



*Hemlock Happenings* is an e-newsletter for members, facilitators and other volunteers, donors, and friends of Save Georgia's Hemlocks to share hemlock news, educational information, service opportunities, and announcements. If you'd like to submit an article or calendar item, please send it to the e-mail address below. Readers' feedback is always welcome.

### News from the front

The hemlock woolly adelgid continues its destruction across north Georgia as far west as the Cohutta Wilderness. Northeast counties, the earliest to be infested, are experiencing increased hemlock decline and in some cases mortality. North central counties, some of which reported an apparent decrease of HWA during this past fall and winter possibly due to the prolonged cold weather, are now seeing the reappearance of adelgid eggs sacs. To date, there are no confirmed reports of HWA in the far northwest, and beetle lab manager Cera Jones hopes that the plateau, where there are relatively few hemlocks, will provide a buffer to slow the spread to those counties. As soon as the GA Forestry Commission's 2010 infestation map is available, it will be posted on our [Hemlock Help](#) page.

On public lands, efforts continue to save the hemlocks through predatory beetle releases and chemical treatments. Mark Dalusky, Paul Arnold, and Cera Jones at the UGA, Young Harris, and NGCSU beetle labs respectively report that their ongoing monitoring of previous beetle releases indicates hopeful signs such as regrowth of foliage, decrease of infestation, and beetle survival and reproduction at some sites but not all, and they continue to investigate the reasons behind these results. Weather permitting, beetle releases will resume this month, targeting newly infested areas but also going back to regrowth areas. More information shared by these researchers is posted on our [Biological Controls](#) page.

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## Spring is Prime Time to Treat Hemlocks

Spring is almost here, and it's a good time to inspect your hemlocks for signs of the woolly adelgid infestation. If you see any tiny white cottony egg sacs on the underside of a branch, the tree is infested and should be treated. Now is the best time to do it because of the generally reliable rains and the vigorous uptake habit of the trees in spring. Left untreated, an infested tree will die.

The best option for treating hemlocks is a soil application of 75% Imidacloprid for lightly to moderately infested trees or Safari for heavily infested and even declining ones. Property owners wanting to do the work themselves can find sources to purchase the treatment products and places to borrow a soil injector on the [Contacts](#) page. There is also a list of qualified local companies for those who prefer to contract with a professional.

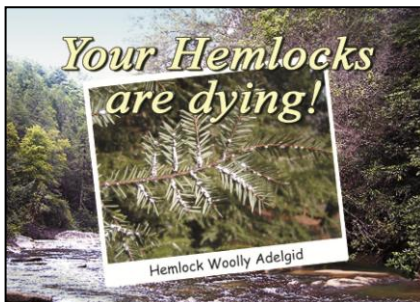
**For more information, call the Hemlock Help Line<sup>SM</sup> 706-429-8010.**

### Hemlock special – week of 3/14

SGH and Windstream Cable TV have prepared a 30-minute program about the hemlock problem and solutions to be broadcast on "Common Cup," hosted by Jim Geer on Channel 4, during the week of March 14. It celebrates the special role of the hemlocks, explains what's killing them, and provides information on what property owners can do to save their trees. Click here for [broadcast times](#). A link to view the program will be posted on our [Resources](#) page soon for anyone who doesn't have access to Windstream Cable TV.

### Awareness campaign

In March, we are launching an educational campaign to increase awareness of the hemlock problem and urge property owners to take action to save their trees. An article is being submitted to the media in HWA-infested counties. Also, in Rabun, Fannin, Gilmer, Union, White, and Habersham Counties, post cards will be sent to property owners along the major waterways as these are a primary hemlock habitat. Visit our [Resources](#) page to see front and back images.



### Free clinics and presentations

We are offering free Hemlock Help Clinics and other presentations for gardeners, environmental and recreational organizations, neighborhood associations, and civic groups. We also have a special lesson designed for school groups. If you know of a group that would like a presentation or if you'd like to schedule one, call 706-429-8010. For a schedule of public clinics, [click here](#).

### Kioritz injectors discontinued

Kioritz soil injectors are no longer available, so if you own one or use one, take good care of it. Here are some tips:

Check it before each use, use the filter when filling the reservoir, and clean it after each use.

Get a spare parts kit for future repairs.

If you don't own a soil injector but want to borrow one, see our [Contacts](#) page for places that lend them. Please handle the injector properly, and report any problems to the owner.

We have learned of one company that indicates they will have a replacement tool soon. When we receive confirmation and a timeline, we'll post the news.

See our [Facilitators](#) page for sources of spare parts kits, maintenance guidelines, new product information, dosing rates reminder, and other updates.



## CALENDAR – Save the Dates!

**July 10** – Our annual **Members Meeting and Picnic** will be held. Location tba.

**October 1** – We will hold our second annual **Hemlock Camp Meeting** at Frog Hollow in Dahlonega.



Frog Hollow – photos by Kenny Simmons

More info on both of these important events will be posted soon. The dates and locations of other SGH activities are posted on our [Hemlock Help](#) page.

## Volunteers Needed

**Friday 3/25 8:15 a.m. – 2 p.m.** – SGH is giving a presentation to three 7<sup>th</sup> grade classes at Gilmer Middle School. Volunteers are needed to help the kids pot tiny seedlings to take home.

**Saturday 4/16 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.** – SGH will have an information/activity booth at Earth Day Kids Fest at the Chattahoochee Nature Center in Roswell. Volunteers are needed to talk with adult visitors about the hemlock problem and help the kids pot tiny seedlings.

**Call 706-429-8010 to volunteer.**

## Environmental heroes

A documentary aired recently on UNC-TV profiling three environmental heroes who have made extraordinary efforts to improve the environment. Among those featured is arborist Will Blozan, who is trying to help control the woolly adelgid. A link to the program is on our [Resources](#) page.

## SGH Board Member Search

As we are growing rapidly and experiencing increased interest all over north Georgia, we have recognized the need for a more robust Board of Directors to lead our efforts, so we're putting out a call to help us find the best talent. Here are the key attributes for Board candidates:

- A heart for the hemlocks and experience in helping them or a willingness to learn
- A commitment to the spirit of charitable service and best practices for nonprofits
- A business or other professional background with a no-nonsense approach to getting things done
- Connections with various communities and/or groups that have goals similar to ours
- Special skills or talents that could enhance SGH's outreach and effectiveness.

**If you're interested or have a recommendation, click here for [more information](#).**

## Charitable service offered

One of our key objectives is to assist property owners, nonprofit organizations, and government agencies to save endangered hemlocks through charitable service projects when there is a compelling financial need and our funds and/or manpower permit. This charitable service may take several forms:

- Placing soil injectors in public locations for borrowing
- Providing on-site consultation to individuals and groups to develop local hemlock health management plans
- Providing financial assistance to purchase hemlock treatment materials
- Supplying healthy hemlock saplings for landscape planting or public reforestation
- Organizing volunteers to help with hemlock planting or treatment projects on private property and (if requested) on public lands



Volunteers planting saplings – photo by Tim Conway

Anyone who would like to request a charitable project is invited to contact any Board Member or call us. Requests are evaluated on the basis of financial need, conditions of the trees or site involved, benefits to the individual or community, ability and willingness of the requestor to contribute or participate in the project in some way, and the availability of SGH resources. All requests and projects are kept confidential.

If you know anyone who needs charitable assistance, please let them know we may be able to help and invite them to contact us. Or if you would like to volunteer to help with a hemlock project, please call **706-429-8010**.

## News from the front, *continued*

At the HWA Symposium held in Asheville in August 2010, we learned more about new approaches being used by the U. S. Forest Service, including aerial application of an adelgid-killing fungus, use of the chemical dinotefuran in high-priority areas where trees are in immediate danger of dying, expanding the number of sites that will be treated, releasing new species of predator beetles as they are evaluated, and allowing the use of the longer-lasting chemical, imidacloprid, on all treatment areas as needed. Research is also being done to develop hemlocks that are resistant to HWA. See our [Resources](#) page for articles and our [HWA Controls](#) page for a link to information on Hemlock Conservation Areas.

As indicated in the lead article, the use of systemic insect controls is still the recommended approach for hemlocks on private property. If you would like help to inspect your trees, assess an infestation, and explain the treatment options, call **706-429-8010** and we'll arrange for a volunteer Facilitator to contact you and set up an on-site visit. We can also help you get started if you want to treat your own trees or help you find a qualified local professional.

## New waterfall walks book

Author and SGH member Mark Morrison has published a new edition of *Waterfall Walks and Drives in Georgia, Alabama and Tennessee*.



In addition to new and updated maps, directions, and photographs, it contains a moving tribute to the hemlock and an urgent plea for its preservation. Distribution arrangements are in process. In the meantime, inquiries may be addressed to Mark by e-mail at [waterfallwalks@comcast.net](mailto:waterfallwalks@comcast.net).

## Loss of a friend

William A. Strickland of Clarkesville passed away on Jan. 24, 2011 at his home. He was 63. Called "Dub" by his friends, he was a frequent contributor to the White County News, owner of Wild Flyers birding supplies, and a volunteer Facilitator with Save Georgia's Hemlocks. We extend our sincere condolences to his wife, Wanda. He will be greatly missed.

