

## Press Release

### Hemlock Help Clinic & Facilitator Training in Chattanooga, April 10, 2010

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The third Hemlock Help Clinic sponsored by the BMTA and the second such clinic in Tennessee will be held at the Chattanooga Nature Center ([www.chattanooganaturecenter.org](http://www.chattanooganaturecenter.org)) on April 10, starting at 1PM. Following the Tellico Plains clinic, we were asked by folks in Chattanooga to help organize a similar event in Chattanooga. The Chattanooga clinic is being jointly co-sponsored by the Chattanooga Nature Center, the Tennessee Aquarium, Reflection Riding, and the Lookout Mountain Conservancy. As with the previous clinics, after the general presentation there will be special Facilitator Training for individuals who want to learn more about the hemlock problem and solutions and then be available to advise and assist others in their communities. To sign up, contact Christine Bock at [cjb@tnaqua.org](mailto:cjb@tnaqua.org) or call at (423) 785-4024. There is no charge for attending the clinic.

Save Georgia's Hemlocks ([www.savegeorgiashemlocks.org](http://www.savegeorgiashemlocks.org)), a nonprofit organization dedicated to saving hemlocks in Georgia, will be supporting and co-presenting this program, but efforts are underway to train the Chattanooga folks to run their own future clinics in the Chattanooga and southeast Tennessee area and to have their own helpline. Chattanooga Facilitators, at the request of private property owners, will make on-site visits to help them assess the health of their hemlock trees and to make recommendations for treatment. There is a great need for this service in the region as many hemlocks are infested with the woolly adelgid and will die over the next few years if they are not appropriately treated.

Both the Cherokee National Forest and the Chattahoochee National Forest have active programs to treat the hemlocks within their boundaries, but they face tremendous challenges due to current financial constraints. Many infested hemlocks are also on private property, and homeowners who take action to treat them will play an important part in the very survival of these magnificent trees in our state. So if you have hemlocks, they are (or soon will be) in great danger. Please come on April 10 and learn how you can make a difference.