



2014 Hike & Help the Hemlocks
Sponsored by Save Georgia's Hemlocks
and the Benton MacKaye Trail Association
Details revised 9-25-14



DATE: Saturday, September 27, 2014

EVENT: In celebration of National Public Lands Day, our annual Hike & Help the Hemlocks event is set to take place at Dockery Lake in the Chattahoochee National Forest. The morning will offer a choice of two activities:

- a family-friendly educational hike led by BMTA members through some wonderful woods starting near the lake and up toward the Appalachian Trail.
- or —
- a service project with SGH and the U. S. Forest Service to treat (or retreat) pre-tagged hemlocks in designated conservation sites.



Then we'll all come together for a picnic beside beautiful Dockery Lake, some interesting lunch-and-learn presentations, and plenty of time to get to know other good folks who love the outdoors.

PURPOSE: To increase awareness of the hemlock crisis, build synergy among groups and individuals who care, treat some hemlocks that need our help, and have a good time together in the great outdoors.

WHERE TO MEET: **Hemlock helpers** will gather at the parking lot in the Dockery Lake Recreation Area. **Hikers will gather at the Woody Gap parking area on Highway 60, consolidate into as many cars as needed, and shuttle down to the trail head at the Dockery Lake parking area.**

SCHEDULE: **9:30 a.m. – Hemlock helpers** will receive a short orientation from project leaders Jim Wentworth of the U. S. Forest Service and Donna Shearer of SGH about the area you'll be working in, condition of the hemlocks, the treatment process, and safety reminders. You'll be organized into small teams including at least one experienced Facilitator per team, receive your equipment and supplies, hike a short distance to your treatment site, and begin treating hemlocks.



10:00 a.m. – Hikers will start with a briefing by BMTA hike leader Ralph Heller about the trail and the area you'll be hiking through. Several knowledgeable guides will also be part of the hiking group to point out interesting features and answer questions along the way.



1:00 p.m. – Lunch-and-learn picnic with everyone together.

3:00 p.m. – We should be finished and cleaned up by 3 p.m.

REGISTRATION: Participants must register in advance:
 ➤ **Hemlock Helpers** — Call Donna at 706-429-8010 or e-mail donna@savegeorgiashemlocks.org.
 ➤ **Hikers** — Call Ralph at 706-636-3499 or e-mail rshbmta@gmail.com.

MAPS: See page 3 for driving directions and map to Dockery Lake. See page 4 for hiking map.

WHAT TO WEAR: Dress for the weather and the activity, including sturdy footgear with socks, long pants and long sleeves. **No kidding about the long pants and long sleeves – there are briars, underbrush, and poison ivy in some of the treatment sites.** Hard hats and nitrile gloves will be provided for the hemlock helpers.

A hat or some kind of head covering is suggested for the hikers.

WHAT TO BRING: Pack a sack lunch and personal water bottle, insect repellent, a camera if you like, and a small day pack to carry everything in. We'll provide some snacks, extra bottled water, and dessert.

Hikers may want to bring your favorite hiking poles.

If you're allergic to bee stings, bring whatever you need to manage.

Picnic table seating is limited so please bring a camp chair or sit-upon cushion.

WHAT NOT TO BRING: This is an environmentally-friendly, pack-it-in pack-it-out event, so please don't bring any glass or styrofoam items. Also, as much as we love dogs, please don't bring them this time.

AMENITIES: There is a comfort station beside the parking area and another one in the campground but no amenities out on the trail.

MORE ABOUT THE HIKE: There are two trails at Dockery Lake, both of which depart from the parking area:

- Lakeshore Trail - 0.5 mile easy loop around lake. This trail is mostly level with gentle inclines.
- Dockery Lake Trail – 4.6 miles leads to the Appalachian Trail in Miller Gap. This trail is rated moderate with a total elevation gain of 1,559 ft., elevation loss of 966 ft., and net change of 593 ft.

The plan is to follow the Dockery Lake Trail toward Miller Gap for an out-and-back hike of about 3 miles, to be back at Dockery Lake by 12:45 p.m. for the picnic. The estimated hiking time is 2 ¼ hours. See trail map on page 4.

Here are some links that provide additional information about the area and the trails:

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/conf/recreation/camping-cabins/recarea/?recid=10545&actid=29>

http://www.georgiatrails.com/gt/Dockery_Lake_Trail

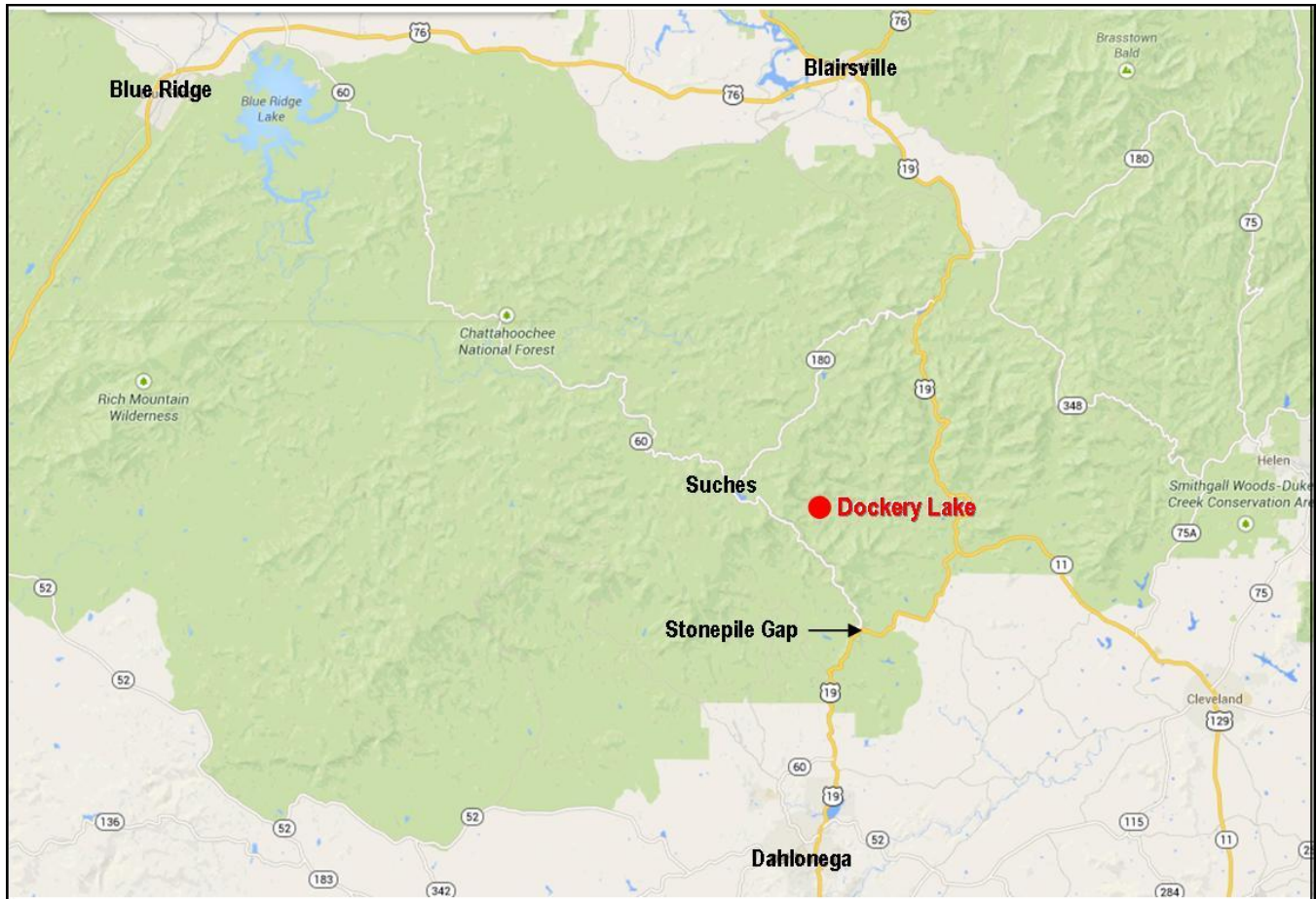
<http://www.atlantatrails.com/hiking-trails/dockery-lake-trail/#.VACT4vldVYw>

<http://alltrails.com/trail/us/georgia/dockery-lake-campground>

<http://www.trimbleoutdoors.com/ViewTrip/5663>

Driving Directions to Dockery Lake Recreation Area

Dockery Lake is on Forest Service Road 654 off Highway 60 about 4 miles south of Suches and 13 miles north of Dahlonega in Lumpkin County. GPS Location: Latitude is 34.66413. Longitude is -83.98129.



From Blue Ridge – Take U.S. 76 east 4.2 miles, turn right on GA Highway 60. Go approximately 29 miles to Suches, where GA Highway 180 goes off to the left. Stay straight to continue on GA Highway 60 and go another 4 miles. Turn left on Forest Service Road 654 (gravel). Go 1.0 mile and turn left to hike/picnic/fish parking area.

From Blairsville – Take U.S. 19/129 south for 10.0 miles, turn right on GA Highway 180. Go approximately 11.0 miles. Turn left on GA Highway 60 and go south 4.0 miles. Turn left on Forest Service Road 654 (gravel). Go 1.0 mile and turn left to hike/picnic/fish parking area.

From Suches – From the intersection of GA Highway 180 and GA Highway 60, go south 4.0 miles on Highway 60 and turn left on Forest Service Road 654 (gravel). Go 1.0 mile and turn left to hike/picnic/fish parking area.

From Dahlonega – Take GA Highway 19/60 north for 8.7 miles to Stonepile Gap, where R Ranch will be on your left and Highway 19 goes off to the right. Stay straight to continue on Highway 60 for another 3.6 miles and turn right on Forest Service Road 654 (gravel). Go 1.0 mile and turn left to hike/picnic/fish parking area.

Hiking Map

