Combined Hemlock Help Clinic & Facilitator Training Workshop
Customized for the AT Hemlock Treatment Project

This is an in-depth course designed for people who want to fully understand the hemlock problem, learn the actual process for treating the trees, and then be of service within the community. Note that the content of the prerequisite Hemlock Help Clinic, which is sometimes presented as a separate class, has been merged into this combined Facilitator Training Workshop.

The Facilitator program is similar to the Master Gardener program in that it provides a great deal of good information and practical skills that should be useful to individual property owners to save their own trees ***AND*** prepares volunteers to find their personal stewardship niche using their knowledge and skills to help others in their community.

CONTENT – Starting with an overview of what's killing the hemlocks, what can be done to save them, and why it's so important to do so, this class provides complete how-to instruction covering the trees, the insects, assessing infestations, cultural practices, chemical treatments, biological controls, cost considerations, personal and environmental safety. It also prepares volunteers to advise and assist other property owners, work with the U. S. Forest Service and Georgia DNR to save trees on our public lands, participate in special hemlock initiatives such as hemlock restoration along trout streams, rescue and raise hemlock saplings, and more.

An outline for the training begins on the next page; handouts and an instructional DVD will be provided during class. The classroom portion of the training will include the standard content for Facilitator training; however, the hands-on portion will be customized to focus on the particular treatment protocol approved by the U. S. Forest Service for use by volunteers on the AT hemlock treatment project – application of Imidacloprid tablets by soil insertion.

DATE & TIME & LOCATION – Saturday, January 25, 2020 from 9:00 a.m. to approximately 3:30 p.m.

The classroom portion beginning at 9:00 will be in the 2nd floor conference room of the Dahlonega Chamber & Visitors Center, 13 S Park St., Dahlonega, GA 30533. See map attached to this email.

The hands-on practice portion of the training will be conducted on the Appalachian Trail within the current Blackwell Creek hemlock conservation area, off Cooper Gap Rd. / FS42. We'll leave the Chamber around 1:00 and carpool to the site; it's about a 30-minute drive followed by a 20-minute hike to the work site. We'll treat trees there for about an hour and then carpool back to the Chamber.

COST – Normally, for individuals who are not yet SGH members or who need to renew their membership, we ask for a tax-deductible $20 membership donation to help support the work of SGH. However, a special arrangement has been made to cover this cost for GATC, ATC, or BMTA members.

WHAT TO BRING –

* **Something to take notes with**. We recycle the training guides but will give you a DVD containing the complete guide, a scripted version of the training presentation, and lots more useful materials at the end of class.

* **Your personal calendar**. Each person completing the course will be asked to sign up to help with one or more of the hemlock treatment projects along the Appalachian Trail that GATC has committed to complete.

* **A sack lunch**. We will eat lunch in the classroom around mid-day.

* **Water bottle, day pack, hiking stick(s), rain gear in case of light rain, and your personal hard hat if you have one**. We'll provide hard hats for anyone who doesn't already have one.

WHAT TO WEAR – Dress in layers for winter weather, including long-sleeved shirt, long pants, sturdy footwear with socks, and work gloves. There are 5 creek crossings on the way to the work site, so high-top waterproof boots are strongly advised.

Outline of Hemlock Help Clinic

A. The role and importance of hemlocks
   - Aesthetic value
   - Ecological value to wildlife and plants
   - Environmental value
   - Economic value to the community
   - Personal value to individuals and families

B. The invasive insect that's killing them and how it does so

C. How to recognize the problem and assess the level of infestation

D. What property owners can do to save their own trees
   - Cultural controls to maintain the health of the trees
   - Chemical treatment to kill the pests
   - Personal and environmental safety
   - Cost of do-it-yourself approach or professional service

E. The consequences of not taking timely action

F. How property owners, volunteers, and organizations can help others in their community save hemlocks on private and public land

G. FREE help available through the SGH Hemlock Help Line, the SGH web site, and our SGH Facilitators

OUTLINE OF FACILITATOR TRAINING WORKSHOP

I: INTRODUCTION
- Problem Statement
- The Stakes
- Hemlock Help Program
- Role of Facilitators

II: HEMLOCKS
- Description – Eastern hemlock
- Description – Carolina hemlock
- Hemlock Structure
- Value of Hemlocks

III: HEMLOCK WOOLLY ADELGID
- History and Distribution
- Hosts
- Identification
- Impact of HWA on Hemlocks
- Adelgid Lifecycle

IV: CULTURAL CONTROLS
- General Approach and Recommendations
- Care of Landscape Ornamentals
- Forest Management Practices
- Removing Untreated Trees
- Water Needs of Trees
- Advantages of Cultural Controls
- Disadvantages of Cultural Controls

V: CHEMICAL CONTROLS
- General Approach and Recommendations
- Overview of Chemical Treatment Process
- Choosing the Trees to Treat
- Determining the Level of Infestation
- Systemic or Non-Systemic Material
- How Systemic Treatment Works
- Imidacloprid or Dinotefuran
- Product Choices
- Timing of Treatment
- Choosing an Application Method
- Generally Not Recommended
- Summary of Treatment Decisions
- Determining Diameter at Breast Height (DBH)
- How to Do Soil Injection with Imidacloprid
- How to Do Soil Drench with Imidacloprid
- How to Do Soil Application with Imidacloprid Tablets
- Helpful Hints for Soil Application
- How to do Foliar Spray with Imidacloprid
- How to Do Trunk Spray with Safari 20 SG
- Special Notes
- Advantages of Chemical Controls
- Disadvantages of Chemical Controls

VI: BIOLOGICAL CONTROLS
- The Challenge
- The Hope
- Hemlock Conservation Areas
- Other Research Efforts
- Information for Property Owners
- Advantages of Biological Controls
- Disadvantages of Biological Controls

VII: WORKING WITH PROPERTY OWNERS
- About Property Owners
- Your Message
- Overview of a Facilitator Visit
- The Flow

VIII: ADDITIONAL FACILITATOR INFORMATION
- Knowledge of Treatment Materials and Safety
- Parts and Usage of Kioritz Soil Injector
- Product Use and Storage
- Rough Estimate of Product Amount & Cost
- Reliable Estimate of Product Amount & Cost
- Understanding Professional Standards
- Understanding Average Professional Rates
- Dealing with Treatment Failure
- Record Keeping for Volunteer Facilitators
- Important SGH Web Site Pages
- Thank You and a Reminder

SIGN-UP FOR VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES & INTERESTS

HANDS-ON DEMONSTRATION & PRACTICE
- Site orientation & safety briefing
- Review of project rules & tree selection criteria
- Assessing /choosing hemlocks for treatment
- Measuring trunk diameter
- Applying Imidacloprid by CoreTect Tablets
- Tagging treated hemlocks
- Recording information on data sheets