



Finding Common Ground

September, 2021

Up Front

Introducing the **Marketing & Promotion Circle!** **Membership & Marketing has been divided into two separate Functional Circles**, thus doubling the ways that CGEV can reach out to—and support—new members! If you have an interest in marketing, outreach, social media, writing, blogging, photography, graphic art, etc, please talk with [Ren](#) about how you might contribute. If you'd like to focus on nourishing current members, contact [Lisa](#) in the Membership Circle with your leanings.

If you've been wanting to connect and be heard but don't know how, come to the **Exploring "Community Voice"** conversation Sunday, September 19, from 1-3m.

CIRCLE NEWS

Planning & Development: General Circle just consented to a major proposal that specifies our projected **Architectural Portfolio**—what kinds of units and structures we will build—and a **Unit Mix Proposal**—the projected numbers of each we propose to build. Accordingly, **we are about to commission new and consistent drawings of the updated portfolio** to be posted on the website and used in other promotional and presentation materials. ♦We are now delving deep into a detailed proposal for the site engineering from our engineer, Bobby Tucker, with Bodhi Land and Design, as well as exploring architectural options, focusing now on the Common House. ♦On the financial side, a number of members have stepped forward to join the LLC or up their contributions, taking advantage of the Catalyst 4-to-1 Matching Initiative, so that we are close to having raised \$150,000 for pre-development expenses. **We still need about \$50,000 more**, though, so others – please consider making an LLC contribution to continue to generate four times more money via

COMMON GROUND CALENDAR



Feast your eyes on these edible mushrooms: Indigo Milky (banner above) and a bracelet of Ringless Honey mushrooms

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, and you must RSVP!** Most (but not all) Circle meetings are happening via Zoom. For in-person events, we'll keep our distance and **masks are required** for those who are not vaccinated.

Google Calendar Link: <https://tinyurl.com/CGEV-Calendar>

COMMUNITY EVENTS SNAPSHOT

- ♦**Racial Awareness Reading and Reflection Group**, Every Monday: September 6, 13, 20, 27, 6:30-7:30pm
- ♦**Open House**, September 4, 10-12noon, rain date 9/5

Catalyst! ♦Want to be fully up-to-date and have your voice heard in village development? **Come to the Last Saturday event, Sept. 25, from 3-5pm**—details are in the calendar. Or, contact Anthony at weston@elon.edu.



How many butterflies fit on a milkweed head? (photo by Margret)

Land Stewardship: After mighty contributions and efforts from many members over many months (with Paul, Bob, and Anthony doing the heaviest lifting over the spring and summer), the PV array is live and the barn is electrified! Jeffry coordinated a workday that included work by the road entrance, a trail crew, and post-hole digging for the garden fence. ♦On the horizon...there will be activity on the land starting Saturday afternoon 9/4 and ending midday Sunday 9/5. This will include **firing of the biochar kiln**, garden fence and barn-related work, possibly more. Saturday evening there will be a pot luck. Randy will send a message several days before with final details. ♦Some Circle members have started looking into supporting more pollinator plants & pollinators.

Membership & Marketing: A steady flow of newcomers contacted CGEV in the month of August and they are connecting with members in a variety of ways. ♦**Open Houses** are continuing on a monthly basis, providing up-to-date information and land tours. The next one is on Saturday, September 5, from 10am-noon. Stick around for the work day afterwards! ♦The weekly **Racial Awareness Reading and Reflections Group** continues to flourish as a result of steady participation, and a culture that supports honest sharing. The group has grown to 17 participants, both Common Ground members and people outside of the community. A good time for new people to join is approaching as we near the end of our current book and begin a new one. ♦The monthly **Heart Sharing Circle** event will be returning on September 10th after an August break.

♦**Work Days on the Land**, mid-day Saturday the 4th to mid-day Sunday the 5th
♦**Fresh Take Info Session**, September 18, 4-5:30pm
♦**Simpler Living: Earth Skills Sunday—Fall Foraging**, September 19, 10am-noon
♦**Exploring “Community Voice,”** September 19, 2-4pm
♦**Last Saturday with Planning & Development** September 25, 3-5pm

MEMBERSHIP CIRCLE

- Thursday, September 2, 7-9pm via Zoom
- Wednesday, September 15, 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!

OPEN HOUSE

Sponsored by the Membership and Marketing Circle Saturday, September 4, 10-12pm (Rain Date Sept. 5)

RSVP to Lisa: welcome@commonground.eco

The best way to learn about Common Ground Ecovillage is to come visit. We are proud to show you the site of our future village, the barn and farm and the trails through the woods. The information table is the place to review housing options and costs as well as our vision, mission and guiding principles. If you RSVP, we will send directions and notify you if we need to switch to a rain date.

MARKETING & PROMOTION CIRCLE

Mondays, September 6, 13, 20, 27, 2:30pm via Zoom

RSVP to Ren: ren.enberg2@gmail.com

Interested in this Circle? We can make adjustments if this meeting time doesn't work for you.



Golden curtain crust mushroom (Stereum Ostrea)

RACIAL AWARENESS READING & REFLECTION GROUP

Membership Circle

Every Monday: September 6, 13, 20, 27, 6:30-7:30pm

Contact Lisa at welcome@commonground.eco to sign up & receive a Zoom link.



Farmer Doug and Lara come in out of the hot sun! (photo by Jess)

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 [Theresa Jensen](#):

Come celebrate my birthday on Sunday, September 12th, 3-5pm, by joining me at an outdoor performance by the legendary [Paperhand Puppet Intervention](#) at the Forest Theater in Chapel Hill! Their new show is *Unfolding Seeds — Invocations of Transformation*. We can maybe go out to dinner after, too. Get your tickets in advance—this is a likely sell-out event. I'll save a block of seats so we can sit together!! Email or call [Theresa](#), 707-230-6440.

From [Jessica Cudney](#) & [Michelle Rozek](#):

[Forest Walks](#) Sundays, September 12 & 26, 4-5pm, meet at the Grandmother Oak.

Experience the healing power of nature and strengthen your connection to the "felt presence" of the living Earth. Cultivate mindful awareness within the context of nature as a personal and community wellness practice.

[Solidarity Circle](#) 8-week series begins Thursday, Sept. 16, 7-9pm, via Zoom.

Solidarity Circle is designed to support your self-love journey, unpack internalized patriarchy, and amplify your power. For our upcoming session, we will be exploring our relationship to sex and intimacy. This space is for all cis and trans women, as well as non-binary people who are comfortable in a space that centers the experiences of women.

[Forest Temple: Fall Equinox Ceremony](#), Sept. 19, 3-4pm, meet at the Grandmother Oak.

The nature of how we gather is ever-evolving and follows the changing tides of the seasons. Come celebrate this moment of equipoise between light and dark as we stand before the threshold of autumn.

LAND STEWARDSHIP CIRCLE

Tuesday, September 7, 7pm via Zoom

RSVP to Randy: doddDOTrandyATgmailDOTcom

Observers are welcome

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT CIRCLE

- Wednesday, September 8, 6:30-8:30pm
- Sunday, September 19, 6:30-8:30pm
- Wednesday, September 29, 6:30-8:30pm

RSVP to Anthony: weston@elon.edu

All meetings are via Zoom. We are seeking new members and observers are very welcome.

HEART SHARING CIRCLE

Membership Circle

Friday, September 10, 7-9pm via Zoom

(note the change to 2 hours)

RSVP to Ren: ren.enberg2@gmail.com



Love is on the Earth

GOVERNANCE & TRAINING CIRCLE

Thursday, September 9, 5:30-7:30 via Zoom

RSVP to Hope: hopematrix@fastmail.com

Visitors are more than welcome!

FRESH TAKE: An in-depth info session

Marketing & Promotion Circle

Saturday, September 18, 4-5:30pm 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!

From [Lara Struckman](#):

[New Moon Yoga at the Nest](#), Sept. 5, 7-9pm
Come mark the beginning of a new lunar cycle with a gentle but enlivening yoga class—for all levels & bodies.

[Full Moon Yoga at the Nest](#), Sept. 18, 7-9pm
The full moon marks the culmination point of the lunar cycle. Come and dive into the practice of yin yoga which emphasizes deep stretching, longer held postures, and meditation—for all levels & bodies.

From [Margaret Anderson](#):

Do you like to go for walks and hikes? Then how about visiting beautiful places with other CGEV members? We can explore the area, be in touch with nature, and get to know one other. Contact [Margaret](#) with where you would like to go, and how long/far you prefer to hike! Sponsored by the M&M Circle.

From [Marilyn Grubbs](#):

Compassionate Connection (aka Non-Violent Communication or NVC): Wednesday, September 22, 7:00 - 8:30pm 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 [Marilyn](#).



Cattails in the upper marsh; Cardinal flower by McGowan Creek

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>



Forest Temple Lammas harvest celebration (Photo by Jess)

SIMPLER LIVING: EARTH SKILLS SUNDAY—Fall Foraging

Governance & Training Circle

Sunday, September 19, 10am-noon on the land
We'll have a wander and collect fruits, nuts, berries, fungi...whatever we can find. Watch the trees start closing up shop for winter, and catch late-blooming flowers. This event is weather dependent, so please...

RSVP to Hope: hopenatrix@fastmail.com

GENERAL CIRCLE

Thursday, September 23, 7-9:15pm, via Zoom (this time may change to 6 or 6:30pm, so be sure to RSVP)
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—Ecovillage News

Planning & Development Circle

Saturday, September 25, 3-5pm

There are many irons on the fire and topics on the table, all of which will help determine the face and substance of the village to come. Your involvement and input is really important, so mark your calendars! More details on content to come.

EXPLORING “COMMUNITY VOICE”

Supported by the General Circle

Sunday, September 26, 2-4pm on the land

RSVP to Theresa by Friday 9/18:

tjensen1952@gmail.com

A recent conversation among newer members identified a gap in the way the community is currently

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 the array of intriguing options for the months to come.

Grandmother's Teachings: Moving from Trauma to Sacredness

with Jerry Tello, Bioneers Community Conversation, September 9, 10-noon PST
How do we repair generational wounds that haven't yet been healed? What tools exist to mend rifts between cultures, genders, families and in ourselves? [Click here](#) to learn more and to register.

Stagville Historic Site Tour: Understanding the Lives & Work of Enslaved People

[September 21](#) or [October 19](#), 11am-1pm, 5828 Old Oxford Highway, Durham, NC
This historic site includes remnants of one of the largest plantations in NC and is dedicated to teaching about the lives and work of enslaved people who lived here.



Spiraling sweetgum tree; cascade of ringless honey mushrooms



Jack o Lantern mushrooms, bright orange and as big as your head

functioning: there is no place where ALL members, whether on a circle or not, can come together and have their voices heard. Are others aware of this need as well? What do we, as a community, want to do about it? Please come together, whether you've been involved in the community for eight years or eight days, as we hold a space for seeing what wants to emerge on this topic. Zoom is not an option due to no internet on the land. A written summary will be published afterwards and input will be sought from those who cannot be there.



Final resting place for this Luna Moth

Looking ahead...

CGEV BYLAWS Discussion

Planning & Development

Fourth Saturday, October 23, 3-5pm

Among the several documents CGEV must have in place as we transition to a housing cooperative will be a set of bylaws for the community (approved by the community). We have set aside October's 4th Saturday event for a discussion of a DRAFT set of bylaws. Those who have completed a pre-reservation form and others who have not yet completed a pre-reservation form, but intend to reside in the CGEV Village, will be invited. The workshop will include such questions as:

- Why do we need bylaws?
- Where did the draft come from?
- What's the current status of this document?
- The text is deliberately written in "legalize". What seems confusing or in need of change?
- **WARNING: THERE WILL BE HOMEWORK INVOLVED**

Stay tuned for additional information. Or, contact Paul, voss@hawkweed.net, if you can't wait!

