

Notes for 1/8/23 SGH Leadership Team Meeting

This quarterly Leadership Team meeting for Board Members, Officers, Program Manager, and Lead Facilitators was held at Dahlonga Chamber of Commerce, 342 Hill St., Dahlonga, GA, beginning at 1:00 p.m. Participants were Chris Curtin, John Shearouse, Kat Carey, Jon Jones, Holly Cochran, Jim Wentworth, Jim Heilman, Ray Lorenzi, Buz Stone and Donna Shearer. Derrick Morris, Betty Larsen, and Todd Jackson joined via Zoom. Jody Webb, Renee Gracon, Jimmy Stewart, Dara Sinclair, Nick Gardener, Kim Wood, Robert Patchett, Elliott Segall, Lee Higgins, Cary Allen, Bob Pledger, Ray Lorenzi, Jim Heilman, Alan Barnes, Al Battle, Darrel Sheffield, and Dave Teffeteller were unable to attend.

BOARD MATTERS

* **Buz Stone** called the meeting to order and took roll. Meeting notes from the 10/16/22 meeting were approved. The agenda for the 1/8/23 meeting was approved.

* Amendments to SGH Bylaws

Edited final amendments presented at the 10/16/22 meeting were as follows:

1) “The Board of Directors is authorized to appoint *ad hoc* committees from time to time to handle issues that may arise between scheduled meetings. An *ad hoc* committee, composed of no fewer than three nor more than seven Directors, may be formed for purposes deemed appropriate by the Board and tasked to research and recommend resolutions to the Board Chairperson within a specified time frame. The Board Chairperson will then call a special meeting of the Board to approve or disapprove the *ad hoc* committee’s recommendations.

Ad hoc committees formed between meetings will present issues and recommendations to the Board Chairperson via email. Voting by the Directors will take place via email or ZOOM.”

2) “The Board is authorized to hire employees, part time and full time, under such terms and conditions as approved by the Board of Directors; provided that the compensation of such employees be reasonable and comparable to the compensation paid to similar positions for similar work in the area; and further provided that the hiring would not result in a conflict of interest as provided by the Bylaws.”

All required signatures were received, and Final amendments were approved.

REVIEW OF FY 2022 STRATEGIES & ACTIVITIES

* Progress Report as of 12/31/22:

- 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 639 calls handled to date.
- 6 Hemlock Help Clinics with total of 25 attendees.
- 4 Facilitator Training Workshops with total of 13 new Facilitators trained.
Total active Facilitators = 415 in Georgia and 93 in other states.
- 7 Presentations for 160 adults:
- 12 Customized training sessions for 25 volunteers and public land managers
- 10 Festivals & public events with 79 volunteers and estimated 1,205 visitors:
- 21 Articles / news items written by, with the assistance of, or about SGH published in newspapers/magazines
- 165 Facilitator visits made with charitable treatment of 2,024 trees
- 36 hemlock treatment projects with 226 volunteers treating 6,432 trees:
- 6 sapling rescue projects with 32 volunteers, 455 saplings rescued and potted for use in educational / service activities or future adoption:
- 218 hemlock saplings adopted.
- 153 saplings donated to schools, churches, nonprofits
- 7 hemlock sapling planting projects with 43 volunteers planting 89 donated hemlocks:
- 12 soil injectors repaired/refurbished
- Total of 6,025 volunteer hours logged.

REVIEW OF FY 2022 FINANCIAL MATTERS as of 12/31/22



Save Georgia's Hemlocks
Hemlock Help LineSM 706-429-8010
www.SaveGeorgiasHemlocks.org

*** Financial Summary**

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Starting 2022 Ckg Acct Balance | \$ 63,514.70 |
| Total Income | \$55,619.48 |
| Total Expense | \$47,094.50 |
| Ending Ckg Acct Balance | \$72,039.68 |
| Net Change from 2021 | \$8,524.98 |

*** Income in 2022 as of 12/31/22**

| INCOME | Contrib Indiv | Contrib Member | Contrib Found | Contrib Non Profit | Contrib In Kind Goods | Contrib In Kind Svc | Contrib Corp | Gov Reimb |
|---------------------|--------------------|----------------|---------------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|--------------|-----------|
| 2022 INC BY SOURCE | \$1,725.00 | \$43,514.24 | \$2,596.80 | \$2,914.63 | \$1,908.69 | \$1,200.00 | \$1,760.12 | \$0.00 |
| 2022 INC BY PERCENT | 3.10% | 78.24% | 4.67% | 5.24% | 3.43% | 2.16% | 3.16% | 0.00% |
| Total Income | \$55,619.48 | | | | | | | |

*** Expense in 2022 as of 12/31/22**

| EXPENSE | 11 Educ Clinics | 12 Educ Facil Trng | 13 Educ Comm Progs | 16 Public Comm | 14 Saplings | 15 Treatment | 51 Gen Admin | 52 Memb & Fund Raising |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|------------------------|
| 2022 EXP BY CATEGORY | \$66.21 | \$586.05 | \$11,041.08 | \$6,733.98 | \$6,819.17 | \$16,979.37 | \$4,065.42 | \$803.22 |
| 2022 EXP BY PERCENT | 0.14% | 1.24% | 23.44% | 14.30% | 14.48% | 36.05% | 8.63% | 1.71% |
| Total Expense | \$47,094.50 | | | | | | | |
| Current Ckg Acct Balance | \$72,039.68 | | | | | | | |

*** Spending Ratio in 2022:** 39.13% Education, 50.53% Charitable Service, 10.34% Admin.

Cumulative Spending Ratio: 43.27% Education, 47.94 % Charitable Service, 8.79% Admin.

*** Report on Annual Membership Appeal as of 12/31/22:** 136 donations totaling \$18,727 compared to 130 donations totaling \$17,235 last year.

*** Other grants and dedicated funds on hand:**

| | | |
|------------------------------|----------------|--|
| Gheesling UGA Scholarship | \$2,000 | 3 Scholarships awarded @ \$1000, \$875 donated |
| Private donation, Rabun | \$1,961 | \$8,037 used for treatment on lake Seed & Tugaloo (\$750 used for 50 saplings for Billy Goat Island) |
| Lake Rabun Foundation | \$1,255 | for use in Rabun County |
| Lake Burton Civic Assoc | \$1,824 | for use in Rabun County |
| Laurel Ridge | \$391 | \$1,861 used for treatment projects 2016 - 2018 |
| Rock Creek Project | \$162 | \$1,638 used in 2022 |
| TOTAL DEDICATED FUNDS | \$7,593 | |

*** Report on 2022 Budget vs Actual as of 12/31/22**

| BUDGET INCOME | ACTUAL INCOME | DIFF |
|---------------|---------------|----------|
| \$37,500 | \$55,619 | \$18,119 |

| BUDGET EXPENSE | ACTUAL EXPENSE | DIFF |
|----------------|----------------|----------|
| \$36,895 | \$47,095 | \$10,200 |

2023 Budget

The 2023 budget proposal was reviewed. Major changes to the 2023 Budget include increase in administrative expense due to addition of a paid employee, as well as overall increase in expense due to inflation. The 2023 budget was approved.

Jim H. noted that all funds are currently kept in a checking account with zero interest rate and proposed moving excess funds to CD or another interest-bearing account. **Jim H., Donna and Buz** will review several different local banks/rates and get back to the group. A motion to transfer \$40,000 to an interest-bearing account was unanimously approved.

Proposed grants to be distributed to UNG and YHC beetle labs.

2023 Annual Membership Appeal

Holly and Donna will finalize and distribute this year's appeal list to Leadership Team members. **Dave** will send materials to Buz. **Buz** will divvy them up and mail packets to each member. Anyone who wants to make additions or change their list should let **Holly** know so the information can be recorded in our contacts information.

Review of USFS Summary Reports and Trees treated 2009-2022

Buz suggested we should consider including diameter of trees treated in our record keeping to better reflect our efforts. **Jim H.** noted it may be beneficial to use these figures in our annual appeal letter or advertising information.

2023 License Renewal

Live Plant License, County Business License, and Corporate registration with GA SOS were renewed 1/3/2023.

Fairs/Festivals

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|
| Bear-on-the-Square | Sat., Apr. 15 & Sun., Apr. 16 | Dahlonega | BETTY to book |
| Trout & Outdoor Adventures | Sat., Apr. 29 | Blue Ridge | BETTY to book |
| UNG Earth Day | Wed., Apr. 19 | Gainesville | HOLLY |
| Blue Ridge Arts in the Park | Sat., May 27 & Sun., May 28 | Blue Ridge | BETTY to book |
| LRA Memorial Day Meeting | Sun., May 28 | Lakemont | BUZ to book |
| Blairsville Farmers Market | June (exact date TBD in March) | Blairsville | HOLLY to book |
| Canton Farmers Market | June/July | Canton | HOLLY to book |
| LRA Labor Day Meeting | Sun., Sept. 3 | Lakemont | BUZ to book |
| Trail Fest | TBD (Sept. 16?) | Dahlonega | BETTY to book |
| Foxfire Mountaineer Festival | TBD (Oct 7?) | Clayton | BUZ to book |
| Marble Festival | TBD (Oct 7 & 8?) | Jasper | JIM H. to book |
| Georgia Mountains Beer Fest | DISCONTINUED??? | Ball Ground | |
| Boy Scouts Conservation Weekend | TBD (Nov 11?) | Blairsville | ELLIOTT S. to book |

Education

| Month | Course | Location | Class Date/Time | Notes |
|----------|-------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| February | Clinic | Fannin & Gilmer & Union & Murray | Saturday, February 25th | Fire & Ice Festival 2/18 |
| March | Facilitator | Fannin & Gilmer & Union & Murray | Saturday, March 25th | No substantial events in these counties in March |
| April | Clinic | Towns & Rabun & Habersham | Saturday, April 15th | Rhododendron Festival 5 weekends, beginning 4/14; Trout Festival(Fannin) 4/29 |
| May | Facilitator | Towns & Rabun & Habersham | Saturday, May 20th | Rhododendron Festival 5 weekends, beginning 4/14 |
| June | Clinic | Pickens & Cherokee & Dawson | Saturday, June 17th | No substantial events in these counties in June |

| | | | | |
|-----------|-------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| July | Facilitator | Pickens & Cherokee & Dawson | Saturday, July 15th | Independence Day Weekend 7/1 |
| August | Clinic | Lumpkin & White & Hall | Saturday, August 19th | No substantial events in these counties in August |
| September | Facilitator | Lumpkin & White & Hall | Saturday, September 23rd | Labor Day 9/5 Trail Fest 9/16-17 |
| October | Clinic | Dade & Walker & Whitfield | Saturday, October 21st | Largest Fall festivals fall on the first two weekends of the month. |
| November | Facilitator | Dade & Walker & Whitfield | Saturday, November 11th | No substantial events in these counties on this date. Thanksgiving 11/23 |

Clinic courses will still be virtual, and Facilitator training will be held in person.

| DATE | CONTACT | EVENT |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|--|
| 2/7/23 | Rasmussen, Margaret | SGH presentation for Redbud Project in Gainesville -- Donna |
| 3/9/23 | McKee, Jacquelin | UNG Peaks Program in Blue Ridge -- Holly |
| 3/14/23-3/16/23 | Arp, Tori tarp@fannin.k12.ga.us | Hemlock Lesson & treatment project with Fannin 6th Grade Exploratory students in Blue Ridge -- Donna & J. T. Kieffer |
| 4/1/23 | Kelly, Patrick | Customized training & treatment project for Lula Lake staff in Lookout Mountain, GA – Donna, Holly, Jimmy Stewart |

Jim W. and Jon J. will consider the education schedule when setting treatment project dates, to hopefully coordinate treatments in areas that have recently hosted a Facilitator training.

Treatment

Holly, Jim W., Jon J. to meet with USFS Mike Starbuck and crew February 2 at 11:00 at Rabun USFS office to plan treatment schedule for Blue Ridge and Chattooga river Districts. Holly will speak with William Hunter January 20 to discuss treatment projects on Conasauga Ranger District.

A Boy Scout troop out of Atlanta requested a treatment project February 18th in Rabun County. We originally hoped to have them plant trees on Billy Goat Island, but coordination of that project may require more time due to the nature of the project and permissions required. Holly will reach back out to USFS, and request an easy access project on their list for the weekend of Feb 18th/19th.

Buz will reach back out to William Cross with the Boy Scouts to see if they have availability on a later date.

We have a treatment request from Smithgall Woods. Donna will provide the information for Holly to follow up.

Jim W. said we will need to follow-up the trees treated with Safari at Woodruff this November to retreat with Imidacloprid within the year.

Donna mentioned Laurel Ridge. Derrick initiated a project in that area a few years ago, using funds from SGH and the neighborhood. There is \$390 left allocated for that project, and we can add more if needed. Derrick to follow up.

Saplings

Anyone with information concerning proposed major development on land that has hemlock trees is requested to contact Holly with the information. We hope to dig in some of these areas before the land is cleared. We are able to offer a letter to the developer with the estimated value of saplings that can be considered a donation on their tax records.

Buz noted one property in Rabun still has around 600 very small saplings the owner is willing to donate. As the owner is also a Girl Scout leader, we may be able to coordinate a dig with a Girl Scout troop.

Goal for 2023 sapling planting: 150 trees.

Injector Repair

Jon J., Jim W., and Holly trained with Donna to repair our own injectors on treatment projects. We need a dedicated repair person for when we are mailed injectors from outside of the organization. Donna currently has 5 injectors in need of repair on her bench. **Elliott and Derrick** expressed interest at one point. **Holly** will touch base to see if they are still interested.

2023 MEETING DATES

Sunday, April 23

Sunday, July 16

Sunday, October 8 or 15

Starting at 1:00 p.m.

Dahlonega Chamber of Commerce

342 Hill Street, Dahlonega