



# Finding Common Ground

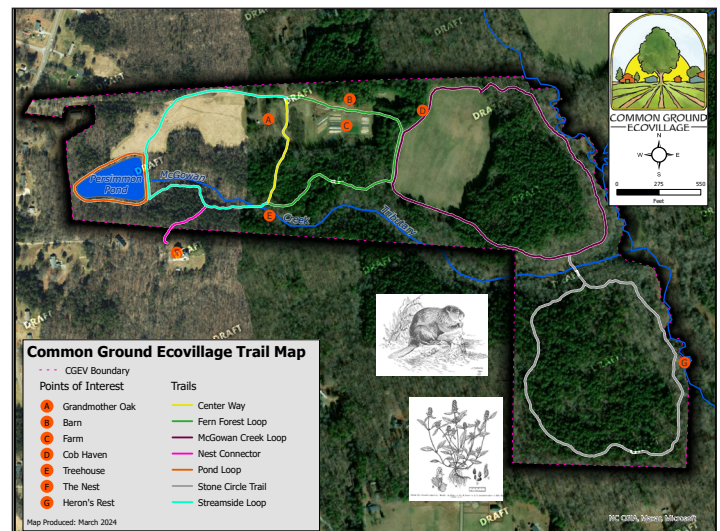
APRIL 2024

## Up Front

Take a look at the new [CGEV Trail Map](#)! Quaye and Hope have been working to fill the need for an accurate picture of our trails with points of interest. It's still in draft form, so contact [Hope](#) with your comments.

Common Ground will once again participate in the [Piedmont Farm Tour](#) on April 20-21. Come out and help us prepare by beautifying the barn and enjoying a delicious farm meal on April 14th from noon-4 p.m. Details are in the Events section.

The March **Community in the Round** meeting offered a range of subjects from establishing a burial ground, starting a community farm, reviewing our promising new village development plan, and brainstorming about a common house. [Click here](#) to watch the recording.



A new trail map is born. Click on the map to see it. **BANNER ABOVE:** Team members work on the roof of the wash-and-pack shed. *Photo by Robby.*



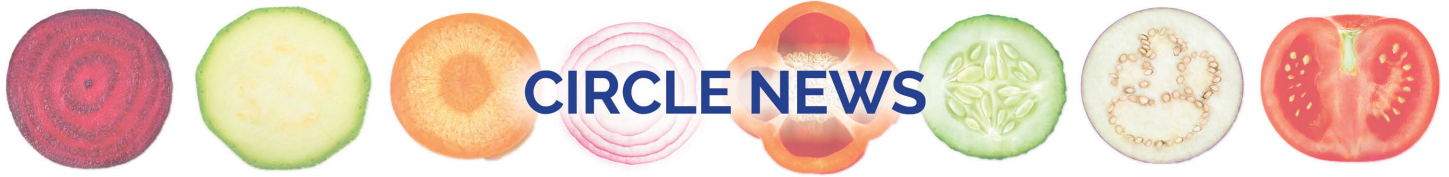
Fairy Helmet Mushrooms.

*Photo by Margret*

## COMMUNITY EVENTS SNAPSHOT

See the "All About Events" section below for details.

- ◆ **Racial Awareness Reading and Reflection Group**, Mondays, 7-8 p.m.
- ◆ **Golden Hour Magic**, Mondays & Tuesdays, 7-8 p.m.
- ◆ **Celebrate Theresa Potluck and Bon Voyage Ceremony**, April 13 and 14
- ◆ **Barn & Garden Beautification Day**, April 14, noon-4 p.m.
- ◆ **Heart Share**, April 19, 7-9pm
- ◆ **27th Annual Piedmont Farm Tour**, April 20-21
- ◆ **Community in the Round**, April 27, 3-5 p.m.
- ◆ **Community Potluck**, April 27, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- ◆ **Tours of the land by request**, Contact [Lisa](#)



## LAND STEWARDSHIP CIRCLE

Big thanks to the community for showing up for our Potato Planting Palooza. We had more than 25 folks contribute to a variety of garden projects in addition to getting the potatoes in the ground. The farm meal of leek and spinach frittata, salad, roasted sweet potatoes, and fava bean/tomato/hominy stew was a terrific bonus.

Talks continued to expand the garden space further south to create supportive, accessible space for forest gardening, shaded annual beds for summer lettuce, hugulculture beds (raised beds made with decaying wood debris and other compostable biomass plan materials), and additional field beds to improve our cover cropping and crop rotations—all guided by permaculture principles and design approaches.

We're also in the beginning stages of designing a more informal, neighborhood-accessible community garden between the pond and bee hives. Contact Quaye at [qt-rimble@gmail.com](mailto:qt-rimble@gmail.com) to help out with this.

And if that wasn't enough, we completed the roof on the



*Photo by Roshana*

Farmer Doug demonstrates the distance between potatoes for planting during the Potato Palooza.



**Bloodroot makes an early spring arrival.**

*Photo by Hope*

new wash-and-pack area on the east side of the barn with a few hours of help from professionals. Much of the “stuff” that was underneath the barn is being moved over there, into the CSA business shipping container, or purged. This opens up a whole universe of possibilities for our beloved barn space.

Come on out on Sunday, April 14th to continue beautifying our barn plus garden space! [#BARNFLOOR2024](https://twitter.com/BARNFLOOR2024)

## PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT CIRCLE

P&D's current work focuses mostly on site planning, with associated issues ranging from the septic to the financial. Speaking of those issues, both are promising at the moment. Soil testing has supported moving the septic to partly gravity-fed fields downslope of the village, rather than pumping the “wastes” east to the Far Field.

On the financing side, a strong partnership is looking increasingly possible with Community Home Trust. We may be able to create a pathway to home ownership for low-wealth members. At the same time, we may secure external financial backing for purchasing lots and building residences.

P&D and General Circle have consented to apply to Orange County to vacate our current Master Plan Zoning and return to base zoning (R1) preparatory to putting a Conservation Cluster site plan into place. This will be about a six-month process but should not delay the actual work very much. We continue to anticipate a major push toward consolidating building and financing plans, gathering steam by early summer. Don't be left on the sidelines! Pod planning needs to continue, for example, forming co-buying groups and clarifying preferences

## P&D, continued

and possibilities for alternative living arrangements. If you plan to be in the first group of resident-builders, be in touch with PRAG coordinator, [Momo](#), now.

P&D continues work on a full set of Community Architectural Standards as well: You should see them soon ... and questions and suggestions on this or anything else always welcome to P&D members.

## MEMBERSHIP CIRCLE

In March, the community welcomed **Caleb as an Exploratory Member** and **Lucas as an Engaged Member**. The Farm team is setting a great example for advancement!

There is a beautiful strong core of members showing up consistently for the Community in the Round monthly meetings. This is tremendously energizing for learning, problem-solving and not the least, getting to know each other by spending time together. We wish everyone on zoom could be at the potluck afterward. That casual time of hanging out together is so valuable. As the weather grows mild, we look forward to potlucks on the land, and when it rains, in the spiffed-up barn.

We plan to offer an Open House in the near future. Stay tuned for details!

## GOVERNANCE & COMMUNICATIONS CIRCLE

We have begun the much-needed discussion with the community about **Community Agreements**. Agreements in the community context are similar to guidelines or rules but by using the word “agreement,” we acknowledge that any requirements or restrictions



*Photo by Roshana*

Caleb shows Amy and Maya how to get the planting potatoes ready for planting.

are ones **we agreed to** for our mutual well-being and not imposed from above. They will include cultural agreements that involve topics such as communication, conflict resolution, and celebrations, etc. Also they will include governance elements such as communication policy, training, pet policy, etc. We'd like to continue the discussion in our Community Forum. This topic is [here](#). If you have trouble logging in, please send an email to [support@commonground.eco](mailto:support@commonground.eco).

The **Decision Log** is being re-launched so that we have a record of decisions for each Circle that are consented to, shape the community markedly, and have a re-evaluation date. We'll be in touch with each Circle soon to ensure that everyone is up to speed with what to do. In the meantime, you can click on the instructions in Only-Office [here](#).



*Photo by Margret*

Hope and Margret think that these are tiny yellow-spotted salamanders gestating in a woodland puddle.



*Photo by Robby*

Crew members work on the roof of the new wash-and-pack shed next to the barn. To see lots of photos and a video of the build, [click here](#).

## MEMBER HAPPENINGS

CGEV Members may list their events not sponsored by CGEV Circles as an FYI. Supply title, date, time, location, links, and description.

**It's definitely tick time again.** Roshana was bitten at CGEV recently. Here's her story and recommendations for all of us to keep in mind when we visit the land:

*I got a little traveler on my back, and it got me good. I pulled it off with some effort, before it had time to engorge itself, but it did leave me with a big red blotch and an itchy, swollen bump ... and the makings for Lyme disease. Luckily, I decided to have my doc take a look. She said, "Oh, that needs to be treated," and she ordered antibiotics. I think I'll live. But I've known several people who have dealt with Lyme disease for years, and I know it can make life fairly miserable. So, let's go over a few precautions and factoids.*

North Carolina is host to several different types of ticks,

and most types don't carry the bacterium that causes Lyme disease. Still, the disease is so debilitating and can last so long, we might do well to assume that all ticks carry that bacterium and do our best to avoid them altogether. [Click here](#) for a summary of the NC State Extension's recommendations to follow during tick season.

*Let's all be cautious, check ourselves (and kids and pets) regularly, and enjoy this beautiful springtime weather!*



**Melanie Yukov** is bringing her **Herbalicious Explorations classes** to Old Mill Farm in Durham! These classes are open to those 7 and older (exceptions made) with a focus on Herbal Mocktail Creations! The course begins on April 13th and takes place on six Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. For further questions or details, visit <https://root2risewellness.org/herbaliciousexplore> or contact Melanie at [info@root2risewellness.org](mailto:info@root2risewellness.org).

## CIRCLE MEETINGS DIGEST

### PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

**Tuesdays, April 2, 16, & 30, 6:30-8:30 p.m.** via Zoom or hybrid at the Nest in Mebane.

RSVP to Anthony with subject P&D: [weston@elon.edu](mailto:weston@elon.edu)

### MEMBERSHIP

**\*\*TIME CHANGE\*\***

**Thursday policy meetings, April 4 & 18, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.** via Zoom, with task meetings on alternate Thursdays.

RSVP to Lisa with subject "Membership Circle": [LBerley@yahoo.com](mailto:LBerley@yahoo.com)

### LAND STEWARDSHIP

**Tuesday, April 9, 7-8:30 p.m., Zoom and at the Barn.**

RSVP with subject LSC to Doug: [dr.tobagopepper@gmail.com](mailto:dr.tobagopepper@gmail.com)

### GOVERNANCE & COMMUNICATION

**Thursday, April 11, 7-9 p.m., Zoom**

RSVP to Hope with G&CC in the subject line: [hopenatrix@fast-mail.com](mailto:hopenatrix@fast-mail.com)

[mail.com](mailto:mail.com)

If you're interested in observing or helping with G&CC work, please send your request to to [gov-com@commonground.eco](mailto:gov-com@commonground.eco).

### GENERAL CIRCLE

**Sunday, April 21, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Zoom and in-person at the Nest in Mebane.**

RSVP to Becky with subject "GC", 2 days in advance: [Blaskody@gmail.com](mailto:Blaskody@gmail.com).

Come and observe to find out what's happening with all Circles at

CGEV and how you can be involved.

### POTENTIAL RESIDENTS ADVISORY TASK GROUP (PRAG)

**Alternate Sundays; dates and times vary.**

RSVP to Momo with subject "PRAG" for dates: [mfreehill@hotmail.com](mailto:mfreehill@hotmail.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 creativity!

Scarlet Oak catkins emerge just before the leaves burst open.



## ALL ABOUT EVENTS

### GET INVOLVED

- ◆ All events are in **Eastern Time** and open to everyone unless otherwise indicated. **You must RSVP** for details 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 and uneven, and restrooms are not wheelchair-accessible.
- ◆ **Google Calendar Link:** [CGEV Calendar](#)
- ◆ To **add or change an event**, email Ren at [ren.enberg2@gmail.com](mailto:ren.enberg2@gmail.com)

### TOURS OF THE LAND

Are you a new Common Ground member or a curious person who is thinking of joining? We regularly hold tours of the land on the 4th Saturday of the month at 1:30 p.m. (**April 27**) You can also schedule a tour at an alternate time.

Contact Lisa at and put "Request for Tour" in the subject line: [lberley@yahoo.com](mailto:lberley@yahoo.com).

### RACIAL AWARENESS BOOK GROUP

Membership Circle  
**Every Monday, 7-8 p.m., Zoom**  
Contact Lisa to join with subject "Racial Awareness Book Group": [lberley@yahoo.com](mailto:lberley@yahoo.com)

Our current book is *How to be an Antiracist* by Ibram X. Kendi. This group was formed in 2021 to help increase our awareness and understanding of racism



Photo by Caleb

Lucas stands in the garden with an A-frame level. The contraption has a pendulum that lets the farmers know how level the area is for planting.

in its many forms. This is a safe place to learn together. The weekly format helps build trust and a habit of paying regular attention to this work. People attend as much as they can. The book group is for CGEV members as well as the larger community. The format is reading aloud and breaking between paragraphs to share personal reflections, questions, ideas. Please join us!

### GOLDEN HOUR MAGIC

Land Stewardship Circle  
**Mondays & Tuesdays, 7-8 p.m.**  
RSVP to Lucas: [lucas.babinec@posteo.net](mailto:lucas.babinec@posteo.net)

Lucas will be holding space for whomever wants to participate under the Grandmother Oak. Could be a shared yoga practice, nature appreciation, or any other activity that encourages us to be present with the wonder of life around us and within us. Contact Lucas for more info.

### CELEBRATE THERESA!

Membership Circle

Theresa is moving to Guam in April and we have two chances to let her know how much she means to us and how much we will miss her:

**Gathering at the Arcadia Common House, Saturday, April 13, Community tours at 5 pm, pot-luck at 6 pm, music and dancing until 9:30 or so.**

Contact Becky to RSVP: [blaskody@gmail.com](mailto:blaskody@gmail.com)

**Bon Voyage Ceremony at CGEV, Saturday, April 14th, 5 p.m. on the land.**

Contact Lisa to RSVP: [lberley@yahoo.com](mailto:lberley@yahoo.com).

### BARN & GARDEN BEAUTIFICATION DAY

Land Stewardship Circle  
**Sunday, April 14, noon-4 p.m., at the Barn**

Help in a big push to beautify our barn and garden for the Piedmont Farm Tour and also make our community spaces more

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[Continued on next page](#)



Photo by Roshana

Many hands make quick work during the Potato Palooza on the farm.

## **EVENTS, continued**

welcoming for Common Ground members. This will be followed by a delicious farm meal.

## **MONTHLY HEART SHARE**

HeartWeavers Subcircle

**Friday, April 19, 7-9 p.m., Zoom.**

Organizers and co-facilitators: Ren Enberg & Quai Derr, [Heart\\_Share@commonground.eco](mailto:Heart_Share@commonground.eco)

Come and get to know other members on a much deeper level as we practice both compassion and vulnerability. This month's theme is **Are These My People?** Exploring identity and belonging, and how important this is to each of us in the context of community.

## **THE 27TH ANNUAL PIEDMONT FARM TOUR**

Land Stewardship Circle

**Saturday & Sunday, April 20-21,**

**[The 27th Annual Piedmont Farm Tour](#)**

For the second year in a row, our Farm will be among 31 oth-

ers opening their gates for the public. We'll be showing off our many innovative projects and techniques that are happening here. You can buy a pass for \$30 and spend the weekend visiting local farms with all kinds of food, flower, and other production. A number of the farms are only a short distance from our Land. We'll be looking for volunteers to staff the CGEV Information Table for free—contact [Lisa](#).

## **COMMUNITY IN THE ROUND**

Governance & Communications Circle

**Saturday, April 27, 3-5 p.m., Zoom and in-person at the Nest in Mebane.**

RSVP to Becky, subject "CIR":

[Blaskody@gmail.com](mailto:Blaskody@gmail.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 and follow the meeting with a potluck supper. You'll get to know each other and learn a lot! Make it a habit to

come to these events.

## **COMMUNITY POTLUCK**

Membership Circle

**Saturday, April 27, 5:30-7:30 p.m., location TBA.**

Watch for an announcement or contact Lisa: [lberley@yahoo.com](mailto:lberley@yahoo.com). No RSVP required.

Potlucks are our time to break bread together and socialize, play, sometimes chew over the Community in the Round meeting content. Please bring something to share. Typically vegetable dishes predominate, but all sorts of food are welcome. Just bring a list of ingredients or jot them down when you come. Location will either be on the land or at an indoor location. Watch for an email announcement.

**Do you have news or pictures to share? Send them to Hope at [hope.matrix@fastmail.com](mailto:hope.matrix@fastmail.com).**