



Save Georgia's Hemlocks

9/29/12 Meeting Notes

A quarterly meeting of Save Georgia's Hemlocks Board was held on Saturday, September 29, 2012 at Three Forks near Blue Ridge, GA. In attendance at the Board meeting: Donna Shearer, Bob Pledger, Dave Teffeteller, Bruce Granger, Frank and Linda Gheesling, Chris Curtin, Paul NeeSmith, and Betty Larsen. Susan Chapman and Buz Stone were unable to attend.

Board matters

- *Chris Curtin shared her interest in, and qualification for, serving on our Board. She was unanimously approved by all Board members present.
- * Search for Treasurer will continue.
- * Donna Shearer was nominated by Bob Pledger and Ralph Heller for the 2012 Cox Conserves Heroes award and is one of three finalists. Winner will be selected by on-line vote Oct 1 – 29, with finalists receiving award funds of \$2,500 and winner receiving \$10,000 for their nonprofit organization. Publicity strategy will be to spread the word and ask for votes by e-mail, facebook, web sites, newspapers, remaining festivals, and flyers. Initial contact week of Oct 1, follow-up weeks of Oct 15 and 22.
 - Dave Teffeteller & Marge Heller – press releases to north Georgia newspapers; press releases and facebook postings to environmental, recreational, and conservation orgs
 - Bob Pledger – our SGH e-mail interest lists
 - Donna Shearer – flyers at upcoming festivals
 - All Board members – their own lists of family, friends, business & organizational contacts, etc.

Strategies and other activities

- * Progress report of accomplishments through end of September 2012 was presented and is posted on the [About Us](#) page of our web site.
- * **Service – Injector Repair:** We've identified 5 that need repair (3 for GFC, 1 for USFS, 1 for Patrick Marcellino); need 4 more to make full use of steel tubing purchase.
- * **Service – Hemlock Treatment Projects:** We have the following projects scheduled.

Date	Event
10/27	Imidacloprid treatment of Foxfire trees that were treated with Safari last fall or very large trees that need year 2 Imidacloprid treatment. Volunteers will be Bob Pledger, Buz Stone, Mike & John Touchstone, and Donna Shearer. Could use 1 more helper.
11/10	Hemlock treatment project in Helton Creek HCA. Volunteers needed.

- * **Service – Agreement with DNR:** Discussion are ongoing with Chuck Waters concerning an agreement between DNR and SGH for treatment of hemlocks on Wildlife Management Areas, specifically the Cartecay WMA in Gilmer County. Donna will follow up with Chuck and set the next meeting to map out a scoping project, treatment sites, schedule, and budget for Board approval.
- * **Service – Partnerships:** We have provided mentoring to the Tennessee Hemlock Conservation Partnership in preparation for their first HWA Workshop for Private Landowners that was held September 15. We are partnering with Trout Unlimited to prepare hemlock-related educational materials for their Trout Adventure Trail initiative. We have partnered with the Boy Scouts to do hemlock-related service projects and will actively seek to do more of this.
- * **Education – Schools:** Hemlock lessons for schools will resume in spring, 2013.
- * **Education – Community Groups:** Donna and Bruce will prepare a brief hemlock information piece and actively seek invitations to address boards of realtors and other real estate meetings. All Board members will continue to identify POAs in each county and offer presentations and/or training. We will continue to offer presentations and joint projects to Master Gardeners, Master Naturalists, and other environmental, conservation, and recreational organizations.
- * **Education – Outreach at Fairs & Festivals:** Focus will be on providing information and gaining new members and volunteers. We have the following events scheduled.

Date	Event
10/6	SGH information booth at Foxfire Mountaineer Festival in Clayton. Volunteers will be Bob Pledger, Buz Stone, Donna Shearer, Ruddy Deas, Joel Hitt, Mike & John Touchstone.
10/13 & 10/14	SGH information booth at Apple Festival in Ellijay. Volunteers will be Frank & Linda Gheesling, Don Roberts, Ralph & Marge Heller, Mike Carpenter, Jim & Marty Hamby, Clyde & Bev Lightfoot, and Bruce Granger. Could use a few more helpers.

Facilitator matters

- * Chris Kafsky has agreed to be the Lead Facilitator for Habersham County. Thanks, Chris!
- * We still need Lead Facilitators for Towns, Union, Fannin, Whitfield, Dawson, and Murray. Frank Gheesling has been acting LF for Murray.
- * Facilitator training workshops will resume in February, 2013.
- * Expectation will be implemented that all Facilitators should participate in at least one major service project per year.
- * Discussion is ongoing about how best to conduct annual refresher training.
- * Mark Dalusky has provided new advice concerning soil injection which will be included in the fall *Hemlock Happenings* newsletter.
- * Information on fungal pests of hemlocks will be included in the fall *Hemlock Happenings* newsletter.
- * Bob Pledger will undertake a hands-on evaluation of the Nu-Arbor 1-Two soil injector regarding its usefulness in various hemlock treatment settings.

Budget

- * Financial report through end of September 2012 was presented and is included in the progress report on the [About Us](#) page of our web site.
- * We are within our budget on all categories.
- * We will run an ad in the Rabun Count newspaper in November to seek nonprofits that need charitable help treating their hemlocks and will use the dedicated funds from the Lake Rabun Foundation grant.
- * As we will have an unanticipated \$2,500 (and possibly \$10,000) coming from the Cox award, we need to decide how best to use those funds in ways that are consistent with our mission statement.
- * Once the Cartecay WMA scoping project is completed, action is needed to decide what funding, if any, we can contribute to it.
- * Action is needed to pursue a grant from the Nature Conservancy to fund some of our strategic initiatives. Dave will communicate the timeframe and what info is needed.
- * Dave will prepare a year-end letter for membership building and fund raising which each Board member will distribute to 25 personal contacts immediately after Thanksgiving.

Next Board Meeting

Sunday, January 13. 1 – 4 p.m. Location tbd.