



Finding Common Ground

November, 2023

Up Front



Common Ground Ecovillage has received an Agricultural Economic Development grant from Orange County to upgrade our current area for washing and packaging healthful and fresh produce for customers of Full Table CSA. The grant will provide funds for a new facility to streamline moving produce from the fields to the wash station to the refrigeration unit, and ultimately to happy CSA customers. Once it's built, most of this work will take place under a roofed shelter protecting our farm workers from both sun and inclement weather. A key goal is to **increase the customer base and the profitability of our popular CSA.** Congratulations to all who helped with this grant, particularly Paul and Caleb!

The in-person sociocracy training at the Nest is happening on Sunday, November 5, 9:30-5pm! Contact [Hope](#) immediately if you'd like to participate.

The Communications Circle is now a Subcircle of Governance & Training. G&T is delighted to welcome communications policy, IT, website management and others into their sphere. [Quai](#) is still at the helm. Contact him if you are interested in contributing to this important work.



Delicious wild persimmons are ripening on the tree

MEETINGS & EVENTS



Member Margret Mueller's painting "Nearly There" has been accepted into this year's [Watercolor Society of NC exhibition](#)! See "Member Happenings" for details. Banner above—Black walnut bites, prised from their shells with the help of Nick's powerful nutcracker. Soooo delicious!

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.

- ♦ **NEW Sociocracy training:** November 5, 9:30am-5pm
- ♦ **PermaYoga by Lucas,** Every Monday, 4:30-5:30pm

CIRCLE NEWS

Land Stewardship: A mountain of thanks to everyone who helped out and showed up to our **Land Education and Appreciation weekend** (Oct. 21st/22nd). It was well attended with over 50 people flowing through. There were so many fantastic offerings: a forest walk, permaculture talk, sorghum bubblin', staple crop bustlin', biochar blazing, Hugulkulture layerin', and a groovin' fireside grill out dinner and dancin'. Talkin' about agrarian community—we are living it!



Lucas, Caleb, and Lizzy tend to sorghum cane juice boiling in a home-made oven, resulting eventually in thick, dark, sweet, syrup.

♦ **Nick offered a black walnut processing event.** He's a font of information about this fantastic source of nutrition, great taste, dye, and more. He brought a truckload of fresh walnuts for de-husking and a generous helping of dried walnuts for cracking and sampling. Thank you, Nick! ♦ Hope and Lucas



attended the NC Forest Service's **Certified Burner Course** and are now on the path to being certified to carry out prescribed fire on landscapes that

would benefit from it, including at Common Ground. Many of the ecosystems present in North Carolina are adapted to fire for optimal forest health, biodiversity and wildlife habitat. This may be an important tool in caring for our land too. Over the next couple of months we will be deciding if there will be a controlled burn(s) at Common Ground in 2024.

- ♦ **Racial Awareness Reading and Reflection Group,** Every Monday, 7-8pm
- ♦ **Forest & Tree Workday,** November 4, 12:30-3 or so
- ♦ **Heart Share (Zoom),** November 17, 7-9pm
- ♦ **Gathering of Goodies & Gratitude,** November 25, 3-6pm
- ♦ **Community in the Round,** December 2, 3-5pm
- ♦ **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, November 3 & 17, 1-3pm, Zoom
RSVP to Lisa with subject "Membership Circle":
LBerley@yahoo.com

We are very interested in having new members and welcome Visiting Members to observe and join us in our work.

GOVERNANCE & TRAINING CIRCLE

- Tuesday, November 7, 7-9pm, Zoom
RSVP to Hope with subject "G&T":
hopematrix@fastmail.com

Heartily welcoming visitors and new members.

CommC Subcircle

Contact Quai: quaifranklin@gmail.com
CommC is now a Subcircle of G&T and is looking for new members interested in helping to shape communications policy, systems, IT and the Website. If this sounds like YOU, contact [Quai](#)



Goldenrod provided autumn beauty and an important source of nectar and pollen for the honey bees.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT CIRCLE

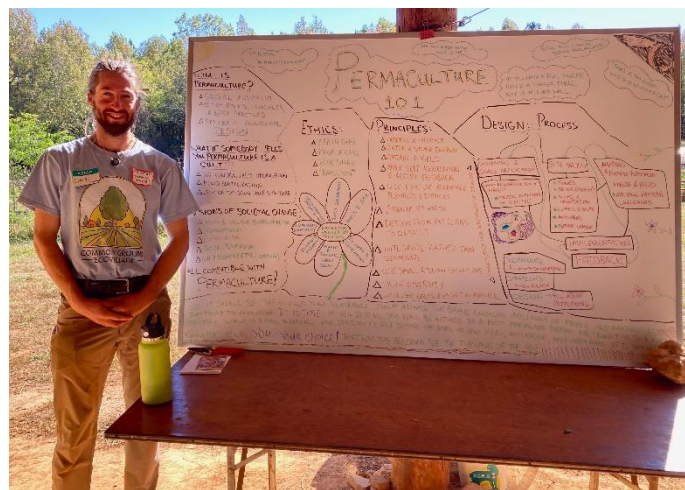
- Wednesdays, November 8 & 22, 2-4pm, Zoom and in-person at the Nest in Mebane
RSVP to Anthony: weston@elon.edu

There may be more meetings called as development decisions emerge. Email Anthony for updates. We encourage observers.



Nick loves to forage for black walnuts and share them with others.

Planning & Development: This Circle has resolved to commit to a specific development plan by the end of 2023. That is, very soon! It's a financial necessity: we are far from covering our monthly expenses and continue to spend down loans and dues just to keep going. Building housing is a foundational part of our vision—members want to build and live on the land! This will also provide a pathway to pick up the land costs and pay down debt rather than building it up. We have been stuck for a long time pursuing multiple paths and leads, but little of it has turned out as we'd hoped, especially with unexpectedly volatile markets, the



Lucas offered a whirlwind Permaculture 101 presentation which left us all inspired (and a bit breathless)

pandemic, member turnover, and hidden costs and complications everywhere. We confront an unfortunately narrowing range of leads on suitably cost-constrained site contractors and potential loan sources (although there *may* be at least one of each). Time to move, then! Along with members of the Potential Residents Advisory Group (PRAG) and other interested folks, we are currently constructing a careful

Financial & Legal Subcircle

- Meeting date TBD

Contact Paul, subject F&L: voss@hawkweed.net

We are in serious need of one or two new members. Our key role is to ensure that 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, November 12, 4-5:30pm

Farm Hamlet Task Group

- Thursday, November 2, 6-7:30pm,

RSVP to Quai, subject "PRAG": quaifranklin@gmail.com

For locations and Zoom links

If you are a member who is seriously interested in living at Common Ground, these task groups need your voice, your energy, and your questions.

LAND STEWARDSHIP CIRCLE

- Tuesday, November 14, 7-8:30 pm, Zoom and in-person at the barn

RSVP to 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.

GENERAL CIRCLE

- Sunday, November 19, 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.

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 November, 4:30-5:30pm, under the Grandmother Oak.

overview/matrix of the live development paths before us and will be sharing it, and eventually our specific development recommendation, increasingly widely via email notices, website, meetings such as the December Community in the Round, and a new member Forum discussion board.

Governance & Training: The Sociocracy training is happening on November 5th. 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. ♦ Now that Communications is a Subcircle of G&T, **we have selected Quai as Elected Representative**. We're glad for his continued presence on the General Circle.

Membership: Fresh Take Info Session was held on October 14th. It is an overview of the community's values, plans, organization and ways to get involved. Several new members and recently interested people participated along with our presenters, Doug, Paul, Hope and Lisa. The next session will be on December 16th. [Click here](#) to watch the video (it begins part way into the session) ♦ Our monthly **Potluck Supper** is a favorite event for many. In October we relished having TWO. Vegetables from the farm showed up in big salads, created by Lucas. Doug roasted sweet potatoes in the bonfire. Ren and Quai brought dance music. Young Wesley brought his boundless energy and joined Ren on the dance floor!



Lara helps to build a raised Hugelkultur bed where stacked wood, soil, and organic matter provides rich nutrients for plants.

MEMBER HAPPENINGS

Is there something that you want to share with the community? If so, contact Hope by the 25th of each month: hopenatrix@fastmail.com

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, bug spray, etc...whatever you need to be comfy and focused! Suggested donation \$5, all proceeds go to CGEV.



The Land Education & Appreciation event happened on a gorgeous day. Abigail brought delicious treats! (Photos: Gonzalo, Hope)

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

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. A new book is in the process of being selected. Please join us!

FOREST & TREE WORKDAY

Forest Subcircle

Saturday, November 4, 12:30-3pm, at the barn

Contact Hope, subject Forest, for info:

hopenatrix@fastmail.com

Weather dependent: check your email for updates
Our work will depend upon the preferences of the

From Margret Mueller:

I am pleased to report that my painting “Nearly There” (pictured at the top of this newsletter) has been accepted into this year’s [Watercolor Society of NC exhibition](#). I would love to see some of my CGEV friends at the opening, held at the Durham Arts Council, on Sunday November 5th from 2-4. If you can’t make it, the exhibit will be open until January 2, 2024.

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/>) to see the array of intriguing options for the months to come.

[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 November. [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.



Members breathe in the beauty of the black walnut grove

group. Options include forest thinning, trail tending, dam clearing, and others.



Hearts-a-bustin seed pod, explosive with color

HEART SHARE

HeartWeavers Subcircle

Friday, November 17, 7-9pm, Zoom

RSVP to Ren: 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.

GATHERING of GRATITUDE & GOODIES

Membership Circle

Saturday, November 25, 3-6pm, location TBA

RSVP to Lisa: Iberley@yahoo.com

Each year, we share bounty and warmth with each other through food, conversation, and connection. Bring along your favorite songs and games. This event will be as amazing as you are!

Date Change

COMMUNITY IN THE ROUND

Governance & Training Circle

Saturday, December 2, 3-5pm, Zoom & in-person

RSVP to Hope, subject “CIR”:

hopematrix@fastmail.com

In view of the holidays, there will be one meeting for both November and December. These all-member meetings are reliably informative and connecting for all involved. We’ll speak to what’s most relevant when the time comes.

