

9-2-08 Meetings Notes

Tuesday, Sept. 2, 7:00 p.m. at United Community Bank (206 Morrison Moore Pkwy W.) in Dahlonega. Recorded by Donna Shearer, Secretary.

In Attendance: Forest Hilyer, Bob Billings, Kim Laramore, Randy Rick, Sarah Osicka, Murray Lamb, Tom Lamb, Neville Harris, Ginger Clark, Rob Randall, Larry Winslett, Basil and Kelly Bonner, Jack and Patty Rogers, Tim Herrin, Nancy Hilyer, LayLa and Josh Burgess, Katie Klemenich, Mark and Donna Shearer.

HemlockFest Updates

Big Puppet Workshop

Saturday, Sep. 13 starting at 9:00 a.m. at Bob Billings' House -- This is gonna be great! Let's have some fun while contributing a day of our time, energy, and materials to this awesome project! This will be an amazing addition to the festival this year as well as year round awareness raising efforts!

New Note from Bob

Big Puppet Workshop will be held on September 13th, 2008 beginning at 9:00AM and will last all day. All who spend the night camped out will hopefully be able to work a little Sunday morning also. If you cannot make it Saturday, Sunday morning could still be an option for you.

Saturday please bring a cooler with your lunch and a covered dish for dinner that evening. BYOB if you intend to relax around the camp fire Saturday evening. Sunday morning we will make a biscuit run. If you sing, play and instrument or do magic, please share your talent with us around the fire. Also we will have the movie "Across the Universe" for anyone who has not had the chance to see Julie Taymor incorporating Bread & Puppets into the movie.

Items needed for this workshop: Brown paper sacks, chicken wire, lots of bed sheets (white if possible but will try to work with any color), folding sawhorses if anyone has some, 1 sheet of plywood or osb which you can take back home with you, any cloth that you feel will help the large puppets express themselves, acrylic paints any color, dye any color, a large pot to cook the paste. If possible, please e-mail me with what you will be bringing so I'll know that what we need will show up.

The more folks to help the better, put your talents to work, and know you helped create icons that will leave real impressions of our cause in the minds of all those who attend the festival. Please RSVP to me so I'll know how big the crowd will be on both days.

Thanks to all the Board and all volunteers for your support in this endeavor.

Bob Billings
706-878-8722

Directions: From Dahlonega head towards Starbridge on GA52 east, which will become GA115 east towards Cleveland. Approximately 10 miles east of Starbridge, you will find a center turn lane allowing you to turn left onto Testnatee Valley Gap Road. Go approx. 2 miles and turn left onto Jenny's Cove. Go 150 yds. and make a left onto Martin Drive; take Martin Drive

across the pond and all the way up the hill until the road turns into a single paved lane. Go to bottom of this single lane of pavement and turn left onto Cady Lane; we are the second cabin on the right: 138 Cady Lane.

Directions: From Cleveland (Cleveland Square) head west on GA115 towards Dahlonega for 2 miles, turn right onto Testnatee Valley Gap Road, and then follow directions above from there.

If you get lost, we will find you; just call Bob's cell 706-878-8722.

More about Puppet Preparation:

- ✳ **Progress Report** -- Early rehearsals are beginning. Sets are coming along well.
- ✳ **Talents Abound** -- Mary McClendon and Kelly Bonner volunteered to bring their sewing machines and talents to the puppet workshop on 9/13.
- ✳ **Sneak Preview** -- Bob and the Puppet Team will present a preview show to the Board at 6:30 p.m. Oct. 7 before our next meeting. Can't wait to see it!

Financial Update

- ✳ **Kids' Day Funding** -- Money has been received to fund our first annual Kids' Day at HemlockFest. Yea! The program, which is designed for the third-grade level and fits in with the Georgia curriculum, will be held during the school day on Friday, Nov. 7 at Starbridge. The three Lumpkin County elementary schools third-grade classes have been invited, and we look forward to a great experience for everyone!
- ✳ **Sponsors** -- Nancy Hilyer is sending out special letters to folks who have been Sponsors in previous years. All of us need to be busy seeking more Sponsors and providing them the printed material in the [Sponsorship Packet](#). Click for downloadable files.

Laptop and Projector Needed

A laptop computer and Powerpoint projector are needed for HemlockFest. Jack Rogers volunteers a laptop, and Neville Harris volunteered a laptop and projector. Forest Hilyer will also check with the Lumpkin County Library about borrowing another for back-up.

Movies

Tom Lamb is working on obtaining permits for kid-friendly movies to show at festival. We're looking for some that have a nature or environmental theme and would be interesting to family members of all ages. Some of the suggested titles included The Eleventh Hour, The Education of Little Tree, Spirited Away, Blue Planet, Planet Earth, and Fly Away Home. More ideas/suggestions are welcome!

Parking

We have 2 of the 3 written permissions we need for HemlockFest parking. Have verbal permission from the 3rd property owner and will follow up to get it in writing.

Promotions, Posters and Flyers

- ✦ **Pass Them Out!** -- The posters and flyers for HemlockFest 2008 are beautiful and plentiful! If you haven't already seen them, please visit the [Promos](#) page. Thanks, Murray! Everyone is encouraged to take generous numbers of these and distribute them everywhere you get the chance -- from Dahlonega to Atlanta, Athens, the rest of Georgia, and into Tennessee, Alabama, North and South Carolina.
- ✦ **Publicity Project** -- Randy Rick, our Publicity committee head, is seeking out all the internet calendars, events lists, and publications that could include HemlockFest in their calendars and/or have an article about the festival. Putting this information together will be a great service to the cause and give a good head-start for future publicity efforts. Thanks, Randy!
- ✦ **Published** -- Articles about HemlockFest have been published in the Dahlonega - Lumpkin County Chamber of Commerce magazine (August 2008) and the Georgia Sierran magazine (September/October 2008). If you know of others, please let Randy Rick or Forest Hilyer know about them. Thanks!

Signs

- ✦ **3' x 5' pole signs** -- We have 6 of these that are being updated by the printer and have ordered 2 more. We have county permits to deploy them around October 7.
- ✦ **Large venue sign** -- It is being updated by the printer. We have verbal permission, awaiting written permission, to place this sign on the property around October 7.
- ✦ **Banner** -- It is being updated by the printer. We have written permission from the Visitors Center, the Chamber of Commerce, the Jaycees, and the Gold Rush Festival chair to hang it on the balcony of the Visitors Center from October 16th through the end of HemlockFest.
- ✦ **Directional signs** -- We're reviewing them to see if we have what we need and will order/create other if necessary. We have permission from the city to deploy them as weekend signs Friday through Sunday of HemlockFest weekend.
- ✦ **Volunteers** -- Bob Billings, Tom Lamb, Jack Rogers, Forest Hilyer, and Donna Shearer will team up to deploy signs before the festival and retrieve them afterwards.

Starbridge Projects

- ✦ Thanks VERY MUCH to Greg Moore and the Skate Club for their help in making the temporary electric pole possible at Starbridge! The pole should be set during the first week of September.
- ✦ Stay tuned for other Starbridge projects.

T-Shirts

Mark Warren has completed the enhanced design for this year's HemlockFest T-shirts. Thanks, Mark! The order for their manufacture will be placed soon.

Vendors and Silent Auction

- ✦ **Vendors** -- Neville Harris, our Vendor Coordinator, reported that we already have commitments from 22 vendors, with a possible goal of 30-40 vendors. On the [Vendors](#) page there is a new downloadable Vendor Information Letter that is appropriate to share with both selected and prospective vendors. Anyone interested in applying to be a vendor should contact Neville.
- ✦ **Silent Auction** -- Neville, also our Silent Auction Coordinator, asked that everyone help in securing donated items for the Silent Auction. On the [Sponsors](#) page there is a downloadable Silent Auction Letter that is appropriate to personalize with your own name and contact info and share with businesses that are considering making such a donation. For any donated items you obtain, please:
 - ◆ Send an e-mail to Neville with a description of the item, info about the donor (name, address, phone number), and the value of the item as stated by the donor.
 - ◆ Keep the item at your house until the festival.
 - ◆ Bring it to the Silent Auction Tent on the first day of the festival (preferably before opening time).

Videotaping and/or Recording HemlockFest

The group decided that we would like to videotape the festival again this year and, as time permits, process the tapes into a useful form. Forest Hilyer will follow up with the company that provided this service last year and will also investigate the possibility of recording a "HemlockFest Live" CD.

Volunteers Needed for Post-HemlockFest Clean-Up

Teams of volunteers are needed for Monday, Nov. 10 through Friday, Nov. 14 to clean-up at Starbridge after HemlockFest. Activities will include bagging up trash and hauling it away, locating all LC property and returning it to storage, gathering and listing lost & found items so they can find their way home again, and generally restoring the venue to its pre-festival condition (or better).

So far, volunteers include Murray Lamb, Randy Rick, Mark and Donna Shearer, Neville Harris and Michael, Mike Saunders. We need more folks to commit to help on this project, with a captain for each day. Please contact Forest Hilyer if you can help.

Other News

Volunteers for Tree Hug Fest

in Dunwoody, Oct. 12, 11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

Bob Billings, Jack and Patty Rogers, and their daughter Rachel have volunteered to represent the Lumpkin Coalition at Tree Hug Fest. Bob will take the LC exhibit and HemlockFest publicity material to the festival. Thanks to all!

Other Volunteer Opportunities

- ✳ **September 6 -- Work opportunity = saving hemlocks = fundraising = fun!** LC volunteers will meet The Hemlock Doctor (Mark Shearer) at the Ace Hardware in Dahlonega at 8:30 a.m. and travel a short distance to a private property that has been treated for the Woolly Adelgid. The project is to thin out the hemlocks and pot the saplings that were not able to be treated or would have affected the health of the remaining ones, section up the fallen trunks for firewood, and gather the remainder into a debris pile. For this work, LC will be rewarded with a donation to be applied to HemlockFest and the hemlock saving efforts. This is a great chance to get your hands dirty and see what all is involved in the tree-treating process. So the hemlocks may live...
- ✳ **September 13 --** Volunteer Katie Klemenchich will take the LC exhibit and HemlockFest publicity materials to the Indigo Girls concert at Chastain Park.
- ✳ **September 14 --** Volunteer Jack Rogers will take the LC exhibit and HemlockFest publicity materials to the Lumpkin County Democrats' "Picknickin' & Politic-kin" get-together at Starbridge.
- ✳ **October 18 & 19 --** Gold Rush Festival is coming! We hope to have our LC exhibit there so we can share the word about the hemlocks cause and HemlockFest with all the good folks who will be in town then. We will need a few volunteers to staff the booth on both days.

Supporting Others

- ✳ **September 28 --** LC is lending some of our HemlockFest tents to the Chamber of Commerce for the Six Gap Century Bike Ride.
- ✳ **Stop I-3 --** LC a supporting organization of the Stop I-3 Coalition. Please visit the updated [Stop I-3](#) page of our web site and learn what you can do to help keep this intrusive and unnecessary road from being built through the Southern Appalachians.
- ✳ **Skate Park --** Members of LC are in favor of having a Skate Park in Lumpkin County. We believe it would present a great recreational opportunity for kids of all ages who enjoy this increasingly popular sport. Stay tuned for more information.

Website Update

- ✳ New info is posted on the [Sponsors](#) page, [Vendors](#) page, and [Stop I-3](#) page.
 - ✳ Murray is working on a new sign-up form for the [Volunteers](#) page so it will function properly. Thanks, Murray!
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LC Committee Heads

- ✳ Band/green tent hostess with the mostess -- Carolyn Fletcher, (770) 241-5708 or care10683@yahoo.com
 - ✳ Fundraising committee -- Nancy Hilyer, (706) 429-7079 or nancyhilyer@gmail.com
 - ✳ Movies -- Tom Lamb, (706) 867-9742 or tlamb3@alltel.net
 - ✳ Publicity -- Randy Rick, (706)284-2494 or steyrhahn@yahoo.com
 - ✳ Puppet show -- Bob Billings, (706) 878-8722 or rcbillings2@windstream.net
 - ✳ River clean-up -- Joe Adams, (706) 265-5502 or joe@worldclass.net
and Elvin Hilyer, (706) 864-9003
 - ✳ Signs -- Donna Shearer, (706) 864-4787 or markshearer@windstream.net
 - ✳ Trash/recycling -- Larry Winslett, (404) 375-8405 or winfog@alltel.net
 - ✳ T-shirts -- Tom Lamb, (706) 867-9742 or tlamb3@alltel.net
 - ✳ Vendors and Silent Auction --Neville Harris, (706) 974-0095 or nlharr9485@student.ngcsu.edu
 - ✳ Water monitoring -- Darcie Holcomb, (770) 531-1064 or dholcomb@ucriverkeeper.org
 - ✳ Wood collecting/splitting -- Basil Bonner, (770) 888-5567 or thegish@msn.com
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Important Dates

More will be added, but please mark your calendars with these for now.

Sep. 13	Potluck Puppet-making party at Bob Billings' house
Oct. 7	LC meeting 7:00 p.m.
Oct. 12	Tree Hug Fest in Dunwoody (11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.)
Oct. 18 & 19	Gold Rush weekend in Dahlenega
Nov. 4	LC meeting 7:00 p.m.
Nov. 7-9	HemlockFest!!
Nov. 22	HemlockFest follow-up potluck party and review at Hilyer house
Dec. 2	Last LC meeting of the year 7:00 p.m.