

4-8-18 Meeting Notes 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, Buz Stone, Chris Curtin, Chris Disser, Darrell Sheffield, Dave Teffeteller, David & Cindy Wasileski, Derrick Morris, Elliott & Brenda Segall, John Shearouse, Kim Wood, and Donna Shearer.

BOARD MATTERS

* THANKS for a good first quarter!

* Announcement re departure of Treasurer, Sarah Heath – She is moving out of state.

2018 STRATEGIES & ACTIVITIES

* Progress report as of 3/31/18. Will be posted on [About Us](#) page of web site.

* Calendar of Events for 2018 (see [Schedule of Events](#) page of web site). Discussed participation in various events and got sign-ups.

Education

* Report on classes/presentations held to date (see Progress Report)

* Upcoming Clinic/Fac classes – See Schedule of Events page of web site. KIM will book locations for all classes in Georgia. DONNA & DAVE will advertise classes in Georgia. Locations and advertising for classes in Walhalla SC and Hayesville NC will be handled by sponsors.

* Upcoming presentations:

Soque River Watershed Association	May 17	Chris Disser
Len Foote Hike Inn	date tbd	Chris Disser

Public Communications

* Publicity re events (all on Facebook and web site) plus the following:

-- 2/16/18 Arbor Day – Letter to editor “Time to Tackle Hemlock Trouble”

-- 3/3/18 Clinic & Fac Trng in White County

-- 3/3/18 Hemlock treatment project at Tallulah River Campground, Rabun County, including letter to editor “Volunteers needed to help save Rabun hemlocks”

-- 3/13/18 Hemlock treatment project at Yonah Preserve, White County, including follow-up article w/photo “Volunteers work to save hemlocks in Yonah Preserve”

-- 4/14/18 Hemlock treatment project at Tate Branch & Sandy Bottom Campgrounds, Towns County, including letter to editor “A good deed this spring can benefit years to come”

-- DAVE will check into placing articles or notices in Amicalola EMC Magazine.

* Signage – DAVE & BOB will be in touch with appropriate personnel at City of Clayton for Bleckley Hemlocks sign, Foxfire for trailside sign, City of Clarkesville for historic cemetery sign, and Justin Ellis for UNG field insectary sign. The target for completing production is July 15.

* Awareness postcards – DAVE printed 1,000 new postcards, and KIM, DAVID & CINDY sent them out in Fannin County, using databases acquired from the Tax Assessors office. Only a few were returned for “unable to deliver.” Senders will attempt to redirect the returned cards and will report UTD addresses to tax assessor.

* Rack cards – DAVID & CINDY WASILESKI placed rack cards at Hightower Vineyards and Walasi-Yi Interpretive Center on Blood Mountain. BRENDA SEGALL placed rack cards at other wineries; will provide us a list. EVERYONE will continue to place rack cards wherever they can. DONNA will order additional acrylic card holders. We also always have rack cards in our festival booths and other educational events.

- * Smithgall Woods hemlock video – They prepared a short video presentation, narrated by SGH, about the hemlock problem, current solutions, and ways people can help. It will be posted in the General Information section of the [Resources](#) page of our web site. Smithgall Woods also designed a tall pull-up poster on the subject; DONNA will try to get a copy or link to it.
- * Other logo awareness -- DAVE will look into small SGH stickers for diameter tapes and bumper stickers or windshield decals. He will get more window posters and Christmas cards produced when there's a sale. ALL TEAM MEMBERS encouraged to acquire a SGH tee shirt from Cafe Press to wear at service/educational events. Web site is <https://www.cafepress.com/savegeorgiashemlocks>. DONNA will add photos to [How You Can Help](#) page of our web site.
- * Web site and email – Transitioning to new host; cannot update web site until migration is complete, probably will be finalized during the week of April 9. Still working on email privacy issues, but KIM and DONNA have figured a temporary work-around. DERRICK and DONNA will test again this coming Tuesday to be sure.

Treatment

- * Report on projects to date (see Progress Report)
- * Upcoming treatment projects in Chattooga District (see Schedule of Events page of web site). KIM will recruit volunteers. DAVE & DONNA will publicize.
- * Treatment projects to be scheduled:
 - Cartecay Tract continuation (DAVE, FRANK, CHRIS) with Mountain Stewards, BMTA, TU, and Aerial Perspective drone service. DAVE has gate key and will check with Jim Sullivan re beetle release areas to avoid.
 - SGH hemlock treatment at Holly Creek Preserve with Nature Conservancy (FRANK)
 - SGH hemlock treatment projects this fall in Blue Ridge & Conasauga districts (FRANK)
 - SGH hemlock treatment at DNR Unicoi State Park near Helen (BOB)
 - SGH hemlock treatment at YMCA Camp High Harbour in Clayton (BOB)
 - SGH hemlock treatment at Hambidge Center in Rabun County ??? (BUZ)
- * Eagle Scout projects: ELLIOTT SEGALL volunteered to serve as advisor/liaison for Eagle Scout projects with SGH. We have one Eagle candidate currently requesting a project; DONNA will forward his workbook to ELLIOTT.
- * SGH-BMTA Hike & Help the Hemlocks: We may be able to schedule one of the Cartecay Tract work days for this event. DONNA has made preliminary calls to BMTA and will make calls to TU as well. DAVE will contact Mountain Stewards in hopes of making it a 4-way partnership event.
- * Injectors repairs and parts – 5 injectors repaired so far. More buffer springs, stems & smooth bolts are on order.
- * Chemical costs: Just FYI -- If a SGH person does a charitable hemlock treatment project for/with a client and the client offers to reimburse us for the chemical cost, here are the guidelines:
 - Safari @ \$6.56/oz
 - Imid 2F @ \$0.75/oz
 - Imid 75 @ \$10/pkt.

Saplings

- * Report on sapling rescues to date (see Progress Report)
- * Upcoming sapling projects to be scheduled:
 - CHRIS C & DONNA will schedule projects and recruit volunteers for 4 known locations in Gilmer and 3 in Lumpkin.
 - CHRIS D is looking into an additional rescue site in Union County and possibly a seedling nursery opportunity at Woody Gap School.
 - BUZ & JOHN will do maintenance on saplings in their custody.
 - BUZ will check on rescue project at Tallulah Gorge State Park. DONNA will send him the contact info.

- * Hemlock restoration on trout streams: JOHN acquired 100 large saplings for us at a very good price and brought 20 of them to Dahlenega for immediate use in upcoming events. DONNA has made preliminary calls to USFS re possible locations for hemlock restoration projects on week days this fall.
- * Carolina hemlocks: DONNA needs to schedule a day for potting seedlings and planting seeds in pots. Anybody want to help?

Hemlock Camp Meeting / Annual Meeting

- * Date & time – Sunday, June 24, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- * Place – The large lakeside pavilion at Lake Winfield Scott, Suches has been reserved & paid.
- * Food – Meat will be catered by Smokin’ Gold BBQ, drinks and service items to be provided by SGH, potluck sides brought by everyone.
- * Music – Ed Dowling, acoustic guitarist.
- * Keynote speaker – Dr. Ben Smith of N. C. State will bring us a message on genetic conservation / resistance; “The quest for adelgid-resistant hemlocks.”
- * Friends Circle – Rather than a formal Friends Circle, groups and individuals will be invited to bring any conservation-themed educational/publicity materials they want to share and can put them on tables/benches around the pavilion.
- * Activities – Free time will be limited, but possibly can have short hike around the lake and/or fly-casting activity.
- * Publicity, invitations – DONNA has sent out a Save the Date email to all our email lists. DAVE is preparing the flyer/poster and will have 500 printed, probably by April 15. We will coordinate additional publicity through Facebook, newspapers and postings through partner organizations and public agencies.
- * Volunteers – KIM & DONNA will recruit volunteers for various jobs. ELLIOTT will check to see if we can recruit volunteers from Boy Scouts, and DAVE will check for same at Dalton State.
- * Admission – Reservations are required. KIM will handle registrations and confirmations (including window passes for free entrance). Cost will be a flat \$5 per person, regardless of membership status, payable at the event.
- * Other features – hemlock-related arts and crafts, lots more raffle/sale items (hopefully donated)

2018 FINANCIAL MATTERS

- * Financial summary as of 3/31/18
- * Report on 2018 annual appeal as of 4/6/18
- * Report on pendants sold as of 3/31/18
- * Status of grants as of 3/31/18
- * Annual tax filing for FY 2017 due 4/17/18

2018 SGH MEETING DATES

- * Sunday, July 15 and November 4

RETIREMENT PARTY FOR JIM WENTWORTH

- Friday, April 27. RSVP to Sherry Payne 706-745-6928