

## About Save Georgia's Hemlocks

Save Georgia's Hemlocks is a 100% volunteer, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization of concerned citizens dedicated to saving endangered hemlocks through education and charitable service. Our goals are to:

- **Educate:** Enhance public awareness of the hemlock woolly adelgid crisis, current practical options and emerging control technologies, and the aesthetic, economic and environmental reasons to take timely and effective action to save the hemlocks.
- **Enable:** Ensure easy access to sound hemlock-specific instruction, advice regarding economical solutions, and availability of necessary resources.
- **Engage:** Enlist our volunteers to provide direct assistance to property owners, nonprofits, and public land managers.

Our guiding principles are:

- Do all for the benefit of property owners and managers and their hemlocks with no benefit accruing to any member.
- Operate in the most efficient, cost-effective manner adhering to nonprofit best practices and standards of excellence.
- Do all with simplicity, transparency, and the spirit of charitable service. It is our intention to keep our organization lean, proactive, community-based, and uncomplicated.

## You can help

**Take care of your own hemlocks.** Be alert for the first signs of a woolly adelgid infestation, call for advice, and take action early.

**Help your neighbors save their trees.** Share the message about the HWA problem and solutions through word of mouth and any e-mail lists, web sites, and newsletters you have access to. Form a neighborhood hemlock help task force and work together to suppress the woolly adelgid in the widest possible area. We can help you make a plan and get started.

**Join the fight for the hemlocks.** There are many ways to help by sharing your time and talents. When you become a member of Save Georgia's Hemlocks, you can serve as a Facilitator in your local community, participate in volunteer hemlock treatment or planting projects, do research and citizen science, work with youth groups, staff an information booth or education station, or help teach a class.

**Share your financial support.** We don't do any extraordinary fund-raising events but rely almost exclusively on memberships and donations for our funding. All gifts are tax-deductible.

## Your participation and support are appreciated!

## Hemlock Help for Property Owners

The beauty, value and environmental health of your community are at risk!



Hemlocks, the iconic evergreen of the Appalachians, are found throughout north Georgia, and you may have them on your property. The **bad news** is that our native eastern and Carolina hemlocks are being attacked by an invasive insect, the hemlock woolly adelgid, and it is predicted that almost all of these beautiful trees will die in the next few years unless timely action is taken to save them. The massive loss of our hemlocks will be aesthetically, ecologically, environmentally, and economically devastating.

But there's **good news** too. You can save as many of your own hemlocks as you wish. The treatment is safe, highly effective, easy enough for most property owners to do themselves, and inexpensive. And you can help save the hemlocks on our public lands too!

Save Georgia's Hemlocks has implemented the Hemlock Help Program to educate property owners about the problem, enable you to choose and implement an appropriate solution while there's still time, and help you get started. The program is completely free.



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## Background

The hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) was accidentally introduced to the eastern U.S. over 60 years ago and has been spreading along the entire Appalachian Mountain chain ever since. Since entering northeast Georgia in 2002, it has advanced steadily westward, leaving great swaths of dead or dying trees, especially along our waterways. It is now confirmed in all 19 Georgia counties within the native hemlock range. If you're not sure you have hemlocks on your property, compare your evergreen trees to these photos.



*Hemlock Branch*



*Young Hemlock*



*Mature Hemlock*

## Are your hemlocks infested?

Look for tiny white cottony egg sacs on the underside of branches. Each egg sac may contain from 30 to 300 new insects which are capable of multiplying into 9,000 offspring in a single year. Other signs of infestation include a drab gray-green color, reduced needle density, lack of new tip growth, and finally – if left untreated – complete defoliation and death. See the photos on the next page.

## Why should you care?

- **Aesthetically**, these beautiful trees contribute greatly to the enjoyment of those who live, work, and play among them, as well as the many people who come to north Georgia for tourism and recreation.
- **Ecologically**, hemlocks are vital in providing food and habitat for about 120 species of vertebrates and over 90 species of birds, shade for native plants, and cool temperatures for trout streams.
- **Environmentally**, they protect the quality of our air, waterways, and watersheds and help with soil conservation.
- **Economically**, healthy mature trees such as hemlocks can add 7-10% to private property values. Healthy forests and waterways support a large number of jobs related to tourism and recreation as well as local tax revenues associated with these activities.



*Infested Branch*



*Thinning Crown*



*Hemlock Killed by HWA*

## What can be done?

On public lands such as national forests and state parks, specific areas are being treated with chemicals, predatory beetles, or a combination approach. On private land, the most reliable and cost-effective solution available for property owners is to chemically treat their hemlocks by soil application; however, in the near future, SGH may be able to help make predatory beetles available for appropriate release sites on non-public lands.

## We can help on private and public lands

Key features of our Hemlock Help Program include:

- **Education** – Hemlock Help Clinics and informational materials to increase public awareness of the HWA crisis and available control options as well as in-depth training for volunteer Facilitators.
- **Information on call** – A live Hemlock Help Line<sup>SM</sup> 706-429-8010 to answer questions, provide accurate up-to-date information, and offer advice on options for managing the woolly adelgid problem.
- **DIY support** – Soil injectors for borrowing, information on appropriate treatment products and where to purchase them, and treatment instructions if you want to do the work yourself for the lowest possible cost. We also offer a repair/refurbishment service for Kioritz soil injectors.
- **On-site assistance** – A network of trained volunteer Facilitators who can make an on-site visit to your property, advise you about treatment options, and help you get started.
- **Professional help** – Advice on how to find qualified local companies that do this work in your area for reasonable rates.
- **Help on public lands** – Volunteer projects to help the U. S. Forest Service and Georgia DNR to treat more trees.
- **Healthy hemlocks** – Container-grown or bare-root hemlock saplings available for adoption and starter stock for hemlock nurseries.