



Finding Common Ground November, 2022

UP FRONT

Community in the Round on November 19 will feature a **Village Update** by the Planning & Development (P&D) Circle. This will put you in the picture concerning all aspects of our development situation. RSVP to [Hope](#).

Financial & Legal, a Subcircle of P&D, is forming to take the lead concerning in these affairs. No need to have deep experience in the world of finance or law, but it will help if you are a strategic thinker and willing to explore things that may be exciting new learning experiences for you. Intrigued? Contact [Paul](#) for info.

Yes, there is room in the Village for you! If you are interested in living at CGEV, it's important to both send in a [Reservation Agreement](#) AND get going to advance through the membership process ASAP. [Lisa](#) & [Amy H.](#) will be happy to help!

CIRCLE NEWS

Membership: October was an amazing month for Membership Circle events: Fall Fest, Covid Safety Dialogue II, Earth Connection Sunday: Medicinal Plant Share, Community in the Round program on Unit Selection, Fresh Take Info. Session, and the Heart Share. All are powerful ways to build connections with each other, the land and to attract new members.



Lining up for a crack at the Fall Fest piñata! (Photo by Jennifer)

MEETINGS & EVENTS



A Fall Fest sing-a-long with [Neville's Quarter](#) (photo by Jennifer)

Banner above: Abundant Goldenrod, featured at the medicinal plant walk

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

COMMUNITY EVENTS SNAPSHOT

Scroll down to the **"All About Events"** section below for details.

- ♦ **Forest Workday**, November 5, 1-5pm
- ♦ **Racial Awareness Reading and Reflection Group**, Every Monday, 7-8pm
- ♦ **Heart Share**, November 11, 7-9pm

♦ **The Fall Fest focused on FUN.** There was a rich mix of families, neighbors, college students, members from far and near, and newcomers. All were treated to yummy bites made from farm-grown foods. Margret prepared a foraging table, children made crafts, and Jeffry and Margret were showered with gifts and stories of appreciation in recognition of their retirement from farming at Common Ground. A record 50 people attended the potluck! Lex and Brian of [Neville's Quarter](#) provided a lively soundtrack, and Doug and Shari gifted us with a thickly frosted vegan cake with an edible version of the CG logo on top. What a highlight!

♦ **Housing unit selection:** A task group with Theresa, Jane, Becky, and Momo prepared a fabulous Community in the Round program focused on we will decide who lives where in the village. [Watch a recording](#), [view survey results](#) sent before the session, and [read](#) the group's reflections and suggestions.



Welcoming Crystal, our diversity consultant, and her family to the festivities; plenty of custom-made cake to go around!

Planning & Development: Development work was a whirlwind in October, with Robyn Heeks, our professional Development Manager, ramping up efforts in several key areas. She is connecting with potential general contractors both to collaborate with us on building the village and to provide the ballpark estimates for the construction costs we need for our loan application process. We've been busy organizing our designs, layouts, financial estimates, etc. to enable this process.

♦ **On the site design side,** we now have cost estimates from our engineer. They came in high, and we are working with Robyn energetically to reduce them to a manageable level with a variety of creative strategies which will have varied effects on the built result. As we all know, the general economic tide is not running our way at the moment. Materials and labor costs continue to be high and volatile, and interest rates are double

- ♦ **Elon Student Forum,** November 12, 4-5:30pm
- ♦ **Second Saturday Potluck,** November 12, 5:30-7pm
- ♦ **Trail Tending Workdays,** November 13, 27, 9-11am
- ♦ **Community in the Round,** November 19, 3-5pm
- ♦ **Fresh Take Info. Session,** listen to a recording this month
- ♦ **Earth Connection Sunday,** November 20, 1-3pm
- ♦ **Eco-Futures Reading Group,** December 4, time TBD

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!*

MEMBERSHIP CIRCLE (MC)

- Fridays, November 4, 18 1-3pm, Zoom
RSVP to Lisa with subject "Membership Circle":
welcome@commonground.eco

MC-HeartWeavers Subcircle

- Sunday, November 13, 3-4:30pm, Zoom & in-person at the Nest in Mebane.
RSVP to Theresa with subject "HeartWeavers":
tjensen1952@gmail.com, 541-778-8273

GOVERNANCE & TRAINING CIRCLE

- Sunday, November 6, 4:30-6:30pm, Zoom
RSVP to Becky with G&T in the subject line:
blaskody@gmail.com

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT CIRCLE

- Wednesday, November 9, 2-4pm, Zoom
- Monday, November 21, 2-4pm, Zoom
RSVP to Anthony: weston@elon.edu

P&D-Affordable Housing Task Group

- Wednesday, November 2 & 16, 6-7:30pm, Zoom
RSVP to Theresa with "RSVP Aff Housing" in subject line: tjensen1952@gmail.com



Peek-a-booooooo! (photo by Jennifer)

what they were when we entered into the loan application process. This is difficult work!

♦ Architecturally, we have been working on Common House planning. The location has shifted to the west of the Grandmother Oak and we are scaling back the size while re-evaluating what's most important to include. Our architect, Jonathan Lucas, is very supportive of our project and eager to resume work as soon as his time—and our clarity—allow.

♦ Want to be in the picture about all of the above and more? Come to the **Community in the Round—Village Update** on Saturday, November 19, from 3-5pm. Check the calendar for more details.



Elon Students working on a project for Common Ground join us for the potluck.

Communications Circle: We're investigating MailerLite as a platform for event announcements, sign-ups, calendaring, and other potential uses. The software is free and web-based. Shells has graciously agreed to evaluate MailerLite and report her findings!

♦ **The IT Subcircle** is in the process of re-organizing folders within OnlyOffice (OO) based on feedback from the General Circle. We're looking at setting up filing standards across Circles, addressing Circles' specific needs, and archiving out-of-date material.

♦ **M&P-Visibility and Promotion Task Group:** Success! Common Ground is on Google Maps! We have already had nearly 2000 views just from posting about the Fall Fest on our Google profile, and 36 people went to our website as a result. We come up whenever someone searches on Google for "intentional communities" or "ecovillages" in NC. Try it, and then **show your support by writing a review**, adding a photo you took when on the land, etc. Follow and add a like or comment to our TikTok, Facebook, or Instagram posts. These are all very simple ways to make a big difference in amplifying our visibility and promotional efforts! **Follow us on YouTube** and comment on the videos there. Every

LAND STEWARDSHIP CIRCLE (LSC)

LSC-Forest Subcircle

- Monday, November 14, 7-8:30pm, Zoom & in-person at the Nest in Mebane

RSVP to Nell: hnkriesberg@gmail.com

LSC-Farm Subcircle

- Monday, November 21, 7-8:30pm, Zoom & in-person at the Nest in Mebane

RSVP to Nell: hnkriesberg@gmail.com

GENERAL CIRCLE

- Sunday, November 20, 6:30-8:30pm, Zoom

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

COMMUNICATIONS CIRCLE (CommC)

- Wednesday, November 23, 6:30-8:00pm, Zoom

RSVP to Quai: quaifranklin@gmail.com

RSVP to Ren: renenberg.cge@gmail.com

CommC-Website Re-Design Subcircle

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

RSVP to Zeke: busykiel@gmail.com

CommC-Marketing & Promotion Subcircle

- Wednesday, November 2, 6:30-8:30pm, Zoom

M&P-Outreach Task Group

- Wednesday, November 16, 6:30-8pm, Zoom

RSVP to Quai: quaifranklin@gmail.com

M&P-Visibility & Promotion Task Group

- Seeking new leadership—contact Ren if interested

RSVP to Ren: renenberg.cge@gmail.com

ALL ABOUT EVENTS

RACIAL AWARENESS READING & REFLECTION GROUP

Membership Circle

Every Monday, 7-8pm, Zoom.

To join, contact Lisa: welcome@commonground.eco

*This Group is reading a new book: **The Heartbeat of Wounded Knee: Native America from 1890 to the Present**, by David Treuer*

FIRST SATURDAY FOREST WORKDAY

Land Stewardship Circle

Saturday, November 5, 1-5pm, meet at the barn

RSVP to Randy: dodd.randy@gmail.com

month there is a farm update by Caleb for you to enjoy. We are also now represented in the Foundation for Intentional Communities Forum and will occasionally post there to maintain visibility.

♦ **Ren is stepping back as coordinator/leader** of the Visibility/Promotion and Content Creation Task Groups after doing a terrific job getting them off and running. These groups are vital to our marketing success and we're asking people to step forward to keep the balls rolling in many ways. Also, here is a [list of discreet tasks and roles](#) just waiting for you! **Contact Ren or Quai if you would like to volunteer** for one of the items marked "Open" or have items to add.

♦ **M&P-Outreach Task Group:** Our neighbors came to Fall Fest where we had great opportunities to connect and cultivate relationships.

Governance & Training: Sociocracy training Empowered Learning Circles have been a very effective way to both help our members to learn and make meaningful connections with one another. We'll start new groups in early 2023, as soon as we have 6-8 people interested in receiving this engaging training at a minimal cost (\$15-\$25 includes all 4 sessions!). Contact [Hope](#) if you want to be on the list.

Land Stewardship: Nell attended a recent Zoom meeting of the [Chatham Conservation Partnership](#): this was an inspiring get together of a wide range of community wide efforts, many of which include Orange County areas. Click on [Conservation Priorities: Science and Community](#) to review the presentations which were all taped. We at CGEV really are part of a much larger group of people involved with taking care of our land and other species. The more we know about each other's efforts the better our communities become.



Natalie and Melanie hosted a terrific Medicinal Plants walk, including a lavish spread of herbs, teas, and foraged foods back at the barn!

This is the first in a series of First Saturday afternoon workdays through the cool season to attend to forest and tree related activities. This month, we might cut up the big oak that fell down near the pavilion; clear the pond dam; down young sweet gum trees; and/or haul and chop up limbs for future biochar.



Natalie's gifts and ideas for the Fall Fest crafts table

HEART SHARE

HeartWeavers Circle

Friday, November 11, 7-9pm, Zoom.

RSVP to Ren: renenberg.cge@gmail.com

Facilitator: Lily Frierson. 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.

ELON STUDENT FORUM

Saturday November 12, 4-5:30pm, on the land (stay for the potluck which follows from 5:30-7pm)

RSVP to Paul: voss@hawkweed.net

The Elon Environmental Studies Senior Seminar group is leading a forum about land use possibilities at Common Ground! Join them in an interactive simulation of possible land uses for the south forest and far field based on their research. This will be a great opportunity to learn about the land, and a cooperative exercise imagining what Common Ground could look like in a few years—all ages, knowledge, and interest levels welcome to participate. Come to the Potluck afterwards, too!

COMMUNITY POTLUCK

HeartWeavers Subcircle

November 12th; 5:30-7:00pm, on the land

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):

Lunar Wisdom Circle: Full Moon Ritual

November 7, 7 - 8:30pm, 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!

Forest Bathing

November 13, 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.

Lunar Wisdom Circle: New Moon Ritual

November 23, 7 - 8:30pm, 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!



Classic autumn scenes – milkweed seeds and goldenrod

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.

Maria Teresa brings our attention to an exhibit and concert devoted to the influence of Latin American

Kid friendly! No RSVP needed.

Come early, for the Elon Student Forum (4-5:30pm) and stay for supper! The students will be bringing some food to share as well. Volunteers are needed to set up and clean up together in true community spirit! **Weather dependent:** check email before coming out.



Farming "retirement" gifts for Jeffry & Margret were a big hit (photo by Jennifer)

TRAIL TENDING WORKDAYS

Land Stewardship Circle

November 13 & 27, 9-11am

RSVP to Michelle: michellerozek0@gmail.com

The land has about 4 miles of meandering trails from the pond to the wetlands and beyond. These mostly wooded pathways enjoy being touched by feet and groomed by gentle hands, which is why we are so grateful to you for offering your loving support by tending these trails!

COMMUNITY IN THE ROUND—Planning & Development Village Update

Governance & Training Circle

Saturday, November 19th, 3-5pm, Zoom

RSVP to Hope: hopematrix@fastmail.com

Come and learn P&D's best accounting of the current loan application and cost estimation situations, their interconnections with unit costs, and the impact on the construction timetable. All members are encouraged to become aware of the huge challenges of this process—and share the directions of hope that we believe will get us through.

music in North Carolina: **RAÍCES, RUTAS Y RITMOS**. The concert will happen on November 12 from 5-7pm. [Click here](#) for more information.



More fun at the fall fest; Paul's alien abduction (photo by Jennifer)

Sustainable Agriculture Conference, November 5-7 [Carolina Farm Stewardship Association](#)

This is the largest and longest-running sustainable ag event in the South. It's packed with classes, resources, and networking opportunities to support this vital work. [Click here](#) for information and to register.

Organizing Against Racism

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 here](#) for information and to register.

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.



Chilling out after the festivities and potluck (photo by Jennifer)

FRESH TAKE: An in-depth info session

Membership Circle

*This session will not be offered live because the **Community in the Round—Village Update** event will give you the most up-to-date information about development progress. [Click here](#) to see an earlier Fresh Take session to learn more about the whole community.*

EARTH CONNECTION SUNDAY—Getting to Know Our Trees

HeartWeavers Subcircle

Sunday, November 20, 1-3pm, on the land
RSVP to Theresa with "Earth Connection" in the subject line: tjensen1952@gmail.com

Emmanuel Brown ("EB") of the [Pando Project](#) and Hope will guide a walk to help you to identify some of the tree species on our land and learn more about their nature and properties. If we are lucky, we may even be able to find a few tree seeds to collect!



Amanita mushrooms push through the pine straw

ECO-FUTURES READING GROUP

Land Stewardship Circle

Sunday, December 4, Time TBD, at Arcadia in Carrboro
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. The group recently read [Dispatches from the Sweet Life](#) by Bill Powers. **EXCITING NEWS** for December—we'll be meeting with Bill and Melinda Powers in person to talk about their experience creating community in Bolivia. Stay tuned for details.*