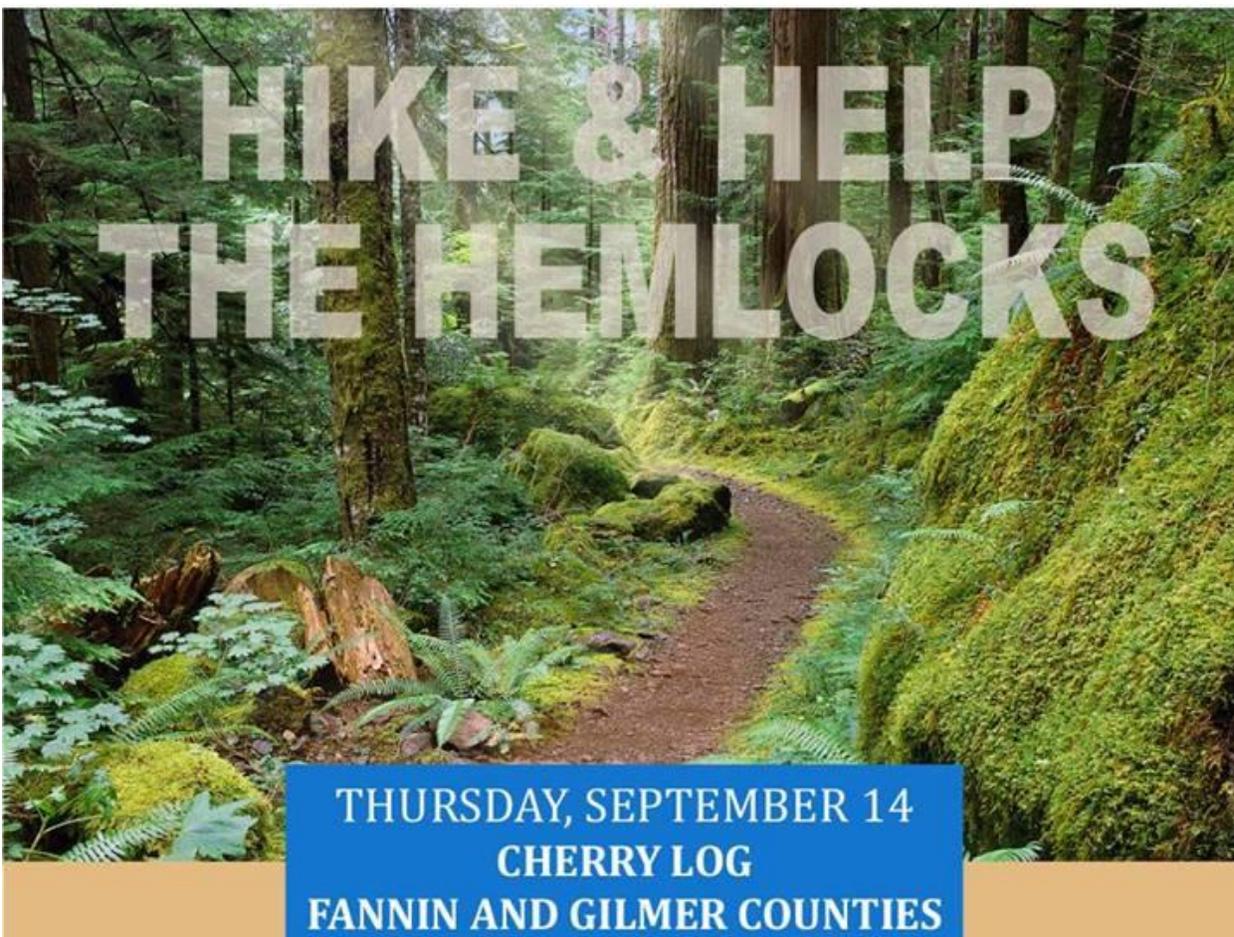


Hike and Help the Hemlocks 2017



On Thursday, September 14, 2017, Save Georgia's Hemlocks and the Benton MacKaye Trail Association were joined by Trout Unlimited for our annual Hike and Help the Hemlocks, an education and service event to save the hemlocks on some of our beautiful shared lands. The outing took place on the Benton MacKaye Trail in Cherry Log, Gilmer County. The site was chosen because of its situation in a beautiful community, on a great trail that is used by many hikers, and along a trout stream that needs protection for the shade canopy.

Following a short orientation, 26 volunteers worked together in small teams to treat (or re-treat) 303 hemlocks along the trail to protect them against the hemlock woolly adelgid, the invasive insect that's killing them all across north Georgia. Participants not only helped to save trees in the forest, but those who were new to the process also learned how to treat their own hemlocks.

We paused at midday for a delicious picnic lunch beside Indian Lake and a time to get to know other good folks who share a love of the outdoors. After lunch there were some interesting lunch-and-learn presentations from Ralph Heller of BMTA and Jim Reich of Trout Unlimited. Donna Shearer of SGH gave an update on SGH activities, shared some recent learnings about trees in the forest, and provided a suggested reading list for nature lovers. Jim Reich, David and Cindy Wasileski, Bob Koop, Jim Heilman, Ray Lorenzi, Frank and Linda Ghesling received special recognition for the many Facilitator visits and tree treatments they've done on their own this year.

During the event Jim Reich presented a substantial donation to SGH from TU, and Ralph Heller delivered one from the Sisson Company; BMTA had already given SGH a generous donation earlier in the year. We are very grateful to these wonderful partners and their support on behalf of the hemlocks.

The weather was perfect, the scenery lovely, the work rewarding, and the company great. THANKS EVERYONE!!!



Come join us
for a special day!



Hike & Help the Hemlocks

Thursday, September 14, 2017

9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Benton MacKaye Trail in Cherry Log Mountain
Between Ellijay & Blue Ridge



Save Georgia's Hemlocks and the Benton MacKaye Trail Association will be joined this year by Trout Unlimited (YEA!!!) for our annual Hike and Help the Hemlocks, an education and service event to save the hemlocks on some of our beautiful shared lands. This year's outing will be on the Benton MacKaye Trail in Cherry Log in Gilmer County.

Following a short orientation, volunteers will work together in small teams to treat (or re-treat) the hemlocks along the trail to protect them against the hemlock woolly adelgid, the invasive insect that's killing them all across north Georgia. Participants will not only be helping to save trees in the forest but also learning how to treat their own trees (if they don't already know).

We'll pause at midday for a picnic lunch beside Indian Lake, some interesting lunch-and-learn presentations, and a time to get to know other good folks who share a love of the outdoors. The weather should be good, the scenery lovely, the work rewarding, and the company great! So dust off your boots and invite a friend to come too.

Participants must register in advance. Driving directions and details will be provided when you sign up.

Space may be limited, so please register early.

Contact Kim Wood at 706-455-2313 or kimberlyraewood@gmail.com.

