

# 12-2-08 Meeting Notes

Tuesday, Dec. 2 at 7:00 p.m. at Yahoola Creek Grill. Recorded by Donna Shearer, Secretary.

In Attendance: Forest Hilyer, Murray Lamb, Kristen Jordan, Mark and Donna Shearer, Bob and Susan Billings, Jack and Patty Rogers, Neville Harris, Michael Lasecki, Tom Lamb, Larry Winslett, Darcie Holcomb, LayLa Burgess, Sarah Osicka, Tim and Vicki Herrin, Chris and Carolina Sartain, Carolyn Fletcher, Judy Toppins

## Financial Report on HemlockFest 2008 from Kristen Jordan

Starting base	\$7,000
Festival proceeds	approx. \$31,000 - \$35,000
Festival expenses	approx. \$16,000
<b>Festival profits</b>	approx. \$15,000 - \$19,000

NOTE: Final figures will be posted as soon as available.

## Initial Allocation of Festival Profits

- ✳ **Georgia Beetle Labs** -- Requests for beetle lab support were presented by Sarah Osicka of NGCSU and received via e-mail from Paul Arnold of Young Harris. North Georgia's request relates to expenses for student workers, travel, operating supplies and lab expansion, creation of educational displays and materials, and research -- \$2,500 needed through June 30 with ability to carry additional funds into next fiscal year. Young Harris' request relates primarily to expenses for moving their lab -- total moving expenses of approximately \$30,000, so "a few thousand" of financial assistance greatly appreciated. UGA has indicated that their operating budget is adequate at this time.
- ✳ **Private Landowners** -- Mark Shearer presented a proposal that some funds be allocated for the purpose of informing, educating, and assisting private landowners to protect their hemlocks.
- ✳ **Soil Injectors** -- Forest Hilyer and Jack Rogers suggested that LC purchase either two or three soil injectors (TBD) for use on future hemlock helping projects and possibly for lending.
- ✳ **School Children** -- Bob Billings requested that some funds be allocated for projects that educate and/or provide hands-on learning experience for school children.
- ✳ **Review of Goals** -- The group reviewed our published hemlock project goal statements to ensure that funding decisions comply with the published purposes.
- ✳ **Decision** -- Murray Lamb made a motion that was seconded, voted on, and approved by the group as well as the 8 board members present to make an initial allocation of funds as follows:
  - ◆ \$5,000 for the North Georgia beetle lab
  - ◆ \$5,000 for the Young Harris beetle lab

- ◆ \$3,000 for projects related to informing, educating, and assisting private landowners
- ✦ **Future Considerations** -- Further discussion of funds will be held regarding purchase of soil injectors, projects for school children, projects for private landowners, seed money for next year's HemlockFest, and other hemlock-related needs.

## Ideas Presented

- ✦ Jack Rogers shared ideas and volunteered to work on projects to continue our HWA awareness campaign, work with county GIS maps to identify property owners likely to have concentrations of hemlocks and prepare a targeted informational mailing to them, provide training to landowners who want to treat their own hemlocks by soil injection, and work with landowners who request our help to treat their trees.
- ✦ Tom Lamb proposed and volunteered to work on an informational video to increase public awareness of the HWA threat and let folks know the kinds of hemlock help Lumpkin Coalition can provide. Judy Toppins and Murray Lamb mentioned that NGCSU students in Environmental Leadership courses may have a related project of creating an educational You-Tube video that could become a joint venture.
- ✦ Mark Shearer requested and received volunteers to work with him in a Boots in the Dirt group to investigate and undertake hemlock-related projects that would benefit private landowners. Jack Rogers, Bob Billings, Tim Herrin, and Forest Hilyer volunteered for this group.
- ✦ Bob Billings is working on ideas and plans for "sprucing up" the Hemlock vs. Woolly Adelgid puppet show and presenting it to school groups throughout the year.

## Grant Proposals in Progress

Judy Toppins, Yahoola Creek Trails Conservancy president and Lumpkin Coalition member, is currently working on a number of grant proposals for funding environmental education projects with school children.

- ✦ **Captain Planet Foundation:** A grant for \$2500 we are working on to support the "Hemlock Heroes" youth outreach program, which will fund outreach to local schools, Kids Day as part of Hemlockfest, and enhanced activities during Hemlockfest for families.
- ✦ **Target Field Trip Grants:** We will work with the school involved in Kids Day to secure transportation funding, up to \$800.
- ✦ **21st Century Learning Center Grant:** Awarded to the Lumpkin County School District this year to fund after-school enrichment activities to at-risk middle schoolers. LC has the opportunity to provide outreach to this group during their regular Thursday environmental education days beginning in January until April.
- ✦ **MillionMile Greenway Grant:** Awarded to YCTC in September and includes 80 hours of technical services from multiple greenspace planning firms in Atlanta, who will be working with our community to use an innovative GIS planning model to identify the best areas for trail corridors. They will also be creating specifications for the different

types of trails identified in the plan. We hope LC will be closely involved in this process.