

On Sunday, June 25, 2017 Save Georgia's Hemlocks held its annual Hemlock Camp Meeting at the ETC Pavilion in Ellijay. Those attending shared a common interest – to save Georgia's hemlocks from the invasive Hemlock Woolly Adelgid. Families, volunteers, scientists, educators, recreationists, environmentalists and public land managers came together to hear a message from Dr. Justin Ellis, get to know other like-minded people, and enjoy the music of Downtown Roy and food from Poole's BBQ.



Displays, exhibits and demonstrations were provided by the Camp Meeting's Circle of Friends: Atlanta Audubon Society, UGA Beetle Lab, Young Harris Beetle Lab, Cartecay Bike Shop, Georgia Appalachian Trail Club, Georgia Department of Natural Resources - Wildlife Resources, Georgia Forest Watch, Georgia Forestry Commission, Get Off the Grid, Gilmer County Beekeepers, Sierra Club - Georgia Chapter, Trees Atlanta, Trout Unlimited and Yahoola Outdoors - Trail Fest.

University of North Georgia Environmental Leadership Center's Dr. Justin Ellis, the Camp Meeting's keynote speaker, detailed UNG's progress in developing biological controls to combat the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid. He explained that biological control is the utilization of natural enemies to reduce the damage caused by noxious organisms to tolerable levels.

In natural ecosystems very few organisms occupy a niche without competitors, chemical defenses or predators. Natural enemies are the best ecosystem approach to achieving long-term stability. Dr. Ellis stated, "Survival of the hemlock species is dependent on the establishment of biological agents to keep the HWA population in check." Biological control agents of lab reared predatory beetles have been released at over 100 sites on the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest in north Georgia. He presented information about the lifecycle of three species of predator beetles being released on Georgia's forests and the particular strengths and weaknesses of each one relative to the HWA pest.



Dr. Ellis explained that besides the challenges of acquiring and/or raising beetles, a thorough understanding of the forest conditions and other variables across the state is vital to being able to deploy the predators in locations most likely to produce optimal results. Therefore, work is currently being done to create and maintain a comprehensive geospatial database that will support more strategic beetle releases and recaptures, enhance coordination among the various research labs and public agencies, and allow for better communication of the evolving problem with the public. Dr. Ellis also announced that another predator, the Silver Fly, is currently being researched in its native range in the Pacific Northwestern U.S. In that part of the country Silver Flies are second only to *Laricobius nigrinus* in abundance as an HWA predator. And HWA is their preferred food source when available. One of the objectives of the research is to begin releases of western silver flies in the eastern U.S. to determine the most effective release strategies.

And finally, he encouraged everyone to consider ways in which they might help: being sure to take care of their own hemlocks, sharing the hemlock message with friends and neighbors, avoiding being a vector to spread the pest, and supporting organizations that are engaged in the hemlocks vs. adelgids battle.

The Hemlock Camp Meeting is an annual event of Save Georgia's Hemlocks, a 501(c)(3) non-profit, grass-roots organization, committed in the battle to save the hemlocks, preserve property values, protect local economies, and guard the health and natural beauty of Georgia's mountain communities through education and charitable service.



THE 2017 ANNUAL
SAVE GEORGIA'S HEMLOCKS
HEMLOCK CAMP MEETING
A
GATHERING OF
KINDRED SPIRITS TO CELEBRATE AND PRESERVE
THE MAGNIFICENT HEMLOCK

SUNDAY • JUNE 25 • 10AM to 3PM

ETC PAVILION • ON THE BANKS OF THE COOSAWATTEE RIVER • ELLIJAY, GA

MAPS AND DIRECTIONS www.SaveGeorgiasHemlocks.org or Google Maps

MUSIC DOWNTOWN ROY - Purveyors of Fine Americana,
Beach, Blues, Blue-grass, Country, Folk, Reggae,
Rock and Western Music



 **FOOD** Poole's BBQ
Plus YOUR Own Potluck Dish

PLUS Environmental Displays and Demonstrations
by Like-Minded Organizations and Friends of the Hemlock

NO CHARGE for members, but **RESERVATIONS** are required. CALL 706 455-2313 **FREE ADMISSION**
EMAIL kimberlyraewood@gmail.com before **WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21** FOR CURRENT MEMBERS

COME HEAR Keynote Speaker - **JUSTIN ELLIS**
UNG Environmental Leadership Center

THIS OPPORTUNITY TO COMMUNE WITH NATURE AND
TO CELEBRATE THE HEMLOCK AND OUR MOUNTAIN
ENVIRONMENT - AN EVENT FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY
SORRY, **NO DOGS** ARE ALLOWED.

DON'T MISS



SPONSORED BY

SAVE GEORGIA'S HEMLOCKS

- Raising public awareness of the hemlock crisis and call for help
- Recognizing and thanking our members, volunteers and supporters
- Learning about progress in the HWA battle, the latest research and ways we can help

www.SaveGeorgiasHemlocks.org • 706 429-8010

Community Calendar Announcement for Hemlock Camp Meeting 2017



**Save
Georgia's
Hemlocks**

Contact: Donna Shearer
706-429-8010
donna@savegeorgiashemlocks.org

COMMUNITY CALENDAR ITEM
To run: the weeks of June 12 AND June 19, 2017
Submitted: May 30, 2017

Celebrate Georgia's Hemlocks

On Sunday, June 25, 10 am to 3pm, Save Georgia's Hemlocks will host the annual Hemlock Camp Meeting in Ellijay, GA at the ETC Pavilion. Music will be provided by Downtown Roy, picnic lunch by Poole's BBQ (everyone is asked to bring a side dish to share), educational displays, demonstrations and family-friendly activities by a variety of conservation and recreational nonprofits and local public land managers. Keynote speaker will be Justin Ellis of the UNG Environmental Leadership Center.

This is an opportunity to visit with old friends and meet more good folks who share your interest in protecting the beauty and health of the natural resources we all enjoy.

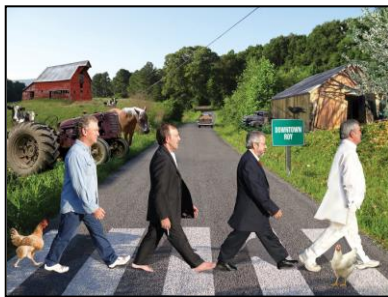
RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED! For details and sign-up, call Kim Wood at 706-455-2313 or email kimberlyraewood@gmail.com.

Music by Downtown Roy

We're delighted to have Downtown Roy providing great music again this year.

Once upon a time... there stood a general store out Roy Road, in northeastern Gilmer County, Georgia where gold prospectors would gather to buy provisions, send mail, and just "loaf" around. Now, where the store once stood, is the home-base for a few local pickers known as "Downtown Roy."

Dan Worley sings, plays guitar, banjo, mandolin, and every other instrument known to man. Frank Enes sings, and plays bass, and harp. Dr. Steve "Possum" Jones sings, and plays mando-caster and harp. Don Roberts sings, and plays rhythm guitar.



Poole's Barbecue

Get ready to enjoy the best barbecue in north Georgia. Poole's is famous for mouth-watering chicken and pork generously dressed with Colonel Poole's original sauce. YUM!!!



Thanks to a special partner

"Where quality is more than a concept"

Save Georgia's Hemlocks is blessed by a partnership that has proven absolutely critical to our ability to treat hemlocks and enable others to do so. Since 2013, Cleveland Tool & Design has helped us repair and maintain 50 Kioritz soil injectors that are used for the chemical treatment of HWA-infested hemlocks.

With the injectors no longer being manufactured and the parts no longer available, CT&D has often had to literally remake certain vital parts in order to restore the devices to good working condition. And clients ranging from the U. S. Forest Service, Department of Natural Resources, Forestry Commission, as well as professional applicators, property owner association, and individuals from Georgia to Massachusetts are very grateful.

Their mission statement reads, "Cleveland Tool & Design, LLC is committed to providing an excellent product with superior service to all customers while fostering a safe, friendly, fair, and creative work environment which respects diversity, new ideas, and hard work." And they certainly live up to it.

Many thanks to principals Jeff Gooch, Jim Messer, Troy Caldwell, and Tim Holtzclaw for your wonderful support. We couldn't do it without you!

Raffle Goodies



