



Finding Common Ground

July, 2021

Up Front

CELEBRATION OPEN HOUSE!

Saturday, July 3, 3:30-6:00pm, followed by a potluck
 Start your holiday weekend with a festive event on the land! Bring your children, your friends, enjoy live music, play games, tour the land, see the farm and barn, and more! For directions, [click here](#). For more details, contact Kira: kira@thebiggroove.com.

Meet your Circle leaders!

Our servant leaders are elected once-a-year to guide the development and nurture the well being of our precious community. The General Circle elected **Operational Leaders** in May. [Click here](#) to read about why these people were chosen. **Elected Representatives** were nominated by their Functional Circles in June.

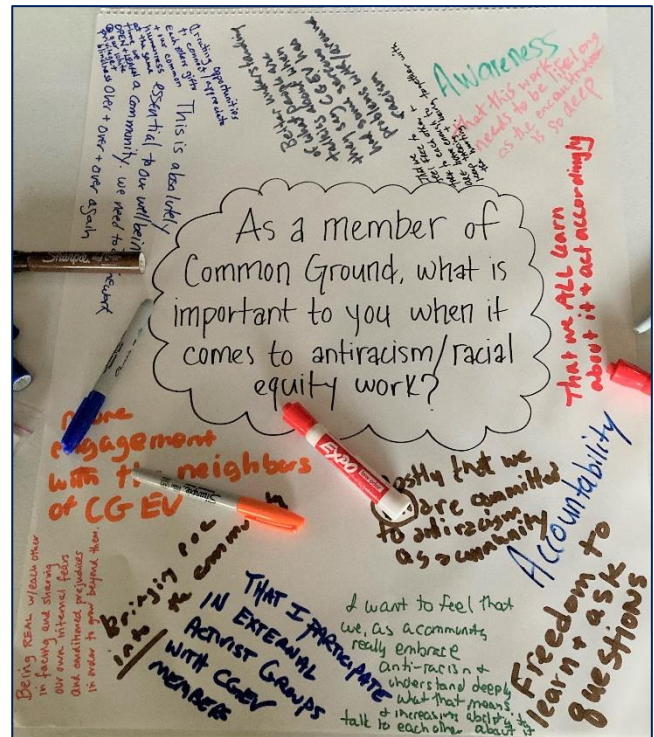
Congratulations and gratitude to these leaders:

Anthony Weston & Katy Ansardi for Planning & Development; Randy Dodd & Nell Kriesberg for Land Stewardship; Lisa Berley & Ren Enberg for Membership & Marketing; Hope Horton & Quai Franklin for Governance & Training.

Kathleen & Hope attended the 5-week **Building Diverse and Inclusive Communities training with Crystal Farmer** in June. Experience what we learned at the July 31 **Last Saturday event**. Crystal's course is being offered again through the Foundation for Intentional Communities starting August 27. [Click here](#) for information.

There is a **NEW** section below called **MEMBER HAPPENINGS** to celebrate our members and their accomplishments and offerings. Here's a preview from Jess & Michelle who have created a blog post with an **astounding video** about Nellie, an Eastern Painted Turtle, who laid her eggs at the Nest last month! <https://www.wayofbelonging.com/post/nature-encounters-eastern-painted-turtle>

COMMON GROUND CALENDER



Thoughts on racial equity from the Juneteenth gathering
 Banner above: raspberries from Seeing Stars Farm! (photo by Margaret)

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 SNAPSHOT

Celebration Open House, Saturday, July 3, 3:30-6pm,
 on the land, followed by potluck
Racial Awareness Reading and Reflection Group,



Snippet from the Juneteenth circle and potluck gathering at the barn

CIRCLE NEWS

Membership & Marketing: In addition to intensive planning for the July 3rd **Celebration Open House**, the Circle offered two enriching events in June. **In honor of Juneteenth**, 20 members met at the barn for a deeply engaging program about race and anti-racism. Lara, Jess, and Amy H. facilitated this experience of self-reflection, helping us to generate ideas for community growth and making commitments for taking next steps. In a wonderfully supportive manner, they challenged us to think, be honest, and actively engage in change. The following day, the M&M Circle hosted a **Last Saturday Event**. Topics included member support, community connections, CGEV culture, membership advancement, marketing, community outreach and growth, along with opportunities to volunteer. If you missed the event, we encourage you to view the recording [here](#). If you are interested in volunteering or have questions, please take a look at this [list of opportunities](#) and contact BOTH [Ren Enberg](#) and [Lisa Berley](#). And finally, the Circle launched the **Bios Project to update the “Who We Are” section of our website**. Jane, Kathleen, and Lara, along with Ren and Lisa designed a delightful, community-building method for members to add new or updated content and pictures about themselves to the website. Their approach pairs willing members to interview each other. [Click here for details](#), including a quick Google survey which lets us know how you prefer to participate. Contact [Kathleen](#) with questions.

Land Stewardship: Thanks to all who contributed to the Barn evolution with general tidying up and organizing the whole space; continuing finish work with an emphasis on a new kitchen upstairs; and figuring out how to create boundaries for the squirrels who have decided to co-inhabit the space! There’s been a good deal of idea bouncing and prototyping for some **new trail signs** to orient the hikers; it sounds like they may start showing up in July. Hope and Randy started

Mondays, July 5, 12, 19, 26, 6:30-7:30pm
Happy Hangout Wednesday, July 7, 14, 21, 28, 7-8pm
Heart Sharing Circle, July 9, 7-9:30pm
2nd Saturday Ecovillage News, July 10, 3-5pm
Fresh Take Info Session, July 17, 4-5:30pm
Simpler Living: Earth Skills Sunday—Bird Language, July 18, 9:30—11:30am, on the land
Last Saturday—Getting Real about Diversity and Inclusion, July 31, 3-5pm
SAVE THE DATE: Sunday, August 8, next work day on the land.

MEMBERSHIP & MARKETING CIRCLE

- Thursday, July 1, 7-9pm via Zoom
- Wednesday, July 21, 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!

CELEBRATION OPEN HOUSE!

Saturday, July 3, 3:30-6:00pm, followed by a potluck
Rain date: August 7 [Click here](#) for directions
For details, contact Kira: kira@thebiggroove.com
Members, friends and guests of Common Ground Ecovillage—help kick off the first of our monthly open houses with live music, land tours, children’s games, farm and barn tours and more! A mix of members and guests will provide one-on-one mingling and sharing of information and hospitality. There will be a community potluck at 6pm. This event has been envisioned and stewarded by Kira, Margaret A., Ruth, Kathleen and Leah and Lisa. Kudos all around!



Companionable carrots (photo by Lara)

Doug’s striking trial corn variety (photo by Margret M.)

back with this year's Ailanthus taming work. Jeffrey and Randy are attempting to get the hot (cool?) tub operational. Michelle and Jess did a major spruce-up of Cob Haven. There was cross-pollination with M&M to plan and prepare for the July 3rd open house. On the horizon for July: **the PV array installation is planned(!)**; the Land Stewards will start to explore some longer term/bigger picture topics; and many other happenings already underway will continue. The next workday will be August 8!



Paul gave a riveting talk in honor of World Localization Day—the first LIVE event at the Nest in 15 months! (photo by Margaret A.)

Planning & Development: On the financial side, we look forward to signing our Engagement Letter that will begin the formal process of loan application through Centennial Mortgage, essentially putting us on a **one-year schedule** toward beginning residential construction. Many other pieces have to be moved into place for the loan to be approved, including completion of engineering and architectural planning, membership building and advancement of significant numbers of new members to Engaged Level and into serious financial commitment, formulation of co-op by-laws, and many other steps, too—everyone has a part to play in this great movement! Financial support to get us over the hump is coming from a Challenge Match sponsored by “The Catalyst”, an anonymous member-supporter who is **matching at a 4-to-1 ratio** all member contributions to the LLC until a \$200,000 goal is achieved. Many members pledges have already been made, but more are needed. **Come to the 2nd Saturday Ecovillage News event on July 10th to learn about and express your views** on current P&D village design initiatives including residential options, unit mix, and other related issues.

Governance & Training: Five members (Lisa, Ren, Theresa, Laura, and Hope) are soon to complete a 10-week sociocracy course with Diana Leafe Christian! Next, we will be revising our training program so that all members can learn about, and participate in, our governance system in ways that work for them. We'll be in touch with you soon to ask for your feedback on how to improve our Circle's service to this community.

MARKETING & BRANDING GROUP

Membership & Marketing Circle

Mondays, July 5, 12, 19, 26, 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!

RACIAL AWARENESS READING & REFLECTION GROUP

Membership & Marketing Circle

Mondays, July 5, 12, 19, 26, 6:30-7:30pm via Zoom

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

HAPPY HANGOUT WEDNESDAYS

Membership & Marketing Circle

Wednesdays, July 7, 14, 21, 28, 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 members are welcome, and long-time members are encouraged to attend so new members can get to know you, too!

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT CIRCLE

- Wednesday, July 7, 6:30-8:30pm via Zoom
- Sunday, July 18, 6:30-8:30 via Zoom
- Wednesday, July 28, 6:30-8:30pm via Zoom

RSVP to Anthony: weston@elon.edu

Observers are very welcome, with RSVP



Native swamp roses grow in profusion in the wetland

NEW! MEMBER HAPPENINGS

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

From Margret Mueller: Some of you may only know me as a farmer and painter of shipping containers, but



in fact I am first and foremost a fine artist. ("Fine" is not a judgment but is a designation that separates my work from, say, that of a graphic artist). **Please help me celebrate being part of a four-person show at the NC Botanical Garden!**

The show runs from June 25 through August 22, with a reception for the artists on Sunday July 25, from 2-4. Here's a sample that you will see in the show.

From Jessica Cudney & Michelle Rozek:

[Belonging In Practice](#) (6 Weeks) Starts Tues., July 13th

Facilitated by Jessica Cudney, Sarah Norris & Lily Heaton *Belonging In Practice* is a co-healing study/practice space for white and white-passing comrades to deepen political education, leadership development, & personal transformation work toward building multiracial movements for collective liberation.

[Community Care Day](#), Saturday, July 10th

Hosted by Jessica Cudney & Michelle Rozek

Community Care Day is for folks who live locally and who want to build relationships of mutual care. We are a volunteer-led community of folks who are eager to show up as good neighbors to meet the needs of our community in an effort to create a more beautiful, just and equitable society. Our first Community Care We'd love it if you joined us!

From Lara Struckman: Move and relate to the cycles of the moon through these outdoor yoga experiences:

New Moon Yoga, July 9, 7-9pm

Full Moon Yin Yoga, July 23, 7-9pm

Designed for all levels and all bodies, whether this is your first yoga class or thousandth you are welcome! Both events are held at the Nest, right next to the land. Contact Lara for details: struckman87@gmail.com

From Margaret Anderson: Do you like to go for walks and hikes? Then how about visiting beautiful places with other CGEV members? As a group we can explore the area, be in touch with nature, and get to know one other. Monthly outings will be posted on our google

GOVERNANCE & TRAINING CIRCLE

Thursday, July 8, 5:30-7:30pm via Zoom

RSVP to Hope: hopematrix@fastmail.com

Note the day change. We are seeking new members and you are welcome to observe!

HEART SHARING CIRCLE

Marketing & Membership Circle

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

RSVP to Ren: renenberg.cge@gmail.com

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 alive for us in this warm and accepting environment. This is one of the ways we nourish our community's roots. If you thirst for genuine connection, join us whenever you can.

2ND SATURDAY ECOVILLAGE NEWS

Planning & Development Circle

July 10, 3-5pm via Zoom

RSVP to Anthony: weston@elon.edu

As we enter this period of intensified planning and development, we'll continue to focus mostly on residential architecture. This month we'll probably look at the projected unit mix and some of the larger layouts (3- and 4-BR houses). Please stay tuned for more information as the date approaches!



So much to learn at Paul's localism presentation (photo by Margaret A.)

LAND STEWARDSHIP CIRCLE

Tuesday, July 13, 7pm, venue TBA—see below

RSVP to Randy: doddDOTrandyATgmailDOTcom

Observers are welcome. Note: we may move meetings to the land. To decide, we need to know if you can attend only via Zoom, or if a meeting on the land works for you. Due to iffy internet on the land, it's an either/or thing. So please RSVP, ASAP!

calendar and appear in the newsletter. Margaret coordinates this effort, which is sponsored by M&M. Contact her at bktitle@gmail.com with where you would like to go, and how long/far you prefer to hike!
From Marilyn Grubbs: Compassionate Connection (aka Non-Violent Communication or NVC): Wednesday, July 21, 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



A breathtaking view of a barred owl (photo by Tina Rataj-Berard)

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: hopenatrix@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>

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/>) to see what's on offer in the months to come. **Some July offerings:**

- The Art of Facilitation for Cooperative Groups— Course Info Session with Laird Schaub, July 6 @ 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM EDT
- Designing Communities for Inclusivity with Crystal Farmer, July 13 & 15, 1-3pm EDT
- Practicing Wise Democracy, July 21, 4-6pm EDT
- Working Constructively with Conflict in Community with Laird Schaub, 5-week course starts August 26
- Building Diverse and Inclusive Communities with Crystal Farmer, 5-week course starts August 27

FRESH TAKE: An in-depth info session

Membership & Marketing Circle

Saturday, July 17, 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!

SIMPLER LIVING: EARTH SKILLS

SUNDAY—Learning Bird Language

Governance & Training Circle

Sunday, July 18, 9:30-11:30am on the land

RSVP to Dave: davew@pobox.com

This event was rained out in June, so you have another chance to come! Bird language is used by birds and other animals to communicate what is going on in the environment around them using sounds and movements. Learn to tune in so you will know what is going on around you.

GENERAL CIRCLE

Thursday, July 22, 7-9:15pm, via Zoom

RSVP to Bailey: cgev.generalcircle@gmail.com

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

LAST SATURDAY

Getting Real about Diversity and Inclusion

Membership & Marketing Circle

Saturday, July 31, 3-5pm via Zoom

RSVP to Hope: hopenatrix@fastmail.com

Our vision statement speaks of justice. How can we better walk our talk? This session will be based on the work of Crystal Byrd Farmer, author of [The Token: Common Sense Ideas for Increasing Diversity in Your Organization](#), who offered a powerful 5-week seminar on creating diverse and inclusive communities through the Foundation for Intentional Communities (FIC) in June. Those who attended the seminar will share some of what they learned, including interactive experiences and practical guidance about how CGEV can be more welcoming to people from all kinds of backgrounds. (Crystal's FIC course will be repeated starting August 27. [Click here](#) for details.)

