



# Finding Common Ground September, 2023

## Up Front



Land-based events take center stage as autumn approaches. Join us for a **Corn Harvesting/Husking event** (click on the video) and an Equinox weekend

to engage in fascinating land projects like seed saving and permaculture. It's all described in the calendar! Learn about the staple crops project in the far field [here](#).

Missed August's Community in the Round? [Click here](#) to hear village, farm, and forest happenings.

## CIRCLE NEWS

**Membership:** Our community continues to attract like-minded people who are inspired by all that we are creating here. In August, we welcomed a family, a couple and an individual as visiting members. Plus we also had a steady stream of inquiries through Webmail: [welcomed@commonground.eco](mailto:welcomed@commonground.eco). On the other hand, a few members who had been actively exploring our community found a better fit elsewhere. We are sad to see them go. ♦ **The Membership Circle needs your help with a few very doable tasks.** We are looking for volunteers outside our circle who enjoy connecting to



Pungent Spice Bush berries are prolific this year. (Photo: Hope)

## MEETINGS & EVENTS



A warm evening's potluck under the cooling shade of the Grandmother Oak. Banner above: Last year's White Oak acorns were dried and offered by Nick for an acorn flower processing event. (Photos: Hope)

## 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](mailto: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
- ♦ **PermaYoga by Lucas**, Every Monday, 6:15-7:15pm
- ♦ **Corn Harvest/Husking Party**, September 4, 2-6pm
- ♦ **Forest & Tree Workday**, September 9, 9:30-11:30am
- ♦ **Fresh Take Info Session**, September 9, 4-5:30pm
- ♦ **Heart Share (Zoom)**, September 15, 7-9pm

our new members. [Click here](#) for a list of tasks that take an hour or two at the most per month and will make a big impact. ♦ The **Affiliate Membership Category** is now available for enrollment. This category was created for members who are not planning to be residents of the village but want to continue to be members of the community - connected to the mission, social relationships, contributing to the work, financial support and continuing to enjoy the land, the trails etc. The activities of an Affiliate member can take many forms: membership in circles, task groups or volunteering to do individual tasks, participation in educational and social events, volunteering on the farm and on work days. Paying dues is a requirement. The suggested amount is \$25/month and there is a sliding scale. If you would like to become an Affiliate contact [Lisa](#) with subject, "Affiliate Membership".

**Communications:** The website and IT sub-circles have been working together on a **community discussion forum** using Discourse. It is currently being tested and is expected to be released in the next couple of weeks to Common Ground Members. It will be linked from our website, [commonground.eco](http://commonground.eco).

♦ Next up, we'll be working on a **membership database** that will better enable us to understand our membership and our needs. If you're interested in working on these types of projects, please contact [Quai](#) for more information.



Plump figs, juicy and delicious (Photo: Margaret)

**Land Stewardship:** FIGS! Fantastic, Fulsome and Fleeting FIGS! If you've been on the land recently, you may have noticed how wonderfully vigorous the three-year-old fig trees in the perennial strip are; they are loaded with ripening fruit. Many birds, squirrels, and insects love figs too, so we may have to share! As is true of many fruits, fig season is short, so be sure to find some through Doug's CSA, a farmer's market, or your local co-op grocery. ♦ **The Farm CSA (Community**

- ♦ **NVC Dance Floors**, September 16, 1-4pm
- ♦ **Land Education Weekend**, September 23/24
- ♦ **Community in the Round**, September 30, 3-5pm
- ♦ **Community Potluck**, September 30, 5:30-7:30ish pm
- ♦ **Tours of the land by request:** Contact [Lisa](#)



Late Summer sunset (Photo: Jess)

## 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 September 1 & 15, 1-3pm, Zoom  
**RSVP to Lisa** with subject "Membership Circle":  
[LBerley@yahoo.com](mailto:LBerley@yahoo.com)

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

#### HeartWeavers Subcircle

- Sunday, September 10, 6:30-8pm, Zoom  
**RSVP to Joanne** with subject "HeartWeavers RSVP":  
[wonderaware2@proton.me](mailto: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.*

### PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT CIRCLE

- Wednesdays, September 13 & 27, 2-4pm  
**RSVP to Anthony:** [weston@elon.edu](mailto:weston@elon.edu)

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

#### Potential Residents Advisory Task Group (PRAG)

- Sundays, aft. or eve.—contact Quai for a schedule  
**RSVP to Quai**, subject "PRAG": [quaifranklin@gmail.com](mailto:quaifranklin@gmail.com)

*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.*



**Supported Agriculture) sent out over 350 units of veggies on August 24th, a new record!** The farm crew has enjoyed recent added variety as certain plants have reached a harvestable stage. Green beans, melons, and okra are in full swing, with Doug's famous sweet peppers and seasoning varieties beginning to produce prolifically. Curious about the CSA? [Click here](#). ♦ Caleb and Lucas have been experimenting with growing staple crops in the Far Field. [Click here](#) for a video update.

♦ The bees have been hungry during a period of summer nectar dearth, so the bee team has been hard at work feeding them with extra sugar syrup to stock up for the winter and also treating for mites. ♦ A draft of the **new Forest Stewardship Plan** is currently under review. Stay tuned for news about this. ♦ Nick Wrenn offered an **acorn flour processing party** to teach people how to make this local, free, and nutritious food. Twenty-three people gathered at the barn to shell acorns, connect with each other, and take home acorns to make a small batch of flour for themselves. It was a terrific time!



Nick's acorn flour processing event was cracking fun (Photo: Hope)

**Heartweavers SubCircle:** Our dear friend and farmer Jeffry was recently hit by a car while riding his bicycle. He's basically okay and is healing from injuries sustained. HeartWeavers members had an impromptu cook day to make and deliver food to Jeffry and Margret. It was a wonderful collaboration and felt like true community. They are welcoming visitors while Jeffry recovers. ♦ Heartweavers and Melanie from [Root2Rise Wellness](#) hosted a wonderful, well-attended Earth Connection Sunday where we learned about **Trees and Leaves** on the land. A few new people (with kids!) explored the land, collected leaves with diverse shapes and sizes, and enjoyed a gorgeous Sunday morning connecting with each other and the trees. Heartweavers plans to have more kid-friendly events in the future to attract more young families to the community.



Scrumptious salad from Lucas—a potluck highlight! (Photo: Kathryn)

## LAND STEWARDSHIP CIRCLE

- Tuesday, September 12, 7-8:30 pm  
**RSVP to Doug** with subject "LSC RSVP":  
[dr.tobagopepper@gmail.com](mailto:dr.tobagopepper@gmail.com)

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

## GOVERNANCE & TRAINING CIRCLE

- Thursday, September 14, 7-9pm, Zoom  
**RSVP to Hope** with subject "G&T":  
[hopenatrix@fastmail.com](mailto:hopenatrix@fastmail.com)

*Heartily welcoming visitors and new members.*

## GENERAL CIRCLE

- Sunday, September 17, 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](mailto: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, September 13, 6:30-8pm, Zoom  
**RSVP to Quai:** [quaifranklin@gmail.com](mailto:quaifranklin@gmail.com)

*CommC is in need of new members interested in helping to shape communications policy or helping to support the systems we use to communicate and house our information. If you have experience or enthusiastic interest in marketing, promotion, compassionate communication, IT, or website please reach out to [Quai](#).*

### Marketing & Promotion Subcircle (M&P)

*If you have an interest in or experience with marketing and/or promotion we need your voice, expertise, and creativity. If you are interested in working on the subcircle or any of its task groups, please reach out to [Quai](#).*





Lindsay rounded up leaves from hickory to beech (Photo: Joanne)

**Governance & Training:** Transparency and feedback are important principles of sociocracy. With that in mind, we are re-booting the **Decision Log** so that we can track our decisions and re-evaluate them as needed. ♦ We're excited to be sponsoring a Non-Violent Communication (**NVC**) **Dance Floors training** on September 16! Details are in the calendar. ♦ Training in our governance system is a must for all of our members. **Becky will be teaching a 4-part sociocracy training beginning in October.** We need to hear from YOU if you are Interested so that we can choose dates that work for the group. Contact Hope for information: [hopematrix@fastmail.com](mailto:hopematrix@fastmail.com)



NVC Dance Floors sampler (Photo: Amelia)

**Planning & Development:** We continue to gauge the viability of CGEV 3.0 with contractors and Orange County officials. If you want to be in the know, as it unfolds, we invite you to observe our Circle meetings. Check the calendar for details.

## Website Subcircle, IT Subcircle

Contact [Quai](#) if you are interested in the work of these subcircles and would like to learn more.

## 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."



Doug cradles an armful of corn grown for grain (Photo: Hope)

### CORN HARVEST/HUSKING PARTY

Land Stewardship Circle

Monday, September 4, 2-6pm, on the land

**Contact Lucas** for information:

[lucas.babinec@posteo.net](mailto:lucas.babinec@posteo.net)

*All summer long the corn has been a prominent plant on the farm/garden landscape. Now it's time to learn how to harvest, shuck, and shell dry corn for flour. Enjoy polenta and farm veggies to eat! Come dressed for farm work and bring a water bottle. Kid friendly.*

### PERMAYOGA WITH LUCAS

Land Stewardship Circle

Every Monday in September, 6:15-7:15pm, under the Grandmother Oak.

**Contact Lucas** for information:

*Experience a holistic awareness cultivation practice with stillness, movement, breath, body, mind, and the glory of nature. Tailored to those who show up. Bring your own mat, blanket, pillows, bugspray, etc...whatever you need to be comfy and focused! Suggested donation \$5, all proceeds go to CGEV.*



## MEMBER HAPPENINGS

Is there something that you want to share with the community? If so, contact Hope by the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month: [hopematrix@fastmail.com](mailto:hopematrix@fastmail.com)



Souvenir from Findhorn (Photo: Anthony)

**Anthony** was in Scotland backpacking and teaching (more or less in that order) and also spent three days at Findhorn Ecovillage on Scotland's northern coast—the original ecovillage and source and inspiration for ecovillages worldwide since the 60s. He reports that it was actually a complex experience: there is a wonderful feeling of settledness in parts of the community, a long and storied history, and some fantastic artistry and a consistent standard of eco-conscious building... also, interestingly, a move toward something like our own current framework – building in phases with a lot of individual initiative... but also, surprisingly (or should it have been?), there is also quite a bit of (financial) *unsettledness* at present, and other issues that we also face are recurring or remain: governance, economic accessibility, demographics. If there is interest, Anthony would be happy to offer a Findhorn slideshow and discussion in September. Interested? Email [Anthony](mailto:Anthony).



Findhorn hideout (Photo: Anthony)

**Herbalicious Explorations with Melanie Yukov**, Sunday, September 10, 9:30 AM -12:30 PM, at a farm in Franklinton, NC. [Click here to register](#).

## 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](mailto:lberley@yahoo.com)

*As part of our vision of living in justice and harmony with each other, we are working as a group to learn and grow and to become more aware of the racist and economically unjust history we have inherited. This is a safe place to learn together about racism. The weekly format helps build trust and a habit of attention to these matters. People attend as much as they can. Encouraged for members of CGEV as well the larger community. The format is reading aloud and breaking between paragraphs to share personal reflections, questions, ideas. Our current book is The Heartbeat of Wounded Knee: Native America from 1890 to the Present, by David Treuer. Please join us!*



(Photo: Jess)

## FOREST & TREE WORKDAY

Forest Subcircle

Saturday, September 9, 9:30-11:30am, at the barn

**Contact Nel** for info: [hnkriesberg@gmail.com](mailto:hnkriesberg@gmail.com)

**Weather dependent:** check your email for updates *Our work will depend upon the preferences of the group. Options include forest thinning, trail tending, dam clearing, and others. Meet at the barn.*

## FRESH TAKE INFORMATION SESSION

Membership Circle

Saturday, September 9, 4-5:30pm, Zoom

**RSVP to Lisa** with subject "Fresh Take":

[welcome@commonground.eco](mailto:welcome@commonground.eco)



Imagine frolicking among the farm animals in a picturesque setting. Sipping on a cooling medicinal beverage while connecting and making new like-minded friends. Learning a ton about the medicinal and edible plants around you so YOU could survive the next apocalypse. Making medicine with and learning about the magic of Goldenrod (*Solidago* spp.), which is one of my favorite plants. Taking your sacred medicine home along with receiving plant notes on the other allies all around. **For Ages 5 and up.**



*Many hands made flour-ready acorns (Photo: Hope)*

### **Grounding in Connection: A Somatic Workshop**

Christine Stevralia, Sacred Energy Somatics  
Saturday, November 11 (tentative), 10am - 6pm at the Durham Fruit. To connect with others, we must first connect with ourselves. Through a series of somatic activities, participants will ground into connection first with themselves and then with others. Activities will be based in a modality called Core Energetics: somatic process work that integrates body, emotion, intellect, spirit, and will. Each participant will work at the pace of their own nervous system to show up authentically in a group. For more information and online registration, [click here](#), or [email Christine](#).

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

[7 Directions of Service \(7DS\)](#) is an Indigenous-led environmental justice and community organizing collective based on Occaneechi-Saponi homelands in rural North Carolina **dedicated to canceling the Mountain Valley Pipeline/Southgate Extension**, advocating for legal Rights of Nature and developing a land, language and cultural center based on traditional teachings. We carry a responsibility to be a strong voice for the lands, waters, and more-than-human world. Many actions are planned for September. [Click here](#) to learn more and get involved.

*This general overview of Common Ground Ecovillage includes the vision, 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, September 15, 7-9pm, Zoom

**RSVP to Ren:** [renenberg.cge@gmail.com](mailto:renenberg.cge@gmail.com)

Topic TBA. Facilitators are needed

*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.*

### **NVC DANCE FLOORS**

Governance & Training Circle

Saturday, September 16, 1-4pm, Arcadia Cohousing

**RSVP to Amelia:** [amyelliott464@gmail.com](mailto: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 Arcadia Common House in Carrboro. Space is limited, so RSVP early! Donations for Arcadia and CGEV appreciated.*



*Got drums? Instruments? Bring them to the potluck. (Photo: Hope)*

### **LAND EDUCATION WEEKEND**

Land Stewardship and HeartWeavers Circles

September 23 & 24, times/details TBA, on the land

**Check your email** for further information





### 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 their website (<https://www.ic.org/events/>) to see the array of intriguing options for the months to come.



A misty, moisty day at the wetland (Photo: Jess)

Engage in on the land projects during this Fall Equinox weekend. Events may involve: seed saving, permaculture, hugulkulture raised beds, and more!

## COMMUNITY IN THE ROUND

Governance & Training Circle

Saturday, September 30, 3-5pm, Zoom & in-person

**RSVP to Hope**, subject "CIR":

[hopematrix@fastmail.com](mailto: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, September 30, 5:30-7:30pm at the Grandmother Oak, or at the barn if it rains.

**Contact Lisa** for information: [lberley@yahoo.com](mailto:lberley@yahoo.com)

**Weather dependent:** check email for updates

*Let's enjoy camaraderie after Community in the Round. Bring the kiddies and chairs plus lawn games, board games, and musical instruments if you wish.*



Cherry tomato joy! (Photo: Hope)

