

10-7-08 Meeting Notes

Tuesday, Oct. 7, 6:30 p.m. at United Community Bank (206 Morrison Moore Pkwy W.) in Dahlonega. Recorded by Donna Shearer, Secretary.

In Attendance: Forest Hilyer, Murray Lamb, Katie Klemenich, Bob and Susan Billings, Jack and Patty Rogers, Mark and Donna Shearer, Nancy Hilyer, Mary McClendon, Tom O'Keefe, LayLa Burgess, Don Wright, Peaches Wheatley, Jerry Hightower, Darcie Holcomb, Carolyn Fletcher, Basil and Kelly Bonner, Randy Rick, Kim Laramore, Tom Lamb, Sarah Osicka, Neville Harris, and Tim Herrin.

Warning about Woolly Adelgids!

LayLa Burgess of Clemson University Lab warns that the adelgids are now coming out of aestivation -- hatching out from the white woolly egg masses as tiny crawlers -- and can once again be transferred from tree to tree with relative ease. Please be very cautious if you're hiking or camping around infested hemlocks. The little varmints can hitch a ride on your clothing, camping gear, and even pets.



HemlockFest Updates

Puppet Show Preview

The puppet show preview of the set, music, hand puppets, and one large (12') puppet was awesome! Thanks to all who are involved -- Bob Billings, Judy Lynn, Tom O'Keefe, Mary McClendon, Katie Klemenich, and others who have helped like LayLa and Josh Burgess, Sarah Osicka and Kyle Jones, Neville and Michael, Basil and Kelly Bonner, Tim Herrin, and more.



See [About Us](#) page for photos of the gang at the "Big Puppet" Workshop at Bob's house.

Kids Science Discovery Day

Kids Day is a go! On the morning of Friday, November 7th, 350 third graders from three Lumpkin County schools are expected for our first Kids Science Discovery Day. The event is being organized by the National Park Service's Jerry Hightower, who has 25 years of experience putting on great educational programs. With participation by other organizations

such as Fish and Wildlife, Chattahoochee Nature Center, Smithgall Woods, and the Georgia Conservancy, all activities are designed around Georgia's Performance Standards for third grade science.

We hope Kids Science Discovery Day will become an annual tradition in Lumpkin County. All the buses and bus drivers are being paid for by a private donor, so there is no expense to the schools for this educational fieldtrip. Pre-visit and follow-up materials have been developed for teachers to use (if they choose) to maximize the benefit of the event. Plus, it's a fantastic opportunity for the kids to do some "hands-on" learning and have fun with it in the great outdoors!

Quick Reports

- ✦ **Fundraising** -- Nancy Hilyer reported that we are receiving good response from our quest for sponsors but still have a ways to go. So everybody, please keep up the good work and sign up more. There are downloadable materials you can share with prospective sponsors on the [Promos page](#) of this web site.
- ✦ **Green Initiative** -- Peaches has agreed to research the difference in cost between store-brand and environmentally-friendly composting varieties of paper plates, plastic cups, and cutlery. She will let the LC know the results, and the LC has agreed to pay the difference in the two costs for all the food vendors this year. Peaches will let the other food/beverage vendors know of this agreement. Any unused materials will be stored for use at future HemlockFests by the same vendors if still involved (or can be fully purchased for cost by vendors).
- ✦ **HWA Experts** -- We will have HWA experts on hand from all four beetle labs in the southeast, including Sarah Osicka from NGCSU, Paul Arnold from Young Harris College, Mark Dalusky from UGA, and LayLa Burgess from Clemson.
- ✦ **Publicity** -- Forest reported that [The Nooze](#) is giving us a 2-page spread about HemlockFest in their October issue. The downtown of Dahlonega has been blanketed with posters and flyers. Peaches and Don are spreading the word all over Atlanta and Marietta. Randy said that over 13,000 folks have visited our MySpace page. Thanks to everyone's hard work, HemlockFest is becoming a well-known event!
- ✦ **Scrapbook** -- The scrapbook for HemlockFest 2007 is almost complete (48 pages so far) and will be ready in time to show at this year's festival. It looks really great, thanks to the creativity of Carolyn Fletcher, Kelly Bonner, Kim Laramore, Larry Winslett, Kristen Jordan, Sarah Osicka, Forest and Nancy Hilyer.
- ✦ **Signage** -- Volunteers Murray Lamb, Tom Lamb, Randy Rick, Jack Rogers, Donna Shearer, and Forest Hilyer will put up the pole signs and the large venue sign by the end of the weekend, 10/12. The banner for the Visitors Center will be hung Thursday, 10/6. Directional signs will be placed the morning of Friday, 11/7 and retrieved by Monday, 11/10.
- ✦ **Tents** -- The group voted that, in the future, if we are requested to lend our HemlockFest tents, we may agree to do so based on the availability of LC volunteers to put them up and take them down. Tents must always be staked and tied to prevent wind damage.

- ✳ **T-Shirts** -- Murray Lamb has computerized the beautiful hemlock bough that Mark Warren drew to be used as the shirt sleeve design this year. Tom Lamb has ordered long- and short-sleeved shirts and hoodies and should have samples available by Oct. 14.
- ✳ **Vendors** -- Neville Harris reports that we have 32 vendors this year; however, some have not yet returned their registration form and applicable fee, and Neville will try to contact them again. Those who have not responded by the announced deadline of October 15 will be replaced with vendors from our waiting list.
- ✳ **Web Site** -- Donna Shearer reports that a new section about "Corridor K" has been added to the [Issues and Actions](#) page. There are several new articles on the [Save the Hemlocks](#) page. The [Sponsors](#) and [Vendors](#) pages have also been updated.

Time Line for HemlockFest Preparations

Mon. 10/13	Murray Lamb will deliver scanned venue map to Donna Shearer for posting on web site and inclusion in HemlockFest program; will also update Volunteer Sign-Up page to change work day from Tuesday 11/4 to Wednesday 11/5 because of Election Day.
Wed. 10/15	Target date for delivery of 100 tons of gravel to venue. Deadline for vendors to return their sign-up forms and applicable fees. (see above)
Fri. 10/24	Tom Lamb will send confirmation e-mails to volunteers who have signed up.
Sat. 10/25	Rivers Alive and Lumpkin Coalition River Clean-up will be organized from the Hilyer house; more details to come.
Sun. 10/26	Mark Shearer will be guiding a work day with 7 volunteers near Dick's Creek. Volunteers will meet at Turner's Corner for breakfast at 8:00 a.m. and then travel to the near-by work site. An opportunity for another work day needing 3 folks with chainsaws and 3 folks with loppers will be coming up in the near future.
Tue. 10/28	Anyone who has a mower (riding or push) and/or weed-eater is invited to meet at Starbridge at 1:00 p.m. to do a final grass cutting of venue and parking areas before the festival. So far, volunteers include Forest, Murray, and Jack; Jerry has offered to lend his 42" mower after Basil performs a bit of necessary maintenance on it.
Wed. 10/29	Basil Bonner and Bob Billings will use Forest's trailer and other vehicles to haul firewood to the venue. Helpers are welcome.
Thur. 10/30	Donna Shearer will deliver Sponsor Banner to printer Ronnie Rollins; will also finalize HemlockFest program, and Murray Lamb will get it printed.
Sat. 11/1 Sun. 11/2	Work days at Starbridge 12:00 noon - 5:00 p.m.
Mon. 11/3	Lumpkin Coalition meeting at 6:00 p.m. at Starbridge. Bring your own snacks or bag supper and drinks.

Tue. 11/4	Neville Harris, Kim Laramore, and Forest will meet at Starbridge at 4:00 p.m. to mark out vendor locations. Election Day -- please vote!
Wed. 11/5	Tents will be put up at venue starting at 12:00 noon.
Thur. 11/6	Final preparations will be made for festival. Sound gear and lights will be delivered.
Fri. 11/7	HemlockFest begins at Starbridge: Kids Science Discovery Day until 11:30 a.m. Puppet training in the morning at Starbridge -- time to be announced. Training for Kettle Corn Stand at 1:00 p.m. Gates open to public and music starts at 3:00 p.m.
Sat. 11/8	HemlockFest in full swing.
Sun. 11/9	HemlockFest over at 5:00 p.m. Take-down activities begin at 5:30 p.m.
Mon. 11/10	Take-down completed and items returned to storage. All campers and vendors must be on their way.
Tue. 11/11	Final clean-up and walk-through (assisted by the Dahlongega Skate Club).
Sat. 11/22	After-fest potluck party and review at the Hilyer house at 6:00 p.m.

LC Volunteers Still Needed

- ✳ **Gold Rush** -- Murray is asking for permission to set up our LC exhibit at Gold Rush. If we get it, we'll need some volunteers to help staff it Saturday, Oct. 18 and Sunday, Oct. 19.
- ✳ **Puppet Show** -- We still need volunteers for the Big Puppets. Please contact Bob Billings directly at suebob30531@yahoo.com. Puppet training will be held at Starbridge on Friday morning, November 7.
- ✳ **Kettle Corn Stand** -- Three more dedicated volunteers are needed to help with the Kettle Corn stand. The stand is normally run by Bob and Susan Billings and donates 100% of the proceeds to the hemlocks. Since Bob is heading the puppet effort, he will have his hands quite full with that this year. Training for Kettle Corn volunteers will be held on Friday, November 7th before the gates open.
- ✳ **HemlockFest Take-Down and Put-Away** -- We really need folks to help on Monday and Tuesday after HemlockFest with take-down and put-away. It will be important to inventory all of our belongings and pack them away in an organized manner into storage. So far, Mark and Donna Shearer, Murray Lamb, Randy Rick, Greg Moore, and Larry Winslett have volunteered. Forest will be out of town during this time. Please make an effort to help out on Monday and/or Tuesday. There is a place to sign up on the [Volunteer Sign-Up page](#).

Items and Materials Still Needed

- ✳ **Band-green tent** needs end tables, coffee table, lamps, and furniture. Peaches and Don have offered 2 sofas, and Donna has offered a sofa and 2 wing chairs. Please, lend only items that are not overly important to you. We do our best to return them in the same condition we received them or better, but...you get the point. 😊 Contact Carolyn Fletcher at care10683@yahoo.com or Kelly Bonner at thegish@msn.com.
- ✳ **White sheets** are needed for making puppet costumes and set enhancements.
- ✳ We need lots and lots of **scrap 2" x 4"s and 4" x 4"s** for building our recycling stations.
- ✳ If anyone has **firewood** to donate for the festival or wants to help cut, split, and/or transport wood, please get in touch with Basil Bonner (basilb69@msn.com).
- ✳ **Donations for the Silent Auction** are needed. Please seek them out. On the [Sponsors page](#) of our web site, there is a downloadable Silent Auction Letter that you can present to the prospective donor. All donations are tax-deductible. Please contact Neville Harris (nlharr9485@student.ngcsu.edu) if you have any questions.
- ✳ **Laptops** are needed for HemlockFest. Jack & Patty Rogers, Neville Harris, and Sarah Osicka have all offered to bring theirs for use or backup.
- ✳ A **PowerPoint projector** is needed for HemlockFest. Neville has offered hers. We should have another handy as a backup. In previous years we've borrowed one from the library and/or a school.