



Save Georgia's Hemlocks

7/10/11 Annual Meeting and Membership Picnic Celebrating our 2nd Anniversary!

The Annual Meeting of members, volunteers, and friends was held at Smithgall Woods today to celebrate our two-year anniversary as an organization, enjoy a pot-luck picnic, and share organizational news and updates on the hemlocks.

In addition to Board Members and Officers, attendees included Frank & Linda Gheesling, Carlos & Carol Martel, Dave & Pam Zenner, Johnna Tuttle & friend, John Erbele, Tom & Kitty Meyers, Graham Hanson, Jay Reffell, Elma Ettman, Betty Larson, Pam Moran, David & Marilyn Oberhausen, Hank & Barbara Roper, John Ross, Buz & Mary Cobb Stone, and Mark Shearer who grilled some delicious hot dogs and hamburgers.

MEMBERSHIP TIME

July is our annual membership sign-up and renewal time. Twenty-one people renewed their SGH membership or signed up as new members today. YEA! Thanks everyone, and thanks to Dave Teffeteller for handling the sign-up table.

ELECTION

The slate of continuing and new Board Members and Officers was approved unanimously:

Chairman	Donna Shearer
Vice Chairman	Bob Pledger
Board Members	Dave Teffeteller, Doug Richey, Frank Gheesling, and Bruce Granger
Treasurer	Bonnie Mandel
Secretary	Donna Moorlag

We currently have one open position on our Board. We are seeking an individual with a commitment to the goals of SGH, time and energy to devote to its efforts, a practical business mind, and preferably some experience in fund raising, grant writing, special events, community outreach, etc. Nominations are being sought.

REVIEW OF FY 2011 ACCOMPLISHMENTS (through 6/30/11)

- 9 Georgia counties served by Hemlock Help Program.
- Hemlock Help Line available 7 days a week, 486 calls handled to date.
- 60 Volunteer Facilitators in Georgia and 14 in TN/NC.
- 3 Hemlock Help Clinics conducted with 64 attendees.
- Hemlock Lessons taught for 246 children in 7 elementary and middle school classes -- 2 with hemlock sapling planting and 5 with seedling potting.
- Hemlock information booth with seedling potting for 410 students, teachers, and parents at three special community events.
- 7 presentations to community groups with 303 attendees.
- Facilitator training conducted with 4 new Facilitators trained.
- "Saving Georgia's Hemlocks" half-hour documentary developed by SGH and produced/broadcast by Windstream Cable TV on Channel 4 "Common Cup" program.
- 5 newspaper articles published; 1 newspaper interview.
- 2 charitable service projects for hemlock treatment.
- 84 formal members (including those who signed up today) and approximately 1,300 friends on our interest list
- Over 900 volunteer hours logged.
- Current spending ratio of 91% for education and charitable service, 9% for administrative expenses.

REVIEW OF FY 2011 FINANCIAL CONDITION (through 6/30/11)

Total Contributions	Educational Spending	Charitable Service Spending	Administrative Expense**	Membership/Fundraising	Total Expenses	Cash on Hand
\$6,431.52	\$3078.01	\$821.39	\$289.48	\$82.53	\$4,271.41	\$7,474.77
	72.06%	19.23%	6.78%	1.93%		

PLANS FOR REMAINDER OF FY 2011

- Hemlock Help Clinics – Clinics will be scheduled for this fall in Habersham, Towns, White, Union, Lumpkin, and Murray Counties.
- Hemlock Lessons for Middle Schools – We will seek invitations to present Hemlock Lessons this fall in Habersham, Towns, White, Union, Lumpkin, Fannin, and Murray Counties.
- Community Programs – We have 5 more community programs scheduled for this fall and will actively seek other opportunities to give presentations and do joint projects/events with other nonprofits such as Master Gardeners, AT and BMTA trail clubs, Trout Unlimited, and neighborhood associations.
- Distribution of SGH Hemlock Documentary – Attendees were given DVD copies and encouraged to share them with friends, neighborhood groups, and other organizations.
- Fairs & Festivals – We plan to participate in 4 fall festivals: Mountain Flower Arts Festival and the 4th of July Festival in Dahlonega and plan to participate in the following: Mountain Heritage Festival 9/3-4 in Blairsville, Foxfire Mountaineer Festival 10/1 in Clayton, Fall Arts in the Park Festival 10/8 in Blue Ridge, and Apple Festival 10/15-16 in Ellijay. Volunteers will be needed for these events.
- Facilitator Training – Two more Facilitator training programs will be conducted in late summer and fall.
- Charitable Service – We are seeking charitable service opportunities (hemlock treatment and/or hemlock planting) and volunteers to help with them.

SPECIAL FALL EVENT

We’re in the planning stages for a Hike/Ride for the Hemlocks this fall. Stay tuned for more!

NEWS FROM THE FRONT

- The 2010 HWA spread map prepared by the Georgia Forestry Commission showed little or no increase in the outer boundaries of the infestation. However, the condition of trees within the infested areas continues to decline. We still need to do more to increase awareness and encourage action in neighborhoods.
- Beetle releases and chemical treatments are continuing in the national forests.
- Reports were received on several large treatment projects that were recently completed or are still in process:
 - Buckhorn Estates in Gilmer County (info from Tom Porter) – From spring 2010 through spring 2011, this large subdivision of several hundred acres treated over 2,500 trees. About 60% of the work was done with volunteers (many of whom were trained by SGH) and the rest was completed by local professionals.
 - Spruce Creek in Rabun County (info from Wayne Long) – Community members/volunteers have treated 800+ trees so far on both private and common property in their 500-acre neighborhood and report good results. The project began in 2006 and is ongoing.
 - Big Canoe in west Dawson and east Pickens Counties (info shared by John Ross) – In this 8,100-acre gated development, professional applicators treated 12,667 trees in late 2009. The community has a detailed follow-up plan of ongoing monitoring and future treatment as needed.
 - Wildcat Creek Tract WMA within Dawson State Forest (info shared by John Ross) – The Mountain Stewards and other volunteers working under direction of the Georgia Forestry Commission began a project in spring 2011 to treat about 500 acres, with 80 acres of that parcel being set aside for beetle release. Three predatory beetle species were released by the GFC in spring 2011, and volunteers have chemically treated 9,918 trees so far. Phases 2 and 3 of the project are scheduled for fall 2011 and spring 2012.
 - We would be glad to receive and share project reports from other organizations and property owner associations too.

- A new HWA treatment has been developed by Dr. Scott Costa of the University of Vermont and is currently being tested in North Carolina, Tennessee, and possibly other states. The treatment involves aerial spraying of an organic, adelgid-killing fungal material, and initial reports are promising. We'll share more information on this as it become available.

NEW FACILITATOR POSITION

SGH has 60 trained volunteer Facilitators in Georgia who have received special training and now serve as the primary vehicle for directly assisting other property owners by providing on-site hemlock assessments and explaining the available controls and treatment methods so people can make informed decisions regarding their hemlocks. They also help to expand awareness about the hemlock woolly adelgid infestation in their communities.

Due to the anticipated increase in demand for Facilitator services, Save Georgia's Hemlocks is developing a "Lead Facilitator" role to ensure: coordination within each community, consistency of message to the property owner public, and availability of current, accurate information for other Facilitators. These leaders will also recruit additional Facilitators, identify and maintain local community information regarding resources and needs, and become the local face or point person in their community to help increase awareness.

Anyone interested in joining the efforts to save the hemlocks is encouraged to consider becoming a Facilitator or Lead Facilitator. Job descriptions for both positions are on the Facilitators page of our web site http://www.savegeorgiashemlocks.org/Volunteer_Facilitators.htm.

TECHNICAL UPDATES

- Choosing the Treatment Product – Mark Dalusky has provided additional insight on choosing whether to use Imidacloprid or Dinotefuran to treat hemlocks. The choice is made primarily on the basis of the condition of the tree, but other factors should be considered too. Please read "Dalusky: Using Imidacloprid & Dinotefuran 2011" in the Volunteer Facilitator Materials section of the Facilitators page http://www.savegeorgiashemlocks.org/Volunteer_Facilitators.htm.
- Foliar Spray of Imidacloprid – The label instructions for mixing Imidacloprid 75 WSP for a foliar spray are based on using 300 gallons of water. Since not many people have such large tanks, the Hemlock Help Line has received quite a few calls requesting help to determine the amount of Imidacloprid to use for smaller tanks. The "Imidacloprid Dosing Instructions" and "Treating Hemlocks with Imidacloprid" documents have been updated to provide this information. Please see the Resources page <http://www.savegeorgiashemlocks.org/Resources.htm>.
- Pocket Cards – Laminated pocket cards are available with Imidacloprid dosing instructions on one side and Dinotefuran dosing instructions on the other side. Cards were given to any attendees who wanted them and can be mailed on request.
- New Soil Injector – Since the Kioritz soil injector is no longer being manufactured, Nu-Arbor has announced that it will soon have a new replacement item. The 1-Two Root Injector is basically a two-piece device consisting of a 4-gallon back-pack tank and a long metal probe that delivers a measured dose of liquid into the soil. They indicate the product should be available some time in August and will cost \$495. The only contact we have at present is Brian Barnard of Midwest Arborist Supplies, 800-423-3789, www.treecaresupplies.com. Please note that this is not an endorsement of the product or company but is provided for information only.

GRAND PRIZE DRAWING

Congratulations to Jim and Marty Hamby, who won the grand prize drawing for 4 days and 3 nights at Frog Call, a beautiful 52-acre private nature preserve near Dahlonega, featuring a fully furnished 2-bedroom cabin, a tree house, stocked fishing pond, and wonderful hiking trails through the forest beside streams and waterfalls. Thanks to Jimmie Walters for her generosity in making this awesome experience available.