



TIGHT LINES July 2009 Newsletter of the

Rabun Chapter (522) of Trout Unlimited

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Visit the Rabun TU website: <http://www.rabuntu.com/>

"It is easy to tell tourists from tarpon. Tarpon have a narrow, bony plate inside the mouth on the lower jaw. Tourists, especially in St. Petersburg, have both upper and lower plates." Ed Zern (1947)

Hemlock Help for Homeowners

(Tight Lines, Trout Unlimited - Rabun Chapter, July 2009)

Dear North Georgia Homeowners,

Our native Eastern and Carolina Hemlocks are being attacked and killed by an invasive insect pest, the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid. Hemlocks are found throughout north Georgia, and you may have them on your property. Almost all of these beautiful trees will die in the next few years unless action is taken soon. But good news – help is available!

Save Georgia's Hemlocks, a recently formed volunteer organization, is implementing a new "Hemlock Help for Homeowners" program with the goal of helping north Georgia property owners save as many of your Hemlocks as possible for the lowest possible cost. The program is being launched in Rabun County and will be deployed across North Georgia on a county-by-county basis.

What Can Be Done?

On private land, small trees can be treated with insecticide soap or horticultural oil topically, but these offer no residual protection. At present, the most reliable and cost-effective solution available to homeowners is chemical treatment by soil injection.

We Can Help on Private Land

As a service to our community, Save Georgia's Hemlocks is offering practical, effective measures through the "Hemlock Help for Homeowners" program that can help you save your trees. In each county where the program is implemented, the following services will be available.

- > **Education** – Free Hemlock clinics and informational materials to increase awareness of the HWA problem and the reliable options for saving your Hemlocks.
- > **DIY support** – Soil injectors for borrowing, information on purchasing treatment products, and hands-on training if you want to do the work yourself at the lowest possible cost.
- > **Professional help** – A list of reputable companies that do the work in your area along with their average rates if you prefer to contract with a professional.

> **Information on call** – A network of individuals and organizations that have received specialized training to answer your phone calls, address your questions, will provide accurate up-to-date information, and offer advice for dealing with the Hemlock/HWA problem.

Contact:

Save Georgia's Hemlocks

Donna Shearer

37 Woody Bend, Dahlonega, GA 30533

Hemlock Help Line: 706-429-8010