

# Local hemlocks are in trouble

## *Help clinic to be held at Smithgall Woods*

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Special to the White County News

First, the bad news. The eastern hemlocks in White County continue to be under attack by an invasive insect, the hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA).

Many of these trees are in decline now and will probably die within the next few years unless they are treated.

If timely action is not taken, the results will include great swaths of standing dead trees where beautiful green forests used to be, potential loss of private property value, cost of removing the dead trees, degradation of water quality and trout streams, and reduction in tourism

revenue and jobs.

The good news is that property owners can save their hemlocks easily and cost-effectively by treating the trees themselves or having it done professionally.

The public is cordially invited to a free Hemlock Help Clinic being presented by Save Georgia's Hemlocks on Saturday, August 14 at 10 a.m. at the Smithgall Woods Visitors Centers.

Attendees will learn about the threat to our hemlocks and how to recognize the problems.

There are reliable options for saving these valuable trees, and the practical help is available to property owners. For individuals interested in a do-it-yourself

option, the clinic will provide information on where to borrow a soil injector, advice on acquiring the treatment products economically, and instructions on the treatment procedure.

For those who prefer to contract with a licensed professional to treat their trees, the clinic will supply a list of qualified local companies that specialize in saving hemlocks.

If you have hemlocks, they are in danger. Please come to the Hemlock Help Clinic on August 14 to learn how to save them.

For more information, visit [www.savegeorgiahemlocks.org](http://www.savegeorgiahemlocks.org) or call the Hemlock Help Line at 706-429-8010.