



Finding Common Ground

June, 2023

Up Front

CGEV 2.0 will truly take a village to realize. The Planning & Development and General Circles have discussed the need to form a group of likely “First Wave” residents to advise on key issues around village design. This group would begin to get together covenants and other documents as well as simply to step forward to be counted. Anthony has volunteered to pull this group together for an organizational meeting. Want to be a part of this? Contact [Anthony!](#)

CIRCLE NEWS

General Circle: Our Circle leaders consented to a proposal that states: *CGEV will no longer pursue developing the village all at once through a HUD-backed blanket mortgage.* It felt important to officially decide this at the GC level. We are now moving full steam ahead to realize the CGEV 2.0 plan.

Governance & Training: The Community in the Round and Potluck both took place at the Nest due to rainy weather. Twenty-six participants showed up to this hybrid meeting and we all enjoyed a lively sharing of questions and ideas. Anthony compiled a list with critical tasks and **many people stepped forward to get involved in initiatives** from nurturing our membership to developing architectural standards, to building a privy! Many thanks to the Membership and HeartWeavers Circles for their work spearheading the meeting and organizing the Potluck. And kudos to Becky for terrific (almost acrobatic) facilitation as she ensured that every voice could be heard through a portable microphone. ♦ The pivot to CGEV 2.0 calls for us to examine our governance structures and processes accordingly. How can we enhance the Community’s ability to both operate and communicate more effectively as plans change? If this work speaks to you, contact [Becky](#) to participate.

MEETINGS & EVENTS



Lara, Jane, & Christine inspect the beehive named “Sweet” for signs of well-being. The “Hop” hive in the background is similarly thriving. Banner above: Wow! The bees are busy raising brood and packing away honey for the nectar dearth to come (Photos: Hope)

GET INVOLVED

- ♦ **All events are open to everyone unless otherwise indicated, and **you must RSVP** for details, links, and last-minute changes.**
- ♦ **COVID Policy:** For your safety and others', bring a mask in case it is needed. At CGEV, we protect those most vulnerable.
- ♦ **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



Rachel is the newest member of the tractor team. (Click for a video by Gonzalo) Contact [Doug](#) if YOU'D like to learn!

Membership: Ten people joined Common Ground in April and May. Of this group, the three that live locally all attended the April potluck and Community in the Round (CIR). A considerable number of members are in the process of advancing to the next level of membership. ♦ **April's Potluck** was held directly following the Community in the Round and offered an opportunity for processing information shared at the CIR. More than 25 people attended. After a good meal people gathered to offer their responses to the new direction for building the village at CGEV. Newer members showed a lot of enthusiasm, hopefulness and appreciation for the long-time members, some of whom shared feelings of disappointment and sadness at letting go the Co-op plan of many years. This kind of sharing and listening seemed very meaningful to all.



A rousing Song Circle commences at the Nest (Photo: Amy H.)

♦ **HeartWeavers** hosted a potluck after the May Community in the Round hybrid meeting which took place at the Nest. There were many fabulous dishes, including fresh produce from the farm and a pudding made from our own wild persimmons. **But the real dessert was the song circle**, enlivened by a sonorous blend of singers and instruments.

COMMUNITY EVENTS SNAPSHOT

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

- ♦ **Racial Awareness Reading and Reflection Group**, Every Monday, 7-8pm
- ♦ **Forest & Tree Workday**, June 3, 1-4pm
- ♦ **Heart Share (Zoom)**, June 16, 7-9pm
- ♦ **Potato Palooza Harvest Party!** June 17, 1-5pm
- ♦ **Earth Connection Sunday**, June 18, 10-12noon
- ♦ **Heart Share Fire Circle on the land**, June 18, 1-3pm
- ♦ **Community in the Round**, June 24, 3-5pm
- ♦ **Summer Solstice Potluck**, June 24, 5:30-7:30pm
- ♦ **Take a Hike!** June 25, 10:00am
- ♦ **Tours of the land by request:** Contact [Lisa](#)

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

- Fridays June 2 & 16, 1-3pm, Zoom & in-person
RSVP to Lisa with subject "Membership Circle":
LBerley@yahoo.com

We would love to have you come and observe and then join us in the work of the Circle.

MC-HeartWeavers Subcircle

- Sunday, June 11, 5-6:30pm, Zoom
RSVP to Joanne with subject "HeartWeavers RSVP":
wonderaware2@proton.me

Your creativity and enthusiasm is needed as we plan the events that keep the energy of our community alive. All membership levels are encouraged to attend.



Full Table CSA bags full of CGEV farm bounty await pick-up in Durham by happy customers (Photo: Gonzalo)

♦ The **Fresh Take Info Session** is now being held every other month on Zoom and we offered one in May. This program is geared to new Visiting Members and other interested persons as an overview of the aspirations, the land and the village plans, but the presenters and people who come more than once repeatedly say they learn new information each and every time.

HeartWeavers: Quai and Ren hosted another lovely gathering of authenticity at the Heart Share continuing last month's theme of friendship. Lots of questions to ponder: What does friendship mean and look like in a cooperative ecovillage? If you are interested in deepening your relationship with your potential future land-mates, come join us on June 16 for another enriching online conversation. And if you wish for in person connection, we're offering our **very first in-person Heart Share** after Earth Connection Sunday on June 18th at 1pm. Bring your lunch or your favorite campfire snack and we will share what comes up for us.



Purple coneflowers bloom in the perennial field (photo: Kara)

Land Stewardship: Margret writes about fighting for our pear trees: As many of you know, CGEV has a thriving perennial strip inside the farm fence, consisting of flowers, herbs, brambles, and fruit trees, all established under the guidance of Land Stewardship. Earlier this month we became aware of many browning and dying branch tips on one of the pear trees. **Research tells us it is suffering from Fire Blight**, a bacterial disease not uncommon among both pears and apples. It may have come to us as an already infected sapling, but

LAND STEWARDSHIP CIRCLE

- Tuesday, June 13, 7-9 pm

Contact Doug about getting involved:

dr.tobagopepper@gmail.com

This Circle's projects range from field to forest. Your involvement is needed and makes a difference!

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT CIRCLE

- Wednesdays, June 14 & 28, 2-4pm

RSVP to Anthony: weston@elon.edu

All sessions are via Zoom and in-person at the Nest in Mebane. We encourage observers.

COMMUNICATIONS CIRCLE

- Wednesday, June 14, 6:30-8pm, Zoom

RSVP to Quai: quaifranklin@gmail.com

The IT and Website Subcircles are collaborating on an upgraded and faster forum. Contact Quai if you are interested in helping out.

GOVERNANCE & TRAINING CIRCLE

- Thursday, June 15, 7-9pm, Zoom

RSVP to Becky with subject G&T:

blaskody@gmail.com

GENERAL CIRCLE

- Sunday, June 18, 6:30-8:30pm, Zoom and in-person at the Nest in Mebane

RSVP to Hope with subject "GC", 2 days in advance: hopenatrix@fastmail.com

Come and observe to find out what's happening with all Circles at CGEV—and how you can be involved.



Jane is delighted by all the capped cells full of honey that the bees have produced from nectar nearby (Photo: Hope)

the bacteria also exist in the soil. Regardless, the suggested treatments are 1) spraying with streptomycin or 2) severe and vigilant pruning of the affected areas. Jeffry and Nell have chosen the latter approach, which involves dipping pruning shears in bleach after each cut to limit reinfection, and burning the affected prunings. So, if you notice a rather drastically trimmed pear tree, be assured it is for its own good, as we try to both restore the tree to health and prevent the bacteria from spreading. We check both the pear and apple trees often, and so far our approach seems to be working!



This struggling pear tree needs TLC (Photo: Margret)

♦ A small CGEV Task force is beginning the work of **establishing a conservation easement along McGowan Creek.** Members of the Land Stewardship and Planning & Development Circles met on the land with top people at the Triangle Land Conservancy, the Eno River Association, and Orange County Legacy Lands to discuss what's needed to get started. They outlined a process



The beavers have restored an abandoned dam, creating a pond where we currently cross the wetland (Photo: Hope)

ALL ABOUT EVENTS

TOURS OF THE LAND—by request

Membership Circle

*Are you a new Common Ground member or a curious person who is thinking of joining? You can schedule a tour of the Land! **Contact Lisa** with subject "Request a tour."*

RACIAL AWARENESS READING & REFLECTION GROUP

Membership Circle

Every Monday, 7-8pm, Zoom.

Contact Lisa to join: welcome@commonground.eco with subject, "Racial Awareness Book Group"

The format is reading aloud and breaking between paragraphs to share personal reflections, questions, and ideas. This Group is reading, The Heartbeat of Wounded Knee: Native America from 1890 to the Present, by David Treuer. We welcome additional members any time.

FOREST & TREE WORKDAY

Forest Subcircle

Saturday, June 3, 1-4, meet at the Barn

RSVP to Holly for details: hollyculton@gmail.com

Weather dependent: check your email for updates.

POTATO PALOOZA HARVEST PARTY!

Land Stewardship Circle

Saturday, June 17, 1-5pm on the land

Contact Caleb with subject "Potato" for details: calebbuchbinder@gmail.com

Weather dependent: check your email for updates.
Come get your hands in the dirt as we sing songs, learn the fine art of harvesting potatoes, onions, and any treasures that catch our fancy in the garden. We'll celebrate our harvest with a baked potato bar. Bring your favorite topping if you feel so inspired!

HEART SHARE

HeartWeavers Subcircle

Friday, June 16, 7-9pm, 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 offer question prompts to help us

to identify and balance all parameters so that CGEV can agree upon good ways to proceed. We took a brief trek to the wetland and our guests were very impressed with the beauty and vitality of this precious ecosystem.



'Tis the season for zucchini and summer squash (photo: Kara)

Planning & Development: We had a very well-attended and well-received end-of-April Community in the Round session which laid out “CGEV 2.0” ([Recording here](#), [slides here](#)). Since then, we’ve been working to fill in the new plan and focus on developing options. Our real estate attorney, Will Anderson, the Orange County Planning office, and land engineer Bobby Tucker are helping us to refine Land Condominium options as well as find ways to afford a bare-bones infrastructure within our current, tailor-made zoning plan. We hope to be able to return to the community with a fairly detailed outline of the best way forward very soon. ♦ To prepare for what’s ahead, we compiled a list of tasks for all circles that arise with the shift to CGEV 2.0 and shared it with the General Circle at the May meeting. **Every circle, and every member, should feel themselves invited and urged to join the work that will be needed,** from enhancing our communications to building membership to brainstorming and researching some of the new ways to realize community that are opened up by the greater freedom of CGEV 2.0. Another pressing need – and opportunity – is for prospective “first wave” residents to begin meeting as a group, along with a small Architectural Standards subcircle. Many of these groups

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.

EARTH CONNECTION SUNDAY

HeartWeavers Subcircle

Sunday, June 18, 10-noon, on the land

Contact Joanne with subject “ECS RSVP” for details:
wonderaware2@proton.me **Weather dependent:**
check your email for updates

Come get in touch with the place you hope to call home. Bring your art supplies, a journal, or perhaps your favorite tunes as you get a chance engage with the land in the way that feels meaningful to you. And if you feel so inspired, please stay for the Heart Share Fire Circle at 1pm!

HEART SHARE FIRE CIRCLE on the land

HeartWeavers Subcircle

RSVP to Joanne with subject “Heart Share”:
wonderaware2@proton.me

Weather dependent: check your email for updates
Interested in deepening your relationship with your potential future land-mates? Join us after Earth Connection Sunday 1pm for our very first in-person Heart Share! Bring your lunch or your favorite campfire snack and we will share what comes up for us as we enjoy the longest day of the year together.



The Potluck Song Circle was joyful for all. (Photo: Amy)

COMMUNITY IN THE ROUND

Governance & Training Circle

Saturday, June 24, 3-5pm, Zoom & in-person

RSVP to Hope with subject “CIR”:
hopenmatrix@fastmail.com

These all-member meetings are reliably informative and connecting for all involved. The June topic will

are in the process of being formed now. You'll be hearing more from us about these initiatives and opportunities over the month of June.

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

Hope and Jane explored the frontier awaiting us in a workshop called **Reclaiming Death and Dying in Community**. Lee Warren offered this course through the Foundation for Intentional Community (FIC) She began by relating how experiences with dying members at Earthhaven are resulting in an emerging and positive death culture there. This feels like a necessary walk for us all to take at Common Ground. What community practices may emerge to honor the person who dies and the body which remains?

OUTSIDE EVENTS/WEBINARS/READINGS TO EXPAND OUR SOCIAL & CULTURAL HORIZONS

ForestHer 2023 Theme: All about Pollinators

July 27, October 26, 1-2:30pm, Zoom webinar
Want to catch the buzz about pollinators? In this introduction we'll go beyond honeybees to learn the astonishing diversity of native pollinators and the vital roles they play in healthy ecosystems. [Read about it here.](#)

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.

Speak to what's most relevant when the time comes. Stay and enjoy a Potluck supper afterwards!

SUMMER SOLSTICE POTLUCK

HeartWeavers Subcircle

Saturday, June 24, 5:30-7:30pm-ish on the land. Kid friendly! No RSVP needed. **Contact Lisa for**

information: lberley@yahoo.com **Weather**

dependent: check email for updates

After the Community in the Round, come celebrate (nearly) the longest day of the year and the peak of the sun: summer will officially be here! Bring a plate to share. S'more-making supplies might also be a good idea, too. No RSVP necessary but check your email for weather updates. At the Grandmother Oak or the barn if it's raining.

TAKE A HIKE!

HeartWeavers Subcircle

Sunday, June 25, 10:00am, lovely location TBA

RSVP is essential to Margaret: bktittle@gmail.com

These hikes are a great way to connect with other members while taking in the beauty and variety of the natural world. We'd love to have you join in!



Elderberry umbels packed with snowy white blooms are blooming all over the land abound (Photo: Hope)