



Finding Common Ground

March 2025

Up Front

We're bringing life back to the land one fire at a time! Lucas led a prescribed burn on six acres of pasture aiming to become a Burn Boss. Doug handled the all-important work of tilling fire breaks to keep things under control. Even with recent rains, the fire burned fast and strong! Good thing we had plenty of people to help. It was exhilarating and we met our objectives. [Click here](#) to learn more about prescribed fire & the Triangle Prescribed Burn Association.

Explore our active YouTube channel to get a closer look at what's happening out on the land. There's tons of opportunity to document our journey of creating community. All members are invited to contribute. [Here's the latest](#) from our farm team.



Daffodil blossoms defy the snow (Photo-Lucas)

Banner: The burn team follows the fire (Photo-Hope)



Elon University students learn about farming (Photo-Kai)

The Non-Violent Communication course with Steve Torma from Earthaven began on February 15, and it's been a hit so far with over 20 members signed up! It's not too late to join this 8-session class—[just reach out to Ren](#), and she'll send you everything you need to catch up. Plus, there's a load of helpful resources to boost your NVC skills. For new members, it's a great way to connect with us in a short time. Check out the Events section for more details.

Circle News



Governance & Communications

At February's Community on the Ground, we gathered to connect around what's real; namely, the current political landscape, how we are navigating such rapid and difficult changes and what our collective role could be. It felt important to just talk with one another in small groups, share our feelings and concerns and get support and ideas for how to act out as well as take care of ourselves. As Kai and Hope navigated the group's process, Caleb and friends composed a meal featuring newly harvested carrots from the farm. The kids who dug them up also helped to shred and cook them into a fantastic soup! Fresh spinach salads and made-from-scratch naan completed the feast for about 3 dozen adults and children. The vitality, the spirit, the connections between us uplifted us all. Such is the power of community.



Caleb puts the finishing touches on carrot-lentil curry—ready for a hungry crowd. (Photo by Hope)

Land Stewardship

What a month of elemental contrast! The land was a winter wonderland for all of 24 hours before the sun came out and melted away most

Events & Meetings

- ♦ **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

Planning & Development

Tuesdays, March 4 & 18, 4:30-6:30pm, hybrid.
[RSVP to Anthony](#) with subject "P&D"

Membership

Thursday, March 6 & 20, 12-2pm, via Zoom. Task meetings as needed, March 13 & 20, same time.
[RSVP to Lisa](#) with subject "Membership Circle"

Land Stewardship

Tuesday, March 11th, 7-8:30 pm, on the land (and hybrid if needed). [RSVP to Doug](#) to confirm details

General Circle

Sunday, March 9 & 23, 6:30-8:30 p.m., via Zoom.
[RSVP to Hope](#) with subject "GC" 2 days in advance

Governance & Communication

Tuesday, March 18, 7-9 p.m., Zoom
[RSVP to Quai](#) with subject "G&CC"

Financial and Legal Task Group

[Contact Becky](#) at to offer your participation

of the snowy evidence. Daffodils were undeterred, bringing their bright yellow bursts of seasonal-change color. One remarkable moment on the land featured a red-tailed hawk sitting on a limb 20 feet high just beyond the garden fence while a gaggle of crows squawked a hundred yards further west and three more hawks and a lone vulture circled high above in the sky. Other wildlife is waking up, too. Frog song soars again in the wetlands! The wheel of the year continues to turn. The sun climbs higher. More trees have been planted. A lot of barn-scape areas are receiving a makeover. The carrots are still happier than ever (especially after so much love this past Community on the Ground harvest day!). Keep contributing to our community momentum and join in for work party events in March.



After the big rain (Photo by Kai)

From the Farm

Sign up for your tomatoes! You can hop on board for a Warm Season Share of veggies right now. Current CSA members, be sure to renew your farm share for the new season. Warm Season sign-ups open to the public on March 3 and close April 13 so be sure to join soon so you can get your share of the delicious cucumbers, tomatoes, basil, eggplant and more that will be coming as the 2025 season unfolds. Why wait? [Renew for the Warm season NOW.](#)

All About Events

Take a Tour of the Land

March 22, 1:30pm

Email Lisa with subject “Request a Tour”, or text at 919-619-2979

Are you a new Common Ground member or a curious person who is thinking of joining and would like to visit the land? We’ll be glad to meet you and show you around. Contact Lisa if you need a different date.

Racial Awareness Book Group

Membership Circle

Every Monday, 7-8 pm, via Zoom

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

This is a great time to join because we recently started reading a new book: ***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.



Fun with veggies--Carrot doll and parsnip antlers (Photo by Kai)

Non-Violent Communication Course with Steve Torma from Earthaven

Governance & Communication, Hybrid

From March 1 to April 19—see dates below



Farmers get busy planting kale (Photo by Kai)

Evolving a structure for community farming:

Since 2020, Full Table CSA has operated as a team effort, but with Doug as the sole proprietor. This year, the farm team is transitioning to a new business structure that aligns more closely with their collaborative farming approach. In February, they officially filed for an LLC—named Common Ground Growers—to establish a legal framework that reflects their community-centered values. Full Table CSA will now operate under the umbrella of Common Ground Growers, continuing to provide you with vibrant vegetables, hands-on learning opportunities, and farm-to-table meals.

Planning & Development

The village site design is nearly complete, with the final step – Erosion Control permit – currently in process. This permit process is particularly complex and costly. We had a brief panic when the County informed us that a necessary water quality assessment for our high-concern zone would cost an additional \$17,000 on top of the \$17,000 we've already paid. But after a quick brainstorming session with our site engineer, Bobby Tucker, and guidance from Randy with help from Anthony, we managed to adjust our “Limits of Disturbance” to keep it under the 10-acre threshold. As a result, we’ve reduced the fee from astronomical to merely high – for now, at least.

[RSVP to renenberg.cge@gmail.com](mailto:renenberg.cge@gmail.com)

We’ve had a strong response for this very special course, which began on February 15 (for a recording, ask Ren). Members who live in the area can meet at different homes to practice together. Others may join via Zoom. **There’s still time to jump in for 7 more sessions on Saturdays**, offered at different times to allow for greater attendance: March 1: 3-5 pm, March 8: 3-5 pm, March 15: 10 am-noon, March 29: 10 am-12 pm, April 5: 7-9 pm, April 12: 7-9 pm, April 19: 10 am-12 pm. Each session will be recorded and distributed to participants. **ALL members are welcome and strongly encouraged to partake.**

Fire & Ritual with Grandmother Oak

Wednesday, March 12, 7pm on the land
Contact Lucas: Lucas.babinec@posteo.net,
301-767-6720

Let’s deepen into the presence of our oldest and most majestic resident. Reach out to Lucas if you want to participate and/or help create what wants to happen.



Kicking back at the pond (Photo by Kai)

Monthly Heart Share

Membership Circle, organized by Ren & Quai
Date for March only: Friday, March 14, 7-9 pm,
via Zoom

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

On the infrastructure side, interest from contractors is increasing. The Common House Planning Task Force – Lucas, Kathleen, Bradley, and Anthony – is finalizing a design and outlining the steps to begin construction soon. Speaking of architecture, we will soon circulate the original schematic designs for the village, which some residents may want to adapt for their own homes.

Financially, we're nearing some key decisions. Please check out the detailed planning spreadsheets we've posted on the Forum, including a lot price calculator you can access [here](#). A spreadsheet on projected village demographics will also be posted soon. Most importantly, P&D has prepared a **detailed proposal for lot costs**, with a tiered price structure to address wealth disparities. This proposal was well-received by the GC during its February 23rd meeting and is expected to be finalized at the next GC meeting. A revised version of the proposal will be shared in a Forum post [here](#) shortly.

Membership

Please join us in congratulating Dave Press for advancing to the Exploratory level of membership (and also CGEV as we have gained another wonderful member in our community)! We are again aware of the value of the discernment process and the honor we



Randy and Mart set the field alight (Photo by Hope)

This month's theme is **Sharing Our Spiritual Paths**. These gatherings continue to be a meaningful way for CGEV members to get to know each other on a deeper level than our usual encounters 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! New facilitators wanted and supported (and you get to choose the topic!).



See what showed up after the field burn! (Photo by Kai)

Potato Planting Palooza

Saturday, March 15, 1:00pm or so (after the NVC class) '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. We'll share a meal after all the planting is done. Come one, come all to plant potatoes together!

Spring Equinox Gathering—Save the Date

Friday, March 21, early evening, on the land
[Contact Hope, Kai](#), or check email for details
Come and mark this most alchemical time where winter-dulled and dormant beings magically come back to life. Want to help co-create this experience? Hope and Kai are eager for you to emerge and join them to birth this encounter. Please contact us!

experience in learning so much about each other as well as the feedback we receive which betters our community. More members are preparing their advancement materials this month so please look for the invitations to share your insights with the Membership Circle and our advancing members. Thanks to Nikki and Lisa, we are also welcoming local new members at Meet-and-Greet events.

In the last two months, the Membership Circle has drafted proposals to establish a vision team and to clarify the Membership Levels required to "pod up," select a lot, sign a contract, and build on the land. We look forward to continued progress in March, including more tours, connecting with interested Visiting Members, nurturing Advancements of members wishing to move forward in their engagement with the community, and testing the new database portal and JOIN form. Community input is always welcome—please check the Calendar and feel free to email us with any questions and feedback.

Member Offerings

From Melanie Yukov: It's here by popular demand. **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! This course is guided by member and herbalist Melanie Yukov of Root 2 Rise Wellness.

Where: on the land! Why not get to know the plants right under our noses?

When: Sundays, March 30, April 13, May 18, June 29, September 28, October 26

Time: 1 – 5pm

Spots are limited! This is a course that builds, with early bird discount extended for Common Ground members until March 15th.

Community on the Ground

Governance & Communications Circle
Saturday, March 22, 3-5 pm, at the Nest in Mebane and hybrid

[RSVP to Becky](#), subject "COG" for details
These all-member meetings are reliably informative and connecting for all involved. Topics vary according to what's most needed. Check your email for an invitation closer to the date.



Caleb dodges the flames he ignited (Photo by Hope)

Community Potluck

Membership Circle

Saturday, March 22, 5:30-7:30 p.m., following
Community on the Ground, location TBD

[Contact Lisa](#) or check your email for location
Potlucks are our time to break bread together and socialize, play, sometimes chew over the
Community on the Ground meeting
content. 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.
Make it a habit to come to these events! You
might even get to sample **Marilu's Popular
Three Seed Brittle!** She assures us that it's easy
to make. Here's the recipe in her own hand—
[click here](#) for a larger image. Thank you, Marilu,
for this seedy little treat!

For more details and registration visit <https://root2risewellness.org/herbaliciousexpl>
[ore](#)

From Jane M.

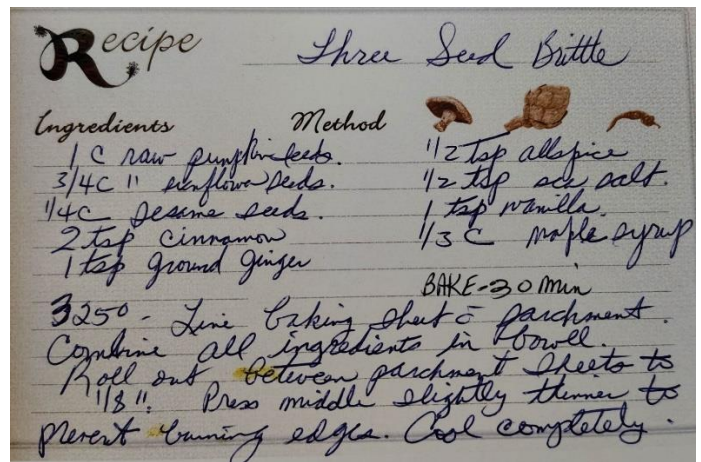
Stone Mountain Piedmont Cook Day

March 16th, 2025 – Noon to 6pm

Elderberry Community, Rougemont NC

Do you like to eat? We sure do! And, thanks to the weather beings, food sprouts right out of our Mother Earth, and we get to eat it. What a gift! Every Spring, we visit Tsantawu (aka Stone Mountain), create a village, and participate in the Spring Weather Ceremony, where we ask Tsantawu to bless us with balanced and beneficial weather, and sufficient rain, so that we can continue to receive nourishment from our soils. It's a beautiful exchange, which maintains a harmonious relationship between us humans and the weather beings. This food will support and nourish all of the participants during this beautiful ceremony.

Jane is also bringing our attention to a **10-session wisdom course called EQUANIMITY**, offered by world renowned meditation and mindfulness teacher, Sharon Saltzburg. It starts on March 5th with a requested contribution of \$10. [Click here to learn more.](#)



Winter scenes on the land (Photos by Kai)

