



# Finding Common Ground

## October, 2023

### Up Front

Save the dates for a **Fall Celebration & Land Education Weekend, October 21-22** on the land for people of all ages. You'll learn skills from permaculture to Hugelkulture, learn about the farm and forest, have fun with the kids, and feast with food fresh from the farm! Members can even camp out if you like. See the calendar for more details, and keep an eye out for updates, coming soon.

**Calling all Members to attend an all-day, in-person sociocracy training at the Nest on Sunday, November 5.** Our special guest, Ahmed Avais, will bring honed skills as a business consultant and sociocracy trainer to our community. We ALL need a better understanding of our governance system, so this is for you whether you've had any training or not. You'll be sure to gain understanding, capacity, and confidence to become a more effective and capable member of this community.

**We have a new Forest Stewardship Plan!** Dave Halley of True North Forestry Consulting has created a plan to outwork CGEV's goals for our precious woodlands. Completing this plan is the first step towards applying for a conservation easement around our waterways. [Click here](#) to view a copy of this substantial plan.



Doug cradles a Monarch Butterfly chrysalis, nestled atop a kale leaf.

### MEETINGS & EVENTS



Volunteers help harvest the bumper crop of shitake mushrooms growing at the farm (Photo: Doug); Banner above—Oaxacan corn ears ready for shelling and drying (Photo: John)

### 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, 5:45-6:45pm
- ♦ **Forest & Tree Workday**, October 7, 9:30-noon or so

## CIRCLE NEWS

**Membership:** We are delighted and grateful to be receiving help from several members outside of MC to accomplish important tasks. Marilu will be sending a welcome email to new members; Amelia Elliott will be checking in with visiting members after their 3rd month of membership, and Lucas is responding to emails from curious non-members who contact us through the contact form found on the website and the Intentional Community website. These functions will help us to do a better job of tracking and responding to interest in this community. ♦ We congratulate Rachel Wilde, our newest Engaged Member. This is a big step in alignment with, and commitment to, Common Ground Ecovillage and is a requirement for living in the village. Please offer your congratulations as well. Another member is in the process of becoming an Exploratory member. **Our Circle is eager to help members with the advancement process.** This is a great time to move forward. Contact [Lisa](#) or [Amy](#) for assistance.



People of all ages had a wonderful time harvesting & husking corn.

**Land Stewardship:** The farm crew was ecstatic with the turn out for **the Labor Day corn harvest and husking work party.** It was a lot of fun to work together, sing, and enjoy a sumptuous feast afterwards. The beautiful



Hungry for corn tortillas! (Photo: John)

- ♦ **Fresh Take Info Session**, October 14, 4-5:30pm
- ♦ **Heart Share (Zoom)**, October 20, 7-9pm
- ♦ **Fall Celebration & Education Weekend**, October 21-22
- ♦ **Community in the Round**, October 28, 3-5pm
- ♦ **Community Potluck**, October 28, 5:30-7:30ish pm
- ♦ **NEW Sociocracy training:** November 5, 9:30am-5pm
- ♦ **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, October 6 & 13, 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

- No meeting in October

### LAND STEWARDSHIP CIRCLE

- Tuesday, October 10, 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.*

### PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT CIRCLE

- Wednesday, October 11, 2-4pm
- Tuesday, October 24, 6:30-8:30pm  
**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.*

### Financial & Legal Subcircle

- Tuesday, October 10, 3:00-5:00pm  
**RSVP to Paul**, subject F&L: [voss@hawkweed.net](mailto:voss@hawkweed.net)  
*We are presently re-organizing and in serious need of one or two new members. Our key role is to ensure that the many CGEV financial and legal undertakings protect the viability and prosperity of CGEV and the Hart's Mill, LLC. If you feel that you (yes, YOU!) may have appropriate skills and interests and wish to deepen your contributions toward moving CGEV forward at this critical time, please contact Paul.*

### Potential Residents Advisory Task Group (PRAG)

- Sunday, October 8, 4-5:30pm

multicolored Oaxacan corn is now almost fully dry in the barn and close to being ready for grinding and nixtamalization (a process using water, heat, and lime to create a nutritious dough for cooking).

♦ **The bee team** reports that our three hives (Hop, Sweet, and Dandi) are preparing for winter by storing up loads of honey. They are also happily free *from varroa destructor* mites at the moment. The team will be making quilt boxes soon to keep them warm and dry.

♦ **The weekend land education events** planned for September were postponed due to tropical storm Ophelia to October 21-22. We think the extra time for planning will make for an especially bountiful weekend of learning and experiencing the beauty and bounty of this land! Take a look at the Calendar for more details.



Wheeling corn from stalk to barn (Photo: John)

**Governance & Training:** We're excited about offering a **full-day, in-person sociocracy training on November 5**. This will be offered by Ahmed Avais, a business agility coach, who presented a Cooperative Skills training on power last fall. We're thrilled to invite him back for this training event. Contact [Hope](#) for information: ♦ A hearty thanks to Amelia for offering the NVC Dance Floors training in September. It was a



**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.*



Corn pickers' spirits were high under the bright summer sun (Photo: John)

## COMMUNICATIONS CIRCLE

- Wednesday, October 11, 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 and systems. If you have experience or enthusiastic interest in marketing, promotion, compassionate communication, IT, or website please contact [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. Please reach out to [Quai](#).*

### Website Subcircle, IT Subcircle

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

## GOVERNANCE & TRAINING CIRCLE

- Thursday, October 12, 7-9pm, Zoom  
**RSVP to Hope** with subject "G&T":  
[hopematrix@fastmail.com](mailto:hopematrix@fastmail.com)

*Heartily welcoming visitors and new members.*

## GENERAL CIRCLE

- Sunday, October 22, 6:30-8:30pm, Zoom and in-person at the Nest in Mebane  
**RSVP to Hope** with subject "GC", 2 days in advance: [hopematrix@fastmail.com](mailto:hopematrix@fastmail.com)

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

great introduction to this embodied form of NVC and we greatly appreciate her time and expertise.

**Planning & Development:** P&D continues to try to find a path between the Orange County Planners' strictures, sitework contractor cost estimates, and community capacity and enthusiasm to move forward with a first-phase development of infrastructure that will serve about 12-15 homes, clustered near the west and NW side of the village site. Other paths under consideration include starting with some form of farmworker housing that could also support key common house functions in the short run. We continue in talks with the County, with sitework contractors, and are also delighted as our work is increasingly complemented and expanded by the new and vigorous energies of the Potential Residents Advisory Group (PRAG). It is an all-hands-on-deck moment for CGEV!



Lara communes with the bees prior to hive inspection (Photo: Hope)

## 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)

### Recommended Reading from Margret:

*An Immense World*, by science writer Ed Yong  
I'd always thought I knew a thing or two about the natural world. As it turns out, I did know, well, only a thing or two. Every single page of this book is filled with astonishing facts about creatures from the Great Blue Whale to fruit flies—specifically how they use their various senses. My inner voice kept firing off “OMG!”, and “Are you kidding me??” and “Whaaaaaat?”, and other, less-printable exclamations. Importantly, Mr. Yong renders all creatures as wondrous and worthy, and calls for us to pay greater attention to what is all around us and how our behavior matters. A must-read for folks

## 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.”*

### PERMAYOGA WITH LUCAS

Land Stewardship Circle

Every Monday in September, 5:45-6:45pm, 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.*

### 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!*

### FOREST & TREE WORKDAY

Forest Subcircle

Saturday, October 6, 9:30-11:30am, at the barn

**Contact Hope**, subject Forest for info:

[hopematrix@fastmail.com](mailto:hopematrix@fastmail.com)

preparing to move in with the current creaturely inhabitants of GCEV.



*This yellow woolly bear caterpillar becomes a beautiful, snow white Virginia Tiger moth (Spilosoma virginica)—just one of the fascinating creatures at Common Ground (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**

**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

**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, October 14, 4-5:30pm, Zoom

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

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

*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, October 20, 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.*

### **FALL CELEBRATION & EDUCATION WEEKEND: Learning skills, working, playing, & feasting!**

Land Stewardship Circle & HeartWeavers Subcircle

- Saturday, October 21, 10am-8pm
- Sunday, October 22, 10am-5pm

**Contact Doug** for info: [dr.tobagopepper@gmail.com](mailto:dr.tobagopepper@gmail.com)

*Join us for a weekend full of activities!*

- **Understanding our Land**—learn about permaculture to integrate human and more-than-human activities; take educational tours of the farm and forest; help build a "Hugelkultur" mound to be a home for varied plants to grow that benefit from each other
- **Eating from the land**—Learn the possibilities and practicalities of feeding our Community from the Land; Eat great food roasted on a fire (Bring your own protein item)

intriguing options for the months to come. Some intriguing offerings for October include: **Planning for Children in Community; Finding and Financing Your Community Dream Property; Place Justice 101: Making, Taking, and Keeping Place; Participation in Community: Understanding Tensions and Resolutions.**

### **ForestHer NC—All About Pollinators! Fall Edition**

October 26 | 1pm - 2:30pm ET

Autumn may seem late to be thinking about pollinators as we start putting our gardens to bed for the winter, but it's a crucial time for many species. Learn about fall-blooming plants and their pollinators as well as which fall chores best help pollinators and which ones you can actually skip! [Click here](#) to register for this free event.

[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 October. [Click here](#) to learn more and get involved.

### **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.



Several members came together to attend the fantastic Paperhand Puppet Intervention show called "Where Our Spirits Reside." It was a beautiful evening and inspiring performance. Thanks to Theresa and Momo for organizing this activity! (Photo: Paul)

to grill over the fire); Salads, sweet potatoes, and veggie stew provided by our Farm.

- **Living on the land**—Learn more about the Ecovillage that many of us will soon build and reside in.
- **Play on the land**—Kids activities will include a scavenger hunt, sweet potato harvest, peanut harvest, games planned by some of our parents.

Members may camp overnight by arrangement with organizers. Watch for more info and a schedule, coming soon.



In addition to husking corn, several people stripped Elderberry umbels as a prelude to making medicinal syrup. (Photo: Hope)

## **COMMUNITY IN THE ROUND**

Governance & Training Circle

Saturday, October 28, 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, October 28, 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.*

