

4-14-19 Agenda for SGH Leadership Team Meeting

This quarterly Leadership Team meeting was held at the home of Donna Shearer, 37 Woody Bend, Dahlonega, beginning at 1:00 p.m. In attendance were Bob Pledger, Chris Curtin, Darrell Sheffield, Jen Houts, John Shearouse, Ray Lorenzi, Kim Wood and Donna Shearer. Buz Stone, Chris Disser, Derrick Morris, Dave Teffeteller, David & Cindy Wasileski, Elliott & Brenda Segall, Frank & Linda Gheesling, Jim Heilman, Jimmy Stewart, and Wynn Mott were unable to attend.

BOARD MATTERS

- * Signing of Annual Acknowledgment by Board members, officers, and program managers who were not present at January meeting.
- * Nominations requested for Board member to fill position vacated by Frank Gheesling's retirement.
- * Other open positions: Treatment west, Education east, Treasurer, Scouting Liaison.
- * Congratulations to Mason Sheffield (Darrell Sheffield's son & SGH Facilitator) for being the first student ever from North Forsyth FFA (Future Farmers of America) to place 1st in North Region for a proficiency application. His project in the category of Forest Management presented the MANY ways in which he has worked to preserve the hemlocks. We celebrate Mason for his accomplishments, his dedication to the FFA program, and his tremendous service on behalf of the hemlocks.

REVIEW OF 2019 STRATEGIES & ACTIVITIES TO DATE

- * Progress Report as of 3-31-19 (These are still *draft numbers*, waiting for more *Quarterly Activity Reports*)
 - All 19 HWA-infested Georgia counties in native hemlock range now served by our Hemlock Help Program.
 - Hemlock Help Line available 7 days a week with 205 calls handled to date.
 - 5 Hemlock Help Clinics with total of 18 attendees.
 - 5 Facilitator Training Workshops with total of 18 new Facilitators trained.
Total active Facilitator corps = 323 in Georgia and 79 in other states
 - 2 presentations to civic/community groups with 37 attendees.
 - 1 Hemlock Lesson for 7 students and teachers.
 - 1 festival / public event with info booth & saplings for adoption – 1 volunteer and 25 visitors / contacts
 - 6 articles / news items written by, with the assistance of, or about SGH published in newspapers/magazines.
 - 7 Facilitator visits made with charitable treatment of ??? trees
 - 3 hemlock treatment projects with 75 volunteers treating/retreating 399 trees.
 - 4 hemlock rescue projects with 10 volunteers, 227 saplings rescued and potted for use in educational/service activities or future adoption
 - 12 hemlock saplings adopted; 8 saplings donated to municipalities / schools / nonprofits.
 - 3 hemlock sapling planting projects with 55 volunteers planting 69 saplings.
 - Total of 1,402 volunteer hours logged.
- * Quarterly Activity Reports as of 3-31-19

Thanks to those who sent them in, and a gentle reminder to everyone else that we NEED your report within the week after the end of each calendar quarter. The form and instructions for submitting it can be found on the Facilitators page of our web site https://www.savegeorgiashemlocks.org/Volunteer_Facilitators.htm in the Volunteer Facilitator Materials section.
- * Report on Mill Creek hemlock restoration project 3-2-19

Forty-one volunteers from SGH, Trout Unlimited, The Nature Conservancy, Dalton State College, the U. S. Forest Service, Georgia DNR, and the local community came together to plant 60 very large hemlocks (6+ feet tall) along Mill Creek north of Chatsworth in Murray County to restore the shade canopy along the trout stream and in the campground.



The trees and all planting materials were pre-staged the day before by John Shearouse, Jen Houts, Jim Reich, Bob Murrah, Bob Wetzsteon, Todd Baker, and Donna Shearer. On project day, volunteers worked in teams to get the job done -- some pruning branches and roots, some mixing special soil amendments, some digging the planting holes, some treating the trees for HWA, and all participating in the planting. Lunch was brought in by Jim Heilman. Everyone had a wonderful time on this beautiful spring day, and by the end of the project the woods looked much more beautiful. THANKS FOR A JOB WELL DONE, EVERYONE!!!

*** Report on saplings provided to Gibbs Gardens 4-4-19.**

Jim Gibbs of Gibbs Gardens in Ball Ground adopted 6 large hemlock saplings for the new conifer section they're initiating this spring. There are already several dozen 20-30 foot hemlocks on the property, but this new section will focus on the many kinds of conifers that can grow in Georgia. He indicated he would like to adopt more in the fall.

REVIEW OF 2019 FINANCIAL MATTERS TO DATE

*** Financial Summary as of 3-31-19**

Current: Fiscal 2018

Dec. 1, 2018 – March 31, 2019

Total Contributions	Educational Spending	Charitable Service Spending	Administrative Expense	Membership/Fundraising	Total Expenses	Cash on Hand
\$12,146.01	\$1,373.75	\$1,839.79	\$649.17	\$677.96	\$4,540.67	\$42,701.39
	30.25%	40.52%	14.30%	14.93%		

Cumulative: Fiscal 2009 – 2019

July 1, 2009 – March 31, 2019

Total Contributions	Educational Spending	Charitable Service Spending	Administrative Expense	Membership Fundraising	Total Expenses
\$207,307.79	\$74,849.97	\$75,323.57	\$11,414.65	\$3,018.21	\$164,606.40
	45.47%	45.76%	6.93%	1.83%	

Total Spending in FY 2019:

70.77% for educational & charitable service programs.
29.23% for administrative, membership & fund raising.

Cumulative Spending FY 2009-2019:

91.23% for educational & charitable service programs.
8.76% for administrative, membership & fund raising.

*** Report on annual appeal as of 4-8-19.**

Total in FY 2018 was 92 donations, \$9,015.
By this date in 2018 we had 75 donations, \$7,255.
Total to date in FY 2019 94 donations, \$7,965.

*** Report on hemlock cone pendants as of 3-31-19.**

Out-of-pocket cost for 51 pendants: \$1,530.00
44 pendants purchased: \$2,055.00
7 pendants remaining @ \$45 \$ 315.00
Net profit expected \$ 840.00

A few of these were delivered in person, but most were sent by USPS at a cost of \$3.50 per mailing.

2019 STRATEGIES & ACTIVITIES

*** Calendar of Events for April – June 2019**

Sat., Apr. 20	“Walk & Talk” presentation to Wildlife Action of Georgia in Cherokee County, 2075 Kellogg Creek Rd., Acworth
Wed., Apr. 24	SGH sapling rescue on 1 property in Gilmer County
Fri., Apr. 26	SGH sapling rescue on 2 properties in Fannin County
Sat., Apr. 27	SGH info booth w/saplings for adoption at Trout Fest, Blue Ridge, downtown park

Sat., Apr. 27 & Sun. Apr. 28	SGH info booth w/saplings for adoption at Bear on the Square, Dahlonega, historic square & Hancock Park
Sat., May 4	SGH Hemlock Camp Meeting , ETC Pavilion, Legion Rd., Ellijay
Sat., May 11	SGH-USFS hemlock treatment project, Lake Winfield Scott, cabins area -- 439 Lake Winfield Scott Rd., Suches
Sat., May 18	SGH Hemlock Help Clinic & Facilitator Training Workshop in Habersham County, Cooperative Extension Office, 555 Monroe St., Clarksville
Sat., May 25 & Sun., May 26	Blue Ridge Arts in the Park, Blue Ridge, downtown park
Sun., May 26	LRA Memorial Day meeting, Lakemont
Sat., June 1	SGH info booth w/saplings for adoption at Hemlock Day at Anna Ruby Falls, 3455 Anna Ruby Falls Road, Helen
Sat., June 8	SGH Hemlock Help Clinic & Facilitator Training Workshop in Towns County, Hiawassee or Young Harris
Sun., June 9	Georgia Mountain Treasures event sponsored by Georgia Forest Watch, Georgia Mountains Unitarian Universalist Church, Dahlonega
Sat., June 22	SGH Hemlock Help Clinic & Facilitator Training Workshop for Murray & Whitfield Counties, Murray Cty. Ag. Center, 1100 Green Rd, Chatsworth
Sat., June 29	SGH-USFS hemlock treatment project, Blue Ridge District, exact location tbd

*** Informal update on Foothills Collaboration**

During a recent conversation, Griz McGaughey indicated that the Foothills Collaboration project is progressing well. If the final plan turns out to be the way it looks now, it is hoped that it will include more HCA acreage to expand existing sites, replace sites that are no longer viable, and possibly add new sites; a corridor for treating hemlocks along the Appalachian Trail; and corridors for treating hemlocks along waterways where they are not accessible by land. It is unknown at this point whether wilderness areas will be included or excluded as treatment sites. Stay tuned.

SERVICE

*** Facilitator Service Commitment**

An email will be going out in the next few days to all Facilitators in Georgia reminding them of the commitment to help with at least one education/service event per year. To sign up to help, Facilitators are asked to contact: Kim Wood at 706-455-2313 or kimberlyraewood@gmail.com for a festival or other educational event or Chris Disser at 678-978-6380 or christinadisser@gmail.com for a treatment, sapling rescue or planting project.

SERVICE – TREATMENT

*** Help needed for Hemlock Treatment Projects**

5-11-19 Lake Winfield Scott in Suches

6-29-19 Blue Ridge District, exact location tbd

Please sign up through Chris Disser at 678-978-6380 or christinadisser@gmail.com. Bob Pledger will assign the locations for our treatment project dates for the rest of the year and communicate those to us shortly.

*** Partnership with Georgia Appalachian Trail Club**

On 4-2-19 Jerry Seabolt of GATC and Denny Rhodes of GFW met with Donna Shearer to discuss a possible partnership for treating hemlocks along the Appalachian Trail. The initial obstacle of obtaining permission to treat hemlocks on the national forest where they are not inside a hemlock conservation area may be removed if the Foothills Collaboration final plan designates the whole trail as a treatment corridor. Steps to implement the project over a two-year period will include the GATC's naming a project manager, having their trail maintainers identify the segments of the trail with hemlocks, working with the USFS to prioritize those segments that are not already being treated in HCA, having SGH or other knowledgeable personnel inspect the sites to ensure the trees can still be saved with Imidacloprid (most likely by CoreTect tablets due to the unavailability of water along the trail), finding funding for the chemical costs, and organizing volunteer teams who can work on weekdays. Board approval of this partnership is pending based on more information needed from GATC and coordination/approval needed from USFS. Stay tuned.

* **Partnership with Project Chimps in Morganton**

On 4-9-19 Christy Jellerts (Manager of Facilities) and others at Project Chimps met with Donna Shearer to discuss a possible partnership for hemlock treatment, sapling rescue, and a saplings nursery on their campus. Project Chimps provides lifelong care to former research chimpanzees at its 236-acre forested sanctuary in the Blue Ridge Mountains. The staff and volunteers who met with us included chimp keepers, bee keepers, and grounds keepers, all of whom were greatly relieved to learn that the treatment to save their hemlocks would pose no danger to the humans, animals, bees, or water features. The Board approved this partnership, which will likely get started this summer and hopefully will also include the interested members of the Trout Unlimited Blue Ridge Mountains Chapter.

* **Partnership with Paddlers Hemlock Health Action Taskforce**

During March and early April Donna Shearer has had several discussions with Margot Wallston of the Hemlock Restoration Initiation (HRI) and Alex Harvey of the Paddlers Hemlock Health Action Taskforce (P.H.H.A.T.) to discuss a possible partnership with his group of paddlers to treat hemlocks along waterways in Georgia where they are not accessible by land. As they do in partnership with HRI in the Asheville area, the paddling team would canoe or kayak to reach the treatment sites, beach their vessels, and go ashore to treat hemlocks with CoreTect tablets, avoiding the risk of spilling liquid chemicals into the waterways. Board approval for this partnership is pending, based on more information needed from Alex, coordination/approval from the USFS or other land manager, and hopefully the participation of the Georgia Canoeing Association and others from the paddling community. Stay tuned.

* **Hike & Help the Hemlocks**

Although we missed being able to schedule this event last year, the Board voted to renew the tradition this year in partnership with the Benton MacKaye Trail Association (BMTA) and Trout Unlimited. As the fall weekends tend to be very busy and BMTA normally schedules their work days during the week, we will get in touch with both organizations to pick a fall date and identify a section of trail that would good for hiking and treating and hopefully have an accessible spot for a group picnic. More to come.

SERVICE – SAPLINGS

* **Partnership with Woody Gap School in Suches**

On 2-19-19 Woody Gap teacher Lisa Sweet and two students met with Chris Disser and Donna Shearer to discuss a possible partnership to implement a hemlock saplings nursery at the school. As part of their Mountain Heritage Program, students would participate in sapling rescue and potting projects led by SGH, maintain the saplings in pots and/or an in-ground grove for 6 – 12 months, and then be able to offer them for adoption for the benefit of their school. The Board approved this partnership, which will likely get started this fall.

* **Saplings Nurseries**

It is anticipated that we will need at least 400 small saplings for adoption at festivals and donation to schools and nonprofits, 100 medium to large saplings for field insectaries, and 200 of various sizes for private adoptions. At present we have the following saplings of various sizes on hand:
Buz Stone's nursery in Lakemont – estimated 150-175 trees in pots
Chris Curtin's nursery in Ellijay – estimated 75 trees in pots
John Shearouse's nursery in Lavonia – estimated 60 trees in the ground
Mason Sheffield's nursery in Alpharetta – estimated 75 trees in pots
Donna Shearer's nursery in Dahlonega – 132 trees in pots

Chris Curtin has scheduled rescue/potting projects in Gilmer and Fannin Counties for April 24 and 26; anyone who can help is asked to contact her at 404-630-0156 or christead@yahoo.com.

Darrell reported that Mason plans to offer his hemlocks for adoption at an upcoming plant sale for the benefit of his school and then give any remaining saplings to the school to start a saplings nursery and/or hemlock grove there.

EDUCATION

* **Training Schedule**

Facilitator Training Workshops have been conducted or scheduled for all 19 of our program counties *except* that Donna Shearer needs to find locations for Towns and Banks/Stephens classes, and Derrick Morris needs to pick dates for Gilmer and Fannin classes.

* **Festivals**

Need more booth helpers for Trout Fest in Blue Ridge on Saturday 4-27-19.

Need more booth helpers for Bear on the Square in Dahlonga on Saturday 4-27-19; we have enough helpers on Sunday 4-28-19.

Please sign up through Kim Wood at 706-455-2313 or kimberlyraewood@gmail.com.

* **Public Communications**

Dave Teffeteller has prepared a flyer for our 2019 Hemlock Camp Meeting. It is posted on the home page of our web site, will be on the front page of the Hemlock Happenings newsletter to go out this coming week, and will be available in printed form at the two festivals before the event.

Dave has also agreed to have sets of his beautiful Tannenbaum Christmas card produced to sell, hopefully in time for Hemlock Camp Meeting but for sure in time for most of this year's festivals.

HEMLOCK CAMP MEETING / ANNUAL MEETING

* **Date & time:** Saturday, May 4, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

* **Place:** ETC Pavilion in Ellijay

* **Theme:** A day of appreciation and inspiration for members, volunteers, and supporters

* **Music:** Bill Pound; audio system from Betty Larsen

* **Food:** Poole's Barbecue & pot luck dishes to share. Chris Curtin will coordinate the final food order.

* **Speakers:** Thom Green of Hemlock Restoration Initiative and Alex Harvey of Paddlers Hemlock Health Action Taskforce

* **Short film:** "The HemlockWoolly Adelgid – A Film About the Loss of an Ecosystem" by Chris Foito;
Here's the link to the trailer <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yBlb73RIQ2U>>,
the full documentary <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AupnMjYaI0Q>>,
and their website <<http://thehemlockwoollyadelgid.com/>>.

* **Raffle:** Need raffle items, especially hand-made or art work. Please contact Donna Shearer with ideas and photos.

* **Other features:** SGH info booth; sapling potting demo & saplings for adoption; hemlock treatment demo; Leadership Team elections; annual report; recognitions and awards.

* **Publicity & Invitations:** Two rounds of invitation emails have already gone out, and the final invitation email will go out the week of April 15, including the flyer and lots more information in a link to our web site. Environmental, conservation, and recreation organizations are invited to bring displays and handouts if they wish. Community Calendar announcements will be sent to all newspapers in N GA and the Chattanooga area.

* **Reservations:** Kim Wood will receive reservations and send confirmations, including information on \$5 cost person (except kids under 10 are free) and a request to bring a covered dish to share.

* **Volunteers needed for tasks below.** Please sign up through Donna Shearer 706-429-8010.

- putting out and collecting signage (1)
- parking (2 adults & 2 youth)
- check-in station (2) – pre-filled sign-in sheets for those with reservations, programs, election forms, raffle tickets, money box for \$5 entrance
- audio visual set-up (2)
- picnic tables set-up (2)
- kitchen set-up and food line management (4)
- SGH info booth (2)
- raffle table set-up and drawing (2)
- sapling potting demo station (1)
- treatment demo station (2)

*** Schedule:**

8 a.m.	SGH helpers arrive; Chris Curtin to have key to gate
8 – 10 a.m.	Set up for event
10 a.m.	Guests begin arriving/parking; special arrangements for handicap accessibility
10 – 11:30 a.m.	Browsing SGH booths, sapling potting station, treatment demo station, and any other exhibits brought by participants
11:30 a.m.	Short film
Noon – 1 p.m.	picnic lunch
1 – 1:45 p.m.	Thom Green of Hemlock Restoration Initiative
1:45 – 2:30 p.m.	Alex Harvey of P.H.H.A.T.
2:30 – 3 p.m.	annual report, awards and recognitions
3 p.m.	raffle drawing followed by clean up, take-down, and departure

FUTURE 2019 MEETING DATES

- * July 14 (second Sunday)
- * November 3 (first Sunday)