

June, 2010

PEACEFUL VALLEY NEWSLETTER



THE HEMLOCK CONNECTION, Gene DiBartolo

We had an interesting seminar the other day. About half dozen of us met at the entranceway to learn more about the disease threatening our beautiful Hemlock trees and what we can do to save them. At Vivian Howard's house, we inspected several trees and found that the one at the entrance to her property is in excellent health but two or three in her woods by the creek had mild to moderate infestation. We then inspected some trees on Joan Rochester's property and found some infestation there. It is obvious that we have varying degrees of Hemlock problem here in Peaceful Valley.

That's the bad news - but there is also good news. If we are alert to the signs of the infestations, we can treat them with no danger to other plants or wildlife (except the material used for treatment should be kept out of water and streams) and control the disease and its spread.

Check the Hemlocks on your property. Look under the branches for small white sacs at the point where the needles are attached to their stems. Their presence indicates an infestation. Our

association president, Doug Richey, has the device needed for injecting the material and those of us in the class have learned how to identify the disease and to treat it. If you suspect a problem, call Doug, Jimmy Bostick, Joan Rochester or Gene DiBartolo for help.

Our thanks go out to Donna Shearer with Lumpkin County Extension Service who shared her extensive knowledge with us and to Doug for offering his treatment system for use by Peaceful Valley Owners.