

Hemlock Help for North Georgia Homeowners

[Community](#), [Local](#) — By [Lisa Gagnon](#) on May 11, 2010 at 1:47 pm

By: **Elaine Owen, Sentinel Editor**



Shearer talks with Fred and JoDee Brandhuber

Save Georgia Hemlocks (SGH) sponsored a Hemlock Help Clinic last month to give homeowners information about the hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) problem, economical steps they can take to save their trees, and the free help that is available through Save Georgia's Hemlocks.

According to forestry experts, hemlocks all over north Georgia are being attacked and killed by the hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA), and the beauty and value of property is being threatened. If aggressive action is not taken soon to address this problem, the results could be devastating and perhaps irreversible.

Donna Shearer, of Save Georgia's Hemlocks, told the group of interested homeowners, "Inspect your hemlocks and see if they're infested with woolly adelgids. The adelgids themselves are almost too tiny to see with the naked eye, but their egg sacs are easily visible, especially in the spring and late fall/winter. They look like the white cottony end of a Q-tip."

Shearer cautioned homeowners that if they saw any adelgids on even one of their trees they should plan to treat all their hemlocks as soon as possible. She also gave the number of the Hemlock Help Line: 706-429-8010 to learn about the treatment options, services available, costs, and resources.

Other options she listed were how to contract with a professional to treat trees, referencing the handout with some qualified local companies along with their contact information and average rate structure. Shearer urged homeowners to shop and compare the services and rates offered by each company.

For homeowners who want to treat their own trees, Shearer presented a slideshow of detailed instructions and urged homeowners to call the Hemlock Help Line for details on assessing the level of HWA infestation, determining the appropriate treatment product and method, measuring their trees, estimating the amount of chemical needed, and learning where to obtain it in the most economical manner.

Basic instructions for treating trees included (referencing the handout provided):

1. Measure the trunk diameter at chest height for all the trees needing treatment and add up for a total.
2. Based on the chart in the treatment instructions, estimate the amount of product needed and purchase it from one of the sources listed on the Contacts page.
3. When the treatment product is in hand, make arrangements to borrow an injector from one of the sources listed on the Contacts page.
4. Treat hemlocks according to the treatment instructions.
5. Clean the injector and return it.

NOTE: When an injector is borrowed, it should come with a copy of the instructions on how to do the treatment and may also provide some brief hands-on training. A deposit may be required which will be refunded when the injector is returned.

More information can be found at <http://www.savegeorgiashemlocks.org/index.htm>.