

Notes for 7-12-2020 SGH Leadership Team Meeting

As we're still facing the challenges of the coronavirus pandemic, this meeting was held virtually using ZOOM. Participants included Bob Pledger, Buz Stone, Chris Curtin, Darrell Sheffield, Dave Teffeteller, Jim Wentworth, and Donna Shearer. Derrick Morris, Billy Johnson, David & Cindy Wasileski, Elliott & Brenda Segall, Steve Jones, John Shearouse, Ray Lorenzi, Wynn Mott, Kim Wood, Jim Heilman, Jimmy Stewart, and Jen Houts were not available, but we'll try to catch up in the next few days.

BOARD MATTERS

- * **Checking on everybody** – So far, so good. Everyone said they're being very careful about protecting their health (physical and mental) and are staying pretty much hunkered down as far as group activities are concerned. We've had one report of a Facilitator testing positive for Covid-19; he indicated he's experiencing only mild symptoms and is quarantining at home.
- * **Sad news** to report on GATC's Denny Rhodes – Jerry Seabolt and Scott Deitchman of GATC sent messages letting us know that our friend Denny Rhodes, who managed getting a license tag grant for our joint project to treat hemlocks along the Appalachian Trail, passed away on July 10 after a brief illness. We send our sincere condolences to his family and GATC friends.
- * **Staffing of SGH functions in 2021**
 - After 9 years of leading dozens of hemlock treatment projects, Bob Pledger plans to step down from that function next year, so we're looking for another experienced Facilitator (or team of two) to step up and take on that role in the eastern counties. Bob indicated he will still be available to advise and assist during the transition period and hopefully beyond.
 - We need one more Facilitator to share the teaching responsibilities with Donna, Chris, and Derrick in 2021. We will continue to conduct most classes virtually using Zoom, FreeConferenceCall, or other on-line platform until it is deemed safe to hold in-person classes again.

2020 STRATEGIES & ACTIVITIES TO DATE

- All 19 HWA-infested Georgia counties in native hemlock range now served by our Hemlock Help Program
- Hemlock Help Line available 7 days a week with 512 calls handled to date
- 2 Hemlock Help Clinics with total of 36 attendees
- 5 Facilitator Training Workshops with total of 42 new Facilitators trained.
Total active Facilitators = 406 in Georgia and 84 in other states
- 6 customized training sessions for 24 volunteers and public land managers
- 2 presentations to civic/community groups with 43 attendees
- 1 festival / public event with info booth & saplings for adoption, 2 volunteers and 40 visitors / contacts
- 11 articles / news items written by, with the assistance of, or about SGH published in newspapers/magazines
- 136 Facilitator visits made with charitable treatment of 1,606 trees
- 7 hemlock treatment projects with 69 volunteers treating/retreating 744 trees
- 6 hemlock rescue projects with 15 volunteers, 181 saplings rescued and potted for use in educational / service activities or future adoption
- 79 hemlock saplings adopted; 11 saplings donated to municipalities / schools / nonprofits
- 4 hemlock sapling planting projects with 41 volunteers planting 36 saplings
- 15 soil injectors repaired/refurbished; 6 new EZ-Ject Lite soil injectors assembled for SGH lending
- Total of 2,476 volunteer hours logged.



2020 STRATEGIES & ACTIVITIES FOR FALL

- * **Facilitator Training** – We will offer virtual training on county-by-county basis for the third quarter and probably the fourth quarter also. The dates will be posted on the [Schedule of Events](#) page of our web site, and emails and newspaper notices will be sent to each county two weeks prior to each class.
- * **Festivals** – Several of the fall festivals we usually participate in have been canceled, including the Lake Rabun Association Labor Day meeting, Trail Fest, Georgia Marble Festival, and Foxfire Mountaineer Festival. We're still waiting to hear about the Blue Ridge Arts in the Park fall festival, Georgia Mountains Beer Fest, and the Boy Scouts Hornaday Weekend. Shortly after Labor Day we'll reassess conditions and make a decision about our participation.
- * **Hemlock Camp Meeting** – The ETC Pavilion where we had tentatively planned to hold our annual Hemlock Camp Meeting (rescheduled for September 27) is closed, so given the short amount of time to re-plan and the continuing pandemic, the group voted with sadness to cancel this year's event. We hope for much improved conditions next year.
- * **Communications** – Dave will be posting short articles from time to time on our Facebook page. Donna will prepare an article for sending to the newspapers in late August and a *Hemlock Happenings* newsletter in September.
- * **Hemlock Treatment Projects** – The team voted to suspend further USFS treatment projects until Labor Day, including Upper Chattahoochee River Campground, Bob Creek, Lake Winfield Scott beach area, and Swallow Creek/Falls Branch/Scataway. Shortly after Labor Day we will reassess conditions and decide if we will be able to do the projects planned for Three Forks, Fall Branch Falls, and Panther Creek.

This decision will also apply to projects for the DNR (Smithgall Woods and Cloudland Canyon), Georgia Appalachian Trail Club (still awaiting USFS approval), and Paddling for Hemlocks.
- * **Facilitator Visits** – Everyone is encouraged to keep doing as much as possible individually to help others in your communities and to provide any clients you visit with a membership form and return envelope so they can make whatever donation to SGH they feel is appropriate. Anyone needing these or other materials should call the Hemlock Help Line.
- * **Soil injectors** – An updated list of soil injectors available for borrowing (including 6 new EZ-Ject Lites belonging to SGH) is posted on the contacts page of our web site. The Facilitators who are hosting our EZ-Jects will record the name and contact information of each borrower, set a time frame for the borrowing period based on demand, provide a demo and written instructions for use and care of the injector, and hold a \$250 deposit check until the unit is returned.
- * **Chemicals** – SGH maintains a small supply of treatment chemicals for Facilitator use on service projects. Any Facilitator needing Imidacloprid or Safari for such purposes should call the Hemlock Help Line.
- * **Sapling Projects** – We still have quite a few properties on which the owner has offered that we can rescue hemlock saplings. While group projects for sapling rescue are temporarily off the table, anyone who would like to do it solo or with one partner is encouraged to call the Hemlock Help Line.

2020 FINANCIAL MATTERS

* Income and expenses through June 30

INCOME	Contrib Indiv	Contrib Member	Contrib Found	Contrib Non Profit	Contrib In Kind Goods	Contrib In Kind Svc	Contrib Corp	Gov Reimb
2020 Inc by Source	\$115.00	\$22,297.75	\$648.47	\$1,516.80	\$300.00	\$1,227.00	\$987.65	\$91.71
2020 Inc by Percentage	0.42%	82.02%	2.39%	5.58%	1.10%	4.51%	3.63%	0.34%
2020 Total Income	\$27,184.38							

EXPENSE	11 Educ Hemlock Clinics	12 Educ Facilitator Trng	13 Educ Comm Progs	16 Public Comm	14 Saplings Program	15 Treat-ment	51 Gen Admin	52 Memb & Fund Raising
2020 Exp by Category	\$0.00	\$1,183.88	\$626.19	\$2,958.80	\$1,555.38	\$7,916.61	\$554.80	\$201.85
2020 Exp by Percentage	0.00%	7.89%	4.18%	19.73%	10.37%	52.79%	3.70%	1.35%
2020 Total Expenses	\$14,997.51							
Current Ckg Acct Bal	\$56,532.04							

Total Spending to date in FY 2020: 94.95% for educational & charitable service programs.
5.05% for administrative, membership & fund raising.

Cumulative Spending FY 2009-2020: 91.74% for educational & charitable service programs.
8.26% for administrative, membership & fund raising.

* **Use of Funds** – The group discussed a proposal to establish a grant or scholarship at the University of North Georgia for a rising junior majoring in forestry, environmental science, or other related subject. The amount and many other details are yet to be determined, but the group expressed a preference that the funds would be placed with the college to select the student and administer the funds. More discussion to come at our next meeting.

NEXT MEETING

* **November 1 (first Sunday)** – Please mark your calendars and plan to participate!!!