

# Hope for Our Hemlocks

(West Rabun Property Owners Newsletter, Summer 2009)

Donna and Mark Shearer of Save Georgia's Hemlocks report that the recently introduced Hemlock Help for Homeowners program and the Hemlock Help Line are being enthusiastically received by local homeowners. The program is active in Rabun and Habersham Counties and will roll out in several more counties in August and September. A clinic will be held in Rabun County on September 6, with other to follow. Following are excerpts and valuable information from the press release that was issued.

"The Hemlocks in north Georgia are being threatened by a spreading infestation of the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA), an invasive insect native to Asia with no local natural predator... The bad news is that if appropriate action is not taken soon, almost all of these magnificent trees will die within the next 10 years. The good news is that SAVE GEORGIA'S HEMLOCKS, a recently formed nonprofit organization, is offering a new program of education and charitable service to help homeowners all across north Georgia manage the health of their Hemlocks against the Woolly Adelgid.

"The HEMLOCK HELP FOR HOMEOWNERS program focuses on enhancing public awareness of the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid problem and the practical solutions that are available and enabling homeowners to save the Hemlocks on their own property for the lowest possible cost.

"Homeowners can call the Hemlock Help Line (706-429-8010) with their Hemlock questions and receive accurate, up-to-date information and advice. For individuals interested in the do-it-yourself option, the Hemlock Help Line can provide information on borrowing a soil injector (in Rabun County it is available through the UGA Extension Office), advice on purchasing the treatment product economically, and instruction on doing the treatment. For those who prefer to contract with a licensed professional to treat their trees, the Hemlock Help Line can supply a list of qualified local companies specializing in saving Hemlocks, along with their average rate structure..."

Thanks to all involved who created and are offering this valuable service. -- Tom Fischer