



Finding Common Ground

October, 2022

UP FRONT



THE FANTASTIC FALL FEST & POTLUCK is coming on October 22 from 2:30-7. Bring your friends and family—there will games, music, farm-grown food—something for everyone! **Save the date!**

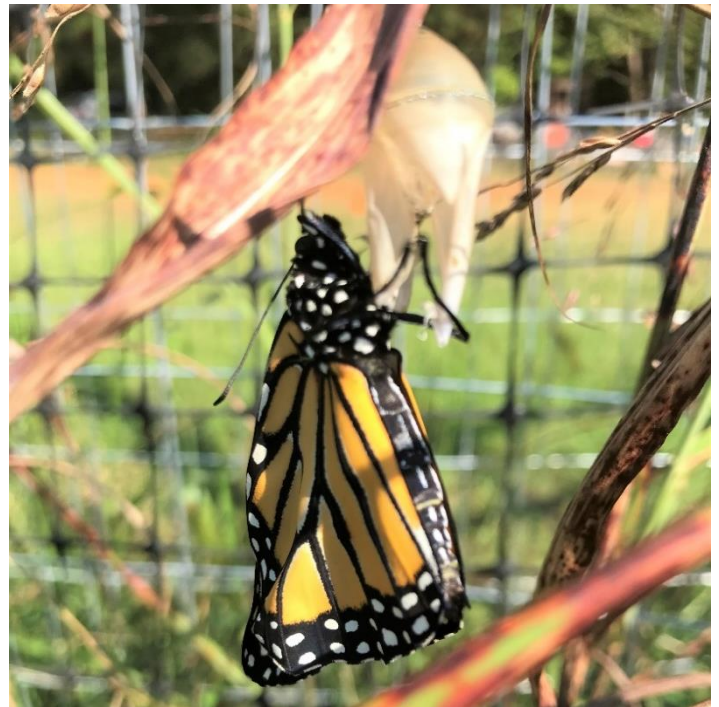
Yes, there is room in the Village for you! Though we have a growing number of members and reservations in-hand for housing units, **we are still far short of the number of Engaged Members needed to close on the loan.** If you are interested in living at CGEV, it's important to both send in a [Reservation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

Our next **Community in the Round** meeting (Saturday, October 29, 3-5pm) will dive into **exploring a method for people to choose their preferred unit** and location on the site. We'll be identifying considerations that will lead us to a fair and equitable selection method.



Shiny new chrysalis; butterfly on the brink of busting out (photos by Margret and Natalie)

MEETINGS & EVENTS



Monarch butterfly newly emerged from its chrysalis (photo by Natalie)
Banner above: Caterpillar nearly ready to morph (photo by Margret)

GET INVOLVED

- ♦ **All events are open to everyone** unless otherwise indicated, and **you must RSVP** for details, links, and last-minute changes.
- ♦ **COVID Safety:** Note guidelines provided in event announcements
- ♦ **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.

- ♦ **Racial Awareness Reading and Reflection Group,**
Every Monday, 7-8pm

CIRCLE NEWS

Communications Circle: This Circle's "department" includes Marketing & Promotion (M&P), Information Technology (IT) and Website Subcircles and four task groups, all dedicated to enhancing both internal and external communication. Here's an update:

♦ **M&P-Visibility & Promotion Task Group:** We've been doing a circular dance with Google Maps bureaucracy to be listed as a housing cooperative there. Cross your collective fingers that it sticks this time. We now have a presence on tiktok, and Natalie, our farm intern, has agreed to keep the short videos flowing to it. If you have an account please follow and like us! Lex Headley, who has done a beautiful job reviving our presence on Instagram and Facebook landed a great job and we wish her congrats and the best success. She is passing the social media torch to Amy Nahkle with the help of Kathy Schuster. **We still need more folks on our social media team** for posting to FaceBook, Instagram, and tiktok.



September Open House frolics (photo by Madeline Travis)

♦ CGEV T-shirts are available! Order yours from Ren NOW and pay for it with a cash donation of \$23 per shirt at the October 22 Fall Festival or make arrangements to pick it up directly: renenberg.cge@gmail.com Unisex pre-washed sizes M, L, XL, and XXL are still available. If you need Small, let Ren know and we will order more.

♦ The **M&P-Content Creation Task Group** met for the first time in early September. We don't plan on future meetings but there are plenty of ongoing writing and graphics tasks and roles to fill! Thanks to Shells for stepping up to be our photo archive curator!

♦ The **IT Subcircle** has made it easy to find a folder of CGEV Zoom recordings (circle meetings, expert consultations, community discussions and gatherings, etc) in OnlyOffice. In order to access it, just log in to hartsmill.onlyoffice.com, and look in your "Shared with

- ♦ **Heart Share**, October 14, 7-9pm
- ♦ **COVID Safety Dialogue II**, October 15, 1-3pm
- ♦ **Fresh Take Info. Session**, October 15, 4-5:30pm
- ♦ **Earth Connection Sunday**, October 16, 10-noon
- ♦ **Sociocracy Training Circle**, October 16, 23, 30, November 6, 12:30-2:30pm
- ♦ **Fall Festival & Potluck**, October 22, 2:30-7pm
- ♦ **Eco-Futures Reading Group**, October 23 4-5:30pm
- ♦ **Community in the Round**, October 29, 3-5pm
- ♦ **Forest Temple—Samhain**, October 30, 3-5pm

CIRCLE MEETINGS DIGEST

*All Circles are welcoming new members. Visitors are encouraged to attend with **RSVP in advance!** Contact the leaders listed—they'll be glad to talk with you!*

GOVERNANCE & TRAINING CIRCLE

- Sunday, October 2, 4-6pm, via Zoom
RSVP to Becky with G&T in the subject line:
blaskody@gmail.com

LAND STEWARDSHIP CIRCLE (LSC)

This month's meetings will focus on subcircle work

LSC-Forest Subcircle

- Monday, October 3, 7-8:30pm, via Zoom & possibly also at the Nest
RSVP to Nell: hnkriesberg@gmail.com

LSC-Farm Subcircle

- Monday, October 10, 7-8:30pm, via Zoom & possibly also at the Nest
RSVP to Nell: hnkriesberg@gmail.com



It's black walnut season and Nick demonstrates his foolproof nutcracker.

Me" folder at the top of the folder pane. Visiting members, if you have not yet signed up for OnlyOffice, contact [Quai](#) and ask for an invitation.

♦ The **Website Subcircle** has been hard at work researching and setting up a **discussion forum** that will soon be announced via email and accessible through our website's Members Only area. We are very excited about this! Stay tuned for that announcement! Thanks to the Membership Circle for requesting this.



Searching avidly for macroinvertebrate creatures in the muddy wetland waters

Membership Circle: Members continue to **advance towards the Engaged level**. We encourage everyone who desires to live in the village to make this a priority because this move is required before joining the Co-op.
♦ **We had three well attended programs** (20-30 people) on the land in September: the Potluck, the Open House and Earth Connection Sunday. We are always looking to connect with members' families, and we hit the jackpot with the wetland event where 5 children mucked around in the creek, finding invertebrates of all kinds—absolutely in their element!

New Areas of Membership Work include:

- ♦ **Safety policies** for Common Ground events: a task group is forming
- ♦ Next steps towards a **Covid Safety policy**: a second community dialogue is scheduled in October
- ♦ **Experimental forums** on the website for members to express themselves in areas of community concern -

MEMBERSHIP CIRCLE (MC)

- Fridays, October 7, 21, 1-3pm via Zoom
RSVP to Lisa with subject "Membership Circle":
welcome@commonground.eco

MC-HeartWeavers Subcircle

- Sunday, October 9, 3-4:30pm, via Zoom & in-person at the Nest in Mebane.
RSVP to Theresa with subject "HeartWeavers":
tjensen1952@gmail.com, 541-778-8273

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT CIRCLE

- Wednesday, October 12 & 26, 2-4pm via Zoom
RSVP to Anthony: weston@elon.edu

P&D-Affordable Housing Task Group

- Wednesday, October 5 & 19, 6-7:30pm
RSVP to Theresa with "RSVP Aff Housing" in subject line: tjensen1952@gmail.com

GENERAL CIRCLE

- Sunday, October 16, 6:30-8:30pm, via Zoom
RSVP to Hope 2 days in advance for materials:
hopenatrix@fastmail.com

COMMUNICATIONS CIRCLE (CommC)

- Wednesday, October 26, 6:30-8:00
RSVP to Quai: quaifranklin@gmail.com

CommC-Marketing & Promotion Subcircle

- Wednesday, October 5, 6:30-8:30pm, Zoom
RSVP to Ren: renenberg.cge@gmail.com



A little night music by Ren & Quai—come hear them at the Fall Fest!

starting with Covid Safety Policy and the workshop on Power held last May.

♦ **Circle workload balance:** there are far more important things to do than we have time for, so we are defining the types of help we need in order to direct new members to our Circles and Task Groups.



Art at the Open House with Natalie

Planning & Development: You'll remember that in August, P&D brought a professional Development Manager on board—Robyn Heeks of Heeks Collaborative—to make a thorough review of all of our planning materials. Her research included extensive tours of the land and conversations with many of our Circles' Operational Leaders and other key players. In early September Robyn concluded this phase of her work with a report to a joint meeting of General Circle and P&D (for a recording of the presentation, [click here](#).) She gave her overall impression of our project's **strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities (SWO)** which will help us to focus our priorities and planning as we move into next steps. Robyn added major points brought up in discussion at that meeting, and sent the expanded report back to us in pdf format ([click here](#) to access). Comments and questions are welcome. Many tasks and action items were identified, so if this report inspires you to jump into the work, of course we're especially eager to hear that too! Contact [Anthony](#).



Hope points out the beaver lodge in the wetland (photo by Shells)

M&P-Website Re-Design Task Group

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

RSVP to Zeke: busykiel@gmail.com

M&P-Visibility & Promotion Task Group

- Tuesday, October 18, 3-4:30pm, via Zoom

RSVP to Ren: renenberg.cge@gmail.com

M&P-Outreach Task Group

- Wednesday, October 19, 6:30-8pm, Zoom

RSVP to Quai: quaifranklin@gmail.com

ALL ABOUT EVENTS

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.



HEART SHARE

HeartWeavers Circle

Friday, October 14, 7-9pm

via Zoom. **RSVP to Ren:**

renenberg.cge@gmail.com

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.

SOCIOCRACY TRAINING—EMPOWERED LEARNING CIRCLES

Sunday, October 16, 23, 30, Nov. 6, 12:30-2:30pm

RSVP to Hope: hopenmatrix@fastmail.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 [Hope](#) and she'll work with you to find a way forward.

♦ Currently our **loan application process** is being delayed by the need for reliable and up-to-date cost estimates. Construction costs have skyrocketed, the future is uncertain, and our project is not conventional (to say the least). Nonetheless, we persist! We are in the process of **examining cost estimates** for site engineering, and we've just engaged Robyn to dive into estimates for the architecture, identifying suitable potential General Contractors, and moving beyond schematic designs into design development. Be assured that we are working as hard as we can on this and pursuing every available lead. But we are also bringing this project forward at an almost uniquely difficult and uncertain time, and the waters have gotten choppy.



Milkweed pods release their seeds to the wind

♦ Meanwhile, **we've returned to work on the Common House (CH)** and preliminary consultations with our architect, Jonathan Lucas. We're trimming the CH program to something that can plausibly stay within budget and still be functional and deeply appealing. We also appreciated the widespread and thoughtful community response to our recent survey about exercise options and are taking those into account as we develop site and Common House plans and continue to consider a swim spa and other options.

Governance & Training: G&T initiated the **Community in the Round** meeting this month. We focused on hearing about members' needs for this forum as well as making connections with our Circles.

♦ We offered a special **Cooperative Skills Workshop** on September 30th. Our special guest and sociocracy trainer, Ahmed Avais, helped us to strengthen our skills to exercise "power with" (cooperative) instead of "power over" (competitive) practices in the ways we interact and get our work done.

♦ The next [Empowered Learning Circle](#) (ELC) sociocracy training sequence is being scheduled for 4 consecutive Sunday afternoons, 12:30-2:30, from October 16 to



Tracking racoons in the wetland (photo by Rachel)

COVID SAFETY DIALOGUE II

HeartWeavers Subcircle

Saturday, October 15, 1-3pm via Zoom

RSVP to Theresa with "RSVP Covid Safety" in the subject line: tjensen1952@gmail.com

This is the second reflective structured dialogue about the choices members have made involving Covid safety and vaccines. This is not about changing anyone's views but instead will focus on life experiences that have influenced these individual choices. We'll have break-out groups so everyone can participate in the dialogue. For more info about this event, [click here](#).

FRESH TAKE: An in-depth info session

Membership Circle

Saturday, October 15, 4-5:30pm, 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 to learn a lot, fast!



Hearts a-bustin' shows its autumn seed-pod colors (photo by Jess)

November 6. 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.

♦ G&T is also leading the General Circle at the moment, formulating agendas, facilitating, and posting minutes for the community.

Land Stewardship: Through Anthony's connections at Elon Univ., two faculty and eight students are pursuing a fall seminar project focused on the CGEV land. The students have visited the land twice. The scope of their undertaking is currently being formulated. Stay tuned!

♦ The Circle continues to focus on the transition and unfolding of our new sub-circle and team-based approach and identification and filling of projects, roles, and tasks. This work will be continuing through the fall. Check out [this graphic](#) for a draft. Additional details are available in recent agendas and minutes.



Anthony and Doug introduce Elon students to the land and farm

♦ Randy spearheaded another **successful biochar event**.

♦ Jeffry has been mowing the fields for the health of our land, taming grasses and trimming the sycamore saplings that are growing apace in the Far Field.

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

Way of Belonging Events (Jess & Michelle):

Forest Bathing

October 9, 12-2pm, on the land

Forest bathing, or *shinrin yoku*, is a Japanese practice of taking in the forest's atmosphere through all the senses. This practice is a potent, proven method for relieving stress, boosting mood and immunity, and fostering deeper bonds with nature.

EARTH CONNECTION SUNDAY—A Medicinal & Edible Plant Share!

HeartWeavers Subcircle

Sunday, October 16, 10-noon, on the land

RSVP to Melanie: info@root2risewellness.org

Meet the plants at Common Ground in their autumn guises. Learn about ways to prepare them as food and what medicines they offer. Sample some yummy wild foraged treats. Learn about resources to further your education and go home with custom tea blends! Hosted by members Melanie, Natalie, and Hope. For more information, contact [Melanie](#).



FANTASTIC FALL FEST & POTLUCK!

HeartWeavers Subcircle

Saturday Oct. 22nd, 2:30-5:00pm, followed by a Potluck from 5:30-7pm (Rain date: Oct. 23)

Contact Lisa for details: welcome@commonground.eco

*Come out for a wonderful autumn afternoon on the Common Ground land! You'll enjoy music by [Neville's Quarter](#), an Open Mic and dancing, family-friendly activities, and a sampling of veggies and dishes made from Doug's organic vegetable farm. Tours of the land and information about our planned ecovillage housing will all be available. **The Potluck also features live music** by members, Ren & Quai!*



Quai's music captivates listeners of all ages (photo by Shells)

Lunar Wisdom Circle: Full Moon Ritual

October 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!



An autumn goodie basket (photo by Jess)

Lunar Wisdom Circle: New Moon Ritual

October 24, 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!

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](#).

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.



Fresh and spent lying side-by-side (photo by Bill)

ECO-FUTURES READING GROUP

Land Stewardship Circle

Sunday, October 23, 4-5:30pm via Zoom

RSVP to Nell: hnkriesberg@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](#).

COMMUNITY IN THE ROUND—What method will we use to select our homes?

Membership Circle

Saturday, October 29, 3-5pm, via Zoom

RSVP to Theresa with "unit selection" in the subject line: tjensen1952@gmail.com

In what order will members choose their preferred unit and the location of that unit within the village plan? All members are invited to discuss the aspects and considerations that will lead us to a fair and equitable method. For more information, [contact Theresa](#).

FOREST TEMPLE—Samhain

HeartWeavers Subcircle

Sunday, October 30, 3-5pm on the land

[Click here](#) to RSVP

Samhain is a Gaelic festival marking the end of the harvest season and the beginning of winter, the "darker-half" of the year. This is a time to remember and honor your ancestors.

s



Mysterious spider's webs hover over the meadow (photo by Jess)