



Save Georgia's Hemlocks

7/8/12 Meeting Notes

A quarterly meeting of Save Georgia's Hemlocks Board and the Annual Meeting were held on Sunday, July 8, 2012 at Unicoi State Park near Helen, GA. In attendance at the Board Meeting: Donna Shearer, Bob Pledger, Dave Teffeteller, Frank and Linda Gheesling. 28 members and friends attended the Annual Meeting.

Board matters –

- * Chairman Donna Shearer, Vice Chairman Bob Pledger, Board Members Dave Teffeteller, Frank Gheesling, and Bruce Granger will continue on the board for another year.
- * Board member Doug Richey and Treasurer Bonnie Mandel are leaving with our sincere thanks for their service.
- * Susan Chapman of Habersham County was nominated and confirmed as our new Secretary.
- * Buz Stone of Rabun County was nominated as a new Board Member, approved by the Board, and confirmed by all present at the Annual Meeting.
- * There is still one Board position open, and we're seeking a new Treasurer.

Strategies and other activities –

- * Progress report of accomplishments through end of 2nd quarter (ending May 31, 2012) was presented and is posted on the [About Us](#) page of our web site.
- * During the rest of the summer, we'll be scheduling presentation to various community groups for the fall: POAs, Boards of Realtors, Master Gardeners, schools, and others.
- * A number of future events are already scheduled:

Date	Event
7/10	Brief SGH presentation to Sky Valley POA Board in Rabun County
9/2	Brief SGH presentation to Lake Rabun Association at their Labor Day meeting
9/5	SGH presentation to Ellijay Garden Club in Gilmer County
9/15	Assistance to Tennessee Hemlock Conservation Partnership in preparation for their Private Landowners HWA Workshop
9/2	
	SGH fall board meeting
9/29	Hike & Help the Hemlocks in Stover Creek & Chester Creek HCAs in Fannin County
10/6	SGH information booth at Foxfire Mountaineer Festival in Clayton
10/13 & 10/14	SGH information booth at Apple Festival in Ellijay
11/10	Hemlock treatment project in Helton Creek HCA

- * Reports were presented on our two completed hemlock treatment projects with the USFS, discussions with the DNR concerning possibly treating hemlocks in the Cartecay Wildlife Management Area, assistance to Trout Unlimited with their Trout Adventure Trail, and joint projects with the Benton MacKaye Trail Association and Go Outdoors USA.
- * Thanks to engineer Klaus Dern, nine SGH and GFC Kioritz soil injectors have been repaired. As soon as we can accumulate another nine needing repair, we can proceed with more. All injector owners who are known to us will be contacted concerning this service.
- * Printed materials prepared by Dave Teffeteller: New rack cards were given to Board Members and others for distribution within our communities. Three new freestanding banners and two tabletop posters were shown that will be used in future information booths and presentations. We plan to also develop three hanging posters.
- * Many updates have been made to the web site since last quarter:
 - Chemical Controls page – new list of economical liquid Imidacloprid products.
 - Product Labels & MSDS page – addition of liquid Imidacloprid products.
 - Hemlock Help page – new maps of HWA spread and SGH program counties.
 - Contacts page – restored list of qualified professionals.
 - Resources page – updated Hemlock FAQs, Info for Property Owners, Program Description, Quick Reference Dosing Card, Chemical-Contacts-Sources, Helping on Public Lands, Neighborhood Hemlock Help Planning Guide, Facilitator Job Description; new Introduction to Treating Hemlocks to be used with new Application Instructions for each type of product and each application method.

- Facilitators page – updated Facilitator Contact Lists, Letter to Retailers, Maintaining a Kioritz Soil Injector; new Becoming a Pesticide Professional, Caution Sign, Chemical Calculator, Facilitator Visit Checklist, Quick Reference Infestation Card, Volunteer Project Report, set of Application Instructions for Facilitators.

Planning for Hike and Help the Hemlocks –

- * Date is Saturday, September 29. Will advertise heavily in advance.
- * Location will be Stover Creek and Chester Creek HCAs near Three Forks in Fannin County. Bruce will lead an advance scouting trip.
- * Will need treatment teams with leaders and will encourage all new Facilitators to participate. Will also need hike leaders.
- * We'll provide injectors, work kits and supplies; USFS will provide leadership for treatment teams and chemicals.
- * Schedule: Treaters will meet at 10 for brief orientation and then work in teams to treat 60 trees in each of two sites. Hike will come at noon, have a brief orientation, and then hike to Long Creek Falls where they'll be joined by the treaters for a picnic lunch. Program will include brief presentations from Jim Wentworth (USFS), Mark Dalusky (GUA), Barry Henson (GOU), and others.
- * Will need to arrange for porta-john and wash station.

Budget –

- * Report on financial condition through end of 2nd quarter 2012 was presented and is included in the 2nd quarter progress report posted on the [About Us](#) page of our web site. We are within our budget for all programs.
- * We have received an unexpected gift of \$1500 from the Lake Rabun Fund, thanks to Buz Stone.
- * Funding for the possible Cartecay WMA project was discussed briefly and will need further consideration including meeting(s) with Chuck Waters of the DNR, a scoping project, and SGH Board approval.
- * Dave indicated there is a possibility of obtaining a grant from the Nature Conservancy to fund some of our strategic initiatives.
- * The Board voted to change our Bylaws to require only one signature on checks because of the difficulty of coordinating two signatures from geographically separate signatories.

Next Board Meeting –

Saturday, September 29 at 9 a.m. immediately before our Hike and Help the Hemlocks.

Annual Meeting –

- * Board/Officer elections were held by paper ballot, and the slate presented was unanimously approved by those present.
- * Donna gave a slide presentation covering the current spread of HWA, counties served by our Hemlock Help program, Clinics and Facilitator Training, outreach to and by youth, participation in fairs and festivals, presentations to POAs and other groups, charitable service to the community, helping the USFS, good news from property owners, injector repairs by Klaus Dern, and more opportunities for members and friends to help.
- * Updates were provided by Jim Wentworth concerning conditions and efforts in the National Forest and Paul Arnold concerning the progress of biological controls.
- * Carl Riggs of Trout Unlimited Blue Ridge presented an overview of their Trout Adventure Trail currently being implemented.
- * Donna presented a preview of our Hike for Help the Hemlocks event and invited everyone to participate.