

Meeting Notes for 7/7/21 SGH Leadership Team Meeting

This quarterly Leadership Team meeting was held virtually via ZOOM, beginning at 7:00 p.m. Participants were Bob Pledger, Buz Stone, Chris Curtin, Darrell Sheffield, Dave Teffeteller, Jim Wentworth, Jim Heilman, Ray Lorenzi, Kat Carey, Betty Larsen, Holly Cochran, Brianna Ross, and Donna Shearer. Jon Jones, Derrick Morris, Todd Jackson, John Shearouse, Billy Johnson, Wynn Mott, Jimmy Stewart, and Dara Sinclair were unable to attend.

BOARD MATTERS

- * **Opening** – Chairman Buz Stone called the meeting to order. The minutes for our 4/26/21 meeting were approved, and the agenda for our 7/7/21 meeting was approved.
- * **Introductions** – Buz introduced Betty Larsen, our Secretary for Festivals and Special Events; Holly Cochran, our Recording Secretary; and Brianna Ross, our summer intern from Young Harris College.
- * **Update to Bylaws**
 - **Roles of Leadership Team Members** – Updated to describe current Director and Officer responsibilities. See pages 3 – 6.
 - **Contributions & Expenditures** – Updated to increase single transaction limit to \$500 and add info on accounting practices in compliance with IRS rules. See pages 8 – 9.
 - **Hiring of interns and professional service providers** – Updated to allow contracting with one or more interns to perform a variety of support functions and to allow contracting with one or more professionals to provide certain project-related services. See page 9.

Donna will further update the Executive Director section regarding terms of compensation/duties and process for hiring/firing. Buz motioned to approve bylaws as amended (and further updates). Board approved with no opposition. See the [About Us page](#) of our web site for the full text.

ACTIVITY REVIEW Q2 2021

* **Progress Report as of 6/30/21**

- 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 687 calls handled.
- 8 Facilitator Training Workshops with total of 25 new Facilitators trained.
 - Total active Facilitators = 426 in Georgia and 90 in other states.
- 3 Hemlock Lessons / Presentations for 45 students & teachers
- 2 Presentations for 35 adults
- 6 customized training sessions for 13 volunteers and public land managers
- 2 festivals with 9 volunteers and 135 visitors
- 6 articles / news items written by, with the assistance of, or about SGH published in newspapers/magazines
- 88 Facilitator visits made with charitable treatment of 698 trees
- 11 hemlock treatment projects with 79 volunteers treating/retreating 1,888 trees
- 13 hemlock rescue projects with 30 volunteers, 572 saplings rescued and potted
- 196 hemlock saplings adopted
- 129 hemlock saplings donated to schools, churches, nonprofits
- 7 hemlock sapling planting projects with 72 volunteers planting 99 saplings and 40 other trees/shrubs
- 13 Kioritz soil injectors repaired/refurbished
- Total of 3,003 volunteer hours logged.

* **Brianna's report on her intern activities**

- Updating our Contacts and Membership database
- Writing articles for the newspapers and our newsletter
- Creating a best-of-the-best library of SGH photos taken over the years
- Searching the Internet for valid, helpful hemlock-related YouTube videos
- Creating 3 new instructional YouTube videos on sapling rescue, potting, and planting (in process)
- Recruiting volunteers for and participating in sapling rescue projects



FINANCIAL REVIEW Q2 2021

* Financial Summary as of 6/30/21

INCOME	Contrib Indiv	Contrib Member	Contrib Found	Contrib Non Profit	Contrib In Kind Goods	Contrib In Kind Svc	Contrib Corp	Gov Reimb
2021 Inc by Source	\$421.00	\$22,631.78	\$1,463.83	\$250.00	\$1,164.75	\$720.00	\$1,217.15	\$58.20
2021 Inc by Percentage	1.51%	81.04%	5.24%	0.90%	4.17%	2.58%	4.36%	0.21%
2021 Total Income	\$27,926.71							

EXPENSE	11 Educ Hemlock Clinics	12 Educ FacTrng	13 Educ Comm Progs	16 Public Comm	14 Saplings	15 Treatment	51 Gen Admin	52 Memb & Fund Raising
2021 Exp by Category	\$0.00	\$787.76	\$2,034.51	\$4,364.91	\$3,506.21	\$4,346.21	\$1,591.15	\$946.88
2021 Exp by Percentage	0.00%	4.48%	11.57%	24.83%	19.95%	24.73%	9.05%	5.39%
2021 Total Expense	\$17,577.63							

UPCOMING TREATMENT PROJECTS IN Q3 & Q4 2021

* USFS hemlock treatment projects

CHATTOOGA RIVER RANGER DISTRICT – **Jon & Bob**

Sun 7/18 Upper Chattahoochee River Campground (HCA 59) in Towns County

Sat 10/23 Wildcat Creek Recreation Area (HCA 600) – **This will be our Hike & Help the Hemlocks event.**

Sign up through **Jon Jones**, jdjones611@gmail.com, 910-987-0306.

BLUE RIDGE RANGER DISTRICT

Sat 7/24 Mulky Creek (HCA 75)

Sat 8/7 Swallows Creek HCA 42 & Falls Branch (HCA 122)

Sat 8/21 Cooper Creek HCA 74

Sign up through **Jim Wentworth**, wentwrth@windstream.net, 706-745-2557 or 706-897-0645.

* GATC hemlock treatment projects on Appalachian Trail

Wed 7/21 North side of Justus Creek (HCA 505) and along old AT route.

Wed 8/4 South side of Justus Creek (HCA 505).

Wed 8/18 Dockery Lake south (HCA 501) and Dockery Lake north (HCA 500).

Wed 8/25 Plum Orchard Gap (HCA 507) south to Bull Gap.

Sun 8/29 Jacks Knob Trail (HCA 503).

Wed 9/8 Blue Ridge Swag (HCA 508)

Sun 9/12 Popular Stump section (HCA 502) and Sapling Gap area (HCA 504).

Sign up through **Pete Buak**, peterbuak@gmail.com, 706-968-8979.

* DNR hemlock treatment projects

CLOUDLAND CANYON in Dade County

Various days during the weeks of July 6-9, and July 19-23

Note: Some of the terrain is difficult.

Sign up through **Jimmy Stewart**, jbs@tvn.net, 423-413-6420.

UPCOMING SAPLINGS PROJECTS IN Q3 & Q4 2021

* **Sapling nurseries** – Chris and Buz estimate they each have about 100 saplings on hand. Chris has a dozen tall ones she's reserving for the sapling planting at Toccoa Bend this fall. Chris and Buz will report final count of nurseries. Donna estimates she has about 140 very small saplings on hand.

Jim Heilman offered to host a sapling nursery on his property in Jasper. He will coordinate with an SGH member to determine the best spot for a nursery on the property and hopefully be able to have it set up by fall.

* **Sapling rescues/potting** -- Chris and Brianna have a rescue potting / project scheduled for July 17 in Ellijay and will schedule more.

Buz does not have any projects scheduled at present but may schedule one for a Rabun County property where he estimates there may be approximately 600 saplings. Brianna offered to recruit volunteers for this project if possible.

Jim Heilman brought up the need to find areas to do digs in and around Jasper.

* **Hemlock restoration projects** to be completed in fall if possible

- Tbd – Toccoa Bend with TU Blue Ridge, in coordination with Carl Riggs and Jim Reich
- Tbd – University of North Georgia, in coordination with Stacie James
- Tbd – City of Dahlonega, in coordination with MG Elaine Davis
- Tbd – with TU Savannah River, in coordination with John Shearouse

* **Possible sapling plantings** to be completed in fall if possible

in memory of generous community members

- Memorial garden at Woody Gap School in Suches
- Memorial garden at Paradise Valley in Cleveland

SERVICE – OTHER

* **EZ-Ject soil injectors to lend** – SGH has 5 of these injectors to lend. All units have a standard output of ¼ ounce liquid per pump, and a mixing/dosing card is attached to each. They are hosted by: Buz Stone (Rabun), Jimmy Stewart (Dade), Jim Wentworth (Union), Donna (Lumpkin), and Derrick Morris (Gilmer).

* **Chemicals to share** – Anyone needing chemical for charitable use is asked to contact Donna and she will order it.

UPCOMING EDUCATION IN Q3 & Q4 2021

* **Facilitator Training schedule – via ZOOM or FreeConferenceCall**

Rabun, Towns & Habersham	Sat., July 17	Donna
Fannin, Gilmer & White	Fri., Aug. 27	Derrick
Gordon & Pickens	Sat., Sept. 18	Donna
Union, Lumpkin & Hall	Fri., Sept. 24	Derrick
Fannin, Gilmer & Towns	Sat., Oct. 16	Donna

* **Fairs & festivals (if we're able to participate)**

Lake Rabun Association Labor Day Meeting	Sun., Sept. 5	Lakemont
Trail Fest	Sat., Sept 11 & Sun., Sept. 12	Dahlonega
Foxfire Mountaineer Festival	Sat., Oct. 2	Clayton
Marble Festival	Sat., Oct. 2 & Sun Oct. 3	Jasper
Blue Ridge Arts Fall Festival	Sat., Oct. 9 & Sun., Oct. 10	Blue Ridge
Georgia Mountains Beer Fest	Sat., Oct. 16	Jasper
Hornaday Weekend	Fri., Nov. 12 – Sun., Nov. 14	Blairsville

* **Public Communications**

– **Signage** – Dave will work with Buz, Jim H., and Kat concerning signage for Foxfire, Lee Newton Park, and Lake Winfield Scott respectively. The sign to be produced is the one with a large hemlock in the middle and text about hemlocks and HWA on the sides.

Dave suggested printing on foam core which can be done at reasonable expense and is outdoor-durable but not permanent. These would be placed at strategic trailheads and near tagged trees. Buz suggested the Foxfire sign be permanent/weather durable. Dave will send specs to Kat and Buz and order signs. SGH will fund.

– **YouTube videos for sapling rescue, potting, and planting** – Donna, Brianna, and Dave will continue working together to finalize these videos before the end of August.

FOLLOW-UP FROM 4/26/21 MEETING

- * **Foxfire retreatment project** – Buz visited there and found some healthy trees in need of retreatment. He contacted the Foxfire curator Barry Stiles, who indicates they are interested in having their trees retreated. Buz will follow up with the Boy Scouts, and Brianna will reach out to Girl Scouts in this area to see if the retreatment can become a service project for them this fall. (Last treatment was a one-day project with approximately 12 scout volunteers treating close to 200 trees.)
- * **Lake Burton project** – Buz and Chad Godhard visited Billy Goat Island and found no hemlocks there. Buz also coordinated with GA Power forester Jeff Jackson to come up with a map of shoreline and visited by boat 7/7/21. They determined there were no salvageable hemlocks on undeveloped property.
- * **YMCA Camp High Harbour retreatment project** – Bob has contacted Alan Barnes, who says the camp is interested in getting their trees retreated but may or may not be able to provide volunteers. Bob will follow up to see when and how the project can be done this fall.
- * **SGH-DNR Cloudland Canyon treatment**- Entire park is up-to-date except for Sittons Gulch. Treatment of the remaining difficult terrain will take place July 19-23.
- * **Cartecay treatment / retreatment project** – Dave and Mark Shearer went together to the Cartecay to scope this project (which is actually a continuation of one started in 2012). They found that the majority of trees are still in good condition and therefore eligible to be treated with Imidacloprid.

Dave estimates there are about 1,500 trees in need of treatment in this area. Roughly 75% can be accessed from land, and the remaining 25% would need to be accessed by water. It was decided that rather than bidding the job out to a professional right away, the best approach would be to gauge volunteer interest and possibly plan a fall treatment weekend with multiple organizations involved (including Paddlers for Hemlocks) and get as many trees treated that way as possible by both land-based groups and paddlers. Then if there are still trees needing treatment, we may consider bidding those out to a professional (excluding Hemlock Doctor for conflict of interest). Dave has prepared a scoping document for the land portion.
- * **Project Chimps** – Chris reached out to Christy Jellets, who indicates they would like our help to do both a sapling rescue project and a hemlock treatment project. They will plan the dates for this fall, and Project Chimps will contribute volunteers to assist.
- * **Kioritz parts** – Donna was asked to get an estimate for the manufacture of two Kioritz injector parts. The estimate was approved, and 6 each are in process of being made for delivery the week of July 19.
- * **Pesticide licenses** – Jim, Jon, and Donna have received their study materials and will begin preparing to take the exam and acquire a pesticide applicator commercial license; cost to be paid by SGH. These materials will also be available for others to borrow.
- * **Treasurer** – Todd was asked to begin updating our QuickBooks records. Donna will follow up with him.

OTHER BUSINESS

- * **Paddlers for Hemlocks** – Dave will invite paddlers from various groups to participate in the Cartecay project this fall.
- * **Hemlock Camp Meeting / Annual Meeting** -- Members voted in favor of having this event. The weekend of September 18-19 was chosen. Kat was asked to contact to use Winfield Scott pavilion. Chris was asked to reach out to possibly use ETC pavilion.
Date: Saturday, Sept. 18 (Sunday, Sept. 19 was not available.)
Place: Lakeside pavilion at Lake Winfield Scott – Kat has reserved it for us. (ETC Pavilion was not available.)
Theme: Appreciation of volunteers, partners, and supporters
Food: BBQ plus potluck dishes – Kat to arrange
Music: Chris and Betty to arrange
Speaker(s): Donna to arrange
Publicity: Dave to arrange
Reservations: Betty to track
Admission: Not discussed, but how about no money, just potluck dish?

Invitees:

Facilitators, other volunteers, major supporters

U. S. Forest Service, GA Department of Natural Resources, Ga Forestry Commission

Beetle lab personnel at University of North Georgia, Young Harris College, University of Georgia

Benton MacKaye Trail Association, Ga Appalachian Trail Club, Trout Unlimited, others???

General public???

FUTURE 2021 MEETING DATE

Currently scheduled for October 13 7:00-9:00 via ZOOM