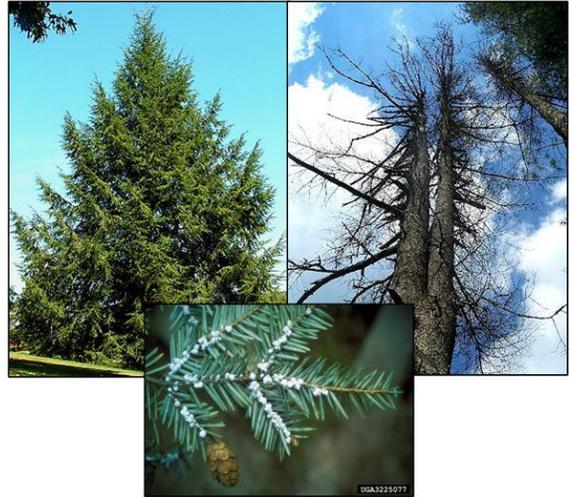


BMTA Hosts Save Georgia's Hemlocks at Cherry Log

(Benton MacKaye Trail Association Newsletter, 8-17-09)

The Benton MacKaye Trail Association is proud to host its first ever Hemlock Clinic. Presented by Mark and Donna Shearer of Save Georgia's Hemlocks, this informative lecture is designed to educate the public about the increasing threat to Georgia's native hemlock trees by the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid. The HWA is an introduced pest which is wrecking havoc on native hemlocks by feeding on the sap and robbing the trees of their nutrients. The U.S. Forest Service estimates that if the infestation of the HWA is left unchecked, 90% of native hemlocks throughout north Georgia could be decimated within the next 5 - 10 years.



Save Georgia's Hemlocks was created to assist property owners with advice and treatment options so their own hemlocks might be saved. By enlisting their help, the BMTA hopes to gain education and training for its own members to protect the hemlocks along the Benton MacKaye Trail.

The Hemlock Clinic is conducted in two parts; the first segment will explain the HWA problem and what homeowners can do to protect their trees. This segment lasts approximately one hour. After a brief break, the second segment will go into greater detail of hemlocks and the HWA including a demonstration of hemlock inoculation and training for volunteer facilitators. This segment lasts approximately 2 hours. Please join us for all or half of this special presentation.



The Hemlock Clinic is free of charge and will be held at the Cherry Log Mountain Pavilion on Saturday, September 26. Check-in will be at 8:30 a.m. with the lecture to begin at 9:00. RSVP is appreciated. Please email your name and number of people in your party (email).

If you would like to learn more about the ongoing work of the BMTA or Save Georgia's Hemlocks, please visit www.bmta.org or www.savegeorgiashemlocks.org.

By Liz Burlingame, BMTA. For more information contact BMTA President Ralph Heller 770-235-9760.