



## Up Front

Everything is accelerating at Common Ground. We are being asked by folks within and without the Community to host events ranging from herbal workshops and forest bathing immersions to educational camp-outs for kids, seasonal celebrations, and even our first-ever wedding! Plans are afoot for a 15-acre forest prescribed burn, and our village development process is gaining traction. Full Table's warm season CSA is fully subscribed. The Farm now offers weekly



*Guests tuck into delicious food at our inaugural Farm-to-Fork Dinner (Photo-Kai)*



*Caleb enthralls a third grade class with stories of the farm  
Banner above: A treefrog rests on a leaf (Photos-Margret, Kai)*

lunches AND a monthly Farm-to-Fork Dinner. Families will have a chance to connect with the marvels and nourishment of the Earth at our **Family Farm Day Sunday, June 8**. This Almanac spans both June and July and we've done our best to think ahead. But no doubt there will be more on offer, so **keep an eye out for additional goodies to come**, such as a Summer Solstice gathering, Community meetings and various timely farm-related happenings. There's never a dull moment at Common Ground! Read on...

## Circle News



### Governance & Communication

**If you are a member who needs training in Sociocracy, Becky wants to hear from you!** She is eager to get people up to speed in June or July but needs to know who is interested and their availability. [Contact Becky ASAP](#) so she can get this off the ground. ♦ Quai and Quaye are collaborating on transforming the look and functionality of our website, taking advantage of new technologies and increasing interactivity. They will also be working with the Membership Circle to re-think the variety of ways that we invite in and engage with our members. ♦ The first phase of Non-Violent/Compassionate Communication classes with Steve Torma is now complete. There's a terrific cache of recordings

#### **Compassion Corner: Making Life More Wonderful** Governance & Communications Circle

##### **This month's practice:** Self-Empathy first!

Empathy is a foundational piece of NVC practice. When someone expresses a concern, criticism, anxiety, etc, we thank them for sharing and then we meet them with empathy, focused on impact rather than defending intentions and without having to agree with their perspective. Before we do this, it is essential to give ourselves empathy or request it from an empathy partner, because it is almost impossible to give empathy when we need it ourselves.

**Invitation:** *This month let's practice pausing, checking in with ourselves, and making sure our own empathy tanks are full before offering it to others.*

## 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](mailto:calendar@commonground.eco)

### Circle Meetings

#### **Membership**

Thursdays, June 5, 19 & July 3, 17, 12-2pm, via Zoom. Task meetings as needed on alternate weeks, same time. [RSVP to Lisa](#) with subject "Membership Circle."

#### **Planning & Development**

Tuesdays, June 3, 17 & July 1, 15, 29, 3:30-5pm, hybrid. [RSVP to Anthony](#) with subject "P&D."

- **Financial and Legal Subcircle:** [Contact Becky](#) to offer your participation

#### **Land Stewardship**

Tuesday, June 10 & July 8, 7-8:30pm, on the land (and hybrid if needed). [RSVP to Doug](#) to confirm details. A fire to gather around may follow the meeting.

#### **Governance & Communication**

Tuesdays, June 17 & July 22, 7-9pm, Zoom  
[RSVP to Quai](#) with subject "G&CC."



and documents to share with all who wish to learn and practice the fundamentals of NVC. Hats off to Ren who organized the entire 8-week experience with clarity and beauty. Interested in learning more? [Contact Ren](#).

## Planning & Development

This summer is the Season of Big Moves by P&D! Here is the briefest of overviews:

◆ **Infrastructure construction** is out for bids from contractors. They are due June 20<sup>th</sup>. Then, we have a month or so to select the best offer and negotiate with contractors to be sure the work can be done in a way that best suits our needs. Start times for actual construction are likely in the Fall, though it's also possible that we will need another round of bidding and perhaps revised conditions – we'll see. Fingers crossed! Randy and Anthony are taking the lead with this alongside our site engineer, Bobby Tucker.

◆ **Preparing hearts and minds:** When we committed to going ahead with construction, we also committed to taking care and giving heart to preparing ourselves and the other creatures and the land, as best we can, for the disruptions and changes to come. Randy laid out a framework for this work: see [this link](#). Janey, Doug, and others are helping move this forward.



*Aerial view of the Farm by drone-wielder, Robby*

## General Circle

Sunday, June 22 & July 20, 6:30-8:30pm, via Zoom. [RSVP to Becky](#) with subject "GC" 2 days in advance.



*Eerie Ghost Pipe plants emerging in the wetland (Photo-Hope)*

## 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](mailto: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": [Lberley@yahoo.com](mailto:Lberley@yahoo.com)

**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.

◆ **Common House:** Another commitment is to prioritize Common House development. Lucas is taking the lead on this alongside Anthony, Kathleen, and Bradley. We have a rough design and are consulting with Greg Allen of the Muddauber School (yes it will be strawbale and clay) to get us enough of a workable plan that we can begin actual building (under our “bona fide farm” dispensation) soon.



*Goni undertakes a woodworking project for the barn  
(Photo: Kai)*

◆ **The Ownership structure** is still not decided, mainly because we are still making every effort to establish a cooperative and stewardship model rather than the fee-simple, private-ownership model that is the usual default. Of course, we intend to foster a cooperative, stewardship culture in any case, but we’d much prefer that the legal setup reflect and support that culture rather than make it more difficult. Theresa, Becky, Dave and others lead this work.

◆ **Lot preference survey:** Meantime, however exactly ownership will be structured, we need to give prospective first-wave buyers/leasers a more definite sense of what lots to plan for. Some of us are already working on residence

## Community Farm-to-Table Lunch

Land Stewardship Circle

Every Tuesday at 1:00 pm at the Barn

**Contact Lucas** if you plan to come:

[lucas.babinec@posteo.net](mailto:lucas.babinec@posteo.net), 301-767-6720

Come enjoy a simple, nourishing meal prepared straight from the garden plus thoughtful conversation with good humans who care about the earth. **In order to put these meals on every week, we need support.** This can be a chance for you to learn the skill of cooking for community with what’s seasonally available. Lucas can help you plan the menu and get everything ready to put on a yummy farm-to-table meal for other community members and visitors. Please sign up to support the cooking or the post-meal dishwashing [here](#). And remember to offer donations—cash, Venmo, or pantry staples are much appreciated (olive oil, rice, beans, lentils, GF flour...)



*Marilu helps Lucas to make a weekly farm lunch (Photo: Kai)*

## Family Farm Day

Land Stewardship Circle

Sunday, June 8, 10am-1pm, 5797 Daisy Evans

Gunn Tr., Mebane, 27302

Spaces are limited—[Contact Lucas](#) to sign up





*Warm Season kick off potluck in the garden (Photo-Kai)*

architecture and/or may wish to start building a relationship and making preparations on what might become their specific site. Anthony has put out a third lot preference survey and P&D will bring forward provisional lot assignments in early June.

◆ **Financing:** Key of course is identifying and organizing the financing, both external and internal, for this big step forward. Theresa and Becky have reestablished the Financial & Legal Subcircle, several new members have joined or consulted and we have just (re-)hired Robyn Heeks of Heeks Collective as a financial consultant and development co-manager to help pull us through this urgent and vital phase.

◆ Needless to say, and as you've heard many times already, **all of this work could use more hands.** This is an absolutely vital phase for building the village and reconstituting human and more than human communities around it. The people already actively involved are also stretched very thin. Once again, anyone interested in helping with the work is strongly encouraged to contact any of the folks just listed to volunteer! [Contact Anthony](#) to learn more.

In a time of such uncertainty, building intimate, loving, and playful relationships with the living Earth seems like the only way forward. Children are yearning for spaces where they can feel nourished by the goodness of the world and play their way into an experience of belonging. Let's soften together into an embodied sense of reciprocity with the beings that nourish us. **The practice of tending the Earth is a joyful invitation to eating, playing, and a lifelong sense of belonging we can nurture in the children now!** There is so much to learn and give—come share in it as a family.



*Third graders help out with a project on the farm (Photo: Kai)*

## Farm-To-Fork Dinner

Land Stewardship Circle

Thursdays, June 19 & July 17, 6:30pm, by donation

**Contact Lucas if you plan to come:**

[lucas.babinec@posteo.net](mailto:lucas.babinec@posteo.net), 301-767-6720

At Full Table, we believe that eating should be a cause for celebration. This year, every third Thursday of the month you're invited to join us for a simple meal cooked with farm-grown and local ingredients. All are welcome.

## Land Stewardship

Many hands and hearts tended and mended the land here at Common Ground this past month, enjoying moments of meaningful work and meaningful connection with each other—often with food involved.

Tending the land doesn't just look like weeding a garden bed, or clearing land for building, or mowing with the tractor. **Tending the land is tending relationships.** It's saying hello to the crows. Bargaining with the storm beings for a few more moments before they party (and oh, will they party). Sharing rhythm with the fungi dancing barefoot around a fire. Holding each other close and breathing with the trees.



*Munificent beets and radishes from the Farm (photo-Kai)*

Here are some scenes from May: Two farm dinners. Weekly community farm lunches (we gotta have the fried fish again!! + shout out to Marilu, May's champion of the barn dishwasher's club). A Mother's Day *Boots on da Ground* celebration put on by a neighbor. Another one of Melanie's wonderful herbal medicine classes. A third-grade class overnight stay. A wedding. Talks of shrines. Plans for prescribed burns. Sights of ghost pipes. Tomato trellising. Kitchen table woodworking. Smiles, songs, tears, laughter, humanity.

At Common Ground, the world is alive. Come on out and feel the medicine of growing community with each other and the land in beautiful ways.



*A Milkweed caterpillar fattens on the leaves (Photo: Kai)*

## Juneteenth Celebrations

Membership Circle

Watch for more communication on dates and times and ways to go together!

Our newest federal holiday celebrates the anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation that abolished slavery in Texas and other former Confederate states in 1865. We are all encouraged to join the wonderful celebrations in Hillsborough, Chapel Hill, Durham and other towns and go with other members. The official date is June 19<sup>th</sup>, but celebrations in the wider community will be held both before and after.

## Monthly Heart Share

Membership Circle

Fridays, June 20 & July 18, 7-9 p.m., Zoom.

**RSVP to Ren Enberg & Quai Derr:**

[Heart\\_Share@commonground.eco](mailto:Heart_Share@commonground.eco).

These monthly gatherings offer a meaningful way for CGEV members to connect on a deeper





*Tanisha puts on a smashing Mother's Day event with the help of Goni, Lucas, and Lisa (Photo: Lisa)*

## From the Farm

Over the past month, we've had the pleasure of welcoming two different elementary school classes to the farm for learning adventures. Hosting children is consistently one of the most joyful ways we get to share the farm. In a world where most food travels thousands of miles before reaching our plates, connecting young ones to the earth where their meals are grown feels like real medicine. **This year, we're excited to extend this opportunity for connection to you through a Family Farm Day.** The first event is coming up on June 8th from 10am-1pm. Does your family know what a carrot looks like when it's growing? Or what an arugula flower tastes like? Or the joy of harvesting a gold mine of potatoes? Have you ever tasted the difference between loamy soil and clay? Or sung a song to a sweet potato slip? If you're looking for ways

level than our usual gatherings allow. New members often explore this way, so committed members are encouraged to welcome them. Themes are TBD. Watch for a detailed email or just RSVP now! Facilitators needed; we'll support you and you can choose the theme!

## Summer Solstice Potato Harvest

Land Stewardship Circle

Saturday, June 21—times and details TBA

Join in the thrill of unearthing potatoes on the longest day of the year! **This undertaking will be woven into other celebrations that honor the energy and magic of high summer.**

## Community on the Ground

Governance & Communications Circle

Saturdays, June 28 & July 26, 3-5 pm, hybrid at the Nest, [RSVP to Becky](#), subject "COG."

These all-member meetings are reliably informative and connecting for all involved. Topics vary according to what's most relevant. Check your email for an invitation closer to the date. Make it a practice to attend and stay for the potluck.



*Harland and Casey enjoy picnicking at the Farm (photo-Kai)*



to immerse your family more deeply in the magic of growing food, come play with us! We'll explore the science and wonder of soil, learn how to save seeds, harvest fresh veggies to take home, and wrap up with a treat and a scavenger hunt!

## Full Table CSA Update

At Full Table, we believe that eating should be a cause for celebration. And our first Farm Dinner in May certainly was! What a joy to have the farm humming with members. Our star sous chefs, Adam (age 11) and Alma (age 5), were buzzing through the garden harvesting food and flowers for our dinner as friends caught up, Rachel practiced her salsa moves, and the smell of freshly grilled summer squash called us to the table. As the last of us walked to our cars, the fireflies danced on the field, affirming, yes, the world is filled with the beauty your heart longs for. Thank you for turning a full table into full hearts. Let's do it again next third Thursday (June 19, 6:30pm—mark your calendar!)

## Membership

**Calling all Members to read the CGEV Community Cultural Agreements** and then acknowledge that you have done so by **filling out a short online form**. These Agreements are a combination of expectations, key values, ideals and pathways. Many members worked on the document and they were discussed and consented to by the General Circle in Fall of 2024. This is a living document that will routinely be reviewed and updated when

## Community Potluck

Membership Circle

Saturdays, June 28 & July 26, 5:30-7:30pm, following Community on the Ground

**No RSVP required but helpful if locations change.** Contact Lisa at [Lberley@yahoo.com](mailto:Lberley@yahoo.com)

Potlucks are our time to break bread together and socialize, play, sometimes chew over the Community on the Ground meeting content. The potluck is held on the land by the Grandmother Oak Tree. In inclement weather it is often held at the Nest. Please bring something to share. Vegetable dishes typically predominate, but all sorts of food are welcome. Just bring a list of ingredients or jot them down when you come.



*Our new summer intern, Kiki, plants green beans with Lucas (Photo-Kai)*



needed. Please read the full version [HERE](#), and/or the summary version [HERE](#). Then, fill out a very short online form [HERE](#).

The Membership Circle is enjoying building interconnections with other Circles around bigger picture issues. We're collaborating with the Governance & Communications Circle about how to take NVC/Compassionate Culture forward in the community. Conversations with the Land Stewardship Circle concern responsible care and use of our humanure. We are also collecting FAQs or just questions that seem to fall by the wayside. **Please send us questions that you are not sure whom to ask:** [membership@commonground.eco](mailto:membership@commonground.eco)

Finally, a hearty congrats to Goni for becoming an Exploratory member! His contributions to the community are numerous and reveal his generous heart and create mind.



*Ghost Pipes ringed with light by McGowan Creek (photo-Hope)*

## **New Member Coffee Meet-Up In July**

Membership circle

Date/time/location TBA

**For more information or to sign up, contact**

**Lisa:** [Lberley@yahoo.com](mailto:Lberley@yahoo.com) or 919-619-2979

This is a great opportunity for those who are curious about CGEV and want to make connections with other members. Contact Lisa if you would like to participate.

## **TOMATO CANING WORK PARTY**

Land Stewardship Circle

Weekend afternoon in mid- to late-July, when the tomatoes are ripe and ready

Details are forthcoming.



*Caleb hefts humungous beets for the CSA (Photo-Kai)*

