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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Submitted: March 18, 2016

To run: week of March 21 or 28, 2016

## Volunteers needed to save Anna Ruby Falls hemlocks

Millions of tiny but deadly invasive insects are attacking the beautiful hemlock trees at Anna Ruby Falls near Helen, and volunteers are needed to help treat and save them from almost certain death. The nonprofit organization Save Georgia's Hemlocks, in partnership with the U. S. Forest Service, will be conducting a volunteer project on Saturday, April 2 and again on Saturday, April 23 to treat these valuable trees for the hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA), which has already killed hundreds of thousands of hemlocks across north Georgia.

The treatment process is easy, safe, and highly effective, and all participants will receive a brief initial training. Both work days will run from about 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., with a break at midday for a picnic lunch. These outings are always rewarding as volunteers get to enjoy a fun day in the woods, meet other good people who care about protecting our environment, and gain the satisfaction of knowing that their efforts will help preserve the beauty and health of our natural resources for years to come.

To volunteer, please contact Bob Pledger at <u>bobpledger@windstream.net</u> or 706-212-2833. Please come join the battle against the bugs – you'll be glad you did!

Respectfully yours, Bob Pledger, Vice Chairman, Save Georgia's Hemlocks

Save Georgia's Hemlocks is a 100% volunteer, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization of concerned citizens dedicated to preserving, conserving, and restoring endangered hemlocks through education and charitable service. To learn more, please visit our web site <a href="https://www.savegeorgiashemlocks.org">www.savegeorgiashemlocks.org</a> or call the Hemlock Help Line<sup>SM</sup> 706-429-8010.