

11-4-18 Meeting Notes for SGH Leadership Team Meeting

This quarterly Leadership Team meeting was held at the home of Donna Shearer, 37 Woody Bend, Dahlonega, beginning at 1:00 p.m. In attendance were Bob Pledger, Darrell Sheffield, David & Cindy Wasileski, John Shearouse, Brenda Segall, and Donna Shearer.

BOARD MATTERS

- * **CONGRATULATIONS** on a really productive third quarter, which ended Sept. 30. We've gotten a tremendous amount of good education and service done and want to thank everyone for their hard work and dedication.
- * **Quarterly reports** – Thanks to everyone who submitted their reports; their information is included in the Progress Report presented at this meeting. Those who have not sent in their report are requested to send them directly to Donna ASAP.

- * **Staffing adjustments** starting now and through 2019

Secretarial activities

- KIM WOOD will continue to reserve space for training classes and booth space for festivals. She will also schedule volunteers for festivals.
- CHRIS DISSER will continue to take registrations for service projects and send out confirmations / project details.
- DONNA will continue to send recruitment emails for education and service events; she will also take registrations for training classes and send confirmations / class details.

Treatment projects

- BOB PLEDGER will continue to coordinate treatment projects in the eastern counties.
- DAVID & CINDY WASILESKI will begin coordinating treatment projects in the western counties, with logistical support from Donna and Bob.
- FRANK AND LINDA GHEESLING will continue providing team leadership whenever possible.
- DARRELL SHEFFIELD has a very busy year coming up but will help with treatment projects and festivals as his travel schedule allows.
- DERRICK MORRIS has volunteered to coordinate a large neighborhood treatment project next year.

Saplings projects

- BUZ STONE will continue to coordinate saplings projects in the eastern counties.
- CHRIS CURTIN will continue to coordinate saplings projects in the western counties.
- JOHN SHEAROUSE will continue as saplings technical advisor and will be starting a new hemlock section at his nursery in Lavonia.
- CHRIS DISSER is exploring an opportunity to start a saplings nursery at Woody Gap School in Suches.

Education

- DERRICK MORRIS will teach 2019 Clinics and Facilitator Training Workshops in Gilmer and Fannin Counties.
- DONNA will cover 2019 classes in other counties but hopes to enlist at least one more helper to share this responsibility.

Communications

- DAVE TEFFETELLER will continue managing our Facebook page and other design/communications work.
- DONNA will continue managing our web site and periodic newsletters.

Other

- ELLIOTT AND BRENDA SEGALL will continue with Boy Scout liaison activities.
- We need to recruit Lead Facilitators for Banks & Stephens, Towns, Habersham, Hall, Dawson, Gordon, Murray & Whitfield Counties.



REVIEW OF 2018 STRATEGIES & ACTIVITIES

* **Progress report as of 9-30-18** –See attachment at end of these meeting notes for details.

- All 19 HWA-infested Georgia counties in native hemlock range now served by our Hemlock Help Program.
- Hemlock Help Line available 7 days a week with 830 calls handled to date.
- 12 Hemlock Help Clinics with total of 94 attendees.
- 11 Facilitator Training Workshops with total of 36 new Facilitators trained.
Total active Facilitator corps = 298 in Georgia and 78 in other states
- 3 customized training classes for 34 volunteers and public land managers
- 88 Facilitator visits made with charitable treatment of 1,046 trees
- 11 presentations to civic / community groups with 491 attendees.
- 3 Hemlock Lessons for 67 students and teachers.
- 12 festivals / public events with 51 volunteers and 1,626 visitors / contacts
- 26 articles / news items written by, with the assistance of, or about SGH published in newspapers / magazines.
- 8 hemlock rescue projects with 28 volunteers, 207 saplings rescued and potted for use in educational / service activities or future adoption
- 164 hemlock saplings adopted; 21 saplings donated to municipalities / schools / nonprofits.
- 2 hemlock sapling planting projects with 72 volunteers planting 21 saplings.
- 14 hemlock treatment projects with 232 volunteers treating/retreating 2,532 trees.
- 11 soil injectors repaired/refurbished.
- Total of 5,496 volunteer hours logged.

* **Special recognition for Eagle Scout projects**

Allen Hughes and his troop, assisted by BOB PLEDGER and BUZ STONE, did a hemlock treatment project on 12-2-17 to treat 29 large old hemlocks in the historic cemetery in Clarkesville.

Everett Reynolds and his troop, assisted by BUZ STONE, did a hemlock sapling rescue / potting project on 9-29-18 to save 70 little trees from a private property in Rabun County.

* **Canceled or postponed events in 2018**

- Some training classes were canceled for lack of sign-ups, will be rescheduled for 2019.
- 3-17-18 SGH info booth at Paddle Expo was canceled for lack of volunteers.
- 8-11-18 treatment project at Panther Creek was canceled for inaccessibility and dangerous terrain, will be done by USFS.
- 10-6-18 & 10-7-18 SGH info booth at Indian Summer Festival was canceled for lack of volunteers.
- 10-6-18 & 10-7-18 SGH info booth at Cherry Log Festival was canceled for lack of volunteers and small crowd size
- 11-2-18 hemlock treatment and sapling planting at Truett McConnell was canceled for rain, will be rescheduled
- 11-14-18 hemlock restoration project at Mill Creek was canceled on advice of Griz McGaughey re weather conditions, will be rescheduled for late Feb or early March 2019.
- A fall sapling rescue at a private property in Cleveland was canceled for too few trees of appropriate size / condition.

* **Remaining events for 2018**

- Presentation to Trout Unlimited by JOHN SHEAROUSE – week of 11/5/18.
- Info table staffed by ELLIOTT AND BRENDA SEGALL at Hornaday Awards events – 11-9-18
- Sapling rescue / potting projects – 1 in Fannin, 1 in Gilmer – to be coordinated by CHRIS CURTIN before 12-15-18.

* **Lessons learned in 2018**

- We need a handout to attract volunteers, explaining the importance and rewards of volunteering and the kinds of educational / service opportunities available through SGH.
- We should have a schedule of training classes and service projects to use at festivals for getting folks signed up on the spot.
- We should have a volunteer walking around the festivals carrying a hemlock sapling and directing people to our booth.
- We need a simplified handout for treating hemlocks.
- We should continue recruiting younger members for our Leadership Team to address our growing scope of educational / service initiatives and to ensure continuity.
- We need a document for Eagle Scout projects explaining the process for partnering with SGH, responsibilities of the Scout and his troop, and responsibilities of SGH. ELLIOTT SEGALL has offered to help with this.

FINANCIAL REPORT THROUGH 9-30-18 -- See Progress Report at end of these notes for details.

Income: \$26,496.83
 Expenses: \$19,477.15
 Cash on hand \$33,259.19

Note: The Norcross Wildlife Foundation grant of \$1,200 received in 2016 and designated for use in Rabun County was completed in September 2018. The funds were used for:

- Foxfire hemlock retreatment project \$158.36
- Eagle Scout hemlock treatment project on Sarah’s Creek \$23.20
- Sapling potting project in Lakemont \$96.67
- Hemlock treatment project at Camp Rainey Mountain \$176.87
- Hemlock treatment project at Camp Evergreen \$498.11
- Eagle Scout hemlock rescue / potting and treatment project \$197.70
- Other hemlock treatment projects in Rabun County \$61.87

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2019

EDUCATION

* **Training schedule** to begin in mid Feb. Facilitator training not completed in 2018 for counties in left column will be on front end of training schedule. Schedule to be firm by 1/13/19 meeting. Donna will handle invitations and confirmations. Instructors will be Donna, Derrick, and one more person to be recruited.

Murray & Whitfield	White
Pickens	Cherokee
Gordon	Fannin
Rabun (including Tate City)	Dade & Walker
Towns	Lumpkin & Dawson
Banks & Stephens	Hall
	Gilmer
	Union
	Habersham

* **Fairs & festivals** – events for consideration:

Kris Kringle Mountain Market, Blairsville	12-1-18	No
Hamilton Gardens Earth Day Expo, Hiwassee	4-20-19	Maybe
Bear-on-the-Square, Dahlonega	4-27-19 & 4-28-19	Yes – DONNA
Trout Fest, Blue Ridge	4-27-19	Yes
Blue Ridge Arts in the Park	5-25-19 & 5-26-19	Yes
LRA Memorial Day Meeting, Lakemont	5-26-19	Yes – BOB & BUZ
Hemlock Day at Anna Ruby Falls, Helen	6-1-19	Maybe
LRA Labor Day Meeting, Lakemont	9-1-19	Yes – BOB & BUZ
Trail Fest, Dahlonega	9-7-19 & 9-8-19	Yes – DONNA
Your State Parks Day, Dade County	9-28-19	No
Foxfire Mountaineer Festival, Clayton	10-6-19	Yes – BOB & BUZ
Marble Festival, Jasper	10-6-19 & 10-7-19	Yes – JIM HEILMAN?
Indian Summer Festival, Suches	10-6-19 & 10-7-19	No
New Salem Mountain Festival, Dade County	10-12-19 & 10-13-19	Yes – JIM WILBANKS?
Georgia Mountains Brew Fest at Gibbs Gardens, Jasper	10-19-19	Yes

SERVICE -- TREATMENT

* **Hemlock treatment projects in the east:**

- Upper Chattahoochee River Campground (probably 2 days for this)
- YMCA Camp High Harbour
- Possibly the Hambidge Center

* **Hemlock treatment projects in the west:**

High Shoals (3 sites)	Bob Creek (1 site)
Swallow Creek (2 sites)	Lordamercy Cove (2 sites)
Falls Branch (2 sites)	Corbin (3 sites)
Scataway (2 sites)	

* **Neighborhood hemlock treatment project** in cabins area at Lake Winfield Scott – Asking DERRICK MORRIS to coordinate this.

* **Cartecay Tract** hemlock treatment project – As we have no coordinator for this extended project and many other commitments competing for volunteers / time, the group decided we will not continue this one. So we will give the chemical on hand either to Mountain Stewards if they plan to continue to project or to one of the DNR divisions we work with (Wildlife Management or State Parks). DONNA will contact DNR and Mountain Stewards about this.

* **Annual Hike & Help the Hemlocks** – We were not able to do this event in 2018 because of scheduling difficulties on the part of all organizations involved, but our group wants to do it again in 2019. As always, it will be a joint event with the Benton MacKaye Trail Association, and it would be great to include Trout Unlimited again and the Mountain Stewards too. The group suggested we schedule it for a regular BMTA work day during the week in Sept of Oct. The swinging bridge on the Benton MacKaye Trail was recommended as a possible location. DONNA will contact BMTA, TU and MS.

SERVICE -- SAPLINGS

* **Hemlock restoration**

- Mill Creek in Murray County in late Feb or early March – CHRIS CURTIN to coordinate
- Help available from JOHN SHEAROUSE and TODD BAKER
- Partners to be Trout Unlimited, the Nature Conservancy, USFS, and various colleges

* **Sapling rescue / potting projects**

- Smithgall Woods in early spring – BUZ STONE to coordinate
- 2 in Lumpkin County in early spring – DONNA to coordinate

* **Sapling nurseries**

- JOHN SHEAROUSE is planning to establish one in Lavonia using saplings rescued by SGH from various sites
- CHRIS DISSER will try to set up meeting with Woody Gap School before end of 2018 for possible nursery.

* **Sapling planting**

- Jim Gibbs has requested some saplings for planting in a new section of Gibbs Gardens. Number, size, and timing is not known yet but should be know by the end of November. DONNA to coordinate.
- Fannin Elementary School has requested more saplings to plant along their nature trail. CHRIS CURTIN to coordinate.

SERVICE – EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT(S)

At present, we have one Eagle Scout project pending with Eagle candidate Carson Payne. He would like to do a hemlock treatment project and will need to coordinate with ELLIOTT SEGALL and our east/west project coordinators to choose one that will be appropriate. The time frame is projected to be the summer of 2019.

COMMUNICATION / PUBLICITY

- * DAVE to continue Facebook postings and design work
- * The U.S. Forest Service has requested that we submit captioned photos and a copy of Project Details for next year's volunteer projects on the National Forest so they can be included in their USFS communications and local newspapers. FRANK?
- * We should also send photos and short articles to local newspapers after other projects.
- * Bumper stickers, storefront posters, rack cards, and awareness postcards are available for distribution at our next meeting or sooner if needed
- * Official SGH tee shirts and other logo items are available at www.cafepress.com/savegeorgiashemlocks. Hope everyone will get tee shirts to wear to our events!!!

2019 HEMLOCK CAMP MEETING / ANNUAL MEETING

- * Theme: Volunteer appreciation and education
- * Date: Saturday, May 4 or 18 first choice; Sunday, May 5 or 19 second choice
- * Place: Ellijay or Dahlonega. CHRIS C is exploring possibilities with wineries in Ellijay area as well as the ETC pavilion; DONNA is exploring wineries in Dahlonega area.
- * Food: tbd
- * Music: tbd
- * Keynote speaker(s): Margot Wallston of Hemlock Restoration Initiative, others?
- * Other features: tbd
- * Publicity, invitations, registrations, memberships: tbd

2019 FINANCIAL MATTERS

- * **Report on remaining designated funds** – We have the following funds on hand for designated uses in 2019:

Fund	Amount Remaining	Notes
Cox Conserves Heroes	\$104.70	No restrictions
Lake Rabun Foundation	\$1,961.30	Hemlock service/education in Rabun County
North Georgia EMC Foundation	\$1,265.89	Hemlock restoration on trout streams in Catoosa, Chattooga, Floyd, Gordon, Murray, Walker and Whitfield counties – It is likely this fund will be completed after the project planned for Mill Creek in Murray county in spring 2019.
Laurel Ridge Go-Fund-Me	\$391.41	Treatment of hemlocks in Laurel Ridge area of Gilmer County
Mount Yonah Pickleball Club	\$467.06	Hemlock service/education in White County
TOTAL	\$4,190.36	

- * **Annual membership appeal**

- DAVE is requested to provide printed materials at 1-13-19 meeting.
- Each Leadership Team member planning to send out appeals is requested to send their intended recipient list to DONNA no later than Jan 6 for cross-matching.
- Mail-out to be done in conjunction with Arbor Day in Georgia 2-15-19.

Progress Report for Fiscal Year 2018

December 1, 2017 – September 30, 2018 (draft)

Snapshot of Accomplishments & Capabilities

Details listed under each category represent activity from July 1 to Sept 30.

- All 19 HWA-infested Georgia counties in native hemlock range now served by our Hemlock Help Program.
- Hemlock Help Line available 7 days a week with 830 calls handled to date.
- 12 Hemlock Help Clinics with total of 94 attendees.
 - 6/2/18 Fannin County
 - 6/16/18 Dade & Walker Counties
 - 6/27/18 Clay County Master Gardeners in Hayesville, NC
- 11 Facilitator Training Workshops with total of 36 new Facilitators trained.
Total active Facilitator corps = 298 in Georgia and 78 in other states
 - 6/2/18 Fannin County
 - 6/16/18 Dade & Walker Counties
 - 7/21/18 Lumpkin & Dawson Counties
 - 7/28/18 Hall County
 - 8/4/18 Gilmer County
 - 8/23/18 Master Gardeners and general public in Hayesville NC
 - 9/22/18 Union County
- 3 customized training classes for 34 volunteers and public land managers
 - 9/10/18 Boy Scout troop in Canton in preparation for sapling rescue / potting project
- 88 Facilitator visits made with charitable treatment of 1,046 trees
- 11 presentations to civic/community groups with 491 attendees.
 - 6/19/18 South Carolina Native Plant Society in Greenville, SC
 - 7/11/18 Over the Hill Hikers
- 3 Hemlock Lessons for 67 students and teachers.
- 12 festivals / public events with 51 volunteers and 1,626 visitors / contacts
 - 6/2/18 Hemlock Day at Anna Ruby Falls, Helen
 - 6/9/18 Yonah Mountain Pickleball Tournament, Cleveland
 - 9/8/18 & 9/9/18 Trail Fest, Dahlonega
 - 9/29/18 Your State Parks Festival, Dade County
- 26 articles / news items written by, with the assistance of, or about SGH published in newspapers/magazines.
- 8 hemlock rescue projects with 28 volunteers, 207 saplings rescued and potted for use in educational/service activities or future adoption
 - 6/7/18 Sautee-Nacoochee
 - 9/29/18 Rabun County
- 164 hemlock saplings adopted; 21 saplings donated to municipalities / schools / nonprofits.
- 2 hemlock sapling planting projects with 72 volunteers planting 21 saplings.
- 14 hemlock treatment projects with 232 volunteers treating/retreating 2,532 trees.
 - 6/2/18 Wildcat Creek Campgrounds: #1 Lower & #2 Upper in Rabun County
 - 7/12/18 Camp Evergreen in Rabun County
 - 7/14/18 West Wildcat Rd. in Rabun County
 - 9/15/18 Raven Cliffs Trailhead & Low Gap Campground in White County
- 11 soil injectors repaired/refurbished.
- Total of 5,496 volunteer hours logged.

Financial Report

Current: Fiscal 2018*

Dec. 1, 2017 – September 30, 2018

Total Contributions	Educational Spending	Charitable Service Spending	Administrative Expense	Membership/Fundraising	Total Expenses	Cash on Hand
\$26,496.83	\$10,734.59	\$7,468.58	\$1,225.58	\$48.40	\$19,477.15	\$33,259.19
	55.11%	38.35%	6.29%	0.25%		

Cumulative: Fiscal 2009 – 2018

July 1, 2009 – September 30, 2018

Total Contributions	Educational Spending	Charitable Service Spending	Administrative Expense	Membership Fundraising	Total Expenses
\$191,469.02	\$73,240.81	\$72,196.66	\$10,703.08	\$2,069.28	\$158,209.83
	46.29%	45.63%	6.77%	1.33%	

* Our fiscal year is from December 1 to November 30.

Total Spending in FY 2018:

93.46% for educational & charitable service programs.
6.54% for administrative, membership & fund raising.

Cumulative Spending FY 2009-2018:

91.93% for educational & charitable service programs.
8.07% for administrative, membership & fund raising.