



Finding Common Ground

July, 2023

Up Front

The not-so Well: A bit of bad news...while it rained and poured during the solstice week, our solar-powered well pump broke. Now, folks are organizing quickly to get water flowing from the well again to quench the thirst of humans and plants on the market garden farm. We've also realized the need to convert the power source to achieve a more stable and reliable water supply going forward. **All told, this is estimated to cost around \$4000.** Help support our ability to sustainably grow fresh, nutritious, and local food by [making a donation](#) if you can. Contact [Paul](#) for information. And thank you!

Special events in July include: **NVC Dance Floors**, offering a fun and embodied way to engage with Non-Violent Communication principles and practices (July 8); **Sociocracy Soiree**, a summertime-paced intro to our governance system (July 22); and **Fresh Take**—an intro to CGEV (July 15). Check the calendar for details.



First-year beekeepers learn how to check for mites at our apiary

CIRCLE NEWS

Membership: We are excited to share the news that in June several visiting members moved up to the Exploratory level and we anticipate several more in

MEETINGS & EVENTS



The Potato Palooza harvest event was a hit for all! (Photo: Hope)

Banner above: Rising Sunflower (Photo: Kara)

GET INVOLVED

- ♦ **All events are open to everyone** unless otherwise indicated, and **you must RSVP** for details, links, & 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

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**, July 1, 9:30-noon (**cancelled due to heat index**)
- ♦ **NVC Dance Floors**, July 8, 10am-12:30pm

July. All visiting members with strong interests in living in the village are encouraged to go through the process of advancement to the Exploratory level. [Here is the link](#) to the step-by-step guide on the website. A key part of this process is getting to know other members. **Come to the monthly Community in the Round** meetings to “see” others on zoom or in person, interact in break-out sessions and, if you are local, come for the potluck afterward. The June potluck was relaxing, conversational and so enjoyable to be together on the land. There are other valuable ways to meet other members and let others get to know you. All are listed in this Almanac. ♦ **HeartWeavers** hosted several ways to celebrate Summer. Two Solstice-themed Heart Share events (one on Zoom, one under the Grandmother Oak) offered wonderful opportunities for members to connect and share inspiration and vulnerability. Earth Connection Solstice Sunday gave members a quiet opportunity on the land to deepen their creative relationship with the land. Heart Share hosts are needed for both Zoom and land-based events. Interested? Willing? Contact [Joanne](#).



Finding new potatoes just under the soil feels magical (Photo: Hope)

Land Stewardship: There have been many highlights on the land over the past month as we’ve crossed the threshold into summer. Over 25 folks attended the potato harvest palooza on June 17th. A true harvest party: potatoes, carrots, beets, and heads of garlic were dug up. One of the biggest team efforts that day was **moving the (very heavy) privy** over to the pavilion area by the Grandmother Oak. What seemed like a formidable task ended up going quite smoothly. When people gather on the land, magic routinely seems to happen! ([Click here](#) for a short video.) Stop by the land or attend our monthly meeting to be in the know about

- ♦ **Earth Connection Sunday**, July 9, 11am-1pm, Zoom
- ♦ **Sociocracy Soiree**, July 15, 9:30am-1pm
- ♦ **Fresh Take**, July 15, 4-5:30pm
- ♦ **Heart Share (Zoom)**, July 21, 7-9pm
- ♦ **Community in the Round**, July 29, 3-5pm pm
- ♦ **Community Potluck**, July 29, 5:30-7:30ish pm
- ♦ **Heart Share Fire Circle on the land**, date & host TBD
- ♦ **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 July 7 & 14, 1-3pm, Zoom & in-person
RSVP to Lisa with subject “Membership Circle”:
LBerley@yahoo.com

We are looking for new members and welcome Visiting Members to observe and join us in our work.

HeartWeavers Subcircle

- **Time Change:** Sunday, July 9, 6:30-8pm, 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.

LAND STEWARDSHIP CIRCLE

- Tuesday, July 11, 7-9 pm
Contact Doug with subject “LSC RSVP”:
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, July 12 & 26, 2-4pm
RSVP to Anthony: weston@elon.edu

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

Potential Residents Advisory Task Group (PRAG)

- Sundays, 4-6pm
RSVP to Quai, subject “PRAG”: quaifranklin@gmail.com

Designed for members who are seriously interested in living at Common Ground.

GOVERNANCE & TRAINING CIRCLE

- Wednesday, July 19, 6:30-8:30pm, Zoom
RSVP to Becky: blaskody@gmail.com

all the Land Stewardship projects currently happening.
PS: there's a ping pong table at the barn now!!



A tired but happy group completes the privy move (Photo: Hope)

Communications: The IT and Website Subcircles are working with the Membership Circle (MC) to improve the quality of our Member Forum and to provide essential database reports that MC is requesting. Collaborative meetings are ongoing. ♦ **Website:** We are busy with software updates, text revisions, and design rejuvenation. Want to pitch in? Contact [Zeke](#) for information. ♦ **Marketing & Promotion** is now seeking new members who have interest in, or experience with, marketing or the work of its task groups (Outreach, Visibility & Promotion). Reach out to [Quai](#) for info.

Planning & Development: P&D continues to work to fill in and cost out the alternative "CGEV 2.0" plan that preserves as much as we can of our long-planned village layout, utility (eg. water and septic), and architectural options, but funding only the barest-bones infrastructure as a community, probably still requiring a significant loan. We have presented a PowerPoint summarizing some possible financial implications at both the June GC and Circle in the Round (CIR) meetings (Access [CIR recording here](#); [PPT here](#)), and expect to come to the community with a fairly worked-out "package deal" very soon. In the background, **we are also cooking up a backup:** an even barer-bones and less costly infrastructure with a significantly revised site plan that preserves as much of the core vision and design as possible (but, of necessity, less, or differently, than 2.0). We continue to try to mobilize and inform larger community efforts to moving to a decision soon too, including sponsoring the new Potential Residents Advisory Task Group. Do be aware that we are coming to an all-hands-in-deck moment for this decision ... for whatever form the village finally takes... that's the basic question at hand! ♦ **The Potential Residents Advisory**

GENERAL CIRCLE

- Sunday, July 23, 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.

COMMUNICATIONS CIRCLE

- Wednesday, July 26, 6:30-8pm, Zoom
RSVP to Quai: quaifranklin@gmail.com

We focus on policy and overall strategy and planning related to the work of our Subcircles:

Marketing & Promotion Subcircle (M&P)

M&P is looking for new members. Please contact [Quai](#).

Website Subcircle

Website work is always creative and ongoing. Contact [Zeke](#) for information.

IT Subcircle

Contact [Quai](#) if you have questions or are interested in observing a work meeting or helping out.



Doug breaks up the soil for potato gatherers (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 with subject, "Racial Awareness Book Group": lberley@yahoo.com

Task Group (PRAG) had its 3rd meeting on June 25th (4:00 - 6:00p) via Zoom. Amy facilitated the meeting as we dove into breaking down the many big and broad topics into workable chunks. These topics will be primarily worked on by sub-groups and reported into the main group in our weekly meetings on Sundays. **If you are a member who is seriously interested in living at Common Ground, this task group needs your voice, your energy, and your questions!** Contact [Quai](#) for information.

Governance & Training: Check out the new trainings offered in July: NVC Dance Floor and the Sociocracy Soiree. Details are in the Calendar.



July delectables on the land (Photos: Kara)

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

Plant Walk with Melanie Yukov, July 22, 10-11:30am on the land. [Register here.](#)

Join Melanie of Root 2 Rise Wellness for an exploration of the plants at Common Ground. Topics include identification of plants growing around us, principles of responsible gathering, and the medicinal, edible, and spiritually healing properties that the plants offer. This event is donation based. Give if you are able, no one is turned away. Children over the age of 5 are welcome to participate as well. This event is extended to those outside the Common Ground Community interested in learning who we are. Please bring something to drink tea from and whatever you need to be comfortable among poison ivy, insects, sun exposure, and anything else we might encounter in nature. Held rain or shine unless the weather is severe. **Limited to 20**

Nate Tiebohl invites you to learn about his new venture, [Wildcraft Landscapes](#), in Pennsylvania!

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

FOREST & TREE WORKDAY

Cancelled due to the high heat index

Forest Subcircle

Saturday, July 1, 9:30-noon meet at the Barn

Contact Nell for info.: hmkriesberg@gmail.com

Weather dependent: check your email for updates.

NVC DANCE FLOORS

Governance & Training Circle

Saturday, July 8, 10am-12:30pm, the Nest in Mebane

RSVP to Amelia: amyelliott464@gmail.com

Come connect and have fun as you practice an embodied form of Non-Violent Communication (NVC) together. In-person only at the Nest in Mebane.

Limited to 10 participants, so RSVP early!

EARTH CONNECTION SUNDAY—Living Landscapes: Home Ground

HeartWeavers Subcircle

Sunday, July 9, 11am-1pm via ZOOM ONLY

Facilitated by Maureen Momo Freehill

RSVP to Joanne required by JULY 7 with subject "ECS RSVP": wonderaware2@proton.me

This online gathering will explore our most intimate and accessible living Earth landscapes...close to HOME. Our own body. Our immediate indoor and outdoor natural environment. Our creative impulse. We share discoveries and learn to expand connections with ourselves, others, and this Earth we inhabit.

SOCIOCRACY SOIREE

Governance & Training Circle

Saturday, July 22, 9:30am-1pm, Zoom and in-person

RSVP to Hope, subject "SS":

hopematrix@fastmail.com

It's summertime, and this introduction to Sociocracy is meant to be relaxed and engaging. It's designed for members who want to learn about our governance system and/or brush up their skills.

Zoom in or come to the Nest in Mebane. Limit: 15

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

Herbalicious Explorations with Melanie Yukov, July 16, 9:30am-12:30pm, Franklinton NC. [Register here.](#)

Anyone over age 5 is invited to a farm to learn the medicinal and edible uses of plants, go home with a handcrafted herbal product, pet and feed the farm animals. Wondering if it's worth the drive and investment? Check out her [website](#) for testimonials. Spots are limited and there is a special gift for those who register by July 1st. For more information [Herbalicious Explorations](#). For direct registration link [Herbalicious Registration](#).

The Snakes of Chatham County webinar, July 20, 9-11:30am, Chatham Conservation Partnership. [Click here](#) to read more and to register.

Whether you are fascinated or repulsed by snakes, this webinar will present an amazing opportunity to learn from two of our state's top snake experts with decades of experience between them! **Agenda:** Basic Snake Biology; Snake Awareness & Safety; Snakes of Chatham County; How to Identify Venomous Snakes; Snake Conservation; and Monitoring Snake Resources.

Presenters: Jeff Beane, North Carolina State Museum of Natural Sciences, Jeff Hall, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission. Registrants will receive an email prior to the event with the Zoom link.

ForestHer 2023 Theme: All about Pollinators
July 27, October 26, 1-2:30pm, Zoom webinar,
[Read about it here.](#)

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.

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.

FRESH TAKE INFORMATION SESSION

Membership Circle

Saturday, July 15, 4-5:30pm, Zoom

RSVP to Lisa with subject "Fresh Take":

welcome@commonground.eco

This general overview of Common Ground Ecovillage includes the membership process, governance system, stewardship of the land, and plans we are considering for building the village. It is geared to visiting members and those who are considering joining. Come and learn a lot, fast!

HEART SHARE

HeartWeavers Subcircle

Friday, July 21, 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 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 IN THE ROUND

Governance & Training Circle

Saturday, July 29, 3-5pm, Zoom & in-person

RSVP to Hope, subject "CIR":

hopematrix@fastmail.com

These all-member meetings are reliably informative and connecting for all involved. We'll speak to what's most relevant when the time comes. Stay and enjoy a Potluck supper afterwards!

COMMUNITY POTLUCK

HeartWeavers Subcircle

Saturday, July 29, 5:30-7:30pm-ish under the shade of the Grandmother Oak or at the barn if it rains.

Contact Lisa for information: iberley@yahoo.com

Weather dependent: check email for updates

Let's enjoy camaraderie after Community in the Round. Bring kiddies and chairs plus lawn games, board games, and musical instruments if you wish. No RSVP needed