



Finding Common Ground June, 2022

UP FRONT

WHOO-HOO! This [full-page ad](#) is on the first page of *June's Communities Magazine!* It's taken a lot of thought and energy from many people over this past year to distill a message that reflects the essence of our vision and mission. Ren & Lisa tirelessly led the way, gathering ideas from members such as Quai, Stephanie, Ellen, & others. Becky, Katy, Anthony, and Bailey worked with consultant Sami Grover to craft this copy (and much more), and Bailey created the final design. If you see yourself in this picture, join in as we together build what comes next!

Update on Housing Reservations: We now have 41 Living Units spoken for by 56 adults and 13 children. If you are planning (or even thinking about) someday calling CGEV your home, **now is the time** to get your housing reservation (and reimbursable deposit of \$500) sent in ASAP! We have begun a waiting list for members who wish to be part of the community but will not be ready for the first wave of move-ins (anticipated date: early 2024). As soon as we hit the magic number of 47 Living Units reserved, we will be adding names to the waiting list. **Don't be left behind.** Now is the time to get your reservation in!! Contact Paul with questions: voss@hawkweed.net. [Click here](#) for the Reservation Agreement and [click here](#) for the FAQ.



Plump Elderberry blossoms on the pond dam

MEETINGS & EVENTS

Format change: All of our meetings are now listed together under the "Circle Meetings Digest" bar, followed by event details under the "All about Events" bar.



Lara joyfully harvests strawberries for Doug's lucky CSA customers
Banner above: Member advancement ceremony cheering section
(Photo by Margaret A.)

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.
- ♦ **Open House!** June 4, 10am-noon
 - ♦ **Sociocracy Training,** June 5, 3-5pm; June 30, 7-9pm;

Confidentiality and Transparency: May's Last Saturday event on these topics was cancelled due to illness. But here's a great next step: let's create a small, short-term task group to dig into these issues as they concern guided conflict resolution processes and see how varying interests might be met. If you can commit to two sessions (most likely one in June and one in July), please RSVP to [Theresa](#) with C/T in the subject line and we'll find a time that works for (hopefully) all who are interested.

Juneteenth, June 18-19: There are a variety of local celebrations planned on these dates. It would be lovely for members to go together or meet up at one or more of these events. We will send out information about the options and coordinate details closer to the dates. Questions or ideas? Contact [Lisa](#).



Theresa beams with delight as she advances to Engaged Member

CIRCLE NEWS

Marketing & Promotion: We're getting the word out on CGEV in many ways. The full-page ad in *Communities Magazine* (see above) will be followed by feature and banner ads in the *Foundation for Intentional Communities* website ([ic.org](#)). ♦ **Social media** is gathering steam with Lex Headley stepping up to coordinate content on [Facebook](#) and our NEW [Instagram](#) account. Want to help by contributing content or helping to manage it? [Contact Ren](#). Also, we urge you to Follow, "like", and Comment to show the world we are a thriving community! ♦ M&P now has **four Sub-Circles: Outreach, Website, Content Creation, and Visibility & Promotion!** Visiting members may join, and the focus is on getting work done, mostly with minimal meetings. If this appeals to you, [contact Ren](#).

Governance & Training: Common Ground Ecovillage is now an organizational member of Sociocracy for All (SoFA)! This means we can get a discount on some of their on-line classes, among other benefits. Check out their offerings at [sociocracyforall.org](#) and [Becky](#) can tell you how to get the discount. ♦ Empowered Learning

July 2, 4-6pm

- ♦ **Racial Awareness Reading and Reflection Group**, Every Monday, 7-8pm (*Note time change!*)
- ♦ **Heart Sharing Circle**, June 10, 7-9pm
- ♦ **Tales of CGEV**, June 11, 3:30-5pm
- ♦ **Community Potluck**, June 11, 5:30-7pm
- ♦ **Fresh Take Info. Session**, June 12, 1:30-3pm
- ♦ **Earth Connection Sunday**, June 19, 10am-noon
- ♦ **Forest Temple: Summer Solstice**, June 19, 3-5pm
- ♦ **NEW Millennial Meet-Up**, June 24, 7-9:30pm
- ♦ **Last Saturday—Topic TBA**, June 25, 3-5pm
- ♦ **Take a Hike!** June 26, time & place TBA
- ♦ **Eco-Futures Reading Group**, June 26, 4-5:30pm

CIRCLE MEETINGS DIGEST

*Most meetings are on Zoom. Visitors are very welcome to attend with **RSVP** in advance. Interested in participating? Contact the Circle leaders listed—they'll be glad to talk with you!*

Planning & Development Circle

- Wednesday, June 1, 2-3:30pm via Zoom
- Wednesday, June 15, 2-3:30pm via Zoom
- Wednesday, June 29, time TBA, via Zoom

RSVP to Anthony: weston@elon.edu

Marketing & Promotion Circle

- Every Wednesday, 6:30-8:30pm, via Zoom
- RSVP to Ren: renenberg.cge@gmail.com to find out if we'll be having a policy or a work meeting (specific projects). Seeking new members.

Website Subcircle

Fridays, June 3, 17, 24, 6:30-8pm, via Zoom

RSVP to Ren: renenberg.cge@gmail.com

This is a website redesign working session, open to those who want to contribute—and who want to join!



Giant Jack-in-the-pulpit; Ruthie blows a kid-sized bubble; Doug gets a photo perspective; (photos by Hope, Margaret A., Amy H.)

Circle training in Sociocracy continues in June with **new classes starting in August**. This is an 8-hour training to provide a grounding in the governance method used at CGEV and costs only \$20-25 per person for the **entire training**. Contact [Becky](#) to register for August classes.

Planning & Development: Good news about the health of our “signature” trees! Some years ago, a forester examined them and told us that they were near the end of their lifecycle. This news has partly influenced our site planning. But in May, Jeffry and the Land Stewardship Circle asked an arborist (Guy Meilleur) to give us a second opinion on the oak, walnut, and pecan trees near pavilion. **We were thrilled to learn that our old trees, and specifically the “Grandmother Oak,” are healthy and should have long lives ahead of them.** This will require reorienting and perhaps somewhat redesigning the Common House, but this is the right time for it, and certainly the right reason! Yay!



The majestic “Grandmother Oak” (photo by Ever O.)

♦ P&D continues to manage the architectural and engineering design process. With our architect Jonathan Lucas and other consultants, we are preparing plans to accommodate our preferred construction materials and techniques to both maximize the benefits we see and reassure our bankers and builders. ♦ On the engineering side, many details are falling into place, such as plans for roads and pathways, the connection to Frazier Road, and possible pond renovation, along with the slow and detailed work of securing permits and filing with regulators (mostly done by our engineers). ♦ In the meantime, our loan application process continues to proceed, but slowly. Our support team at Centennial Mortgage (our actual lender) is working hard and skillfully to resolve various issues so that we can move

General Circle

- Sunday, June 5, 6-8pm, via Zoom
- Sunday, June 19, 6-8pm, via Zoom

RSVP to Bailey 2 days in advance for materials:
cgev.generalcircle@gmail.com

Membership Circle

- Tuesday, June 7, 3-5pm via Zoom
- Tuesday, June 21, 3-5pm via Zoom

RSVP to Lisa: welcome@commonground.eco

HeartWeavers Subcircle

Sunday, June 12, 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.

Land Stewardship Circle

- Tuesday June 14, 7pm, via Zoom

RSVP to Randy: dodd.randy@gmail.com

Governance & Training Circle

- Thursday, June 16, 7:30-9pm, via Zoom

RSVP to Becky: blaskody@gmail.com

ALL ABOUT EVENTS

OPEN HOUSE!

Membership Circle

Saturday, June 4, 10am-noon

RSVP to Lisa: welcome@commonground.eco

Come on over and tour the land and farm. Hear the latest information on housing, our time line, and learn how to become a member. This is a great way to meet other members and get a feel for what we are all about. Bring your family and friends, too!



Amy climbs the tree to help Gonzalo tie his membership advancement sash to the ceremonial oak (photo by Doug)

forward more rapidly. ♦ Also on the legal and financial side, we continue work on the Co-op Bylaws and the Limited Equity question—stay tuned for more on these vital matters soon.



"This is a great place to live." Eastern Painted Turtle at the Pond Dam

Membership Circle: We held a bustling Open House/Potluck with a ceremony honoring Kathleen, Gonzalo, Becky and Theresa who have all advanced in membership. Six new people became Visiting Members and we've fine-tuned our **improved membership process** (the role-out will be soon!). ♦ We continue to foster connection between members, and our events are becoming more child friendly with fun activities. ♦ We are knee deep in creating opportunities to help the community increase awareness, make policies and learn new skills to get along with each other in a variety of areas: racial awareness, leadership and power dynamics, the dance between confidentiality and transparency in conflict processes, and attitudes about vaccinations status, to name a few. ♦ **The Membership Circle needs people** to further this vital and exciting work. Please pitch in with whatever time and skills you have to offer. We are specifically in need of a Co-Buddy Manager and a Circle Administrator for the HeartWeavers Subcircle.



Mingling at the potluck (photo by Amy H.)

SOCIOCRACY TRAINING

Governance & Training Circle

- Sunday, June 5, 3-5pm
- Thursday, June 20, 7-9pm
- Saturday, July 2, 4-6pm

Contact Becky for details: blaskody@gmail.com

Empowered Learning Circles are a fun and interactive way to learn about our governance and get to know others over four, 2-hour sessions. Training in these vital skills is required for member advancement. You can jump into this current training-in-progress provided you contact Becky to get up-to-date.

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](#)*



Hearts-a-bustin flowers bloom at the pond dam

HEART SHARING CIRCLE

HeartWeavers Circle

Friday, June 10, 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.

TALES OF CGEV— in the voices of those who led the way

Membership Circle

Saturday, June 11, 3:30-5pm, followed by a Community Potluck (see below)

No RSVP—just show up! Kid friendly.

Land Stewardship: Ours is the largest of the CGEV Circles. While this is wonderful, it's become unwieldy to manage so many members, from finding times when folks can make meetings to keeping tabs on all that's on our plate and figuring out how to best collaborate both within the circle and with the broader community. And 112 acres of land is a LOT to wrap our arms around (farming and forest and Pond—oh my!) As we have explored this situation, broad support for the concept of creating farm- and forest-focused groups has emerged, with some details still to be figured out about how to best make it flow within our governance structure.



Golden Ragwort shines at the pond dam

MEMBER HAPPENINGS

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

Lunar Wisdom Circle: Full Moon Ritual, Tuesday, June 14, 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!

Grieving Earth, Tuesday, June 21, 7 - 8:30pm, via Zoom
This is a community space to metabolize, lament, and ritualize our grief through conversation, journaling, music, artistic expression and guided practices.

Lunar Wisdom Circle: New Moon Ritual, Tuesday, June 28, 7-8:30pm, via Zoom

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

Long-time members will reminisce and paint a picture how CGEV came to be who, what, where we are. This is your chance to hear stories, ask questions (from the silly to the serious), and get to know a bit of history from the mouths of some "community elders." Continue the conversation at the Community Potluck.

COMMUNITY POTLUCK

HeartWeavers Subcircle

Saturday, June 11, 5:30-7pm, on the land or in the barn. Kid friendly. No RSVP needed. **Got Questions?**

Ask Margaret: bktitle@gmail.com

Everyone's invited—children and friends! Enjoy an evening spending time together. Bring a dish to share and something for the grill. We'll be setting up and cleaning up together in true community spirit!

FRESH TAKE: An in-depth info session

Membership Circle

Sunday, June 12, 1:30-3pm 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!



Click for a trailcam video of a muskrat's night swim (by Jess & Michelle)

EARTH CONNECTION SUNDAY

HeartWeavers Subcircle

Sunday, June 19, 10-12am, on the land

RSVP to Hope: hopematrix@fastmail.com

*The topic is TBD. **Do you have something you'd like to offer or explore?** Contact Hope ASAP and share your inspiration.*

FOREST TEMPLE: SUMMER SOLSTICE

HeartWeavers Subcircle

Sunday, June 19, 3-5pm, on the land

RSVP to Jess here: [Way of Belonging](#)

At Summer Solstice, light suffuses the lands as the sun reaches the height of its strength. Yet at the crowning point of light the seed of darkness is born, and from



Seeing Stars Farm's glorious cabbages! (Photo by Ever O.)

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](#).

Becky offers [Living with Biodiversity](#), an article by Doug Tallamy in honor of Biodiversity Day on May 22. Read about how all of us can participate in creating home-grown national parks!

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. **Here are some highlights:**

[Hard Conversations: Why They Matter and How to Have Them](#), with Allyson Ewald, Thursday, June 2, 1-2pm ET. Is there a conversation you need to have that you are dreading? This free one-hour webinar could help move you from dread to readiness.

[Unleash the Power of our Differences Series: White Fragility](#), with Elliott Butler-Cisneros, Wednesday, June 15, 1-3pm ET. The series continues with an exploration of your vision and purpose and how to live in solidarity across differences with others.

Paul reminds us that [World Localization Day](#) is happening on Tuesday, June 21. This is a worldwide celebration of Community, Connection & Place as communitarians link up across borders to celebrate our collective voice. No specific event is planned on the CGEV land, but there are many ways to connect across the globe. Get inspired! Get (virtually) involved! Check it out and view the inspiring video [here](#).

now on the nights will grow longer. The sun has touched the northernmost point along the horizon and is about to journey back south.

NEW MILLENNIAL MEETUP: Sunset Fire & Games

HeartWeavers Subcircle

Friday, June 24, 7-9:30pm

RSVP to Caitree by June 20 via text: 516-633-7453

If you identify as a millennial and you're looking to connect with other millennials in the CG community, this is the gathering for you. We will come together at Caitree's house in South Durham for light-hearted connection and play. We'll have a fire circle in the forest, cornhole, great music, and silly conversation starters. Light snacks and games will be provided—feel free to bring more! Kids are also welcome, though child care will not be provided.



Big ol' Cooter...or Slider...or, well, definitely a turtle...by the farm road

ECO-FUTURES READING GROUP

Land Stewardship Circle

Sunday, June 26, 4-5:30pm via Zoom

RSVP to Nell: hnkriesberg@gmail.com.

Join in paradigm-shifting conversations about our relationships with other species, the environment as a whole and thus, each other. For this meeting, participants are invited to watch a [TedXYouth talk: Change the Story, Change the Future](#). Those who RSVP will receive discussion prompts to get us going.

LAST SATURDAY—TOPIC TBA

Membership Circle

Saturday, June 25, 3-5pm

Save the date and stay tuned for details!

TAKE A HIKE!

Membership Circle

Sunday, June 26, time and place TBA

RSVP to Margaret is essential: bktittle@gmail.com

Check the [google calendar](#) or email Margaret for details.

