

**Press Release – March 7, 2010**

## **HELP IS HERE FOR TENNESSEE HEMLOCKS!**

The Hemlocks in east Tennessee are being threatened by a spreading infestation of the Hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA), an invasive insect native to Asia with no local natural predator. Hemlock stands are among the only old growth forests in the east and are of great importance to wildlife, water quality, local economy, and basic quality of life.

The bad news is that if appropriate action is not taken soon, almost all of these magnificent trees will die within the next 10 years. The good news is that SAVE GEORGIA'S HEMLOCKS, a nonprofit organization, is mentoring several local sponsoring agencies in the southeast Tennessee area, enabling them to offer a new program of education and charitable service to help homeowners manage the health of their Hemlocks against the woolly adelgid.



The Hemlock Help for Homeowners program focuses on enhancing public awareness of the Hemlock woolly adelgid problem and the practical solutions that are available and enabling homeowners to save the Hemlocks on their own property for the lowest possible cost. Designed to operate as a no-cost or low-cost community service, it is now available in southeast Tennessee where the HWA is a serious threat.

The public is invited to a free Hemlock Help Clinic sponsored by the BENTON MACKAYE TRAIL ASSOCIATION ([www.bmta.org](http://www.bmta.org)), the Chattanooga Nature Center, Reflection Riding, and the Lookout Mountain Conservancy in conjunction with SAVE GEORGIA'S HEMLOCKS on Saturday, April 10th at the Chattanooga Nature Center auditorium. The Clinic will inform homeowners about the threat to our Hemlocks and how to recognize it, the options for saving these valuable trees, and the help that is available through the Hemlock Help for Homeowners program. Individuals interested in a do-it-yourself option can get information on borrowing a soil injector, purchasing the treatment products economically, and performing the treatment procedure. For those who prefer to contract with a licensed professional to treat their trees, information will be provided on qualified local companies specializing in saving Hemlocks along with their average rate structure.

The presentation will begin at 1:00 p.m. and last until about 2:30 p.m. and will be followed by a 3-hour Facilitator training program for individuals interested in learning how to help their neighborhoods get started to save their Hemlocks. For more information and to preregister, contact Christine Bock at the Tennessee Aquarium at (423) 785-4024 or by email at [cjb@tennis.org](mailto:cjb@tennis.org).

If you have Hemlocks, they may be in danger. The BENTON MACKAYE TRAIL ASSOCIATION and the local Chattanooga agencies encourage you to come early, visit the plant sale at Reflection Riding, and then attend the Hemlock Help Clinic or call the Hemlock Help Line (phone number to be announced at the meeting). Please don't wait.