

## Spring 2011 Update

I recently asked some informal questions to each of the beetle lab managers. These are Cera Jones' responses from North Georgia College & State University.

**Q: During the recent fall and early winter, I've been hearing a lot of Hemlock Help Line callers say that their hemlocks, even ones that haven't been treated yet, are looking better this year with fewer adelgids than last year. If it's really so, do you know what it might be attributable to?**

**A:** That would be wonderful news, but depending on when you talked to the callers, the new adelgids might not have put on wool yet or maybe were just too high to see. It's hard to say without seeing the trees.

**Q: What kinds of beetles are you rearing?**

**A:** From 2007 to 2009 we were rearing only *Sasajiscymnus tsugae* (*St*) beetles. In 2010 we were able to purchase a Percival environmental chamber which allows specific temperature, humidity, and day-night cycle controls and enabled us to begin rearing another species of beetle *Scymnus sinuanodulus* (*Ss*).

**Q: How many beetles have you released and where?**

**A:** From 2007 to 2009 we released 122,766 *Sasajiscymnus tsugae* adult beetles and eggs onto 25 Hemlock Conservation Areas (HCAs). In 2010 we released another 83,394 *St* adult beetles and eggs, bringing the total so far to 206,160 *St* beetles. We also released 688 *Scymnus sinuanodulus* (*Ss*) beetles onto 3 HCAs in 2010.

**Q: Have you observed or received reports of newly infested areas?**

**A:** The adelgid continues to spread west. So far there aren't any reports on the very western borders, and hopefully the plateau (no hemlocks there) will provide a buffer to prevent it from reaching this area.

**Q: What are your plans for beetle releases in 2011?**

**A:** Our 2011 beetle releases will start mid-March if the weather allows. We will be releasing *Sasajiscymnus tsugae* (*St*) beetles and conducting experiments on *Laricobius nigrinus* (*Ln*) summer dormancy along with recovery efforts on *St*.

North Georgia College & State University beetle lab web site:

[http://www.northgeorgia.edu/EnvironmentalLeadership/Default\\_1col.aspx?id=3381](http://www.northgeorgia.edu/EnvironmentalLeadership/Default_1col.aspx?id=3381)