



Finding Common Ground

April 2025

Up Front

It is a joy to be fully equipped with a road name, address, mailbox, number plates, and a sturdy sign directing visitors to our community! Lucas handled the installations with materials gifted by Hope, Paul, and Doug. Our neighbor, Ken Woods, joined us to raise up the sign that honors the life of his Aunt, Daisy Evans Gunn, and her efforts to get Frazier Road paved. Put this address in your Contacts and GPS—**5797 Daisy Evans Gunn Tr., Mebane, NC 27302**. Common Ground Ecovillage is here to stay!

The Farm at Common Ground has been selected as a “Kickoff” farm on the [Piedmont Farm Tour](#), April 26-27. Our doors will be open from 12-6 to hundreds of ticketed visitors eager to learn about our Agrarian Intentional Community,



The Farm at Common Ground Ecovillage
5797 Daisy Evans Gunn Trail,
Mebane 27302



Ken Woods acknowledges the road name (Photo-Hope)
Banner above: Honey bee sips Chickasaw Plum nectar (Photo-Rachooog)

No-Till soil management transition, extensive seed saving and plant breeding work, elaborate season extension techniques which provide a year-round supply of veggies to our CSA, and more. Common Ground members can come learn and help out (see Events below). Farm-grown veggies and herbal medicines will be available along with music by local musicians!

Circle News



General Circle

A keystone of Sociocracy is governance by Circles. Each of our four Functional Circles (FCs) has a discreet Domain defining their overall purpose, specific Aims spelling out what they deliver for the community, and Priorities for the road ahead (DAP). The General Circle, comprised of two members from each FC, reviews and consents to these DAPs every year. We encourage you to take a close look at how the work of these Circles helps to bring CGEV alive. **And they need YOU to keep up the good work.** As we've learned in our NVC classes, one of our most basic needs as a human is to make a contribution. [Click here to review each Circle's DAP](#) and notice where you feel resonance, even excitement, about what you could contribute to co-creating this great work. Then contact the Circle leaders listed in the "Meetings" section. Your essence, gifts and skills will be so very welcome and needed!



A Bloodroot blossoms near McGowan Creek (Photo-Hope)

Planning & Development

At press time only a few more crossings of T's and dottings of I's (and transfer of a few more dollars) are needed to secure all the building

Meetings & Events

- ♦ **All gatherings are in Eastern Time** and open to everyone unless otherwise stated.
- ♦ **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, terrain is unpaved and uneven, and restrooms are not wheelchair-accessible.
- ♦ **Google Calendar Link:** CGEV Calendar
To subscribe, add or change an event, email Ren at calendar@commonground.eco

Circle Meetings

Membership

Thursday, April 3 & 17, 12-2pm, via Zoom. Task meetings as needed, April 10 & 24, same time. [RSVP to Lisa](#) with subject "Membership Circle"

Planning & Development

Tuesdays, April 8 & 22, 4:30-6:30pm, hybrid. [RSVP to Anthony](#) with subject "P&D"

Financial and Legal Subcircle

[Contact Becky](#) to offer your participation

Governance & Communication

Tuesday, April 15, 7-9 p.m., Zoom
[RSVP to Quai](#) with subject "G&CC"

General Circle

Sunday, April 20, 6:30-8:30 p.m., via Zoom.
[RSVP to Hope](#) with subject "GC" 2 days in advance

Land Stewardship

Date TBD, 7-8:30 pm, on the land (and hybrid if needed). [RSVP to Doug](#) to confirm details

permits we need to go ahead with infrastructure construction! Our site engineer Bobby Tucker and many members of P&D have made herculean efforts to bring us to this point – when the dust settles, we really need to celebrate. This accomplishment means that the **financial and legal side** is even more where the action needs to be. P&D is working hard to finally decide the most workable ownership structure for moving ahead. Complicated financial considerations have led us to rethink the lot pricing model that we ventured at the last General Circle meeting, but another and more carefully considered one is in the works. Concurrently, we will be working to pin down a first wave of lot assignments and beginning to organize community discussions around architecture. We are also anticipating bringing a professional development manager back on board to co-develop, co-manage, and co-ordinate the many pieces that now need to be coming together. Heady times — and complex!

♦ In the wake of a lively March Community on the Ground Equinox weekend gathering, we initiated an ad hoc Task Group to discuss various facets of Land Based Revenue Generation Projects and Policies. [Here is a link](#) to the slide presentation.



CGEV—you can't miss us! (Photo-Hope)



Planting progresses at the Potato Palooza (Photo-Kai)

All About Events

Tours of the Land

Are you a new Common Ground member or a curious person who is thinking of joining? Contact Lisa and put “Request for Tour” in the subject line: Lberley@yahoo.com. Or text 919-619-2979.

Racial Awareness Book Group

Membership Circle

Every Monday, 7-8 pm, via Zoom

Contact Lisa to join with subject “Racial Awareness Book Group”

We are currently reading *The Rage of Innocence – How America Criminalizes Black Youth*, by Kristin Henning. The book group is for CGEV members and the larger community. The format is reading aloud and breaking between paragraphs to share personal reflections, questions, and ideas. People attend as often as they can.

Farm Lunch Returns!

Land Stewardship Circle

Every Tuesdays at 1:00 pm

Contact Lucas if you plan to come:

lucas.babinec@posteo.net, 301-767-6720

Common House planning continues apace: please go to the Members-only Forum threads (there are two) on [Building the Common House](#) for more information and a challenge to step forward to take active leadership roles. [Click here to see two maps](#) which overlay the site infrastructure plan on our existing landscape. Please watch the Forum for new developments and many links to posted documents. And remember that you can always share questions and reactions to P&D developments directly with us through Anthony at weston@elon.edu.

Financial & Legal Subcircle

A small group of members have been working on establishing a the 501(c)3 educational and charitable arm for Common Ground called Many Turtles Learning Collective. They have almost completed the application and need folks willing to be on the Board of Directors and/or to serve in supporting roles for those being willing to be on the Board. Please contact [Amy H](#) or [Karin](#) ASAP with your nominations! You can nominate yourself or others.



The Farm team salutes the Sun (Photo-Kai)

The light and warmth have returned and we're ready to celebrate. Join us Tuesdays at 1:00 pm, at the barn. By donation--either cash, Venmo, or pantry staples are warmly appreciated (olive oil, rice, beans, lentils, GF flour...) Come enjoy a simple, nourishing meal prepared straight from the garden + thoughtful conversation with good humans who care about the earth.



Kara helps to prepare a post-Palooza meal (Photo-Kai)

Monthly Heart Share

Membership Circle, organized by Ren & Quai
Friday, April 18, 7-9 pm, via Zoom

[RSVP to Heart Share@commonground.eco](mailto:RSVPtoHeartShare@commonground.eco).

This month's theme is to be decided and is taking place on the usual 3rd Friday. These monthly gatherings continue to be a meaningful way for CGEV members to get to know each other on a deeper level than our usual gatherings allow. New members often explore the community this way, so older members are encouraged to welcome them. Watch for a detailed invitation in email or just RSVP now! Facilitators wanted and supported (and you get to choose the topic!)

Community on the (Farm) Ground

Land Stewardship Circle

Saturday, April 26, 2-6pm on the Farm!

Contact Lucas with subject "COG":

lucas.babinec@posteo.net, 301-767-6720

Membership

In the beginning of March, Lisa and Nikki held a meet and greet in Durham for new visiting members. The conversation was great and we look forward to offering this opportunity again. **Contact Lisa if you would like to be invited to the next one:** lberley@yahoo.com.

◆ The potluck supper in March was held on the land by the Grandmother Oak tree. There was a lovely mix of new and old friends/members with a sprinkling of little ones. It felt wonderful to be outside in the early evening air. ◆ The inaugural meeting of the **CGEV Movie group** met on March 28 for a viewing of "Water is Love", which we heartily recommend to all! Thanks to Kathleen for creating this event, Jennifer for bringing over a projector, and all participants for the yummy snacks. Lara is likely the one to pick the next documentary and please send her your ideas. Watch for a shout-out about the next meeting which might be early May...

Land Stewardship

There's a lot that's happened on the land this past month. Members planted 16 blueberry bushes on one of the most immaculate swale/berms in all of this river basin (we're in the Neuse river basin by the way). The plants are happily thriving, leafing out, and beaming with



Jane, Gonzalo, & Lara admire the bushes (Photo-lucas)

The Farm at Common Ground is participating in the Piedmont Farm Tour on April 26-27. Our farmers are deeply rooted in practices to cultivate a healthy and vibrant foodscape and community culture every day, all year long. We strongly encourage CGEV folks to come and learn about—and serve—our agrarian mission on the land. **What can you do to support and enjoy this event?** Come early to set up – festivities start at noon. Staff the CGEV information booth to introduce people to what we are doing here. Take a tour—or offer one—of the surrounding land. **Above all, soak in the beauty and wisdom of the plants and people who make all this possible.** Extra credit: come on Sunday, too! No need to be there the entire time—drop in for as long as you can.



Drumming is fun! (Photo, Kai)

Beltane Celebration—Save the Date!

Land Stewardship Circle

Sometime on April 26 & 27—watch your email for details

Mark your calendar for a very special community Beltane celebration April 26 & 27. Beltane is a celebration of fertility and the transition to summer—a festive time to connect with the land, each other, and our ancestors. There will be a fire, singing, and blessing of our well and the waters of this land. Plan to participate- and stay tuned for details.

the promise of some berry-laden branches in no time at all! I think every LSC member had at least some part to play in getting the plants in the ground and at least a half dozen other community members helped significantly too. A total team effort. ♦ Besides the berries, the beavers are continuing their stewardship of the wetland areas. The warmer mornings make it more enticing to go down and visit them just after sunrise. Be quiet and you may be able to spot one swimming out from their lodge, just 25 yards from our trail. On the other side of the land, close to the pond, the Chicasaw Plum trees offered a rich banquet for pollinators. If you missed this fragrant ephemeral show, put it on your calendar for next year! It's free of charge :)



Hickory tree leaves are popping out (Photo-Hope)

Member Offerings

From Paul Voss: The “Gift Economy” at work!

A dear friend of three CGEV members is moving to Massachusetts soon and has **generously offered his assorted collection of substantial woodworking tools to Common Ground!** On Friday 3/21, Lucas, Randy and Paul transferred the tools to Dave Press's garage where they will rest from their journey until the long-planned woodworking shop is built at Common Ground. Among these exciting new items is a **large table saw, jointer, radial arm saw, electric miter saw, band saw, tile-cutter... and more.** The community is thrilled by these new acquisitions and deeply appreciative to this kind-hearted benefactor.



Randy joyfully balances on the berm (Photo-Lucas)

Around the barn, Operation Dragon continues to soar high and breathe beautification onto the whole realm. Piles of clutter, existing since before time immemorial, have been vanquished and sent to the crypt by our indefatigable hero, Mr. G. Some industrious tinkering has also improved the barn's greywater systems. Need a reason to stop by and savor some moments outdoors? Come wash your laundry out at the barn! **But wait, Nature wants a word...**

Ah look, over there, our friend Nettles! Hear their song... 'Spring sting, pay attention, Spring sting, slow down...'. That reminder. Oh how life takes off this time of year! Bursting into color.

From Nikki Fryer: MotherCircle

This is an 8-week class for mothers of all ages and stages, as well as those who work with or care for mothers, who want to understand the unseen arc of their motherhood journey, move out of confusion, and into greater clarity and wisdom within a supportive community. Join a worldwide movement of fierce mothers who are traversing a pathway of wisdom, collectively shaping the course of generations to come.

Where: Common Ground Ecovillage

When: Saturday mornings, April 12th-May 31st

Time: 9:30am, up to 90 mins.

Soaring into song. Brilliance casting winter shadow out. Slowly. The buds opening slightly more each day. Pay attention and you may catch multiple moments of magic. Is that a stick? Or is that a wand? Gathering life force as we bring forth another go round. We. As in us hu-folk and the rest of the living world around us and within us. The dazzling co-creative mysterious unfolding we call life. We're past the Spring Equinox and the world could not be more alive out at Common Ground. Come on out and get involved!



Tiny Tulip Tree leaves wave to the sun (Photo-Hope)

From the Farm

The farm team has been focused on spring growth, both in the field and beyond. In March, we planted Warm Season crops in the field AND did a lot of "planting," "cultivating," and "harvesting" at our computers in order to invite and welcome members into the journey of Warm Season. And with **85 households, the CSA is officially full for Warm Season!** Thank you to everyone who enrolled for the journey of eating in season with us and those who invited a

Sliding scale investment for non-CG members: \$99, \$199, or \$299 (see website to determine your contribution)

Investment for CG members: by donation, all members are welcome regardless of their ability to contribute financially

For more information and to register visit: <https://www.holisticpostpartumco.com/mothercircle>

From Melanie Yukov of Root 2 Rise Wellness:

Intro to foraging and herbal medicine making course where you will sip on delicious tea, hand-craft and take home your own medicine, learn plant identification, forge connections and much more! **Taking place on the land, Sundays from 1-5pm:** April 13th, May 18th, June 29th, September 28th, October 26th. Any CG member can contact me for a discount! [Click here](#) for more information and to register.

From Hope Horton: Sonam Spring Concert

Date: Friday, May 9th, 2025

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: Baldwin Auditorium, Duke University

Donations: to benefit Sonam's Summer Tour
Many CGEV members have enjoyed these concerts. I hope you'll come to our spring concert, featuring Bridge of Song by Veljo Tormis. We will sing some of our very favorite music from Finland, South Africa, Estonia, Latvia, and more.



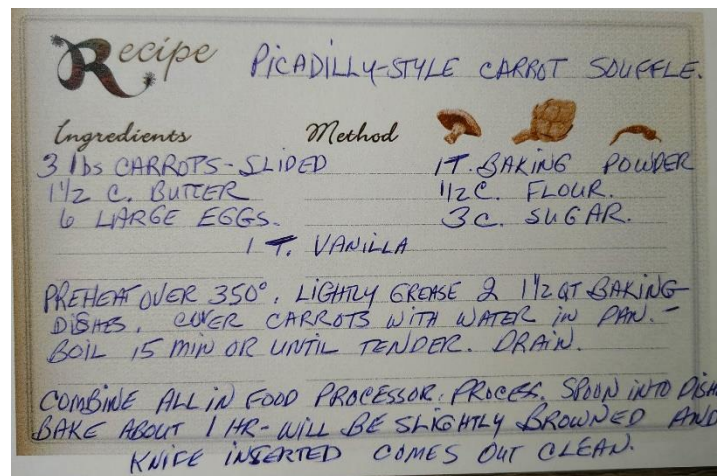
Seldom seen Sweetgum flowers (Photo- [here](#))

friend to join. Your investment provides the farm some financial stability that frees the team to focus fully on growing food and community this spring and summer. ♦ Warm Season crops are growing! Peas, kale, broccolini, salad turnips, radishes, green onion, cucumber, arugula, and beets are now in the ground and growing steadily in the warm spring sunshine. Potatoes are now planted in the far field, thanks to everyone who came out and pitched in for the Potato Palooza on March 15. Baby tomato, eggplant, and pepper plants are incubating in their warm, protected space in the center tunnel. ♦ As you can see in the “Up Front” and “Events” section, we are thrilled to be participating in the Piedmont Farm Tour. Hope to see you there!

Governance & Communication

We have been sponsoring an 8-session Non-Violent Communication engagement, guided by Steve Torma of Earthaven Ecovillage. The teachings illuminate our dominator-culture conditioning and provide avenues to living in partnership where all people are valued and all needs honored. It's been heartening that so many members are participating and willing to learn and practice new skills with sincerity and vulnerability. All sessions have been recorded and it's possible that the next step will be to watch them as a group, offering review for some and new teachings for others. Steve Torma is offering a weekend course as well in April (see “Outside Events”), so that's another way to learn. Kudos to Ren especially for shepherding us all through this course, providing weekly emails and links to resources to help keep us all on track. ♦ In May or June, we will offer Sociocracy training, ideally in a group. **If you need this training, contact Becky right away.** We have a good method but the hurdle will be scheduling! So please step up so we can get the process started.

From Marilu Keller: Once again, Marilu's cooking was a Potluck standout! Here's her hand-written recipe for the Picadilly-Style Carrot Souffle. Enjoy!



Outside Events

Steve Torma is offering a 2-day [REAlationship 101](#) course. Join him for an experiential course in conscious connection, drawing from the work of Marshal Rosenberg (*Nonviolent Communication*), Peter Levine (Somatic Experiencing), and others.

Location: ONLINE ONLY

Dates: Saturday, April 5 & 12, 10-4

Cost: \$175, or pay what you can

[Register here.](#)

Kim Calhoun's Eat Wild Spring Walk.

Date/Time: Saturday, April 12th*, 1 – 4:30 pm

Place: Chatham County, TBA

[Register here](#)

Celebrate spring as we ramble fields and woods meeting new plant friends, learning sustainable foraging skills, and sampling wild treats. Handout and recipes included. Ages 12 and up. Participants need to be able to walk and stand on uneven surfaces for several hours. We will meet rain or shine (*extreme weather make up date 4/13). Sliding scale; please pay the most you are able. Scholarship support available. Group size is limited and walks fill up!

