



Finding Common Ground

March 2026

Up Front

March events are all about trees! We're doing our best to do justice to the skads of trees felled during Village infrastructure construction. They've been transformed into huge piles of mulch, milled into thousands of board feet of lumber with more to come, and selected Oak and Poplar logs are soon to be inoculated to grow Shitake mushrooms.

You'll see in the Events Section that **we're calling for many hands to help move and stack lumber and build a solar kiln to dry the boards.** There will be a workshop to teach people the art of log inoculation.

And maybe brightest of all, **we're excited to plant hundreds of trees along the newly laid road leading into the land on March 7 & 8!** Working together in all these ways is always fun and connecting, and it's satisfying to see the fruits of all our labors.



Farmers protected precious veggies from the cold (Photo:Kai)



Top: Pete of Falco Sawmill cuts logs into lumber (Photo: Hope)

Above: To a child, every place is a playground (Photo: Jacq)

On the Farm, **Full Table CSA is launching their Warm Season Harvest Share (April-Nov.)!** They are expanding their offerings and seeking to add 20 more households by late March. Read all about it [here](#). Invite your friends to eat vibrant veggies, support local agriculture, and enjoy the community magic of our farm. The time is now!

Many Turtles Learning Collaborative is hosting FUNdraising 103. This is the third workshop generously offered by Chari Smith to help us ALL become adept at raising money for the many and varied projects and events we hold in our hearts.

Circle News Column

Planning & Development

Infrastructure work continued in February. Septic tank and field installation was completed. Another focus was on seeding areas with exposed soils, both for temporary erosion control permitting compliance and for more permanent and ecologically robust (meaning native wildflower seeding) purposes. This involved both contracted “hydroseeding” along the road and farm access road and DIY hand seeding and straw of the septic field areas. All told, infrastructure work is more than 3/4 complete!

As of press time, it is anticipated (if weather and humans cooperate) that: sewer lines and then water lines will be installed; well drilling will occur and pumphouses built; at least some electrical lines will be laid; pond rehabilitation will be completed; and perhaps more of the remaining infrastructure work will all be finished in March. On the County regulatory side, work will proceed to navigate the remaining steps for “final plat approval” which is needed to allow lease purchase agreements to be executed and building of homes to begin. Doing so will require legal and administrative work in addition to the construction work. Architecture planning is ramping up too, along with energetic fundraising for the Common House. The light at the end of the tunnel is getting brighter!

*** **Special note: please be aware that there is still room in the village.** YOU can still be a Grounder! There are several half-lots available – pods not yet full – as well as one full lot. Those of you wondering if being a “First Waver” might be for you... contact P&D or Membership with your questions and wonders. Now’s the time! ***



Jacob invited folks to meet with KC Kurtz (third from left) of [Red Dirt Design & Build](#) (Photo: Hope)

Meetings & Events Column

Events Snapshot

Details are in the section below Circle Meetings

- ◆ **March 1, 10am**-Let’s Keep Building a Solar Kiln!
- ◆ **Mondays, 7-8pm**-Racial Awareness Book Grp, Zoom
- ◆ **March 3, 9am-5pm**-Tree milling & stacking
- ◆ **March 7 & (maybe) 8, 9am-5pm**-Tree Planting Work Day
- ◆ **March 8, time TBD**-Shitake Log Inoculation Prep Day
- ◆ **March 12, 5-7pm**-Many Turtles FUNdraising, Zoom
- ◆ **March 14, 10am onward**-Potato Planting Palooza
- ◆ **March 15, 11am-12:30pm**-New Member Coffee Meet-up
- ◆ **March 15, time TBD**-Mushroom Log Inoculation Workshop
- ◆ **March 21, 5:30pm start**-Wheel of the Year: Spring Equinox
- ◆ **March 28, 1:30pm, or by request**-Tours of the Land,
- ◆ **March 28, 2-5pm**-Community on the Ground
- ◆ **March 28, 5:30pm onward**-Community Potluck

- ◆ **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:** To subscribe to the CGEV Calendar, add or change an event, email Ren at calendar@commonground.eco
- ◆ **Members Only Discourse Forum Link:** <https://discourse.commonground.eco/>

Circle Meetings



Planning & Development

Wednesdays, 4-5:30pm, hybrid

[RSVP to Anthony](#) with subject “P&D”

Membership

Thursdays, 5:15-7:15pm, Zoom and at the home of Amy H. in Durham. Task meetings, as needed, are on alternate weeks, same time.

[RSVP to Lisa](#) with subject “Membership Circle”

Governance & Communications

We continue to refine our policy regarding common elements in communication (e.g. accessibility, addressing any communicable disease risks, etc.). We also include recognition of our community's diversity in spiritual paths. We're hoping this will contribute to the coming community conversations around how we can respect each other's spirituality (or lack thereof) while not making assumptions or unintentionally imposing our paths on our fellow members.

The Circle received an update at our last meeting from Quaye, who has been working diligently towards getting our website transferred to a new Drupal platform. This will result in a quicker, more responsive site and will enable members to update or create pages with greater ease and flexibility. Additionally, the site hosts our new JOIN form and member database with more flexible options for generating reports to support the needs of our Circles.

The next big item is to generate a proposal for a new Circle structure as we transition from an ecovillage-in-progress to an established one. It's important for us to understand and agree upon our self-governance as we organize into new groups with new tasks, projects, and decisions to make.



This celebratory walk in the newly established Conservation Easement followed a presentation by the Eno River Association's Chris Dreps and Reema Garabadu (Photo: Hope)

Land Stewardship

It was a very busy February for LSC...

It may have been one of the longest cold spells in anyone's memory, but the members who take care of our land were busier than ever this February. In fact, our farmers, organized as Common Ground Growers LLC, had

General Circle

Sundays, March 8 & 22, 6:30-8:30pm, Zoom
[RSVP to Hope](#) with subject "GC" 2 days in advance

Land Stewardship

Tuesday, March 10, 7-8:30pm, on the land at the barn (hybrid if needed).

Contact [Doug](#) or [Lucas](#) w/ subject "LSC" for details

Governance & Communication

Tuesday, March 17, 7-9pm, Zoom

[RSVP to Quai](#) with subject "G&CC"

All About Events



Tours of the Land

Membership Circle

Are you a new Common Ground member or a curious person who is thinking of joining? Email [Lisa](#) or text at 919-619-2979 and put "Request for Tour" in the subject line. We usually have a tour each month at 1:30pm on the same day as the Community on the Ground (COG) meeting and Potluck.

Let's Keep Building a Solar Kiln!

Land Stewardship

Sunday, March 1, 10 am, meet at the Barn

[RSVP to Paul](#)

This structure will enable us to cure milled wood taken from trees on our land. Building continues in phases as weather allows. In February, we "went vertical" with wall construction, which is nearly finished. Lots more to be done, so please consider this a hearty invitation to join us. We hope the weather will cooperate!

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

The book group is for CGEV members and the larger community. We read our books aloud and



Lucas carts the next load of mulch to the Grand Oaks. [Click here for a video](#) explaining the need for this (Photo: Hope)

extra work protecting crops from damage. They succeeded in keeping a strong flow of veggies going out to CSA members, while attending frequent meetings to do business planning for an expanding farm operation.

Lucas worked full tilt to mulch the two Grand Oaks' living root zones damaged by road construction as quickly as possible. Through the rain, cold, mud, ice, sometimes on his own, sometimes with fresh teams of willing workers, he managed to supply around 1000 wheelbarrows full of mulch to the affected areas. Truly a heroic effort to lengthen the health and lives of these magnificent elder trees in the heart of the Village community. Thank you, Lucas, and all who pitched in to help.

A number of LSC members were also very busy managing **the use of hundreds of logs that resulted from clearing for roads and other Village infrastructure.** One high point was the milling of new lumber by a crew operating a portable sawmill. Some of this lumber will be used to construct our Common House, including some beautiful oak and black walnut.

FARM HIGHLIGHTS

 **The Season is Turning:** Winter is shifting to spring, and the Farm Team is getting things ready for a summer of sweetness. Tomatoes are seeded in the greenhouse, peas are planted in the field, and digital systems are in place to welcome members to Warm Season 2026.

 **Now Is the Time to Join:** The doors are OPEN for Warm Season (April-November). Current members are renewing now, and the CSA will open to the public March 16. We're excited about all the luscious Full Table tomatoes, watermelon, okra, and Farm lunches to come!

break between paragraphs to share personal reflections, questions, and ideas. People attend as often as they can. We are currently reading *What Doesn't Kill You Makes You Blacker: a Memoir in Essays*, by Damon Young.

Onsite Milling with a Portable Sawmill

Land Stewardship

Tuesday, March 3, 9am to 5pm

Contact [Jacob](#) for details

Pete from Falco Sawmill returns to mill the remaining felled logs into beautiful boards for use in common spaces. We need many hands to catch and stack the sometimes heavy planks. Details to come by email.

Tree Planting Workdays!

March 7 & (maybe) 8, 9am-5pm, on the land

[RSVP to Randy ASAP](#), subject "Tree Planting" to help gauge availability. Details to follow via email. *These workday(s) along Daisy Evans Gunn Trail are part of infrastructure work, in coordination with Trees for the Triangle. Saturday is the main day. Sunday is a rain day and completion day if not all trees were planted. Come for as little or long as you can. You don't need to come all day, and if physical work isn't possible, help with coordination, lunch, snacks, set up, clean up, etc. is appreciated.*

Shitake Mushroom Log Inoculation Prep Day

Land Stewardship

Sunday, March 8, time TBD

Contact [Doug](#) for details

This "in-house" event will be the first round of inoculation, preparing the site and rehearsing methods to get ready for our public workshop scheduled on March 15 and sponsored by Many Turtles Learning Collaborative.

FUNdraising 103 with Chari Smith

Many Turtles Learning Collaborative

Thursday, March 12, 5-7pm, Zoom

RSVP to [Amy H](#)

With our 501(c)3 "umbrella" we are fundraising for a wide array of options. We ALL need to understand the opportunities now available to us and how to connect with interested and financially able donors! For those

☑ **The CSA is Expanding:** We've expanded Goni's role on the Farm Team, added flowers to our offerings, are preparing to host our first WWOOFers, and have increased veggie production to serve 20 additional households this year! **If you have friends who would like to eat vibrant veggies, support local agriculture, and be part of the community magic of our farm, be sure to tell them now is the window [send them here](#) to learn more -**



Janey and Jascha enjoy a sunset cuddle (Photo: Kai); Hazel's joyous romp in the mud puddle (Photo: Jacq)

Membership

MC is pleased at the number of Grounders who are moving through the Membership Process. This month we welcomed Jacq Vorndran and Amy Leach as Engaged Members! In addition, 9 people became Visiting Members in February.

The community exit policy was consented to by the General Circle at the start of the month. The next new big items in this quarter and the next are: 1) defining a policy for who is a member of CGEV—both living and not living on the land—including rights, responsibilities, financial, and work requirements. 2) Improving the speed for connecting new members to the work of the community. 3) Cultivating a diverse membership. The circle is also getting “serious” about adding **FUN** to our all-community COG meetings. Watch as we infuse ice breakers with silliness, storytelling and deep sharing.

Many Turtles Learning Collaborative

About ten of us attended “FUNdraising 102” in person with Chari Smith. We developed and practiced our individual stories and began to build a community story directed at fundraising. [Please write to Amy H](#) for the notes from this valuable 2-hour workshop. Given our

wanting to talk more about Fundraising 102, to go over the notes, to feel well apprised as to what is going on with Many Turtles, please call Amy H at 919 801-8102.

Potato Planting Palooza

Land Stewardship Circle
Saturday, March 14, 10am ‘til we’re done, weather permitting

RSVP to Doug for details

It’s spring! That means It’s time get potatoes in the ground for good growing. Come dig in the dirt, plant some potatoes and sing songs of spring. Come one, come all to plant potatoes together!

New Member Coffee Meet Up

Membership Circle

March 15, 11am-12:30pm at Caribou coffee, 1408 E. Franklin St., Chapel Hill

Contact [Lisa](#) for more info or to sign up:
Lberley@yahoo.com or 919 619 2979

This is a great opportunity, for those who are curious about CGEV, to ask questions and make connections with other members.

Shitake Mushroom Log Inoculation Workshop

Land Stewardship

Sunday, March 15, 1-5pm, at the Barn

Cost: sliding scale (\$10, \$15, or \$25)

Contact [Doug](#) or [Janey](#) for details

Come and learn how to grow delicious shitake mushrooms using Oaks and Poplars that were sacrificed for infrastructure installation. We'll teach you how to inoculate them with mushroom spawn and give you a log to take home! This workshop is a fundraiser for our 501(c)3 Many Turtles Learning Collaborative.

Wheel of the Year: Spring Equinox

Land Stewardship Circle

Saturday, March 21, 5:30 start on the Land

No RSVP is needed; contact [Kai](#) for details

At the Equinox, we stand on the threshold between Winter and Summer, from darkness to light. Come and mark this most alchemical time where winter-dulled and dormant beings magically come back to life. Join in for food, fire, music-making, story, singing, and dance.



Huge gratitude to those who came to build the Solar Kiln in below-freezing temperatures (Photo: Paul)

enthusiasm, and also Chari's belief in both our value and possibility, she is offering one more workshop to us: Fundraising 103. This workshop, scheduled on Thursday, March 12, 5 to 7 pm, will focus on identifying and connecting shared interests with donors so that we can effectively make the Big Ask. Good news: Although being in person was absolutely wonderful, this next event will be on zoom.

AND, we have BIG GOALS for our fundraising! **First, we request your proposals for educational workshops** (see [HERE](#)); although the deadline will have passed by the time you read this, please DO submit this initial inquiry form and let us* know!! We are eager to build our workshop activity and send our educational opportunities forth! We are happy to work interactively with you to imagine and develop these workshops into real events. **Second, we are in the first phase of what is called a Capital Campaign**, and this is to raise funds for an educational building which some of us have named as the Common House.

The 501(c)3 and the skills we are learning from Chari Smith now afford us so many possibilities! Please bring your creativity, openness, and time to this opportunity—for sure, ALL of us are needed for fundraising and all of us have workshop ideas we can bring to fruition! With gratitude, we are: President Amy H, Secretary Lucas, Treasurer Lisa B, and Asst Treasurer, Krystal.

*Any of us can answer questions; please do ask and in whatever communication mode suits you (text, phone call, email, chatting in person)

Monthly HeartShare

Membership Circle

Friday, March 20, 7-9pm, Zoom

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

Theme TBD. These monthly gatherings offer a meaningful way for CGEV members to connect on a deeper level than our usual gatherings allow. New members often explore this way, so committed members are encouraged to welcome them. Watch for a detailed email with Zoom link! Facilitators needed—we'll support you and you can choose the theme!

Community on the Ground (COG)

Governance & Communication Circle

Saturday, March 28, 2-5pm, hybrid at the Nest

RSVP to [Theresa](#), subject "COG."

Community In the Round is a monthly forum for ALL MEMBERS to help you:

- *Get more connected with each other*
- *Hear updates and information from Circles*
- *Explore hot topics, inspire ideas, and hear feedback from members*
- *Discover how to become more involved in winning ways*

*We'll have in-person conversations and a zoom link for folks to call into for **audio only**. Watch your email for details about this month's event!*

Community Potluck

Membership Circle

Saturday, March 28, 5:30-7:30pm, after

Community on the Ground, location TBD

RSVP is helpful for set-up and location.

Email [Lisa](#) or text 919-619-2979

Potlucks are our time to break bread together and socialize, play, and sometimes chew over the Community on the Ground meeting content Please bring something to share. Vegetable dishes typically predominate, but all sorts of food and drink are welcome. Just bring a list of ingredients or jot them down when you come.





Wally conquers one of many chipped wood piles (Photo: Jacq)



Plant starts sprouting in the newly built greenhouse (Photo: Kai)

Member Offerings

From Becky: Triangle Cohousing Gathering

Saturday, March 7, 11:30am-3:30pm

RSVP BY MARCH 1st using [this form](#)

Join with neighbors from 12 local cohousing communities to share, learn and connect. We'll meet at Arcadia, [134 Circadian Way, Chapel Hill, 27516](#).

Note: Children's programming may be available as needed - must be pre-registered by March 1.

From Janey: Community Cook Day for the Stone Mountain

Sunday, March 15, Noon-6pm,

Elderberry Cohousing, 60 Elderberry Ln, Rougemont, NC 27572. Text or call Janey for more info: 919-357-1711. All are welcome. No cooking experience needed.

From Kara: Free Plants Giveaway in Durham

Sunday, March 22 from 10am-12pm. Yarrow House Community Garden, with parking at 1805 Chapel Hill Rd., Durham. My friend Lewis has created some incredible urban gardens around the Durham area, He has grown tons of plant starts (cuttings and bare root plants) and is giving them all away **for free** (yup, free!). [Contact Kara](#) for more details.



Winter in the wetland (Photo: Hope)

