



Save Georgia's Hemlocks

HEMLOCK HELP PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

I. PROBLEM STATEMENT

North Georgia's hemlocks are in danger of almost total extinction due to a rapidly spreading infestation by the hemlock woolly adelgid, an invasive insect from Asia with no local natural predator. The valiant efforts by the U. S. Forest Service and GA Forestry Commission to save hemlocks in specified Hemlock Conservation Areas and by the three Georgia labs to raise and release predatory beetles on public lands are constrained by limited resources against a problem of enormous scope and dire consequences. Private property owners have the option to save as many hemlocks as they desire, but organized efforts to raise awareness, promote action, and provide practical assistance are much needed in the affected north Georgia counties. Therefore, Save Georgia's Hemlocks implemented the **Hemlock Help Program**.

II. MISSION AND VISION

Save Georgia's Hemlocks is a 100% volunteer, nonprofit organization of concerned citizens dedicated to saving endangered hemlocks through education and charitable service. Our vision is that through our efforts of preservation, conservation, and restoration, there will be a healthy population of hemlocks in Georgia for future generations.

III. PROGRAM GOALS

- **Educate** -- Enhance public awareness of the hemlock woolly adelgid crisis, current practical options, and emerging control technologies.
- **Enable** -- Ensure easy access to information, advice regarding economical solutions, and direct assistance for property owners.
- **Encourage** -- Establish a clear understanding of the aesthetic, economic, and environmental reasons for property owners to take timely and effective action to save their hemlocks.

IV. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Do all for the benefit of property owners and their hemlocks with no benefit accruing to any participant.
- Operate in the most efficient, cost-effective manner adhering to nonprofit best practices and standards of excellence.
- Do all with simplicity, transparency, and the spirit of charitable service.

V. SERVICES OFFERED

- **Hemlock Help Line**SM **706-429-8010** to receive incoming calls, address questions and concerns, provide accurate, up-to-date information and advice, and keep necessary records.
- **Hemlock Help Clinics**, presentations, educational materials, and publicity to raise awareness of the HWA problem and control solutions.
- **Lending of soil injectors** with instructional materials for property owners wanting to do the work themselves.
- **Lists of sources** to acquire treatment products, borrow or purchase application equipment, and qualified local professionals who specialize in saving hemlocks, along with their average rates.
- **Network of Volunteer Facilitators** to help their neighbors assess the HWA problem, evaluate options, and implement solutions.
- **Neighborhood Hemlock Help Planning** to help communities plan their Hemlock Help projects efficiently and effectively.
- **Volunteer Service Projects** for hemlock treatment, planting, or reforestation to assist property owners, other nonprofit organizations, and public agencies as resources permit.

VI. SCOPE

- The primary focus is to serve private property owners in all north Georgia counties within the hemlock/HWA range.
- Support will also be provided for Hemlock Help projects of other nonprofit organizations and public agencies on an as-requested/authorized basis.
- The program was launched in Rabun and Habersham Counties in July 2009; Towns and White Counties in August 2009; Gilmer, Union, and Fannin Counties in September 2009; Murray and Lumpkin Counties in Spring 2010. Other north Georgia counties will be added as needed.

VII. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

- Save Georgia's Hemlocks is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, so all donations are tax-deductible.
- Our budget targets are to use 80% or more of our resources or more for education and charitable services and 20% or less for administrative expense. There are no paid officers or staff.
- Our books are open for public inspection upon request.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Call the Hemlock Help LineSM 706-429-8010,
e-mail donna@savegeorgiashemlocks.org, or visit our web site www.savegeorgiashemlocks.org