



Finding Common Ground

May, 2021

Up Front



Do YOU intend to live at Common Ground Ecovillage? If this is in your plans, *you must let us know very soon* so that development can move forward with you in the picture. Fill out the *brief questionnaire* (see last page) and mail it in, or [click here](#)* for a file that you can complete online & email to Paul: voss@hawkweed.net **PLUS**, the

P&D Circle will keep you posted and hear your thoughts in our **NEW**, monthly **Planning & Development Village News** meeting. The first one happens on Saturday, May 8, 4-5:30pm. **Need to get up to speed?** [Click here](#) for a recording of the April 24th Last Saturday P&D meeting!
*<http://www.commonground.eco/cgev-pre-reservation-survey/>

Everything you've always wanted to know about CGEV! Over the last several months your Circle members have been busy collecting questions and writing answers in response to members' information requests. So, without further ado, we're pleased to offer you the first version of our new **Frequently Asked Questions** (+ The Kitchen Sink)!* This link will remain **live** and always up-to-date, so please keep track of it. **If we've missed a question that is important to you**, contact both [Margret](#) and [Ren](#).
*<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ytrj42OoA795dzhGd4yTf12eSVYpKjHhZQQL-mnwuXA/edit?usp=sharing>

Sociocracy basics from a master teacher: Diana Leafe Christian is offering a [10-week intro class](#) on Monday nights starting May 10 (8-10pm EST)!!! Details below.



Wild Azalea at the Nest (*Rhododendron Canescens*)

COMMON GROUND CALENDAR



Beaver sculpture—the newest dam on McGowan Creek
Banner: Strawberry time at Seeing Stars Farm! (photo by Margret)
Left: Bluebird on its favorite fence post (photo 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>

COMMUNITY EVENTS

We're trying something **NEW** this month by briefly listing all community events up front. **ALL Circle meetings and event details/RSVP info, follow.**

- Racial Awareness Reading and Reflection Group**, Mondays, May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, 6:30-7:30pm
- Happy Hangout Wednesdays**, May 5, 19, 26, 7-8pm
- NEW! Planning & Development Village News**, May 8, 4-5:30pm-ish
- Heart Sharing Circle**, May 14, 7-9:30pm
- Meet & Greet**, May 12, 7-8:15pm
- Fresh Take Info Session**, May 15, 4-5:30pm

CIRCLE NEWS

Membership & Marketing: The **Racial Awareness Book Group** has expanded in membership and we continue to dive deeper into our awareness of racism in our society and in ourselves. The **Heart Sharing Circle** (see calendar) is now a monthly event—a powerful and gentle way for people to get to know each other before living on the land. Finally, mighty thanks to Ren and Margret who masterfully orchestrated and produced the new [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#) (+ The Kitchen Sink) document you read about above. Soooooo much impressive and important info in one place!



Sunday's work day culminated with a celebration ceremony for our new Associate Members—Ren & Quai—followed by a playful potluck & lively fire circle sing-along

Land Stewardship: On April 25, at least a dozen folks pitched in on various projects. Paul was inspired to spruce up the driveway entrance area. A good deal of downed wood from this neighborhood and farm was gathered together to provide the fuel for an anticipated inaugural biochar kiln firing. The kiln will be showing up any day, and afternoon/evenings of [pyrolysis](#) and hanging out around a fire will soon follow. Thanks are due to Randy, Jane, Kathleen, and Gonzalo. Jeffry was spotted mowing grass all afternoon, and Hope led another group into the woods

Simpler Living: Earth Skills Sunday, May 16, 9:30-11:30am, on the land **(time change!)**

Last Fourth Saturday, May 22, 3-5pm

Memorial Weekend Work Camp, May 29-30, on the land

RACIAL AWARENESS READING & REFLECTION GROUP

Membership & Marketing Circle

Mondays, May 3, 10, 17, 24, 6:30-7:30pm via Zoom

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

HAPPY HANGOUT WEDNESDAYS

Membership & Marketing Circle

Wednesdays, May 5, 19, 26, 7-8pm via Zoom

RSVP to Ren for information and a recurring Zoom link: renenberg.cge@gmail.com

Come meet for an hour of unstructured social time. (No agendas! Yay!) Watch for an email that includes our recurring zoom link—weekly reminders will no longer be sent! No RSVP required. All member levels welcome, and long-time members are encouraged to attend so new members can get to know you too! (Please note that on May 12 there is no Hangout-come to the Meet-and-Greet instead!)

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT CIRCLE

- Wednesday, May 5, 6:30-8:30pm via Zoom
- Sunday, May 16, 6:30-8:30pm via Zoom
- Wednesday, May 26, 6:30-8:30pm via Zoom

RSVP to Anthony: weston@elon.edu

Observers are very welcome, with RSVP

MEMBERSHIP & MARKETING CIRCLE

- Thursday, May 6, 7-9pm via Zoom
- Thursday, May 13, 7-9pm via Zoom

RSVP to Lisa: Welcome@commonground.eco Contact Lisa if you would like to observe a meeting. *We are very actively seeking new members!*

NEW PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT VILLAGE NEWS

Saturday, May 8, 4-5:30pm-ish, via Zoom

RSVP to Anthony: weston@elon.edu

to care for the trails. Doug brainstormed and started raising a new section of fence with a few other intrepid CG-ers. Margret was seen hither and yon and received kudos for turning out and coordinating the masses. This all transitioned into a pot luck (many accolades for the yummy food were shared), membership advancement ceremony, singing, and generally convivial gathering as the beautiful spring afternoon transitioned into evening. On the “business” side, Doug finalized, with input from others, the process for **finding and hosting an intern soon**, and defining what the internship entails. There’s already an interested potential intern. The Circle also finalized guidance to share with those interested in over-nighting on the land. Laura joined in a meeting to share what she and Ren have been working on behind the scenes to help connect those looking for and offering help. Barn work continued thanks to the usual suspects; the Cool Bot has been relocated to its new home, the apartment is gussied up, and the bluebirds are welcoming guests.



Ruthie & Theresa tend the tender lettuce leaves (photo by Margret)

Planning & Development: Did you notice our new name? Since there is now a need for constant coordination and co-planning between Financial and Legal issues and Planning Design and Development functions, we arrived at the temporary expedient of combining the two circles. Treasurer functions will now reside directly with the General Circle.

Key initiatives: as discussed at our April Last Saturday meeting ([click here](#) for a recording), we continue in close dialogue with our highly supportive contact at Centennial Mortgage Company. Terms of the loan, timing, ancillary requirements and HUD specifications are in ongoing discussion. There will be a number of requirements to meet, the most important by far being having **plenty of members** ready to step forward with

The pace of village development now calls for a regular rhythm of gatherings where the P&D Circle can share the latest news, ask for input from members, and get to know each other better. Let’s give this a try and see how it works for everyone!

MARKETING & BRANDING GROUP

Membership & Marketing Circle

Mondays, May 10, 17, 24, 31, 2-4pm via Zoom

RSVP to Lisa: 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!

LAND STEWARDSHIP CIRCLE

Tuesday, May 11, 7-8:30pm

RSVP to Randy: doddDOTrandyATgmailDOTcom

*Observers are welcome. **Note:** we may move meetings to the land. To decide, we need to know who would like to attend and if Zoom or on land makes a difference, so please do RSVP ASAP especially if you can only participate via Zoom. We don’t have a good internet connection on the land currently, so it’s an either/or thing.*

MEET & GREET

Membership & Marketing Circle

Wednesday, May 12, 7-8:15pm via Zoom

RSVP to Lisa: Welcome@commonground.eco

This is highly recommended for new members and their interested friends! We’ll all share our stories about our desire for community along with maps and pictures of the land. Interested? Let’s start getting to know each other. Feel free to invite any interested friends from your personal networks!

HEART SHARING CIRCLE

Marketing & Membership Circle

Monthly on 2nd Fridays, May 14, 7-9:30pm via Zoom

RSVP to Ren: renenberg.cge@gmail.com

If you thirst for connection, plan to join us whenever you can for these special nights. Heart Sharing Circles are opportunities 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

pre-reservation agreements, subscriptions, and down payments... all in the space of the coming twelve months. Serious money will need to be raised (and spent) also. If all goes well, all of this will go **fast!** Stages of development and financial commitment outlined in the April meeting (along with handouts, naturally!) are **available on request**—contact Anthony at weston@elon.edu. Be sure to fill out (and return!) our [pre-reservation survey](#) by MAY 15!

Architecture: Meantime we also are working to finalize schematic designs for the (likely) four types of structures, mobilizing architectural and builder-advisors for help, and preparing to finalize Unit Mix as well, all of which in turn will allow us to take the whole package to our site engineer to begin the (longish and expensive) process of site design. All of this needs to be done in parallel with a major membership-building initiative. Much, much, much to do, but we are on the move!

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](#).

Ren has recently connected with a group called **Radical Heart Space**. <https://radical-hearts.mn.co/> This members-only support network is for folks interested or engaged in intentional communities and collectives as a vehicle for personal and collective transformation—socially, politically, ecologically, and/or spiritually. The focus is on the foundation of community—the inter- and intra-personal relationship dynamics—where healing and transformation can be nurtured or stifled. Check out their [web site](#) for info.



Red Maple helicopter seeds brighten the still-sleepy forest

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

alive for us in this warm and accepting environment. This is one of the ways we nourish our community's roots. All members are welcome!



Rue Anemone was prolific this year along the McGowan Creek path

FRESH TAKE: An in-depth info session

Membership & Marketing Circle

Saturday, May 15, 4:00-5:30pm via Zoom

RSVP to Lisa: 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!

time change

SIMPLER LIVING: EARTH SKILLS SUNDAY

Governance & Training Circle

Sunday, May 16, 9:30-11:30am on the land

RSVP to Hope: hopematrix@fastmail.com

Come on by a bit earlier than usual to meet birds before they knock off for lunch. We'll go for a wander and try to identify birds by ear (with some help from each other and possibly with phone apps). You can usually hear the birds a lot easier than getting a good look at them! And, maybe we'll become part of the bird neighborhood by learning a different "bird language"—how they communicate across species so everyone knows what is going on around them. This is different than identifying individual species by their song. RSVP for details.

GOVERNANCE & TRAINING CIRCLE

Tuesday, May 18, 5:30-7:30pm via Zoom

RSVP to Hope: hopematrix@fastmail.com

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 <https://www.racialequityinstitute.com/new-events>



Persimmon leaves peak out over the pond

Facilitating Brave Spaces for Community Resilience with Shala Harmony, May 4, 1:00pm EST, Cost: \$25

This workshop will explore how to create spaces that foster courage to be vulnerable, honest and authentic; how team leaders of organizations and groups can encourage deeper connection and healthy relating strategies for navigating conflict and heightened emotions in community/meeting spaces. [Register here](#)

Sociocracy basics from Diana Leafe Christian

[10-week intro class](#) starting May 10, 8-10pm EST
This will be an EXCELLENT way for you to learn and experience how sociocracy really works within communities! \$245-\$445, sliding scale

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/learn/>) and go to the "online courses" and "connect" tabs to see what's on offer in the months to come. Some May offerings:
May 5, 5-7pm EST: Compassionate Approach to Conflict
May 12, 2-4pm EST: Analyzing and Shifting the Uncomfortable Power Dynamics in Your Community
May 18, 2-4pm EST: Learning from Conflict with Restorative Systems

Compassionate Connection (aka Non-Violent Communication or NVC): Wednesday, May 26, 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

We are seeking new members and you are welcome to observe!

LAST FOURTH SATURDAY*

More effective decision-making and facilitation

Governance & Training Circle

Saturday, May 22, 3-5pm via Zoom

RSVP to Hope: hopematrix@fastmail.com

*This session is a **MUST** for ALL current and aspiring Circle members. You'll learn an **excellent new process** to build consent from conception to decision. And, we'll offer pointers for facilitating Circle meetings that build energy and connectedness.*

GENERAL CIRCLE

Thursday, May 27, 7-9:15pm, via Zoom

RSVP to Bailey: baileygirly@gmail.com

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

MEMORIAL WEEKEND WORK CAMP

Land Stewardship Circle

Saturday and Sunday, May 29-30

RSVP to Randy: doddDOTrandyATgmailDOTcom

It's an annual tradition! Details are TBD, but what we know at this point is, there will be at least one or two campers both Friday and Saturday and others are invited to join in. There will be crews/activities planned all day Saturday, and Sunday through lunch. Saturday night will be the social "prime time." If you know you'd like to camp, or plan or be involved in some work-or-play related happening, please let Randy know to help with the planning. Otherwise, stay tuned!

LOOKING AHEAD

What does it mean to be a 'localist'?

Sunday, June 20, 3-4:30pm, Offered by Paul Voss
Celebrate "World Localization Day." This is a fast-growing international movement of which we, by bringing to life an ecovillage, are already involved. Again, if you're inclined to love homework and are interested in getting a sense of one person's rich and accessible perspective on the topic, take a look at some on-line video presentations (just use your web browser to search "youtube" Helena Norberg-Hodge).

Common Ground Ecovillage

Pre-Reservation Survey

Name(s): _____

Current Membership Level: _____ Date: _____

Number of Household Members: _____ # Adults: ____
Children (12 & under): ____
Teenagers (13 & up): ____

Type of Living Unit Desired: _____

(see <https://www.commonground.eco/living-options/> for options)

Comments/Questions:

Are you considering sharing a home with unrelated individuals? If so, please describe.

Are you open to having a separate living unit attached to your home without sharing of spaces? ____
(i.e., duplex with firewall or suite with soundproofed wall)

Financial Commitments:

Are you prepared to make a refundable reservation deposit of \$500 within the next 90 days? _____

Are you prepared to join the cooperative and make a non-refundable deposit of 10-15% of your share cost within 6 to 9 months? _____

Do you anticipate being able to purchase the balance of your full share in early to mid-2022 ? _____

Do you have sufficient assets to cover the full cost of your share, or do you plan to take out a loan? _____

Will you need to sell a home or other assets to purchase your share? _____

Other:

If you feel unready to commit to joining the housing co-op in the near future, what factors are holding you back?

Would you like to be placed on a waiting list if you are not prepared to join at this time or if all units are spoken for at the time of closing? _____

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM NO LATER THAN MAY 15, 2021.

- ELECTRONICALLY (feel welcome to answer in detail) AND RETURN TO PAUL VOSS at voss@hawkweed.net Questions can also be sent to Paul. <http://www.commonground.eco/cgev-pre-reservation-survey/>
- ON PAPER: fill this in and mail it ASAP to Paul Voss, 1625 Ben Jones Dr., Mebane, NC 27302