



2014 Hike & Help the Hemlocks Sponsored by Save Georgia's Hemlocks and the Benton MacKaye Trail Association Saturday, September 27, 2014



In celebration of National Public Lands Day, SGH and the Benton MacKaye Trail Association teamed up again co-sponsor this annual event, which included a choice of two morning activities -- a family-friendly hike led by members of BMTA or a hemlock treatment project with SGH and the U. S. Forest Service. The event, held at Dockery Lake between Dahlonega and Suches, was for the purposes of increasing awareness of the hemlock crisis, building synergy among groups and individuals who care, treat some hemlocks that need our help, and having a good time together.



Twenty-one hemlock helpers worked in 4 teams under the direction of Jim Wentworth of the U. S. Forest Service to re-treat 148 healthy trees that had been treated 5 years ago and tagged/treated several more that were still in good condition. A dozen hikers led by Ralph Heller of the BMTA had an invigorating educational hike on the Dockery Lake Trail around the lake, going part-way up toward the Appalachian Trail at Miller Gap and back.

Then everyone came together for a picnic beside beautiful Dockery Lake, followed by brief presentations by Robert Fuller of North Georgia College & State University about the predator beetle program to control the hemlock woolly adelgid, Jim Wentworth about the progress of chemical and biological controls in the National Forest, and Ralph Heller about BMTA's many activities focused on trail maintenance and their semi-monthly hikes.



THANKS EVERYONE FOR A GREAT NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY!

