



Finding Common Ground

June 2026

Up Front

Common Ground Ecovillage is a special place. People who come here tell us that we are embodying something precious and rare—a welcoming agrarian community for all ages that centers living gently and vibrantly with each other and the land. After years of cultivating strong relationships and executing thoughtful plans, **our Village development is now ready for home building.** Many Members celebrated a milestone moment on May 30 by signing 99-year leasehold agreements that empower us to start getting real about making CGEV our home. While most lots are spoken for, **there is yet room for people who resonate with, and wish to help co-create, this Community way of life.**



Our leasehold signing party at the Nest was a joyous event with 21 “Grounders” participating (Photo: Hope)



Top: Redring Milkweed re-appears in the wetland after a prescribed burn. (Photo: Hope)

Above: Alastair & Sahil enjoy a sweet moment (Photo: Abigail)

Common Ground has been ardent about growing land-based community since a small group of people came together to dream in 2008. The Farm folk have outworked this evolving vision and kept the fires burning to include, nourish, and inspire scores of people over the years. Our hearts are full of gratitude and appreciation for this Community. We hope you’ll come and be a part of it in ways that speak to you—you’ll find plenty of possibilities in these pages. Read on!

Circle News Column

Land Stewardship

Even without our usual April showers, during May we experienced the return of verdant green most places on the landscape at Common Ground. The small handfuls of light rain we did receive were a balm and blessing. A patch of lush grass graces the center of our mostly dried up pond. The beavers are hard at work building dams to keep water on the land. Wildflowers bloom in the woods, probably inspired by the controlled fire we brought to the land last autumn. The complex songs of migratory birds fill air. Snakes are on the move again.

We gathered for Beltane around a fire and heard a seasonal story. We learned about Persimmon grafting. We sang under the stars in a circle guided by song carriers Deja Belle and Tessie Castillo. We ate amazing food at our community farm lunches and dinners. We planted Sweet Potatoes in the far field. And we kept newly planted trees watered in the absence of rain. Among many other projects!

Come on out to deepen relationship with this land and all the life that is possible here. In doing so we help dance greater expressions of vitality and reciprocity into existence.



Harland helps Lucas to harvest sweet Sugar Snap Peas (Photo: Kai)
Caleb's lovin' the look and feel of prime Arugula (Photo: Kai)

Farm Highlights

The Farm is a hub for nourishment on so many levels. Providing delicious and nourishing veggies for over 100 families is foundational. Volunteers come and learn how to garden as part of a skilled and encouraging team. But growing broader community is also of paramount

Meetings & Events Column

Events Snapshot

Details are in the section below Circle Meetings

- ◆ **Mondays, 7-8pm**-Racial Awareness Book Grp, Zoom
- ◆ **Tuesdays, 1pm**-Community Farm lunch
- ◆ **June 5 & 19, 6:30pm**-Friday Farm-to-Fork dinner
- ◆ **June 14, 11am-12:30pm**-New Member Coffee Meet Up
- ◆ **June 20, 2-5pm**—Potato Palooza Harvest Party
- ◆ **June 20, 5:30pm**-Wheel of the Year: Summer Solstice
- ◆ **June 24**, Acoustic Emo & Video Show
- ◆ **June 27, 2-5pm**-Community on the Ground
- ◆ **June 27, 5:30-7pm**-Community Potluck

- ◆ **All gatherings are in Eastern Time** & open to all members, guests, and/or registrants 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, **5:00-6:30pm**, 1st and 3rd weeks, via Zoom or in person at the home of Amy H. when folks are interested! Task meetings, as needed, are on alternate weeks, same time

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

General Circle

Sundays, June 7 & 21, 6:30-8:30pm, Zoom

[RSVP to Hope](#) with subject "GC" 2 days in advance

importance. Farm lunches and dinners routinely host 20-30 people, all of whom bring their open hearts and desires for connection with humans and the natural world. Children play and explore the wonders of the natural world together. Planting and harvest events, song and fire circles, seasonal celebrations, and simple moments where folks can sit a spell, and breathe fresh air among the living landscape, refresh us all.

In the midst of it all, farming is complex and unpredictable, calling for creativity and adaptability, along with humor and hard work. Here are two videos that will help to bring you into the picture:

[Watch--Seed struggle and Okra rescue:](#) Sometimes challenges come up in saving seed. Moisture unexpectedly got into most of our 2025 okra seed and created moldy conditions in the packets. We had to scrounge seed from previous years, which had decreased germination rates because of their age. Lucas recently found a stash of other okra seed from 2025 and explains the process of planting in this video!

[Watch-- A Spring Day on the Farm:](#) Land learner Cam filmed during a beautiful spring day of harvest, bed prep, and cucumber trellising. There's something truly special about being on the land and participating in the garden. We love welcoming CSA members and friends from our community to deepen their connection with the soil their food grows in — and with the farmers who care for it.

Hope to see you out here soon — sharing a meal, getting your hands in the earth, or joining us for another gathering on the land! 🥒 "



Red Radishes brighten Land Learner, Cam's, day. (Photo: Kai)



Ghost Pipes popping up in the wetland (Photo: Margret)

Land Stewardship

Tuesday, June 9, 7-8:30pm, on the land at the barn (hybrid if needed).

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

Governance & Communication

Tuesday, June 16, 7-8:30pm, 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 upon request at 1:30pm on the same day as the Community on the Ground (COG) meeting and Potluck.

Racial Awareness Book Group

Membership Circle

Every Monday, 7-8 p.m., Zoom

[Contact Lisa](#) to Join with subject "Racial Awareness Book Group"

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

Planning & Development

Everything is coming down, or up, or together in these last weeks of May and first weeks of June! We are very near completion of infrastructure installation by MEC, wrangled by Randy and Anthony. Electricity is coming at last. **May 30 saw a milestone investment moment where members demonstrated full commitment in the form of 99-year leasehold purchases**—all backed by a small army of accountants and lawyers, rallied in turn by our own Theresa and Becky.

For the legalities a huge number of pieces need to be in place: final surveying and platting with interconnected legal documents to be filed with Orange County; agreements with each other, involving careful construction and negotiation of our Declaration of Covenants, Codes, and Restrictions; and developing Operating Agreements for what will be a new co-ownership entity.

While required by the County, **these agreements essentially clarify how we will relate to each other and take responsibility for the land.** They include re-envisioning and beginning to reconstruct governance and ownership structures, establishing Memoranda of Understanding to deal with outstanding Hart's Mill LLC equity and long-term mortgage, tracking other loan and gifting processes and commitments (and thanks to so many for stepping up to give and also to ask!)...and on & on & ON.



Black Cohosh racemes look like fairy wands in the woods (Photo: Hope)

There's endless detail, actually, but the big point is it's happening! We've finally achieved closings (selling leaseholds) for most if not all of the nine lots that are currently committed. Meanwhile many enterprising



Wood Carver, Matin, helps children to de-bark a log (Photo: Kai)

*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.*

Tuesday Community Farm Lunch

Land Stewardship Circle

Every Tuesday at 1:00 pm, by donation
[RSVP to Lucas](#), or text 301-767-6720

Cooking and sharing meals is an essential part of our Community. Come enjoy a simple, nourishing meal prepared straight from the garden + thoughtful conversation with good humans who care about the earth. By donation--either cash, Venmo, or pantry staples are warmly appreciated (olive oil, rice, beans, lentils, GF flour...)

Friday Farm-To-Fork Dinners

Land Stewardship Circle

Fridays, June 5 & 19, 6:30pm, by donation
[RSVP to Lucas](#), or text 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 & local ingredients. All are welcome.

New Member Coffee Meet Up

Membership Circle

Saturday, June 14, 11am-12:30pm at Caribou Coffee, 1408 E. Franklin St, Chapel Hill
[RSVP to Lisa](#) to sign up, or text 919 619 2979

We will meet in the community room. This an opportunity for those who are curious about CGEV, want to make connections with other members and get a feel for what Common Ground is about.

individuals and pods have been contacting and consulting with architects and potential contractors. The Design Review Committee is up and running again under new leadership (thank you, Paul and Jacob!). The next phase, actually building, is beginning to become discernible, and time now seems to be on our side.

Yes, it's happening now.

P&D has tried to keep the membership, in particular Grounders, informed about the schedule heading into closing, but of course if you have any questions, please ask any of us. **Members are invited to remember that there are some leaseholds open:** at least one full leasehold, and some spots in some pods in some leaseholds are looking for an additional person or persons. As you know, to actually purchase the leasehold at least one member of pod must be an Engaged member, so if you have not yet achieved that exalted standing it may take some time, but now's still a fine time to start!



The mesmerizing Beltane Fire was stoked by Lucas (Photo: Abigail)

Membership

Each month we have a group of community-seeking people join CGEV as visiting members, and May was no exception. **The community has several openings in the village lots now. Spreading the word about this is very important!** Members of this Circle follow up with phone calls and invitations to tours and coffee meet ups so that we can discern if there's a good fit for all.

Our Circle has spent time focused on the subject of spirituality, ceremonies, traditions, and valuing the more-than-human in our community. In what ways can we flesh out the CGEV Principles and Intentions (P&I's)



Farm-to-Fork dinner—it's magical! (Photo: Abigail)

Potato Palooza Harvest Party, followed by Wheel of the Year: Summer Solstice

Land Stewardship Circle
Saturday, June 20, on the land

◆ HARVEST—2-5pm

Weather dependent: check your email for updates.
[Contact Caleb](#) with subject "Potato" for details

◆ SUMMER SOLSTICE—5:30 potluck, 6:30 fire circle [Contact Lucas](#) for details

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.

Acoustic Emo & Video Show

Land Stewardship Circle
Wednesday, June 24, 7:30pm, on the land
Contact Cam for details: 919-339-3570

Land Learner, Cam, and friends play acoustic songs followed by a showing of videos from various people of the scene.

Community on the Ground (COG)

Governance & Communication Circle
Saturday, June 27, 2-5pm, hybrid at the Nest
[RSVP to Theresa](#), subject "COG."

Community on the Ground is a monthly forum for ALL MEMBERS, with in-person conversations and a zoom link. Watch your email for details about June's event!

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.

which speak of the importance of diversity, supporting and celebrating shared values, staying open and non-exclusive? How do we find shared definitions of words to talk about this subject? In what ways can we understand our experience as individual members, who, like all people, share a need for belonging and for bringing their whole selves to the community? This is a rich and core subject to stay engaged with. We began to explore it with a group experience at the May Community on the Ground (COG) meeting and look forward continuing at the June COG.

Governance & Communications

We want to remind CGEV members that CGEV has an organizational membership with Sociocracy for All that benefits members of CGEV with class and book discounts. (contact Becky at blaskody@gmail.com for more information) The SoFA [website is a bit slow, but](#) has lots of resources for deepening your understanding of Sociocracy, our governance system. G&CC is busy consulting on the new circle structure that will accommodate the villagers (Grounders) and the new Owners Association that is coming into existence in June.

Community Potluck

Membership Circle

Saturday, June 27, 5:30-7:30pm, after Community on the Ground, likely on the land

RSVP is helpful for set-up and location.

[RSVP to 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.



Sugar Snap pea flowers yielded plentiful, plump pods (Photo: Margaret)

Member Offerings

Beavers are busier than ever in the wetland and we are paying attention! They are a keystone species, building habitat diversity and replenishing aquifers everywhere they land. We are lucky that they have chosen to live with us! If you want to up your Beaver awareness, here are some suggestions:

- Abigail recommends starting with this April 10 RadioLab podcast called [The Builders](#). For a deeper dive, read/listen to [Eager: The Surprising, Secret Life of Beavers and Why They Matter](#), by Ben Goldfarb
- Robby offers this NPR segment about how [Britain is bringing back Beavers](#) for flood control and more.

Outside Community Events not offered by Common Ground

Our Community friends, Jane and Darin, are offering a forest bathing series of daylong retreats on their beautiful and nourishing land called **Root, Grow, Flourish**. The next Retreat is happening on June 7. [Contact them](#) for more information.

