

About Save Georgia's Hemlocks

Save Georgia's Hemlocks is a 100% volunteer nonprofit organization of concerned citizens dedicated to saving endangered hemlocks through education and charitable service. Our goals are to:

- **Educate:** Enhance public awareness of the hemlock woolly adelgid crisis, current treatment options, 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 to take timely and effective action to save your hemlocks.

Our guiding principles are (1) Do all for the benefit of property owners and their hemlocks with no benefit accruing to any member. (2) Operate in the most efficient, cost-effective manner adhering to nonprofit best practices and standards of excellence. (3) Do all with simplicity, transparency, and the spirit of charitable service. It is our intention to keep our organization lean, proactive, community-based, and uncomplicated.

You can help

Take care of your own hemlocks. Be alert for the first signs of a woolly adelgid infestation, call for advice, and take action early.

Help your neighbors save their trees. Share the message about the HWA problem and solutions through word of mouth and any e-mail lists, web sites, and newsletters you have access to. Form a neighborhood hemlock help plan and work together to suppress the woolly adelgid in the widest possible area. We can help you plan it and get started.

Join the fight for the hemlocks. There are many ways to help – you can become a member of Save Georgia's Hemlocks, serve as a volunteer Facilitator for your organization or neighborhood association, or sponsor a Hemlock Help Clinic. And please share your financial support. We are a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit, so all donations are tax-deductible.

Your participation and support are welcome!

Contact Save Georgia's Hemlocks
Hemlock Help LineSM: 706-429-8010
www.savegeorgiashemlocks.org donna@savegeorgiashemlocks.org



Save Georgia's Hemlocks

Hemlock Help for Property Owners

The beauty, value and environmental health of your community are at risk!



Dear North Georgia Property Owners,

Our native eastern and Carolina hemlocks are being attacked and killed by an invasive insect pest, the hemlock woolly adelgid. Hemlocks are found throughout north Georgia, and you may have them on your property. Almost all of these beautiful trees will die in the next few years unless action is taken soon, and the result will be environmentally, economically and aesthetically devastating. But good news – help is available!

Save Georgia's Hemlocks, a 100% volunteer, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, has implemented the **Hemlock Help Program** to educate property owners about the problem, enable you to choose and implement an appropriate solution while there's still time, and encourage you to do so. The program is completely free.

For more information, please visit www.savegeorgiashemlocks.org, e-mail us at donna@savegeorgiashemlocks.org, or call the **Hemlock Help LineSM** at (706) 429-8010.

Background

The hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) was accidentally introduced to the U.S. over 50 years ago and has been spreading along the entire Appalachian Mountain chain ever since. Since entering northeast Georgia in 2002, it has advanced steadily westward, leaving great swaths of dead or dying trees, especially along our waterways. It is now confirmed in 14 GA counties.

If you're not sure you have hemlocks on your property, compare your evergreen trees to these photos.



Hemlock Branch

Young Hemlock

Mature Hemlock

Are your hemlocks infested?

Look for tiny white cottony egg sacs on the underside of branches. Each egg sac may contain as many as 300 new insects which are capable of multiplying into 90,000 offspring in a single year. Infested trees show an increasingly grayish tint to the foliage, a gradual decline in needle density, and finally – if left untreated -- complete defoliation and death. The photos on the next page show the sad progression of this destruction.

Why should you care?

Aesthetically, these beautiful trees contribute greatly to the enjoyment of those who live, work, and play among them, as well as the many people who come to north Georgia for tourism and recreation. **Environmentally**, hemlocks are vital in providing food and habitat for about 120 species of vertebrates and over 90 species of birds, shade for native plants, cool temperatures for trout streams, and protection for watersheds and water quality. And **economically**, healthy mature trees such as hemlocks can add 7-10% to private property values, provide the net cooling effect of 10 room-sized air conditioners running 20 hours a day, perform thousands of dollars worth of water purification per mature tree along our waterways, and save billions of dollars a year by filtering CO₂ and other pollutants from the air as they produce oxygen for us to breathe.



Infested Branch



Thinning Crown



Hemlock Killed by HWA

What can be done?

On **public** lands such as national forests and state parks, specific areas are being treated with chemicals, predatory beetles, or a combination approach. On **private** land, the most reliable and cost-effective solution available to property owners is to chemically treat their hemlocks by soil application.

We can help on private land

Through our **Hemlock Help Program**, we offer information, advice, training, and in some cases charitable assistance. Key features include:

- **Education** – Free Hemlock Help Clinics and informational materials to increase public awareness of the HWA crisis and current treatment options for saving your trees.
- **DIY support** – Soil injectors for borrowing (rather than renting), information on purchasing the treatment products, and instructions for the treatment procedure if you want to do the work yourself for the lowest possible cost.
- **Local assistance** – A network of trained volunteer Facilitators who are available in many communities to advise and help you.
- **Professional help** – Advice on how to find qualified local companies that do this work in your area for reasonable rates if you prefer to contract with a professional who specializes in saving hemlocks.
- **Information on call** – A live Hemlock Help LineSM 706-429-8010 to answer questions, provide accurate up-to-date information, and offer advice on options for managing the woolly adelgid problem.