



Finding Common Ground

September, 2022

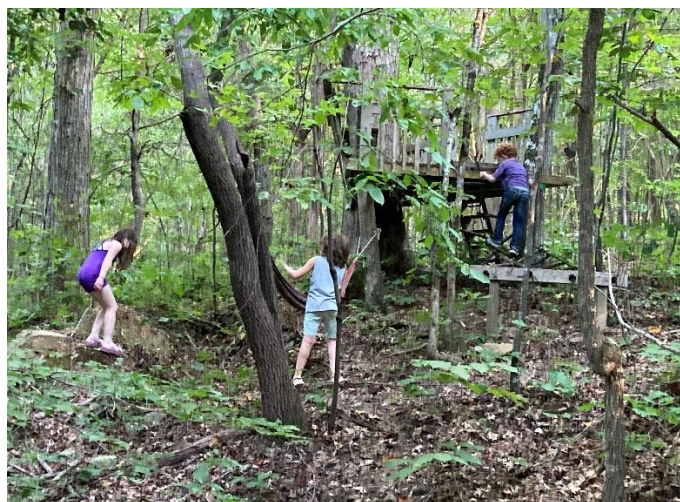
UP FRONT

Seen the gorgeous new [CGEV video](#) on our home page? Kudos to Caleb Buchbinder who filmed and produced it, David Burton who composed the music, and the Marketing & Promotion Circle who shepherded this project. Please share it with your social networks!

***NEW* Communications Circle**

This new Functional Circle's Domain includes all things related to internal and external communication policies and practices. Marketing & Promotion and IT are now Subcircles, grouping all of these vital functions in one area. Interested in exploring this Circle? Contact [Quai](#)!

Yes, there is room in the Village for you! Though we have a growing number of Reservations in-hand for housing units, we are still far short of the number of Engaged Members needed to close on the loan. If you are interested in living at CGEV, it's important to both send in a [Reservation Agreement](#) (we need more) AND get going to advance through the process ASAP. [Lisa](#) and [Amy H.](#) will be happy to help!



Nothing better than climbing into a treehouse on a summer's day

MEETINGS & EVENTS



Widow Skimmer dragonfly alights on a bed of Dogwood (photo by Shells)
Banner above: Walking towards home

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.

- ♦ **Labor Day Open House**, September 3, 10:30am-12:30pm
- ♦ **Racial Awareness Reading and Reflection Group**, Every Monday, 7-8pm
- ♦ **Heart Share**, September 9, 7-9pm
- ♦ **Community Potluck**, September 10, socialize and tours at 4pm; potluck 5:30-7pm

CIRCLE NEWS

Land Stewardship: Welcome Natalie Pax, our second farm intern! Natalie has previously worked with



Transplanting Traditions Community Farm and is excited to begin learning more hands-on skills and techniques for growing food, flowers, and medicine in the Piedmont! She cherishes creating art in the kitchen and also working with children which are two fabulous

ways for her to connect at CG. We are excited about all that she brings, and what we can offer, during her time here. ♦ Let's also welcome our **new leaders** for the Land Stewardship Circle and Subcircles elected in August! Doug-Operational Leader, Randy-Elected Representative, Nell-Circle Administrator, and Jess-Facilitator. Doug is the Farm Subcircle Coordinator and Randy is the Forest Subcircle Coordinator. We'll now focus on the work of developing teams and folding in new members in roles that work for them.



Special thanks to Lisa who scrubbed & shined the kitchen!

♦ We took a giant step in August to clean up and organize the barn to create a more beautiful and practical space for both farm work and community events. [Jane](#) and [Lisa](#) came in with infectious enthusiasm, strong energy, and bold visions to get the barn in shape for the October open house and barn dance! (They accomplished a LOT and there's more—contact them if you'd like to help.) We made great progress with the building of ample shelf storage thanks to Anthony, Paul, Doug S and others. Thanks to all who pitched in and kept morale high.

- ♦ **Fresh Take Info. Session**, September 17, 10-11:30am
- ♦ **Earth Connection Sunday**, September 18, 9:30-11:30am
- ♦ **Forest Temple: Autumn Equinox**, September 18, 3-5pm
- ♦ **Inaugural Full Circle Meeting**, September 24, 3-5pm
- ♦ **Take a Hike!** September 25, 10am
- ♦ **Eco-Futures Reading Group**, September 25, 4-5:30pm
- ♦ **Cooperative Skills Training**, September 30, 7-9pm
- ♦ **Sociocracy Training**, October 4, 11, 18, 25, 7-9pm
- ♦ **October 22:** A Humdinger of an Open House/Fall Festival



Three flavors of box turtles ambling along the path to the pond!

CIRCLE MEETINGS DIGEST

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

***Time Change* Membership Circle**

- Friday, September 2, 1-3pm via Zoom
- Friday, September 16, 1-3pm via Zoom

RSVP to Lisa with subject "Membership Circle":
welcome@commonground.eco

HeartWeavers Subcircle

- Sunday, September 11, 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.

Marketing & Promotion

A Subcircle of the Communications Circle

- Wednesday, September 7, 6:30-8:30pm, Zoom

RSVP to Ren: renenberg.cge@gmail.com

Observers welcome & encouraged; members needed

Website Re-Design Task Group

- Every Thursday, 6:30-8pm, via Zoom

RSVP to Zeke: busykiel@gmail.com

Observers welcome



At the Earth Connection Sunday event, Anthony shows the engineering behind how the village will capture & channel rain water

Planning & Development: The process of bringing a professional Development Manager on board is moving full steam ahead! Robyn Heeks of Heeks Collaborative is conducting a thorough review of all of our planning materials this month, including extensive tours of the land and conversations with many of our Circles' Operational Leaders and other key players. Very soon she'll be bringing us her overall impression of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (officially, SWOT) and helping us to revamp and focus our planning and jumping into next steps as needed.

♦ On the design side, we are working with a revised siting for the Common House on the west side of the great oak tree, since we have now been reliably assured that it still has a good life ahead of it. This is the last piece needed for completion of the site plan and a crucial piece for resuming Common House architecture. Look for design updates, coming soon. Meanwhile, a recent member survey regarding exercise options, potentially in the Common House or elsewhere, garnered 53 responses. P&D is evaluating the results now.



A buttonbush bough going to seed in the wetland

Visibility & Promotion Task Group

- Tuesday, September 6, 3-4:30pm, via Zoom
RSVP to Ren: renenberg.cge@gmail.com
Focus on marketing research, planning, & action

Outreach Task Group

- Wednesday, September 14, 6:30-8pm, Zoom
RSVP to Quai: quaifranklin@gmail.com
Developing mutually beneficial relationships with organizations & communities; seeking both full and task-oriented members

Content Creation Task Group

- Friday, September 2, 3:30-5pm
RSVP to Ren for info: renenberg.cge@gmail.com
Calling on all creatives—photographers, writers, artists, musicians, etc. to provide content

Planning & Development Circle

- Wednesday, September 7, 2-4pm via Zoom
- Wednesday, September 21, 2-4pm via Zoom
RSVP to Anthony: weston@elon.edu



Participants heard Anthony, Randy, and Jeffry talk about different aspects of water flows and management on the land at the Earth Connection Sunday. Part Two is coming up on September 18!

Governance & Training Circle

- Sunday, September 11, 1-3pm, via Zoom
RSVP to Becky: blaskody@gmail.com

Land Stewardship Circle

- Wednesday, September 14, 7pm, via Zoom
RSVP to Randy: dodd.randy@gmail.com; For info. about the Circle, Contact Nell: hnkriesberg@gmail.com

General Circle

- Sunday, September 18, 6-8pm, via Zoom

♦ On the Financial & Legal side, Ruthie and Paul are currently codifying a detailed Limited Equity Housing proposal. Paul and Katy are continuing the hard work of finalizing our loan application with Centennial Mortgage. Every day seems to bring new requirements and questions and they are steadily working through them—all for the good in the long run!

Governance & Training: On Saturday, September 24, from 3-5pm, we will initiate monthly **Full Circle meetings** for all community members. These sessions will help members know what's going on, offer input and feedback on highlighted community topics, and get to know and deepen our connections with each other. We plan to transition from just Zoom to hybrid meetings over time. ♦ G&T has a special **Cooperative Skills Workshop on September 30** that we encourage all members to attend. Sociocracy trainer Ahmed Avais will help us strengthen our skills in power with (cooperative) instead of power over (competitive). ♦ The next [Empowered Learning Circle](#) (ELC) sociocracy training sequence is being scheduled for Tuesday evenings **October**. **CGEV members of all levels** are encouraged to join an ELC. Also, we need **NEW LEADERS** for these groups. Contact [Becky](#) now if you are interested in signing up for—or leading—a class.

Membership Circle: All of our Circle members are now trained to lead the new First Discernment meetings that take place as Visiting Members advance to the Exploratory level. We're delighted to announce **nine new Exploratory Members:** Jeffrey F, Bill, Shells, Susan, Shari, Doug S, Claude, Holly and Barbara! These folks are connected to the community in so many ways, forming budding relationships with other members, training in Sociocracy, and volunteering their time and energy across a wide spectrum. Much appreciation for all they are doing!



Cardinal flowers blazing in the wetland near persimmon boughs laden with ripening fruit in the wetland

RSVP to Hope 2 days in advance for materials:
Hopematrix@fastmail.com

***NEW* Communications Circle**

- Wednesday, September 28, 6:30-8:00pm, Zoom

RSVP to Quai: quaifranklin@gmail.com

Gathering for the first time! If you have an interest in building strong and effective internal and external communication policies and systems, please consider joining us! Observers are welcome, members needed.



A potluck in the shade of the Grandmother Oak during the day's "golden hour" (photo by Shells)

ALL ABOUT EVENTS

LABOR DAY SATURDAY OPEN HOUSE

Membership Circle

Saturday, September 3, 10:30am-12:30pm on the land

Contact Lisa: welcome@commonground.eco

We welcome all members and people curious to learn about Common Ground to this fun Open House. There will be holiday activities for children and adults in addition to guided tours of the land and a treasure trove of information which will update you on the village plans and the membership process. Come sip on persimmon leaf/hibiscus tea and relax!

RACIAL AWARENESS READING & REFLECTION GROUP

Membership Circle

Every Monday, 7-8pm, via Zoom.

To join, contact Lisa: welcome@commonground.eco

This Group is reading My Grandmother's Hands, by Resmaa Menakem.

♦ **The Buddy Program is expanding** due to lots of interest in joining CGEV (30 applications since June!). It's fun, and you don't need to be a long-standing member to participate. Doug S and Shari volunteered right after becoming Exploratory members. How about YOU? ♦ **The Last Saturday on Covid safety, vaccines and beyond** was a moving experience in deep listening, understanding, and respecting the choices each of us makes for the health of ourselves and others. Huge gratitude to the five participants who told their stories and to Theresa and Becky for facilitating and holding the space. There will be more on this topic... ♦ The monthly **Fresh Take** information program was thoughtfully revamped by Lisa, Paul, Hope, Becky and Nell. We now have written talking points which can easily be shared with those who would like to become part of this team. ♦ The **HeartWeavers Subcircle** continues to host many popular gatherings: potlucks, hikes, and Open Houses, among others. The terrific **Earth Connection Sunday** program about water on the land was informative on so many levels! We are lucky to have Part 2 coming up on Sept. 18th as described in the Calendar.



An intrepid crew worked on trimming back vegetation on the pond dam (photo by Holly)

Marketing & Promotion: In addition to launching a [new video](#) on the website(!), our **three new Task Groups** all met in August for the first time with great success. We had fun, got to know each other better, and learned about all the amazing skills folks have to offer. Many new things were set into motion and there's room for many more great minds and hearts to join us! ♦ While on the website, check out our new footer that contains all the ways to connect with us. We'll keep working on these incremental improvements as we develop a new overall design change in the background. Also, Circle leaders can ask the Website Subcircle to create **pop-ups on our home page for special events**. Contact Zeke: busykiel@gmail.com

SOCIOCRACY TRAINING—EMPOWERED LEARNING CIRCLES

Tuesdays, October 4, 11, 18, 25, 7-9pm

RSVP to Becky: Blaskody@gmail.com

Empowered Learning Circles are a fun and interactive way to learn about our governance system and get to know others. You'll learn the sociocratic practices of active listening, discerning personal preference from group benefit, helpful feedback, GENSET, and distributed authority. Time not good for you? Contact [Becky](#) or [Hope](#) and we'll work with you to find a way forward.

HEART SHARE

HeartWeavers Circle

Friday, September 9, 7-9pm via Zoom

RSVP to Ren: renenberg.cge@gmail.com

Facilitator TBD. Come and 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.

COMMUNITY POTLUCK & TOURS

HeartWeavers Subcircle

Saturday, September 10, 4pm socializing & tours, 5:30-7pm potluck, at the chigger-free barn

Kid friendly. No RSVP needed.

Got Questions? Ask Margaret: bktitle@gmail.com

*Everyone's invited—children and friends! Come as early as 4pm to socialize. Bring a dish to share and something for the grill. Volunteers are needed to set up and clean up together in true community spirit! **Weather dependent:** check email before coming out.*



Swinging in progress! Margaret and Barbara stoke a marshmallow-roasting fire at the August potluck (photos by Shells)



The colors of fall—Jack-in-the-Pulpit seeds & Spice Bush berries

MEMBER HAPPENINGS

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

Lunar Wisdom Circle: Full Moon Ritual,

September 9, 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. Together, let's honor this moment of culmination!

Mindful Walk in Nature,

September 11, 10-noon, in-person

Come to the land, slow down, and remember that we are part of something much greater than ourselves. We'll take time to sense, notice and include the surroundings into our experience, thus promoting a sense of well-being throughout every aspect of our lives.

Lunar Wisdom Circle: New Moon Ritual

September 25, 7 - 8:30pm, via Zoom

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



One of summer's joys—sweet corn from the farm (photo by Margret)

FRESH TAKE: An in-depth info session

Membership Circle

Saturday, September 17, 10-11:30am, via Zoom (note the time change)

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 to learn a lot, fast!

EARTH CONNECTION SUNDAY— Connecting with Our Precious Water Resources, Part 2

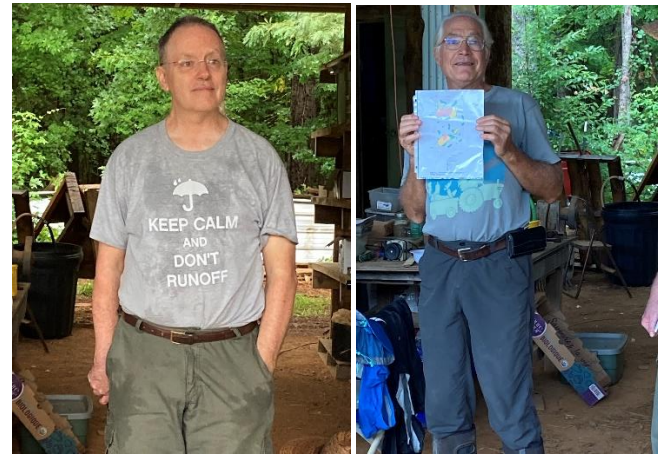
HeartWeavers Subcircle

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

RSVP to Theresa with subject "RSVP Water 2":

tjensen1952@gmail.com

Ever wondered what lives in McGowan Creek? We'll be investigating the macroinvertebrates in the water—indicators of how 'healthy' the creek is. Also learn about a special mammal inhabitant, the Beaver! All are welcome including children (4th grade and up).



Randy and Jeffrey talked about the various ways we engage with water on this land from wells for irrigation to storm water management to our precious pond and streams. It was riveting! See you for Part 2!

INAUGURAL FULL CIRCLE MEETING

Governance & Training Circle

Saturday, September 24, 3-5pm, via Zoom

RSVP to Becky: blaskody@gmail.com

Calling all members to come together to learn up-to-the minute information, lend your voice to issues in play, and form deeper connections with each other. Stay tuned for September's topics and save the date!

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](#).

ForestHer, NC: Conservation in Practice

September 8, 1-2:30pm via Zoom

Join other ForestHers for an exploration of conservation practices that create and maintain healthy soil, water, plants, and wildlife. [Click here](#) to register—it's free.

[Indigenous History Teach-In](#)

September 18, 5-6:30pm, Chapel Hill, hosted by 7 Directions of Service

A monthly Indigenous History Teach-In Series is held in collaboration with local Indigenous scholars and historians, namely the brilliant elder Beverly Scarlett. We are inspired to offer these free, outdoor educational events in popular public spaces across The Triangle to bring to light the true and often untold history of the land we are on, and to center Indigenous perspectives. Bring your lawn chairs!

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.

[Avila Center](#) Opening Celebration,

October 1, 10am-1pm, 711 Mason Rd., Durham

This retreat center was purchased in 2019 and re-purposed to become a community organizing training center where leaders who are working for social justice can for nourishment by this sacred space, leadership development opportunities, and contemplative silence.



Persimmon pond (photo by Holly)

TAKE A HIKE!

HeartWeavers Subcircle

Sunday, September 25, 10:00am at Brumley North Nature Preserve, 3620 Old NC 10. Durham NC

We'll meet for a 3-mile+ hike on Mostly level ground in this beautiful place.

Must RSVP to Margaret: Bktitle@gmail.com



Angie shared her passion for birdsong and nature sounds with us. Ahhh....

ECO-FUTURES READING GROUP

Land Stewardship Circle

Sunday, September 25, 4-5:30pm via Zoom

RSVP to Nell: hmkriesberg@gmail.com.

A group of intrepid conversationalists get together monthly to talk over readings— articles, book chapters, films—that speak to Common Ground's vision to restore relationships with ourselves, other species and the environment in general. If this is your first time, or you want to know more, contact [Nell](#).

COOPERATIVE SKILLS TRAINING

Friday, September 30, 7-9pm

RSVP to Becky: blaskody@gmail.com

Learning to cooperate is a foundational skillset for all members, and training is vital if we wish to realize our vision to live in justice and harmony with each other and the land. We're delighted to have sociocracy consultant, Ahmed Avais, work with us to examine power with (cooperative) and power over (competitive) dynamics. We'll develop new awareness and learn skills to help enrich our culture with collaborative and cooperative practices. Your presence will be a gift to yourself and the community.

