

# Notes for 11-1-2020 SGH Leadership Team Meeting

This meeting was held virtually using ZOOM. Participants included Billy Johnson, Bob Pledger, Buz Stone, Chris Curtin, Darrell Sheffield, Jon Jones, Derrick Morris, Jim Heilman, Jim Wentworth, and Donna Shearer. Dave Teffeteller, David & Cindy Wasileski, Elliott & Brenda Segall, Steve Jones, John Shearouse, Ray Lorenzi, Wynn Mott, Kim Wood, Jimmy Stewart, and Jen Houts were not available, but we'll try to catch up in the next few days.

## BOARD MATTERS

- \* **Checking on everybody** – So far, so good. Everyone said they're being very careful about protecting their health (physical and mental) and are staying pretty much hunkered down as far as group activities are concerned. Members of our Leadership Team and other Facilitators reported making MANY Facilitator visits over the summer and early fall, so even though our large group activities have been reduced this year due to the Corona virus pandemic, we're still keeping on individually and in small groups. And we look forward to getting back to more of our traditional activities SAFELY next year. THANKS EVERYONE for your continued dedication!
- \* **Introduction of new Leadership Team member** – We welcome Jon Jones to our Leadership Team. Jon lives in Rabun County, has participated in a number of SGH hemlock treatment projects, and recently completed Facilitator Training. With a broad background in forestry, he will come alongside Bob Pledger as a co-leader for treatment projects on the Chattooga River Ranger District. Jon also has a history with Scouting and troop leadership and has offered to help in our partnership with the Boy Scouts, particularly as it relates to supporting Eagle Scout candidates wanting to do hemlock-related projects. WELCOME, JON!
- \* **Staffing of SGH functions in FY 2021**
  - We need one more Facilitator to share the teaching responsibilities with Donna and Derrick in 2021. We will continue to conduct most classes virtually using Zoom, FreeConferenceCall, or other on-line platform until it is deemed safe to hold in-person classes again.
  - We need someone to serve as Secretary for service events. The responsibilities include receiving registrations for SGH projects, sending confirmation emails to those who sign up, and relaying the participant list to the project leader a day or two before the event date.
  - Derrick Morris has offered to begin shouldering some of soil injector repair service. Thank you so much!

## 2020 STRATEGIES & ACTIVITIES AS OF 9/30/20

- All 19 HWA-infested Georgia counties in the native hemlock range now served by our Hemlock Help Program.
- Hemlock Help Line available 7 days a week with 678 calls handled
- 3 Hemlock Help Clinics with total of 41 attendees
- 10 Facilitator Training Workshops for 55 new Facilitators; total active Facilitators = 406 in GA and 88 in other states
- 13 customized training sessions for 36 volunteers and public land managers
- 2 presentations to civic/community groups with 43 attendees
- 1 Hemlock Lesson for 14 youth and adults
- 2 festivals / public events with info booth & saplings for adoption, 2 volunteers and 40+ visitors / contacts
- 13 articles / news items written by, with the assistance of, or about SGH published in newspapers/magazines
- 197 Facilitator visits made with charitable treatment of 2,126 trees
- 10 hemlock treatment projects with 75 volunteers treating/retreating 1,254 trees
- 7 hemlock rescue projects with 18 volunteers, 222 saplings rescued and potted for use in educational / service activities or future adoption
- 114 hemlock saplings adopted; 35 large saplings donated to municipalities / schools / nonprofits
- 4 hemlock sapling planting projects with 41 volunteers planting 36 saplings and 54 other trees/shrubs
- 26 Kioritz soil injectors repaired/refurbished; 8 new EZ-Ject Lite soil injectors assembled and prepared for use
- Total of 3,074 volunteer hours logged.



## 2020 FINANCIAL MATTERS AS OF 9/30/20

INCOME	Contrib Indiv	Contrib Member	Contrib Found	Contrib Non Profit	Contrib In Kind Goods	Contrib In Kind Svc	Contrib Corp	Gov Reimb
2020 Inc by Source	\$115.00	\$27,868.16	\$676.87	\$1,641.80	\$463.00	\$1,227.00	\$987.65	\$41.99
2020 Inc by Percentage	0.35%	84.39%	2.05%	4.97%	1.40%	3.72%	2.99%	0.13%
2020 Total Income	<b>\$33,021.47</b>							

EXPENSE	11 Educ Hemlock Clinics	12 Educ Facilitator Trng	13 Educ Comm Progs	16 Public Comm	14 Saplings Program	15 Treatment	51 Gen Admin	52 Memb & Fund Raising
2020 Exp by Category	\$36,442.80	\$139,360.26	\$33,821.33	\$13,174.83	\$21,529.45	\$4,750.33	\$7,263.30	\$3,782.17
2020 Exp by Percentage	14.01%	53.57%	13.00%	5.06%	8.28%	1.83%	2.79%	1.45%
2020 Total Expenses	<b>\$17,226.54</b>							
Current Ckg Acct Balance	<b>\$60,140.10</b>							

**Total Spending to date in FY 2020:** 91.74% for educational & charitable service programs.  
8.26% for administrative, membership & fund raising.

**Cumulative Spending FY 2009-2020:** 91.50% for educational & charitable service programs.  
8.50% for administrative, membership & fund raising.

## 2020 STRATEGIES & ACTIVITIES FOR REMAINDER OF CALENDAR YEAR

- \* **Education and training** – No classes are scheduled, but if there's a demand from individuals who wanted to take Facilitator training this year and were unable, we'll schedule one last for everyone regardless of county.
- \* **Festivals and outreach** – No events are scheduled with the possible except of BSA Hornaday Conservation Weekend on Nov. 13-15.
- \* **Communications** – A fall edition of *Hemlock Happenings* will be published along with an articles for the newspapers reminding people that late fall is still a good time to treat their hemlocks and plant more.
- \* **Treatment projects** – Bent Tree 11/6/20 – 11/8/20 and a possible small one in Cherry Log (date tbd).
- \* **Saplings** – We expect to have more private adoptions and would like to do a few more sapling rescue/potting projects with just two or three participants (dates tbd)
- \* **Facilitator visits** – Keep up the good work!
- \* **Soil injectors** – If you have custody of an injector, REMEMBER to put it where it won't freeze over the winter.

## 2020 EVENTS POSTPONED

Because of the Corona virus pandemic, most of the public events we hoped to participate in were canceled, and most of the large group activities we had planned had to be postponed. We were able to accomplish some events in a virtual format, but for many that was not the case. Below is a list of the 2020 events that were postponed and not rescheduled and therefore will be high priorities for scheduling in 2021.

- \* **Education and training**
  - Hemlock Help Clinic for SC Master Naturalist Meeting
  - Hemlock Help Clinic for Atlanta Audience in partnership with UGA Extension Service
  - Hemlock Camp Meeting
  - Facilitator Training Workshop for Murray & Whitfield Counties
  - Education station Lake Rabun Association Labor Day meeting
  - Hemlock Lesson & seedling potting activity for Save the Hemlock Day at Lumpkin summer camp.

### \* **Treatment projects**

- **DNR:** Cloudland Canyon and Smithgall Woods
- **USFS:** Three Forks Area Chester Creek, Upper Noontootla, Long Creek; Lake Winfield Scott Beach Area; Panther Creek; Upper Chattahoochee River Campground & area; Bob Creek; Swallow Creek, Falls Branch, and Scataway; Helton Creek
- **GATC:** new AT-HCAs Blackwell Creek, Justus Creek, Sapling Gap, Low Gap to Horsetrough Mountain Spur, Jack’s Knob from Chattahoochee Gap to Jack’s Gap / Hwy, Dockery Lake Trail from AT at Miller Gap to Dockery Access Rd.
- **Other:** Paddling for Hemlocks on remainder of Cartecay River WMA, YMCA Camp High Harbour, Project Chimps, Rabun Gap School

### \* **Saplings**

- Project Chimps sapling rescue/potting project
- Hemlock restoration project on Soque River

\* **Festivals** – The following festivals that we normally participate in were also canceled this year. While we hope the public safety situation will be much improved at some point next year, we will make our decisions about participation based on the conditions at the time.

- Info booth at Bear on the Square
- Info booth at Trout Festival
- Info booth at Blue Ridge Arts Festival
- Education station at LRA Memorial Day meeting
- Education station at LRA Labor Day meeting
- Info booth at Foxfire Mountaineer Festival
- Info booth at Georgia Marble Festival
- Info booth at Georgia Mountains Beer Fest

## **PREVIEW OF 2021 ACTIVITIES**

\* **USFS Approval of 6 New HCAs on Appalachian Trail** – We *hope* to have news of this at the November 4 hemlock planning meeting between SGH and the USFS. As soon as the approvals are in place, we will schedule treatment projects in partnership with the Georgia Appalachian Trail Club. Projects will generally be on Sundays or Wednesdays to avoid conflict with other SGH events that normally take place on Saturdays. Donna will be the SGH project representative, and GATC will have a project leader and several SGH-trained team leaders from their organization.

### \* **Education and Training**

- We are likely to continue the classroom portion of Facilitator training in a virtual format for at least first 2 quarters. The demo / hands-on practice component of the training will be accomplished through a combination of small in-person sessions led by an experienced Facilitator or participation in a SGH treatment project. We’ll start with any counties that were missed in 2020.
- We will partner with Trees Atlanta, Fernbank, the Cooperative Extension Service and others to implement focused outreach to the Atlanta area to raise awareness of the hemlock problem, offer seminars for property owners and landscape professionals, and begin providing Facilitator visits around Atlanta.
- Concerning Hemlock Camp Meeting 2021, the group expressed some hope but also some reservations about holding this event, based primarily on the uncertainty around the pandemic during the coming year. It was decided that we should reserve a Sunday in May at the ETC pavilion in Ellijay and plan to do the event but also be ready to cancel it if conditions warrant.
- Based on a question during the meeting, Facilitators preparing to make a visit to a property owner are encouraged to review the last section of the Photo Gallery page of our web site. It provides images of quite a few non-HWA pests, and you’ll want to be able to recognize them as such or maybe even print a copy to take with you. None of them is related to adelgids, but they can hasten the demise of a hemlock that’s already infested with adelgids. Questions regarding the treatment of non-HWA pests should be directed to your local Cooperative Extension Service agent.

### \* **Treatment projects**

- At the November 4 hemlock planning meeting between SGH and the USFS we will finalize the list and priorities for the projects on national forest (USFS Blue Ridge and Chattooga River Districts) and begin setting dates for 2021.
- Then we will prioritize and set dates for other treatment projects related to DNR state parks and wildlife management areas, Paddling for Hemlocks, Appalachian Trail projects, Cherry Log, YMCA Camp High Harbour, Rabun Gap School, and hopefully Lake Burton.
- We also hope to do a large treatment project on the non-private property around Lake Burton utilizing funds donated by a Rabun County resident for this purpose.

\* **Saplings** – We’ll schedule sapling rescue/potting projects for the spring and fall. We will be in contact with the USFS and TU to identify sites for hemlock restoration on trout streams. We would also like to establish another sapling nursery in a western county (Cherokee, Dade, Murray, Pickens, Walker, or Whitfield) to make it more convenient for people in that area wanting to adopt saplings.

\* **Charitable Service** – A proposed amendment to our Bylaws was presented to clarify our policy and practice for providing charitable assistance to property owners and other nonprofits. The most important point is that such assistance is not charity but a partnership between SGH and the client based on the belief that *everyone* can help the hemlock cause in some way. Leadership Team members are asked to provide approval and/or recommended changes to Donna by Sunday, November 8.

\* **Eagle Scouts**

- SGH remains committed to our partnership with the Boy Scouts of America, particularly relating to Eagle Scout candidates wanting to do a hemlock-related project. However, we want ensure that we provide the best experience with the right kind of support for the Scout. Therefore, before we undertake any more such projects, Jon Jones has offered to prepare a framework document outlining the kinds of projects that would be appropriate and manageable as well as the responsibilities and expectations for SGH, the Scout, and his troop leadership. Elliott Segall and other Leadership Team members with Eagle Scout experience are also requested to provide input.
- Once the document is finalized, it can be circulated throughout the Boy Scout organization in north Georgia so the troops and leaders can be aware of the opportunities and guidelines. It will also be provide to any Scout who requests to do a project with SGH to ensure they understand the working relationship.

\* **Student Grants** – The discussion begun at our July meeting was continued today concerning placing grant money with several north Georgia colleges to be distributed on the basis of financial need to students in Forestry, Environmental Science, or fields related to saving hemlocks. The suggested schools were North Georgia University, North Georgia Tech, University of Georgia, and Young Harris College. It was agreed that the schools should manage the funds, choose the recipients, and provide annual usage reports to SGH. All Leadership Team members are asked to provide input to Donna before our January meeting concerning the annual amount to be placed with each school, criteria for selecting recipients, acceptable purposes of grants, and any other parameters that seem appropriate. Donna will also consult with department heads and grant managers at each school plus Anne Pledger to gain their ideas and prepare a draft of the plan for Leadership Team review in January.

**FUTURE 2021 MEETINGS – PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

- \* January 10 – second Sunday
- \* April 11 – second Sunday
- \* July 11 – second Sunday
- \* October 11 – second Sunday (subject to change if festivals conflict)

**And remember – Facilitators’ activity reports are due within 1 week after the end of each calendar quarter:**

- \* Jan 7 for quarter ending Dec. 31
- \* Apr. 7 for quarter ending Mar. 31
- \* July 7 for quarter ending June 30
- \* Oct. 7 for quarter ending Sept. 30