

THE RIDGE RUNNER

OCTOBER 2017

VOLUME 12 ISSUE 10

Looking for opportunities to serve ERUEV and become more involved?

There are several roles on the board that have been filled by members for the past one to two years, which will become open positions for 2018. If you are a supporting or sustaining member and want to become more involved, get to know more people in the ecovillage, and help to move the exciting and challenging work of the ecovillage forward, consider one of the open positions below. The board needs people with a range of skills and interests who are enthusiastic about building community. The Executive Board positions are elected and individuals can run for any of the open Executive positions. There will be assistance in transitioning to roles on the board including Executive positions as well as the Chair positions. ERUEV Board Elections will be held in November at the all member meeting.

All of the Executive Board positions need to be filled for 2018. Serving on the Executive Board requires attending 2 board meetings each month, 1-2 retreats each year, and attending to emails regularly.



Board President

Serves as chief volunteer of the ERUEV; understands, supports, and advances ERUEV's mission. In collaboration with the board, develops a vision of the ERUEV and the goals to be achieved. Communicates with Committee Chairs at least monthly. Plans, organizes, and presides over monthly Executive board meetings and monthly Full Board meetings. Is responsible for approving the budget, facilitating consensus decision making, and signs off on ERUEV contracts and legal documents with the approval of the executive board.

Vice President

Performs President responsibilities in the absence or incapacity of the President, participates closely with the president to develop and implement board member transition plans, works in partnership with the president to fulfill the ERUEV board responsibilities, serves on the Executive committee and performs other responsibilities assigned by the board.

Secretary

Assumes responsibility of the president in the absence or in capacity of the board president and Vice President. Prepares and distributes correspondence regarding executive board business and meetings of the board. Produces and distributes minutes from meetings within 3-4 days of the meeting. Is sufficiently familiar with ERUEV bylaws and consensus. Responsible for all legal documents and official papers to be organized and stored; transfers documents to the next secretary and serves on the executive committee.

Treasurer

Assists in the preparation of the budget, pays bills, follows financial procedures, prepares and shares financial reports with the board, serves on the Executive committee, manages audits and works with book keeper, prepares and signs legal documents, and when it is active, serves on the Financial Committee.

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Looking for Opportunities continued...

Committee Chairs- requires leading 1 meeting each month and attending 1 Full Board Meeting each month as well as 1-2 Board retreats each year and attending to emails regularly. Sets the tone for the committee work. Commits to actively participating in committee work. Ensures that members have the information needed to do their jobs. Oversees the logistics of committees operations and reports to the executive board. Reports to the full board on committees decisions and recommendations. Assigns work to the committee members, creates the agenda, governs the meetings, and distributes meeting minutes. Lastly, is responsible for creation and maintenance of the committee budget (if applicable).

Board Committees- All committees listed below are in need of a committee chair person and new committee members.

Eco Green Group (EGG)- Promotes green living practices as a way to help residents save money and conserve the Earth's resources; provides education and opportunities through activities for the community.

Housing- Oversee and maintain ERUEV buildings, housing related matters, and tenants' needs

Common Roots- Oversee the successful running of the Common Roots business

Urban Earth Farms- Oversee the successful management, goal setting, and running of Urban Earth Farms project.

Financial/Fundraising- To establish a healthy financial situation for ERUEV through grant opportunities, fundraising, etc.

Membership- Overseeing the membership policy, welcoming new members, onboarding of new members, leading and maintaining quarterly membership meetings, and creating opportunities for members to socialize and come together as a community



Running for President

Hello. My name is Jane Gensic and I am placing my name on the 2018 ballot for the position of president of the Ecovillage. My husband, Joe and I live on Wells Street and have been members of the Ecovillage since the fall of 2016 and I have served in the capacity of secretary on the Executive Board for 2017. I love living and working in the Ecovillage as Joe and I and our daughter, Alison renovate our homes and do our best to cultivate a lifestyle that supports the values of the Ecovillage and develop relationships with others who live here. I have a passion for continuing the work the Board has been engaged in and want to see the Ecovillage reach as many of the goals it has set as possible. I hope you can support me in my desire to serve as president in 2018. I look forward to talking with you and answering any questions you may have for me. You can reach me at Secretary@enrightecovillage.org.

IMAGO Woods Seed Hike *By Howie Zuefle*

September 25th we gathered in front of the IMAGO woods to forage for seeds. It is easy to forget these tiny sprinkle to baseball sized bits that fall from the trees, can become a tree, an incredible growth that happens so gradually that people rarely notice. Unless, of course, the roots are cracking the foundation of our house or branches are looming over our roof. The trees are just trying to survive... they don't have anything against houses.

The hike was very rewarding socially and botanically. We were a group of 4, including elders, youth, and me. We slowly walked through the woods, examining and talking about nearly every tree we passed. Early on we found buttonbush, an inconspicuous deciduous shrub that gets unique spherical white flowers with little extensions coming off that give it a shining star appearance (shining star in terms of actually looking at a star, not star shaped). It is also a nitrogen fixing plant, adding nitrogen to the soil through its roots; both pretty and nourishing to the Earth.

We continued finding seeds, this time from black walnuts

and redbuds. Both are common trees in the area and very useful. Black walnuts can be used to create dyes, herbicides, pesticides, food, and strong lumber. Mosquitoes do not like them either. Then redbuds are nitrogen fixing as they are in the fabaceae/bean family. They have delicious early spring pink to red flowers with a sweet and sour taste. Then my favorite discover of the hike was a red elm/*Ulmus rubra*. We got to identify it by taking a leaf and smacking our hands together. This made the leaf stick firmly, as if velcroed, to our hands. Red elm leaves are also edible. They do not taste good or bad, but have a texture worth experiencing. Acorns and other seeds were found too.

This walk through the IMAGO woods reminded us to honor the trees and plants that are at the center of the Enright Ecovillage. The soil that unendingly gives to the trees and plants that then give to us must be remembered. Plus the plants cleanse the air and water and sequester carbon. We planted a few seeds along the way to give as we were taking. Can't wait to see the sprouts next spring!



Common Roots



By MerryBeth McKee

Did you know that in August, Common Roots celebrated a year of being open? It's been a long journey to this point: from purchasing, to rehabbing, to figuring out how to navigate operating a business. Many hands have contributed to establishing this gathering place and over the last two years, countless volunteer hours and support have gone into helping it get to where it is today.

Common Roots' biggest supporter has been the Ed & Joann Hubert Family Foundation. Without their generous loan, the Eco-village would not have been able to purchase the property from the previous negligent owner. From there, community members and groups stepped up to give the building a major facelift. Most notably, the Reidel family, the Schenks, the Gaines', the Gruenhagens have all played significant roles in rehabbing and on-going operations. Tammy Norris served as manager of this effort until the staffing loan ran out in January of this year. At that time, the committee decided to attempt to run the effort solely with volunteers.

Transitioning daily operations to volunteers has been an experiment in the generosity and kindness of people. Several talented bartenders came forward to serve libations from behind the bar: Nathan Reidel, Chris Smyth, Alison Gensic, Denny Cook, Matt Trokan, Maria de la Vega, Ashton House and Lee Wilder. The Gensic family offers



their time in keeping the place clean from week to week. Jim Drommond keeps the bar stocked and manages facility-related needs. In addition to bartending weekly, Nathan Reidel also attracts talented performers and beautifies the space. Tim Gruenhagen leads the committee and keeps the IT needs in check. Jamie Gaines & Denny Cook offer their talents in design to promote the effort. Rockne Riddleberger consistently hosts open mic night Thursdays, and has been growing this effort over the last few months.

So many people have participated in making Common Roots a welcoming and warm environment for the community and our neighbors to enjoy. To me, this is the most unique and compelling thing about this place.

It takes about 40 hours of volunteer power each week to have the bar open. We need your help to continue to build upon this positive addition to our community. Drop us a line to participate more formally, as there are plenty of opportunities: commonroots@enrightecovillage.org, or come in for a beverage or a potluck (which happen each Thursday). Look forward to seeing you there!

HARVEST

PANCAKE

BRUNCH

A FUNDRAISING EVENT **URBAN EARTH FARMS**
FEATURING LOCAL FOODS MUSIC

Sunday, October 15
10am-2pm

COMMON ROOTS
3642 West 8th Street, Cincinnati, OH 45205

\$12 per person (**\$10 in advance**)
\$6 ages 5-12 (**\$5 in advance**)
Kids (4 & under) eat free

For ticket information visit Eventbrite.com
search *Harvest Pancake Brunch*.

Ticket sales are limited!
In the event of inclement weather the Pancake Brunch will be Sunday, October 22.



Ask EGG

Advice for Our Ecofriends

It's not always easy to be green, so let us help. Ecovillage Green Group will be doing our best to answer your ecological, environmental, and green questions.

Dear EGG,

I'm a die-hard Halloween fan-turned-eco-warrior. Pair that with a couple of excitable kiddos and you have my dilemma! How do I celebrate the spooky season without sacrificing my green sensitivities?

**Yours,
Costume Cathy**

Dear Costume Cathy,

What a great question! While we greenies may make many compromises and indeed, some sacrifices, to live a more ecologically conscious life, that doesn't mean we have to give up all of the holiday fun! There are still a number of ways to celebrate, from LED lights to low-waste treats. Not only can making these few small changes improve your own impact, but it sets a great example for the community at-large!

Let's begin with the decorations. First thing's first, stick to the LED bulbs. Not only do these use a fraction of the energy older types use, they also can be strung together in larger quantities. Next, avoid all that fun, brightly colored plastic in the Halloween aisles. If you must go store bought, stick to paper products. For more longer lasting

options with greater texture variety, look to your favorite handmade shop (either local or online, such as Etsy.com) for fabric decor. From felt critters to wispy hangings, you can meet all your textile needs! And always remember, there are countless DIY options utilizing old, broken or torn items that are otherwise useless! Make it a craft day with the kids as you re-purpose snagged pantyhose into a spiders web, or empty toilet paper rolls into floating "candles".

Speaking of the kiddos, don't forget the costume! (But of course, would they let you?) Especially considering the rate at which all young ones grow, we first and foremost recommend going the thrift store route for costumes.

Textiles are one of the biggest waste items, and that especially goes for the overpriced, one-time-use costumes. Those same items can be found like-new at your local second hand shop for a fraction of the cost (financially and ecologically). To be truly impressive, see if you can't find a way to create a costume using "real" clothes. Any items that don't get ripped, painted or splattered with blood could even be worn again later in the year!

We could say a lot more on the subject of Green Halloween, but we'll close with these last few pointers: consider the entire life of the products you buy; if you plan to compost your gourds/corn/decor, don't paint them; last but not least, also consider where the ingredients of your candies are sourced and always choose sustainability!

**Sincerely yours,
EGG**

Come Unwind With Us

KNITTING/CROCHET WORKSHOP

Wednesday, October 18 • 7 PM • Common Roots

Want to learn to knit or crochet or share a project? Jane Gensic is hosting a workshop to enjoy yarn arts and an evening of sharing with drinks from the bar and light snacks. Come and get a start on handmade gifts for the holidays.

RSVP or questions contact Jane @ jjgensic@gmail.com

Current Enright Ecovillage Leadership

When one has a question, concern, advice or wishes to pitch in, look here for contact info. All of our volunteers will respond as quickly as they can.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Acting President: Kim Brown, President@EnrightEcovillage.org

Treasurer: MerryBeth McKee, Treasurer@EnrightEcovillage.org

Secretary: Jane Gensic, Secretary@EnrightEcovillage.org

BOARD COMMITTEES

Common Roots- Tim Gruenhagen, CommonRoots@EnrightEcovillage.org

Communications- Dennis Cook, Communications@EnrightEcovillage.org

Eco Green Group (EGG)- Isabel Gruenhagen, EGG@EnrightEcovillage.org

Financial/Fundraising- Empty,

Housing- Empty,

Membership- Amy Tuttle, Membership@EnrightEcovillage.org

Urban Earth Farms- Michelle Savoti, UrbanEarth@EnrightEcovillage.org

Ecovillage Tour

The October ecovillage tour will be on Saturday, October 28, from 10am to 12pm, and starts at the Imago Earth Center. The tour is \$10 per person, free for members and people they refer. If you or someone you know would like to get to know more about Enright Ridge Urban Ecovillage, it's a nice way to spend a morning!

Reservations required:

(513) 526-8118 or e-mail

communications@enrightecovillage.org

For more information visit

www.enrightecovillage.org.



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