

Notes for 1-9-2022 SGH Board Meeting

This meeting for Board Members, Officers, and Program Managers was conducted via ZOOM on Sunday, Jan. 9, 2022 starting at 1:00 p.m. Members in attendance were Betty Larsen, Bob Pledger, Buz Stone, Chris Curtin, Darrell Sheffield, Dave Teffeteller, Derrick Morris, Donna Shearer, Holly Cochran, Jim Wentworth, Jon Jones, Nick Gardner, and Todd Jackson. John Shearouse and Jody Webb were unable to attend. Separate meetings will be scheduled in January for Lead Facilitators (Wed., Jan 12), Instructors, and Scout Liaisons.

BOARD MATTERS

Buz Stone called the meeting to order and took roll. He called for approval of the minutes from our 10-13-21 meeting and today's meeting agenda; they were both approved.

- * **THANKS** for a very productive 2021 in spite of the difficulties presented by the *Coronavirus* pandemic.
- * **Review of SGH Bylaws** as needed and signing. The Bylaws were amended and verbally approved at our 7-7-21 meeting but not signed then. Nick Gardner created a HelloSign document for Board Members and Officers to use for electronically signing the Bylaws.
- * **Signing of Annual Acknowledgment** by all Board Members, Officers, and Program Managers. This is an annual requirement established by the Board to ensure that all decision makers are aware of and in compliance with our governing documents. Nick created a HelloSign document for Leadership Team members to use for electronically signing the Acknowledgment.

REVIEW OF FY 2021 STRATEGIES & ACTIVITIES

- * **Draft Progress Report** as of 11-30-21 – The full version of this document will be posted on the web site as soon as the outstanding activity reports are received.
 - Hemlock Help Line available 7 days a week with 1,034 calls handled to date
 - 5 Hemlock Lessons for 88 students & teachers
 - 3 Presentations for 60 adults
 - 12 Customized training sessions for 28 volunteers and public land managers
 - 4 Festivals & public events with 18 volunteers and 243 visitors
 - 7 Articles / news items written by, with the assistance of, or about SGH published in newspapers/magazines
 - 153 Facilitator visits made with charitable treatment of 1,323 trees:
 - 31 hemlock treatment projects with 263 volunteers treating 5,045 trees
 - 16 sapling rescue projects with 44 volunteers, 773 saplings rescued and potted for use in educational / service activities or future adoption
 - 235 hemlock saplings adopted.
 - 216 saplings donated to schools, churches, nonprofits:
 - 12 hemlock sapling planting projects with 93 volunteers planting 144 hemlocks and 40 other trees/shrubs:
 - 24 soil injectors repaired/refurbished
 - Total of 5,864 volunteer hours logged.
- * **Annual USFS Summary Reports** completed as of 9-30-21 (USFS's fiscal year ending) – During the period of Oct. 1, 2020 and Sept. 30, 2021, 77 volunteers contributed 449 hours on 11 projects led by **Jim W. and Jon**, treating a total of 1,229 hemlocks on the national forest.
- * **GATC Summary Report** as of 11-30-21 -- 33 volunteers contributed 282 hours on 6 projects treating a total of 334 hemlocks on newly approved HCAs along the Appalachian Trail. Many thanks to **Pete Buak** for his leadership. **John Turner** of the GATC has requested an article to include in their next newsletter about our partnership on this project.



- * **Recap of All Trees Treated** in FY 2009 – 2021 – Over this 13-year period SGH has treated the following:
 12,484 trees for USFS
 10,239 trees for DNR
 19,730 trees for private property owners
6,311 for nonprofits and other entities
 48,764 hemlocks treated. Great work, everyone!

REVIEW OF FY 2021 FINANCIAL MATTERS

- * **Spending Ratio** for FY 2021: 35.64% Education, 54.23% Charitable Service, 10.13% Admin.
Cumulative Spending Ratio FY 2009 – 2021: 43.93% Education, 47.57% Charitable Service, 8.51% Admin.
 Admin expenses were up 0.13% due to PayPal processing fees and membership donations to partner organizations.

- * **Annual Membership Appeal** as of 11/30/21: 130 donations totaling \$17,235
 compared to 135 donations totaling \$11,865 last year.

- * **Report on 2021 Budget vs Actual** as of 11-30-21

BUDGET INCOME	ACTUAL INCOME	DIFF
\$36,792	\$36,392	-\$400
		-1%

BUDGET EXPENSE	ACTUAL EXPENSE	DIFF
\$34,500	\$28,311	\$6,189
		-18%

FOLLOW-UP FROM 10-13-21 MEETING

- * **Facilitator Program** -- Dave reminded the Team that the commitment to service is an important part of the original agreement to receive training. The Board voted to approve his recommendation that we revise the Facilitator program so there are two levels – one for individuals who have completed only the training class and one for individuals who have completed the class, hands-on training, and their first service commitment.
- * **Lead Facilitator Position** – Donna shared that it is sometimes difficult to maintain the energy and enthusiasm of new trainees if they don’t get engaged in some education or service activity immediately after their initial training, and it was originally envisioned that the Lead Facilitators would serve in that encouraging and mentoring capacity. The Board voted to approve her recommendation to fully implement the Lead Facilitator position as described in the Lead Facilitator Job Description revised 1/8/22.

2022 STRATEGIES & ACTIVITIES

- * **Introduction to Strategy Plan** for 2022 – Donna suggested the following primary areas of focus for this year:
 - Continue building Leadership Team for increased capacity and continuity, as outlined in the Transition Planning document. See below.
 - Continue emphasis on partnerships and Facilitator engagement.
 - Resume joint project with paddling community to treat hemlocks on DNR waterways.
 - Initiate joint projects with Trees Atlanta, Fernbank, Atlanta Botanical Gardens, and others for Atlanta outreach.

Using the Introduction to Strategy Plan for 2021 as a reference, the Leadership Team agreed to review and flesh out the draft 2022 Intro and provide feedback by the end of January.

* **Transition Planning**

In support of the goal of continuing to build our Leadership Team for increased capacity and continuity, an objective has been established of shifting a number of non-executive Director responsibilities that Donna is currently performing to other Leadership Team members or SGH volunteers. Here are the changes so far and recommendations for future transitions.

- Nicholas Gardner has agreed to serve as **Webmaster**.
- Derrick Morris will serve as **Education Program Manager**.
- Cary Allen and Renee Gracon will join Derrick as **Facilitator Training Instructors**. Still need 2 more instructors.
- Al Battle and Pat Hickey in Rabun County and Lee Higgins in Murray County will serve as **Lead Facilitators**.
- Need 3 more Lead Facilitators for White / Towns, Habersham / Hall, Lumpkin/Dawson, and Whitfield.
- _ Need someone to serve as **Membership Coordinator**.

- Donna requested permission to seek a **Facilitator Program Manager** to coordinate with the Education Program Manager and oversee the recruiting, engagement, and activities of our Facilitators. The Board asked to see job descriptions for both positions before giving final approval on the Facilitator Program Manager; Donna and Derrick will develop these for review by Board.

* **Calendar of Events** for 2022 known so far – Also see information below.

SERVICE – TREATMENT

* **Hemlock treatment projects for USFS**

- See Schedule of Events page.

* **Hemlock treatment projects with GATC**

- Pete Buak says GATC will do the final AT HCA (Sapling Gap) when the weather warms up. They have the chemical on hand to complete this project.

* **Hemlock treatment projects – other**

- Foxfire – Saturday, Jan. 29
- Lake Tugaloo, Rabun County - summer
- DNR Smithgall Woods – March
- DNR Cartecay – Saturday, Mar. 12
- Project Chimps – tentative, spring or summer
- Laurel Ridge – summer

SERVICE - SAPLINGS

* **Saplings rescues**

- Estimated saplings needs for 2022 are 250 for private adoptions, 250 for festivals (if we participate), 100 for hemlock restoration projects and insectary planting.

* **Sapling planting**

- The goal is to plant at least 300 trees this year. Lead Facilitators will be requested to coordinate planting projects.
- A sapling planting will be done on Feb. 18 (Arbor Day in Georgia) at Faith Presbyterian Church in Mineral Bluff.

SERVICE - OTHER

* **Soil injectors available to borrow**

- The GA Forestry Commission and a few POAs have soil injectors to lend, as listed on the Contacts & Sources page of our web site.
- SGH doesn't lend our Kioritz soil injectors to anyone except Leadership Team members (including Lead Facilitators), but we do have a number of EZ-Ject injectors that are available for borrowing by the public. Note that a \$250 deposit is required for borrowing our EZ-Jects.

Dade	Jimmy Stewart	Cloudland Canyon	423-413-6429
Gilmer	Derrick Morris	Cherry Log	404-593-3173
Lumpkin	Donna Shearer	Dahlonega	706-429-8010
Pickens	Jim Heilman	Jasper	404-405-7553
Rabun	Buz Stone	Lakemont	404-626-1746
Union	Jim Wentworth	Blairsville	706-897-9645

* **Soil injector repair service**

- Donna would like to hand this responsibility to another person, preferably in Lumpkin County.

EDUCATION

* **Training schedule** to begin February 12 with a presentation to the Georgia Native Plant Society.

* **Fairs & festivals (if we're able to participate)**

Bear-on-the-Square	Sat., 4/22/22 & Sun., 4/23 /22	Dahlonega
Trout & Outdoor Adventures	Sat., 4/30/22	Blue Ridge
Blue Ridge Arts in the Park	Sat., 5/28/22 & Sun., 5/29/22	Blue Ridge
LRA Memorial Day Meeting	Sun., 5/29/22	Lakemont
Hemlock Day at Anna Ruby Falls	Sat., 6/4/22	Helen
LRA Labor Day Meeting	Sun., 9/4/22	Lakemont
Trail Fest	Sat., 9/10/22 & Sun., 9/11/22	Dahlonega
AT Trail Day	Sat., 9/24/22	Brasstown Bald
Foxfire Mountaineer Festival	Sat., 10/1/22	Clayton
Marble Festival	Sat., 10/1/22 & Sun. 10/2/22	Jasper
Georgia Mountains Beer Fest	Sat., 10/15/22	Ball Ground
Dahlonega Community Service Fair	Sat., 10/22/22	Dahlonega
Hornaday Weekend	Sat., 11/12/22	Blairsville

HEMLOCK CAMP MEETING / ANNUAL MEETING

- All members voted in favor of not having the meeting this year due to low interest last year and continuing Covid uncertainties.
- The group discussed the possibility of a member / volunteer appreciation party with picnic lunch at the pavilion, possibly in May.

2022 FINANCIAL MATTERS

* **College Scholarships / Grants in 2022**

Reports were received from colleges concerning their use of our gifts in 2021. Those from Stacie James (UNG) and Paul Arnold (YHC) were particular encouraging. Jim W. reported that there has been good progress in establishing beetle populations at Dockery Lake, Boggs Cree, and Lake Winfield Scott.

- University of North Georgia Beetle Lab – \$1,000 given in 2021. The Team voted to double that in 2022.
- Young Harris College Beetle Lab – \$1,000 given in 2021. The Team voted to double that in 2022.

* **Proposed Budget for 2022**

- A preliminary budget was presented to the Team. The overall approach this year is to be conservative in view of the uncertainties imposed by the ongoing Covid situation.
- The Leadership Team is asked to review the Proposed Budget and approve it or send questions or comments to Donna and Todd by the end of day 1-16-22.

RESOURCES FOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

- * Leadership Team List
- * Facilitators in Georgia
- * Facilitators in Other States
- * Facilitators Interested in Saplings Program
- * Sources of Saplings

FUTURE 2021 MEETING DATES

- * Sun., 4/10 if in person or Wed., 4/13 if virtual
- * Sun., 7/10 if in person or Wed., 7/13 if virtual
- * Sun., 10/17 if in person or Wed., 10/19 if virtual

Buz motioned to adjourn the meeting.