



Newsletter  
2017 – Year-End

## Hemlock Happenings

A Publication of  
Save Georgia's Hemlocks

*Hemlock Happenings* is an e-newsletter for members, donors, and friends of Save Georgia's Hemlocks to share hemlock news, service and educational opportunities, technical updates, and announcements. If you'd like to submit an article or announcement, please send it to the e-mail address below. Your feedback is always appreciated.

### News from the front

Gratitude is much on our minds during the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons as we reflect on our blessings – perhaps families, friends, homes, health, or jobs, – and our hearts go out to people who have suffered losses. It's also a time to think about broader kinds of blessings, not just those that we have but those that surround us – the beautiful part of the country where we live, the bountiful natural resources in our area, our freedom to enjoy them, – and yes, our responsibility and privilege to protect these treasures.

So first let me say that all of us in Save Georgia's Hemlocks count all of you – members, volunteers, neighborhoods, community organizations, property owners, and public land managers – as our special friends. We deeply appreciate the support you've provided through your time, talent, ideas, energy, and financial resources.

You have played a vital role this year in helping hundreds of property owners save their hemlocks and treating thousands more trees on public and private land. You've also helped rescue hundreds of threatened hemlock saplings, planted dozens of large saplings on public land and along trout streams, and spread the hemlock message farther than ever before.

And now as we are looking forward to another new year, let me challenge you to keep up the good work and give some earnest thought, as we will be doing, to ways you can give back to those who have helped you and to the community at large. And we'd love it if you would share your ideas with us.

We wish you a wonderful Christmas and a very Happy New Year!

## HIGHLIGHTS OF 2017

### Hemlock Camp Meeting

On Sunday, June 25, 2017 Save Georgia's Hemlocks held its annual Hemlock Camp Meeting at the ETC Pavilion in Ellijay. Those attending shared one common interest – saving Georgia's hemlocks from almost certain death. Families, volunteers, scientists, educators, recreationists, environmentalists and public land managers came together to hear a message from Dr. Justin Ellis, get to know other like-minded people, and enjoy the music of Downtown Roy and food from Poole's BBQ. See page 2 for photos and more.



### Hike & Help the Hemlocks

Save Georgia's Hemlocks and the Benton MacKaye Trail Association were joined by Trout Unlimited on Thursday, September 14, 2017 for our annual Hike and Help the Hemlocks, an education and service event to save the hemlocks on some of our beautiful shared lands. The outing took place on the Benton MacKaye Trail in Cherry Log Mountain, Gilmer County. This particular site was chosen because of its situation in a beautiful community, on a great trail that is used by many hikers, and along a trout stream that needs protection for the shade canopy. See page 3 for photos and more.

### New Soil Injector

*Note: This article is not an endorsement of the product described below but just a notice of the product's introduction.*



At long last, a new hand-held soil injector designed for use on mountainous terrain is now available. The EZ-Ject Soil Injector Lite, made by EZ-Ject, Inc. is similar in size, weight, and operation to the Kioritz many of you are familiar with.

The key differences are a 1-gallon tank (compared to 3 qts.), output of 1/2 or 1/4 oz. per pump (compared to 1/6 oz.), and a sturdy foot pedal for pushing the probe into the soil.

See page 2 for more information.

### Hemlock Cone Pendant

The holidays are coming! Here's a great gift idea for anyone who loves hemlock trees.



See page 4 for more information

## CALENDAR CORNER

SGH had an information booth with saplings for adoption at 11 festivals across north Georgia in 2017. They were very productive in for sharing the hemlock message with the public and getting lots of healthy hemlock saplings adopted by good folks who will look after them.

Here are the **festivals** we definitely plan to participate in next year, and we'll probably add others to the schedule:

- Bear on the Square (April in Dahlonega)
- Trout Fest (April in Blue Ridge)
- Blue Ridge Arts Festival (May in Blue Ridge)
- Trail Fest (September in Dahlonega)
- Foxfire Mountaineer Festival (October in Clayton), and
- Marble Festival (October in Jasper)

We'll be scheduling **Hemlock Help Clinics and Facilitator Training Workshops** in all 19 of our program counties, presentations to community groups, and special activities with schools and scout troops. We will continue supporting the Georgia DNR and the U. S. Forest Service with **hemlock treatment projects** across all of north Georgia and hope to do several more **hemlock restoration and field insectary projects** during the year.

Our annual **Hemlock Camp Meeting** will be held again in June or July (depending on when we can reserve the venue), and our **Hike & Help the Hemlocks** event will be in September.

Our **quarterly Leadership Team meetings** will be held from 1 to 5 p.m. on the second Sunday of the calendar quarter at the home of Donna Shearer in Dahlonega. All interested parties are welcome. We especially encourage all our Lead Facilitators to come because as the scope of our programs and other activities continues to grow, your input and participation will be more important than ever.

Details for these and other activities will be posted on our [Schedule of Events](#) page as they're added during the year.

### Do you have an event to share?

If your organization has an educational or service event related to the health of our forests and waterways that you'd like to partner with us on, please let us know. SGH is particularly keen to support youth activities, such as Eagle Scout projects. Or if you have an environmental event you'd just like us to help publicize, please contact us at 706-429-8010.

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## Hemlock Camp Meeting



Displays, exhibits and demonstrations were provided by the Camp Meeting's Circle of Friends: Atlanta Audubon Society, UGA Beetle Lab, Young Harris Beetle Lab, Cartecay Bike Shop, Georgia Appalachian Trail Club, Georgia Department of Natural Resources - Wildlife Resources, Georgia Forest Watch, Georgia Forestry Commission, Get Off the Grid, Gilmer County Beekeepers, Sierra Club - Georgia Chapter, Trees Atlanta, Trout Unlimited and Yahoola Outdoors - Trail Fest.

University of North Georgia Environmental Leadership Center's Dr. Justin Ellis, the Camp Meeting's keynote speaker, detailed UNG's progress in developing biological controls to combat the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid. He defined biological control as the utilization of natural enemies to reduce the damage caused by noxious organisms to tolerable levels.



Dr. Ellis explained that besides the challenges of acquiring and/or raising beetles, a thorough understanding of the forest conditions and other variables across the state is vital to being able to deploy the predators in locations most likely to produce optimal results. Therefore, work is currently being done to create and maintain a comprehensive geospatial database that will support more strategic beetle releases and recaptures, enhance coordination among the various research labs and public agencies, and promote improved communication of the evolving problem with the public.

Dr. Ellis also announced that another predator, the Silver Fly, is currently being researched in its native range in the Pacific Northwestern U.S. In that part of the country Silver Flies are second only to *Laricobius nigrinus* in abundance as an HWA predator. And HWA is their preferred food source when available. One of the objectives of the research is to begin releases of western silver flies in the eastern U.S. to determine the most effective release strategies.

And finally, he encouraged everyone to consider ways in which they might help: being sure to take care of their own hemlocks, sharing the hemlock message with friends and neighbors, avoiding being a vector to spread the pest, and supporting organizations that are engaged in the hemlocks vs. adelgids battle.



The Hemlock Camp Meeting is an annual event of Save Georgia's Hemlocks, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, grass-roots organization committed in the battle to save the hemlocks, preserve property values, protect local economies, and protect the health and natural beauty of Georgia's mountain communities through education and charitable service.

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## New Soil Injector

There are actually three models of the EZ-Ject Soil Injector, and we have tested them all. The operation involves using the foot pedal to insert the probe into the soil and then pumping the handle, which causes the cylinder assembly to move up and down as it dispenses the liquid through the nozzle tip.

EZ-Ject Standard is a heavy duty unit weighing 14 pounds empty with 20-inch wide handles. We thought it more appropriate for work on residential property and other relatively gentle terrain with open access to the trees.

EZ-Ject Lite weighs only 8.5 pounds and has a narrow stirrup-shaped handle. We found it easier to use on steep terrain and get up close to the trunk of trees with low hanging branches. It comes in two versions — one with a cylinder lock that prevents the unit from dispensing liquid if you need to use it as a "walking stick" and one without that feature.

See page 5 for the product flyer.



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## Hike & Help the Hemlocks



Photo by Jason Beck, The News Observer

Following a short orientation, 26 volunteers worked together in small teams to treat (or re-treat) 303 hemlocks along the trail. Participants not only helped to save the trees on the trail, but those who were new to the process also learned the process for treating their own hemlocks.

We paused at midday to enjoy a delicious picnic lunch beside Indian Lake and get to know other good folks who share a love of the outdoors. After lunch Ralph Heller of BMTA and Jim Reich of Trout Unlimited gave interesting lunch-and-learn presentations. Donna Shearer gave an update on SGH activities, shared some recent learnings about trees in the forest, and provided a [Recommended Reading List for Nature Lovers](#). Jim Reich, David and Cindy Wasileski, Bob Koop, Jim Heilman, Ray Lorenzi, Frank and Linda Gheesling received special recognition for the many Facilitator visits and tree treatments they've done on their own this year.

During the event Ralph Heller delivered a donation from the Sisson Company, and Jim Reich presented one from TU. BMTA had already given a generous donation earlier in the year.



Ralph & Donna at left



Jim & Donna below

We are very grateful to these wonderful partners for their support on behalf of the hemlocks. THANKS EVERYONE!!!

## Hemlock Restoration Project on Trout Stream

As part of the ongoing partnership between SGH and Trout Unlimited, 27 volunteers joined forces to plant 42 large hemlock saplings along a 1,500' section of Rock Creek on the National Forest in Murray County. Using funds from a grant SGH received from the North Georgia EMC for the purpose of restoring the shade canopy on trout streams, the project was planned and managed by Americorps intern Colin Crofts on Friday, October 20.



In addition to SGH and TU, volunteers came from the U. S. Forest Service, the Nature Conservancy, Georgia Forestry Commission, Dalton State College, and the community at large.



As part of the project, 4 volunteers treated the existing large hemlocks on the site to ensure those trees will continue to thrive alongside their new neighbors. Also, since this site is used by the USFS and TU for kids' fishing events, a major clean-up was done to make the area safer and more attractive.



And surprise! Bigfoot (aka Henry Ostaszewski of Outside World Outfitters) helped with the work of restoring the hemlock habitat he hangs out in.

## Hemlock Treatment at Holly Creek Preserve

On Saturday, Nov. 4 SGH partnered with The Nature Conservancy for a hemlock treatment project at their Holly Creek Preserve in Murray County.



After a short orientation and safety briefing, 14 volunteers worked in teams to treat 503 trees, pausing at midday for a picnic lunch beside the creek.



Working on terrain ranging from gentle to steep as well as across a very cold stream, the volunteers did a GREAT job. The hemlocks lift their branches to you!!!

## Sapling Rescue & Potting

Thanks to the kind permission of the Georgia DNR, 19 volunteers were able to rescue 200 hemlock saplings at Smithgall Woods on Saturday, Nov. 11. These little trees were too small to be included in a treatment project and therefore likely to die from the HWA, but this rescue project has saved them for future use in festivals, educational events, hemlock restorations on trout streams, and other service activities.

The next day 7 volunteers, including some local Boy Scouts, met at Buz Stone's workshop in Lakemont to pot them. Below, Buz surveys the lovely babies in his sapling nursery.



## FOCUS ON FACILITATORS

### Questions & Answers

**Q:** If I don't see any egg sacs on my trees now, can I assume they aren't infested?

**A:** No. By this time of year the egg sacs have mostly disintegrated from the weather and therefore are very hard to see, but the bugs can still be there.

**Q:** Why am I seeing a sprinkling of yellow, orange, or brown needles on my hemlocks?

**A:** Even though hemlocks are evergreens, they still have to refresh their needles over time. So in the fall, some of the needles turn color and will fall off in preparation for new ones next spring.

**Q:** Can I treat my hemlocks in the winter?

**A:** Yes. Imidacloprid can be applied year round in the South, except when the ground is frozen or saturated. But ya know, the best time to treat your trees is yesterday! So if you haven't treated them yet, get to it!

**Q:** How should I decide between buying a four-pack of Imidacloprid 75 WSP or a gallon of Imidacloprid 2F / 2L?

**A:** If you don't have many trees or if their total trunk diameter is less than 180 inches, one four-pack of Imidacloprid 75 WSP should be enough. It will cost somewhere in the \$30 range. However, if you have a lot of trees or if their total diameter is greater than 180 inches, a gallon of Imidacloprid 2F / 2L will be more economical since it treats an average of 1200 inches and can be bought for around \$70.

**Q:** Should I fertilize my hemlocks, and if so, when is the best time to do it?

**A:** Hemlocks that are established generally don't need fertilizing, but if you think yours need a little boost, fall or early winter is the best time to do it. Use a product that's labeled for evergreens such as azaleas, camellias, etc., and be sure to follow the label for the amount to use. Note: If your hemlocks have adelgids, treat them for that problem first; then once the infestation is under control, you can fertilize them if they still seem to need it.

### FACILITATORS — CALL TO ACTION

At our next Leadership Team meeting in January, we'll be putting together our 2018 schedule for classes, festivals, treatment projects, and other educational / service events. Because we are a 100% volunteer organization, we want — and need — EVERY Facilitator to participate in at least one activity during the year. So as you look over the list of our 2017 accomplishments (at right), please be thinking of what you can do, what you would really enjoy, to be an active part of the efforts to save the hemlocks. We'll be reaching out soon to ask you to choose and sign up. **YOUR HELP IS KEY TO SAVING OUR HEMLOCKS!!!**



Celebrate the magnificent hemlock with this limited edition hemlock cone pendant.

This beautiful, solid sterling silver pendant is cast from a real eastern hemlock cone. 100% of your purchase will support our efforts to save endangered hemlocks from the invasive hemlock woolly adelgid.

**\$45<sup>00</sup> - Quantities are limited. Order now.**

Call 706-429-8010

or email [Donna@SaveGeorgiasHemlocks.org](mailto:Donna@SaveGeorgiasHemlocks.org).

*Evergreens are a symbol of everlasting love. Show yours this year with a gift that will be treasured for years to come.*

**Q:** My hemlocks look kinda yellowish instead of dark green. What should I do?

**A:** If they're situated in a soggy or poorly drained place, try to correct the drainage around them. If that's not the case, they may just need a light dose of Ironite sprinkled around the base. Be sure to read the label.

**Q:** How badly defoliated can a hemlock tree be before it can't be saved?

**A:** In general a tree that still has 50% of its foliage can be saved with Imidacloprid. However, if it has only 30-40% foliage *and* is very large, is growing in deep shade, or has other stressors, it may take Safari to save it. The 40-inch tree below has only about 25% foliage and was just treated with Safari as an experiment. Stay tuned ...



### Summary of 2017 Activities

**Hemlock Help Program** serving all 19 HWA-infested north Georgia counties in the native hemlock range plus the Atlanta area

#### Education:

- 1,329 calls handled on the Hemlock Help Line
- 9 Hemlock Help Clinics / Facilitator Training Workshops with 45 new Facilitators trained
- 8 customized training classes for 115 civic / community volunteers
- 14 presentations to civic / community groups with 489 attendees
- 3 Hemlock Lessons for 155 students
- 11 festivals with 64 volunteers and 1,615 visitors / contacts
- 46 articles / news items written by, with the assistance of, or about SGH published in newspapers / newsletters

#### Service:

- Total of 334 SGH Facilitators
  - 236 Facilitator visits made with charitable treatment of 2,741 trees
  - 36 hemlock treatment projects with 351 volunteers treating or retreating 5,065 trees
  - 14 hemlock rescue projects with 52 volunteers rescuing 610 saplings
  - 212 hemlock saplings adopted
  - 17 large saplings donated to municipalities / nonprofits
  - 1 hemlock field insectary project planted
  - 1 hemlock restoration project on a trout stream
  - 5 more sapling planting projects
  - 31 soil injectors repaired / refurbished
  - Total of 6,662 volunteer hours logged
- See the [About Us](#) page of our web site to read the full report.



We have included this flyer for information purposes only; SGH is not selling these injectors and has no financial interest in the manufacturer or distributors. Please call the Hemlock Help Line 706-429-8010 to get more feedback on our experience with this device or to arrange a local test / demo. The company contact at EZ-Ject Inc. is Mike Frisina, 888-395-6732.

**For pesticide and  
fertilizer applications  
under the soil surface.**

**EZJECT™  
SOIL INJECTOR™**

**EZ-Ject: An ArborSystems Partner**

### **EZ-Ject™ Soil Injector**

Urban foresters, arborists and tree care professionals now have an easily transportable way for tree and shrub pesticide and fertilizer applications under the soil surface.

The EZ-Ject Soil Injector has a semi-transparent container for viewing product usage, adjustable injection depth from two to eight inches and a replaceable hardened steel tip.



**STANDARD  
14-LBS.**



**LITE  
8.5 LBS.**



	Lite	Standard
Pumping systems delivers ½ oz. (15 ml) per stroke (¼ oz. (7.5 ml) per stroke option available)	✓	✓
Adjustable handles for applicator height	✓	
Wide and narrow handle configurations available	✓	
Narrow profile for dense underbrush	✓	
Adjustable foot plate and probe depth control	✓	✓
One-gallon chemical tank	✓	✓
Wide-mouth screw cap for filling	✓	✓
Quick interchange containers with zero leakage		✓
Replaceable one-gallon container		✓
Fill stand to help replenish containers		✓
Stainless steel cage for container protection		✓
Garden hose adapter for easy cleaning		✓

✓ Available

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