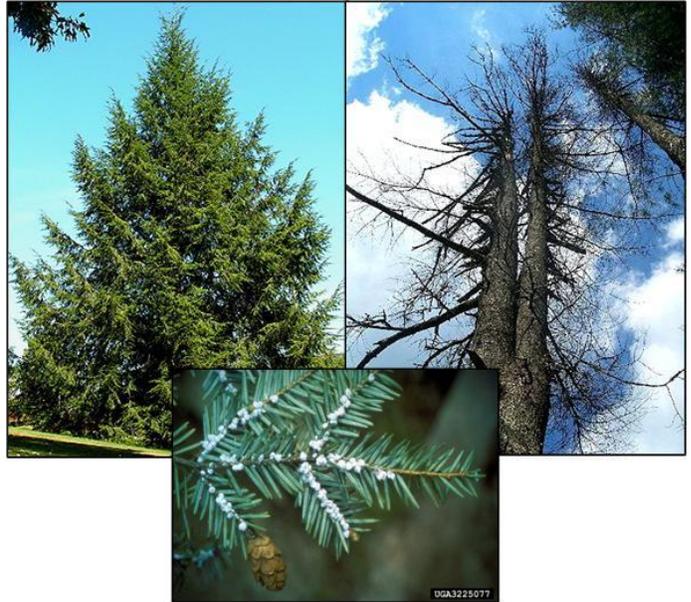


## Your Lake Rabun Neighbors Are Saving Hemlocks! “Are You?”

I am pleased to see and learn that many of our neighbors are saving their hemlocks. I get many unsolicited, very positive comments everywhere I go, confirming that awareness of the hemlock problem around our lake is at a high level and that the recommended treatments are really making a noticeable difference.

In late 2011 Georgia Power Company granted access and permission to LRA to treat hemlocks on their unoccupied property surrounding Lake Rabun. As quickly as possible, a plan was devised and two of your trained LRA Hemlock Facilitators and two volunteers began hemlock treatments on the unoccupied property along the shoreline of the “Narrows”. The infestation is easily visible here and this area would not otherwise be treated. About 25% of the “Narrows” area was treated by this small group of four, before winter weather precluded any further treatments.

Due to the level of infestation in the “Narrows”, the more aggressive chemical, Safari, was required to treat such large and/or sick hemlocks, particularly on the rough, overgrown, rocky, steep terrain in which they grow. A basal trunk spray is the only practical method of application in situations like this. Safari is a highly effective, stronger chemical and basal trunk spray application can be a do-it-yourself project, just as the soil injection application.



In the spring of 2012, the hemlock treatment project was restarted as soon as the weather permitted. A larger group, eighteen in number, of trained Lake Rabun Hemlock Facilitators and other volunteers came together to treat additional hemlocks along the “Narrows” shoreline. The treatment of approximately 80% of the hemlocks in this area was completed. An additional project work day was scheduled for four very committed volunteers who brought the project to a conclusion during the first week of April. These treatments cannot bring back the lower dead limbs or dead trees, but will help to restore the lush green color and density of the needles on the treated hemlocks which precludes additional hemlocks from dying, thus preserving the natural beauty of this area.



These trained hemlock facilitators and volunteers have given freely of their time and “significant effort” to benefit all of us in preserving the lake we know, love and enjoy. **Have you looked at your hemlocks? Have you treated or had your hemlocks treated?** The infestation is extremely heavy this spring and infested hemlocks will be significantly impacted as will healthy, but untreated hemlocks. Take action today to preserve your untreated hemlocks to preserve the beauty of your property as well as the overall beauty of our lake. Don't let your property become the example of a neighbor who did not act.

For those of you who desire help, remember that the Lake Rabun Association has trained hemlock facilitators that are available to provide free on-site consultations to inspect your hemlocks and explain your treatment choices. Check the LRA web site at [www.lakerabun.org](http://www.lakerabun.org) under the Hemlock Program tab for contact information for Bob Pledger, Buz Stone, Dick Simms, George Longino, Hank Roper, Louis Belline and Ruddy Deas, our lake facilitators.

Paraphrasing an adage, "It takes a community to save our hemlocks...and the beauty of our lake." A stalwart, proactive group of our lake community has taken action, both on their own respective properties as well as unoccupied Georgia Power property. **Are you doing your part?**

Bob Pledger, LRA Hemlock Program Coordinator