

Notes for 4/23/23 SGH Leadership Team Meeting

This quarterly Leadership Team meeting for Board Members, Officers, Program Manager, and Lead Facilitators was held at Dahlonega Chamber of Commerce, 342 Hill St., Dahlonega, GA, beginning at 1:00 p.m. Participants were Chris Curtin, John Shearouse, Kat Carey, Jonathan Micancin, Jon Jones, Holly Cochran, Jim Wentworth, Buz Stone and Donna Shearer. Derrick Morris, Betty Larsen, Todd Jackson, Jody Webb, Renee Gracon, Jimmy Stewart, Dara Sinclair, Nick Gardener, Kim Wood, Robert Patchett, Elliott Segall, Lee Higgins, Jim Heilman, Ray Lorenzi, Cary Allen, Bob Pledger, Ray Lorenzi, Jim Heilman, Alan Barnes, Al Battle, Darrel Sheffield, and Dave Teffeteller were unable to attend.

BOARD MATTERS

* **Addition of Kat Carey to the Board**

Following the 1/8/23 meeting, Kat Carey was nominated to join the SGH Board. Today the vote was unanimous to approve her joining the Board. Welcome, Kat!

* **Introduction of Jonathan Micancin**

Welcome to Jonathan Micancin, YHC Biology professor, joining us for the first time as Lead Facilitator for Towns and Union Counties.

* **Scholarship Fund**

SGH is establishing Donna Shearer Scholarship Fund at University of North Georgia in Dahlonega to honor her as she is retiring, and Buz provided an overview. The plan outlines that the administrator at UNG will decide the scholarship application process; Donna will review the applications, assist in the interview process, and make an advisory decision about who the recipient will be. The scholarship is to be awarded at the end of sophomore year, and the recipient can reapply for junior/senior years. The fund goal is a \$40,000 endowment at UNG.

* **Executive Director Transition**

The transition is going splendidly. Holly has taken over almost all of Donna's former activities. The only tasks that still need relocation, but not to Holly, are Web Master, Injector Maintainer, and Membership Coordinator. Donna would like to continue answering the Hemlock Help Line.

REVIEW OF FY 2023 STRATEGIES & ACTIVITIES as of 3/31/23

- 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 131 calls handled
- 1 Hemlock Help Clinic with 1 attendee
- Total active Facilitators = 415 in Georgia and 93 in other states
- 6 Presentations for 88 adults and 222 children
- 1 Customized training session for 11 volunteers and public land managers
- 3 Festivals / Public Events with 16 volunteers and estimated 619 visitors
- 4 Articles / news items written by, with the assistance of, or about SGH published in newspapers/magazines
- 7 Facilitator visits made with charitable treatment of 603 trees
- 9 hemlock treatment projects with 69 volunteers treating 7,365 trees
- 2 sapling rescue projects with 12 volunteers, 125 saplings rescued and potted for use in educational / service activities or future adoption
- 33 hemlock saplings adopted
- 3 soil injectors repaired/refurbished
- Total of 1,271 volunteer hours logged



REVIEW OF FY 2023 FINANCIAL MATTERS (4/19/23)

Starting 2023 Ckg Balance	\$72,039.68
Total Income	\$13,972.71
Total Expense	\$8,273.12
Ending Ckg Acct Balance	\$77,739.27
Net Change	\$5,699.59

* **Report on Annual Appeal** (4/19/23): 56 donations totaling \$5,865.00

* **Dedicated Funds:** \$8,346

FAIRS / FESTIVALS

Thurs., Mar. 30	UNG Volunteer Fair, completed	50 visitors, 2 volunteers, 8 combined volunteer hrs
Sat., Apr. 15 & Sun., Apr. 16	Bear-on-the-Square, completed	480 visitors, 25 trees adopted, 12 volunteers combined 87 volunteer hours
Wed., Apr. 19	UNG Gainesville Earth Day, completed	89 visitors, 2 volunteers, 16 combined volunteer hrs

Kat noted we should add a sign up for assistance request at the farmer’s market to revamp interest in Towns and Union counties.

EDUCATION

* **Clinics and Facilitator Training**

We need to find more effective ways to reach out to specific focus groups (garden clubs, recreation groups, etc.). Buz encouraged those present to reach out to program managers. Donna stated we need to reach out to group leaders and encourage them to let their members know about upcoming training opportunities. Chris suggested reaching out to Chambers of Commerce to get contact names for each county. Jim W. mentioned having a sign-up sheet/ at each festival- for upcoming Clinics and Facilitator Training Workshops.

Jonathan will utilize a class period/lab period to teach clinic and facilitator training to his Conservation Biology students. Donna suggested we could also try this at UNG, Dalton State, and Lanier Tech. Students would receive credit, and could then add SGH Facilitator to their resume or CV. Jim W. said one of his treatment sites is at Ivy Log Gap, so if Jonathan trains his students, they could fulfill the volunteer requirement at Jim’s Ivy Log treatment project.

Sat. Feb 25 th TO BE RESCHEDULED	Clinic	Fannin, Gilmer, Union
Sat. March 25 th TO BE RESCHEDULED	Facilitator Training	Fannin, Gilmer, Union
Sat. Apr. 15	Clinic	Towns, Rabun Habersham

* **Presentations**

DATE	CONTACT	EVENT
2/7/23	Rasmussen, Margaret	SGH presentation for Redbud Project in Gainesville, 24 attendees -- Donna
3/9/23	McKee, Jacquelin	UNG Peaks Program in Blue Ridge, 30 attendees -- Holly
3/15/23	Arp, Tori	Hemlock Lesson with Fannin 6th Grade Exploratory students in Blue Ridge, 2 adults, 222 students -- Donna & Holly
3/24/23	Hanson, Lesley	SGH presentation for Georgia-Alabama Land Trust, 12 attendees -- Holly

SERVICE PROJECTS

* Hemlock Treatment Projects

2/18/23	USFS	Lake Rabun Beach Recreation Area with 10 SGH & Boy Scout volunteers – Holly leading
3/16/23	Arp, Tori	Fannin County Middle School with 6th Grade Exploratory students in Blue Ridge -- Jim, Buz, J.T. Kieffer leading
3/26/23	USFS	Tate Branch & Sandy Bottom – Jon J completed both projects

Jimmy Stewart, Dan Reynolds, and Ally Bartholomew have led crews to treat over 7,000 trees in NW GA, Signal Mtn TN, and Grandview. Holly requested information on ways to best assist them in their efforts i.e. injectors, etc. Donna said if they need more injectors or chemical, we can provide assistance. SGH is exploring grant opportunities in the NW Georgia area.

Fannin Middle project: GPTV did a special on FCMS STEM program. Jim W, Buz and J. T. Kieffer with Terramedics assisted students in treating around 20 trees on campus. Donna and Holly taught 5 classes for 6th grade students prior to the treatment. The school has requested additional SGH assistance to treat around 100 trees on the Hwy 76 side of the school entrance later this year. Holly reached out to administrators regarding future development of the area and is waiting for response to continue with the project

* Paddling Treatment Projects

Jonathan requested status of treatment project between SGH and GA Canoeing Association. Per Jim W. USFS is still interested, they are waiting from a commitment from paddling association. Jim W said it's a project that could be done if we can find a group willing to partner. Jonathan stated he could log events on GA Canoeing Association if SGH handles planning the projects. Jim W will reach out to Dave for additional information about previous similar projects, and let him know Jonathan is interested in assisting. Donna noted we had done customized training for paddlers in the past for Cartecay projects. We could potentially consider this for both Cartecay and Chattooga Rivers. Jim W noted we'll finish the Cartecay treatment first, then move on to the Chattooga.

Kat noted it may be beneficial to reach out to some of the rafting/excursion companies.

* Saplings & Planting Projects

Sat., March 4	Dig in Gilmer County w/ GNPS	Chris - 60 saplings retrieved
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Buz is in the final phase of the Billy Goat Island Project, a 25-acre island on Lake Burton. He has flagged 3 north facing coves on the island where 50 saplings will be planted. He's taking materials to the island via barge this week. Volunteers from Lake Burton will meet SGH at Murray Cove on April 29th, divide into 3 teams, and take a pontoon out to the island to plant the saplings. Buz will get a pledge from one member of each team who will be responsible for watering the trees. John S. said to monitor the root ball to gauge water requirements of the recently planted trees. John noted that trees planted in conifer bark need additional water. Donna noted we shouldn't plant in a bark mix. We'll need to take the trees out of the bark mix and add it to native soil, with soil amendments.

Buz is asked to follow up on sapling dig at Rabun County property. There's also an opportunity in Mineral Bluff and another in Gilmer County.

* Soil Injector Repair

Donna has two volunteers interested in injector repair.

* Other

Concerning Facilitator visit requests: we do not charge for services, but we request reimbursement for chemical cost if the client is willing and able to do so. Chris/Buz noted to bring donation form during the visit to prevent homeowners from having to mail in reimbursement for chemical.

COMMUNICATIONS

- * **Web site** – up to date as of 4/13/23
- * **Contacts & mailing lists** – up to date as of 4/13/23
- * **Facebook** – Dave is continuing to post notices of Clinics, Facilitator Training Workshops, and treatment projects.
- * **Outreach database** – Our intern is working on a project to identify groups we can communicate with concerning education and service opportunities. It will be an Excel spreadsheet that can be sorted by organization name, kind of organization, county, primary contact, phone, email, and social media link.
- * **Newsletter** – Holly will experiment with publishing our newsletter using Mail Chimp.

2023 MEETING DATES

Sunday, July 16

Sunday, October 8 or 15?

Starting at 1:00 p.m.

Dahlonega Chamber of Commerce

342 Hill Street, Dahlonega