

Hemlock Day in Sequatchie County, TN



A critically important educational program sponsored by the Lone Oak Community and presented by Donna Shearer of Save Georgia's Hemlocks, Inc. Come and learn how to save the hemlock trees on your own property and in the community while there's still time.

WHEN: Saturday, August 10, 2013

WHERE: **1118 Clear Brooks Dr.**, Signal Mountain, TN 37377 for the hemlock treatment project.
Lone Oak Community Center, 6078 Taft Highway, Signal Mountain, TN 37377 for the Hemlock Help Clinic and Facilitator Training Workshop. See maps on page 2.

WHAT: **8:45 to 10.30 A.M. HEMLOCK TREATMENT PROJECT** – This segment is required for Facilitator candidates – individuals who want in-depth, practical “how-to” training and have a willingness to use it to make a meaningful difference in the local communities. Its dual purposes are to provide Facilitator candidates a hands-on introduction to the treatment process and to deliver a tangible service to the community.

11:00 A.M. to 12:15 P.M. HEMLOCK HELP CLINIC – This segment is open to the general public and required for Facilitator trainees. It will present an overview of the hemlock crisis and currently available solutions and will include information on:

- The role and importance of hemlocks
- The insect that's killing them and how to recognize it
- Impact of the crisis on private and public lands
- Overview of cultural, chemical, and biological controls
- Options for getting the work done
- Estimating the cost
- Safety considerations
- Local resources and support available to individuals and neighborhoods

12:15 TO 1:00 P.M. LUNCH BREAK – Facilitator trainees will bring their own sack lunch; drinks will be provided, and we'll eat together at the Community Center.

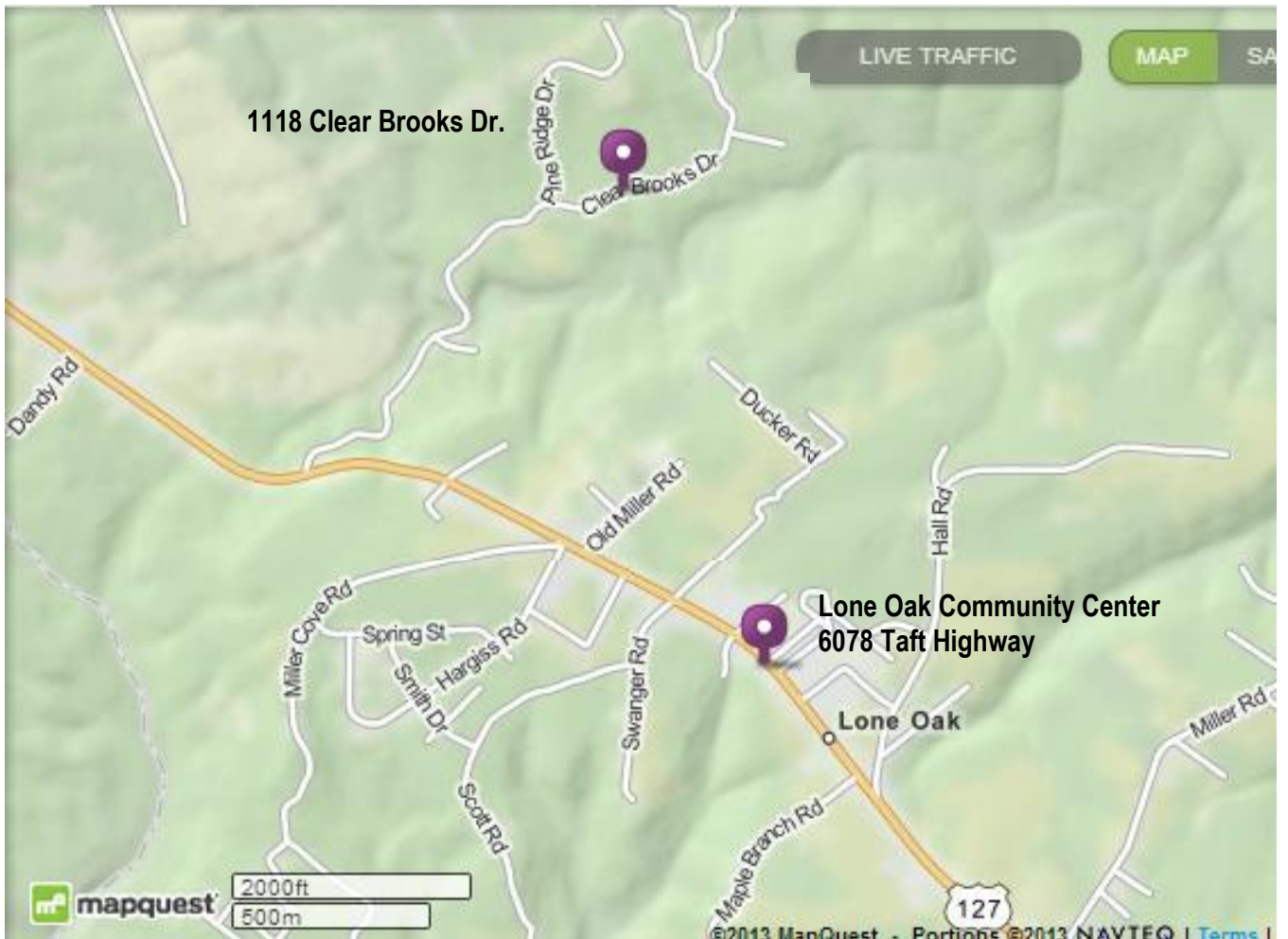
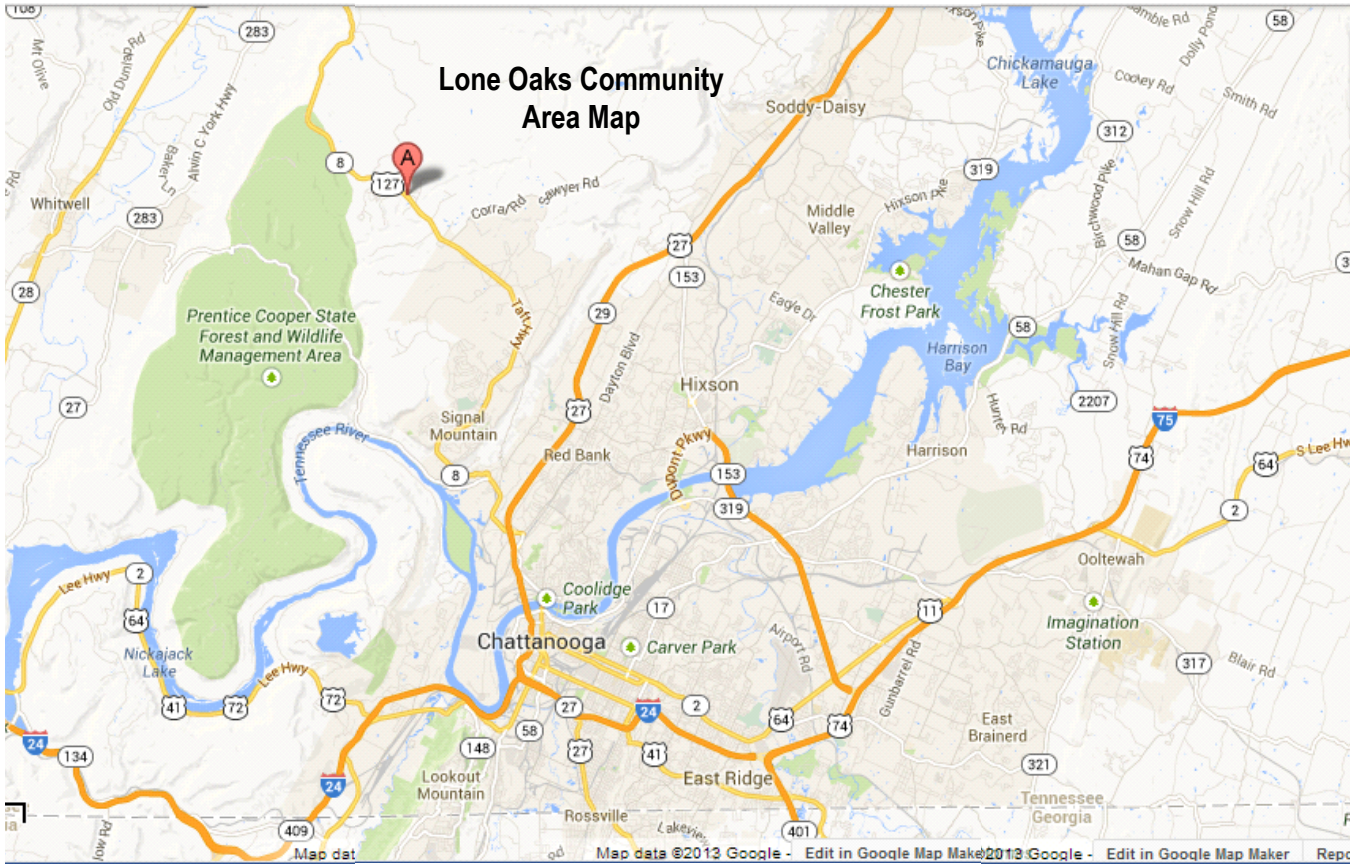
1:00 to 4:00 P.M. FACILITATOR TRAINING WORKSHOP – This segment is required for Facilitator candidates and will include in-depth training on:

- More about the hemlocks
- More about the hemlock woolly adelgid, levels of infestation, and lifecycle
- Using cultural controls
- Using chemical controls
 - Appropriate treatment materials, application methods, and timing
 - How to do it yourself or find a qualified professional
- Using the Chemical Calculator
- Understanding product labeling and observing safety guidelines
- Judging treatment success or failure
- Update on biological controls
- Working with individual property owners
- Organizing a neighborhood hemlock project
- Special skills Facilitators need

REGISTRATION: All events of the day are free, but **registration is required by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, August 7.** Contact David Hudson at 423-485-3932 or davidhudson@comcast.net. You may sign up for just the Clinic or for all 3 segments (treatment project, Clinic, and Facilitator Training Workshop). Anyone wanting to take the Facilitator Workshop *must* take all 3 segments.

TAKE-HOME MATERIALS: There will be plenty of free handout materials about the hemlocks and how to save them as well as information on places the treatment products can be purchased and qualified professional pesticide applicators who serve the local area.

Individuals who complete Facilitator training will receive a DVD containing the Clinic and Facilitator presentations, training guide (in color), and several tools that will be useful in their service to the community. In addition, any Facilitator wanting to keep the black-&-white copy of the guide used during training may do so with a \$20 tax-deductible membership to SGH.



About Save Georgia's Hemlocks, Inc.

Save Georgia's Hemlocks (SGH) is a rapidly growing grassroots organization of energetic individuals with diverse backgrounds, interests, ages, and origins, united by a common purpose to save the hemlocks. Based in Dahlonega, Georgia, we began our efforts in July 2009 with a large goal – to serve all of north Georgia where the woolly adelgid is a serious threat. Since then, with the help of many partners and volunteers we have made steady progress in Georgia and assisted other states as well, but there is still much to do.

MISSION: SGH is a 100% volunteer, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization of concerned citizens dedicated to saving endangered hemlocks through education and charitable service.

VISION: Through our efforts of preservation, conservation, and restoration, there will be a healthy population of hemlocks in Georgia for future generations.

GOALS:

- **Educate** – Enhance public awareness of the hemlock woolly adelgid crisis, current practical solutions, and emerging control technologies.
- **Enable** – Ensure easy access to information, advice regarding economical solutions, and direct assistance for property owners.
- **Encourage** – Establish a clear understanding of the aesthetic, economic, and environmental reasons for property owners to take timely and effective action to save their hemlocks.

Over the past 4 years, SGH has helped many hundreds of property owners save tens of thousands of their hemlocks. In 2012 the group began working with the U. S. Forest Service to treat trees on the national forest and this year is also helping the Georgia Department of Natural Resources save hemlocks in state parks and wildlife management areas. SGH has mentored government agencies and nonprofit organizations in several other states, maintains the Hemlock Help Line serving the U. S. and Canada, and is eager to do more.



Donna Shearer- Founder, Chairperson, and Speaker



Atlanta native Donna Shearer realized her childhood dream of living in a log cabin in the mountains when she and her husband Mark moved to Dahlonega in 2002. With their home situated in a dense hemlock grove along a trout stream, it was particularly troubling when in 2005 they discovered their evergreen sanctuary was threatened by an infestation of the hemlock woolly adelgid.

Rather than give up, they began researching the hemlock problem and treating the trees on their own property. The successful results motivated Donna to share the benefit of their knowledge, experience, and environmental passion with others, and in 2009 she and a small group of volunteers founded Save Georgia's Hemlocks. Since then it has grown to over 400 members.

Donna and SGH were recently honored for their hemlock conservation efforts as recipients of the 2012 Cox Conserves Heroes award, which carried with it a \$10,000 grant the organization is using to continue and increase its educational and charitable service outreach.

