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

*Observers are always welcome, with RSVP*



## GENERAL CIRCLE

Thursday, March 25, 7:00-9:15pm, via Zoom

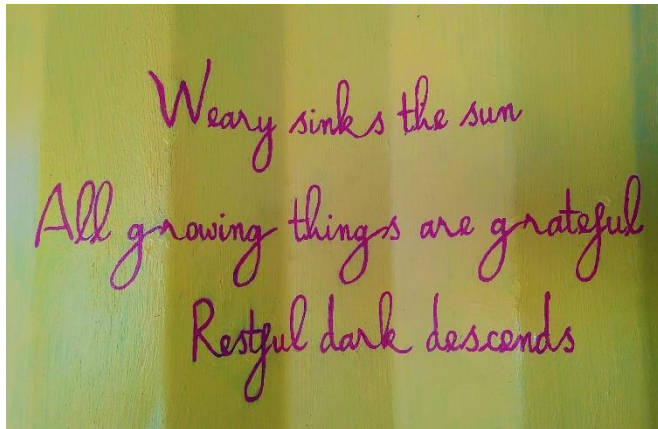
**RSVP to Bailey:** [baileygirly@gmail.com](mailto:baileygirly@gmail.com)

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



Skilled facilitator, Laird Schaub, will help you to learn how to embrace and navigate conflict so your intentional community can thrive when groups often struggle the most. [Register here](#)

**Compassionate Connection (aka Non-Violent Communication or NVC):** Wednesday, March 24, 7:00 - 8:30 pm 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](mailto:marilyngrubbs@gmail.com)



Sunset haiku on the west inner barn wall. Poetry and calligraphy by Margret Mueller.



Grandmother oak on a misty morning

## LAST SATURDAY

### All About Farming

Presented by your intrepid farmers!  
Saturday, March 27, 3-5pm via Zoom  
**RSVP to Margret:** earthbound52@gmail.com  
*This will be an exciting year on the land! Please join us for a two-hour Zoom meeting in which we hope to address all your questions about current and future activities on the GCEV farm; what's growing, what's percolating, how you can participate! A more detailed announcement will be sent closer to the event.*

## LOOKING AHEAD

### Cooperative Skills & Governance Training

Governance & Training Circle

Friday, April 16, 6:36-9:00pm

Saturday, April 17, 9:30-noon

*This training is offered but twice a year, so be sure to mark your calendar. It's mandatory for new members and crucial to understanding how our Circles work and the culture of radical cooperation we are trying to build at Common Ground. We strongly encourage members to repeat this training!*

### Upcoming Festive Work Days

- April 25 (in honor of Earth Day, April 22)
- Memorial Day weekend (May 30, 31)
- July 3 (Independence Day weekend)

### What does it mean to be a 'localist'?

Sunday, June 20, time TBD

*Paul Voss will celebrate "World Localization Day" by leading a discussion on the meaning and implications of the growing localization movement and how Common Ground Ecovillage is situated squarely within that movement. British psychiatrist and Johns Hopkins Fellow in Neuroimaging, Iain McGilchrist, insists, "Localization — a very important antidote to globalization — is **the only hope for the future**" (emphasis added). Wow! Stay tuned for more information, and if tantalized by the topic, put this in your web browser (and be happy!): "youtube Helena Norberg-Hodge".*

