

4-9-17 Notes for SGH Leadership Team Meeting

The meeting was held at the home of Donna Shearer in Dahlonega. In attendance were Bob Pledger, Buz Stone, Chris Curtin, Darrell Sheffield, Frank Gheesling, Kim Wood, John Shearouse, and Donna Shearer. Dave Teffeteller and Derrick Morris were unable to attend,

Supporting documents: Card for Dave Progress report as of 4-8-17 Distributed model chart / map Full set of educ materials for Darrell DVDs for Derrick Full set of trtmt materials for Frank	Calendar of events for Q2 Schedule of Classes for 2017 Email from Kevin Bridges re sapling dig Email re hemlock rest. on trout streams Hemlock restoration concept document HCM Friends Circle list and invitation HCM flyer – draft	Income & expense report as of 4-8-17 Membership appeal report as of 4-8-17 Revised budget for 2017 Email re <i>Rosellinia</i> grant request Hemlock Cost Share concept document Annual tax filing
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BOARD MATTERS

- * **Well wishes to Dave Teffeteller** – The whole gang sends their best wishes to Dave for a speedy recovery following his recent hip replacement surgery. GET WELL SOON!
- * **Announcement of new Treasurer** – Sarah Heath, one of our Dahlonega-based Facilitators, has graciously agreed to become our Treasurer. She plans to begin the week of April 24. THANK YOU, SARAH!

2017 STRATEGIES & ACTIVITIES

- * **Progress report as of 4-8-17** – Quarterly activity reports were turned in today, so it will take a day or so to summarize them, but here are the highlights known so far:
 - 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 435 calls handled
 - 3 SGH Hemlock Help Clinics & Facilitator Training Workshops with 14 attendees – 13 new Facilitators trained, 1 Facilitator refreshed. Current total of 220 Facilitators in Georgia and 55 in other states.
 - 158 Facilitator visits made with charitable treatment of 1,101 trees
 - 2 customized training classes for 12 civic/community volunteers
 - 6 presentations to civic/community groups with 143 attendees
 - 2 Hemlock Lessons for 130 elementary students
 - 1 festival with 1 volunteer and 30 visitors/contacts
 - 7 articles/news items written by, with the assistance of, or about SGH published in newspapers/magazines
 - 9 hemlock rescue projects with 25 volunteers, 536 saplings / seedlings rescued and potted for future adoption
 - 24 hemlock saplings adopted, 2 large saplings donated to municipalities / nonprofits
 - 1 hemlock field insectary project with 26 volunteers planting 24 large saplings
 - 2 other hemlock sapling planting projects with 4 volunteers planting 7 large saplings
 - 13 hemlock treatment projects with 168 volunteers treating/retreating 1,361 trees
 - 15 soil injectors repaired/refurbished
 - Total of 1,929 volunteer hours logged to date
- * **Review of distributed operating model**, coordination, adjustments, info needed?
All seems to be working well so far.
- * **Education** – reports from group, calendar of upcoming classes
 - All classes are scheduled, and space is reserved for all but the 6/10/17 class for Rabun & Towns; Donna will call the Rabun Library and John Scaduto of the Rabun Extension Office.
 - Our participation in the April 21 Hemlock Lesson with seedling potting for elementary kids at High Meadows School Earth Day celebration is dependent on availability of seedlings; not looking promising at present.



- We've been requested to participate in Hamilton Gardens Earth Day celebration on April 22 in Hiawassee, but one of the two people who volunteered has canceled, so we likely will not do it this time.
- We've been requested to participate in Reece Farm Earth Day celebration on May 6 in Blairsville; Wynn Mott will staff our info table and give 15 minute presentation.
- Our participation in the May 12 Hemlock Lesson with seedling potting for elementary kids at Blackburn Elementary School Bear Jamboree is dependent on availability of seedlings; not looking promising at present.
- Buz will need saplings with skirts, cord, stakes, velcro tape, and care cards for the LRA Memorial Day meeting; Donna will provide these in advance.

* **Treatment** – reports from group

- SGH-USFS treatment project so far have been in the Chattooga River District.
- Frank will set up a meeting with Justin Seaborn and Adam Blair re beginning to support treatment projects in the USFS Conasauga District.
- Jim Reich and local volunteers have also been doing treatments on public lands along the Upper Toccoa River, and Ray Lorenzi and local volunteers have been doing treatment in Bent Tree, Pickens County.
- It was suggested that we contact Chuck Stutzman of the Boy Scouts for young volunteers in the Rabun County area and someone with the FFA program for young volunteers in the Gilmer County area. Bob to contact Chuck; Darrell to contact FFA.
- For April 15 treatment project in Rabun Recreation area, the following will be needed in addition to what Bob already has on hand: 4 injectors, 4 work kits, 4 sets of jugs, snacks – Donna will bring.
- It was suggested that we contact Girl Scout camps and Hambidge Center to see if they want/need a hemlock treatment project, but no decision was taken as to who should make the contacts.

* **Saplings** – reports from group

- Potted saplings will be needed for upcoming events – UNG's Earth Day Celebration on April 17, Bear on the Square on April 22, Trout Fest on April 29, Reece Farm Earth Day Celebration on May 6, and Blue Ridge Arts Festival on May 27.
- Chris will contact Deb Gable near Goose Island for permission to rescue saplings; also to contact Loretta Hanks re harvesting Carolina seed cones later this summer; also to contact Jim Hamby and Kathy Overstreet who have offered saplings.
- Frank and Kim indicated they have saplings they are rescuing and potting.
- Status of USFS sapling digging permit – They sent us a set of very time-consuming requirements to apply for the permit. Group consensus was that we would be better served by taking advantage of other sources of seedlings and saplings.
- We need to locate one or more sites for hemlock restoration on trout streams in Murray or Whitfield County to utilize the North Georgia EMC grant.

* **Update on USFS Foothills Landscape Collaboration**

Workshop I -- https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/conf/home/?cid=fseprd514937#Workshop_I
 SOPA Q1 2017 -- https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd530534.pdf
 SOPA Q2 2017 -- <https://www.fs.fed.us/sopa/components/reports/sopa-110803-2017-04.pdf>

HEMLOCK CAMP MEETING / ANNUAL MEETING

- * **Date & time:** Sunday, June 25, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- * **Place:** Chris has reserved the ETC Pavilion on Legion Rd. in Ellijay
- * **Publicity, invitations, registrations, memberships:** Dave presented the draft flyer / boxed ad that he'll send to the major newspapers. Kim will use our moderated email lists to send general invitations and confirmations; she will track responses. Everyone will distribute flyers in their community.
- * **Food:** Chris has arranged for Poole's Barbecue plus everyone's covered side dishes to share
- * **Band:** Chris has booked Downtown Roy
- * **SGH Tent:** Have prototype of new injector on hand for demo if it's ready in time; also saplings, diameter tapes, and web address for Cafe Press.

* **Friends Circle:** "Save the Date" invitations went out March 14; detailed invitations will go out May 24 with several follow-ups. The following groups are invited:

American Chestnut Foundation	Georgia Native Plant Society
Atlanta Audubon Society	Georgia Tech Trailblazers
Back Country Horsemen of North Georgia	Gilmer County Beekeepers
Beetle Lab at North Georgia University	Gwinnett Tech Horticulture Club
Beetle Lab at the University of Georgia	Leave No Trace Program
Beetle Lab at Young Harris	Master Gardeners of Gilmer County
Benton MacKaye Trail Association	Master Gardeners of Lumpkin County
Chattahoochee Nature Center	Mountain High Hikers
Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D	Mountain Stewards
Georgia Department of Natural Resources	National Park Service
Elachee Nature Center	Over the Hill Hikers
Fernbank Science Museum	Sierra Club - Georgia Chapter
Garden Club of Ellijay	Trees Atlanta
Georgia Adopt-a-Stream	Trout Unlimited Blue Ridge Chapter
Georgia Appalachian Trail Club	U. S. Forest Service
Georgia Conservancy	Yahoola Outdoors / Trail Fest
Georgia Forest Watch	West Atlanta Watershed Alliance
Georgia Forestry Commission	

Should add the following:

Boy Scouts & Girl Scouts	Piedmont College Biology Dept.
Gibbs Gardens	Atlanta Adventurers
Hamilton Gardens	Soque Watershed Association
Master Naturalists of Fannin County	Other Garden Clubs

* **Keynote speaker:** Justin Ellis, Director of UNG Environmental Leadership Center.

* **During lunch time:**

- Introduce and thank band members.
- Introduce and thank food providers.
- Introduce and thank SGH Leadership Team.
- Recognize all Facilitators present.
- Give each Friends Circle group a brief time to speak and introduce their organization.
- Give special recognition to Cleveland Tool & Design for their support of our injector maintenance efforts.
- Present SGH accomplishments to date and significant future plans.

* **Raffle:**

- Continue having door prizes, maybe increase number and variety -- back pack, day pack, trees, t-shirts, framed photo, honey, hemlock art, half day fishing. Let winners pick the prize they want.
- Do raffle at end of program and offer table saplings for adoption too.

* **Review of suggestions** made after HCM 2016

- Increase publicity with notices in newspapers, announcements in other organizations' newsletters, flyers posted locally.
- Continue reservations to be made in advance; develop capability for on-line reservations (not in place yet).
- Continue asking guests to be current members or to join/renew for \$20 individual or \$40 family. Exhibitors are exempt from this requirement; 4 free passes will be given to each Friends Circle group.
- Have special badges for exhibitors.
- Have ballots for election of SGH Leadership Team and any voting matters; give these out at Welcome Station.
- Have a printed program with schedule, speaker notes, list of SGH Leadership Team, list of orgs in Friends Circle, photos and notes for speakers and band, notes re SGH accomplishments to date, photos of raffle items.
- Add interesting demonstrations, hands-on activities, and competitions -- fly casting, beekeepers, seedling potting, sapling planting, Noontootla Creek Farms fire-building, orienteering, treating hemlocks.

2017 FINANCIAL MATTERS

* **Income & expense report** as of 4/8/17 – The current report was presented and reviewed.

* **Report on annual membership appeal** as of 4/7/17 – To date we have received 78 new or renewing memberships totaling \$7,930.00.

* **Revised budget** – A revised budget was presented with adjustments for increased donations and decreased expenses.

- * **Grant funds request** for UGA *Rosellinia* needle blight project – The group briefly discussed whether or not to send funds to this project and decided not to do so since the problem doesn't seem to be very severe now and the R.O.I. would be hard to quantify.
- * **Hemlock Cost Share Program** – The concept document for a Rabun pilot was briefly discussed, and the group consensus was that it is not a good use of our resources, particularly considering the amount of logistics and record-keeping that would be required. Since we already have a process for providing charitable help when it's needed, another similar program is not needed.
- * **Annual tax filing** was presented to the group for review and was approved.

2017 MEETING DATES FOR Q3 AND Q4

- * July 16 (*third* Sunday)
- * October 15 (*third* Sunday)