

## **Hemlockfest 2012**

[www.hemlockfest.org](http://www.hemlockfest.org)

**Nov. 2-4**

3 days of music, camping, & awareness raising fun!

(Near Historic Dahlonega Ga. on 40 private acres. A three day awareness & fund raising event to help save the hemlock trees and their dependent ecosystems. Includes lots of great live music & primitive camping options)

### Calling all potential Exhibitors!

Response needed by

**Sept. 25**

#### **Exhibitor information:**

Please contact Forest Hilyer @ [forest@lumpkincoalition.org](mailto:forest@lumpkincoalition.org) or [706-265-5282](tel:706-265-5282) to inquire about exhibiting possibilities.

**We are very interested in environmental and educational oriented exhibits and wilderness or other skill demonstrators. Hands-on is great and anything to add to the Kid's Nature Village is wonderful.**

#### **Info:**

Set up- Thursday, Nov. 1, or Friday Nov. 2 before 2:00pm

Take down- Sunday, Nov. 4 after 3:00pm, or Mon. Nov. 5

**No vehicles are allowed inside the venue area once the festival begins.** If you are unable to make it during the above times mentioned we will need to make special arrangements. (Please call Forest Hilyer at [706-265-5282](tel:706-265-5282))

You will need to **bring everything you may need** in terms of tent, tables and chairs (tables and chairs could possibly be provided if we know what you need well in advance of the festival).

You are invited and encouraged to **camp** (primitive) near your exhibit if you wish. We do have 24 hour security but take no responsibility for damage (this has

never been an issue). You may also camp in a vehicle in one of the parking lot areas outside of main venue.

**Note:** **Wind** can be an issue at this venue during the fall. Think ahead!

Any way you can **relate your exhibit to the Hemlock issue** is always appreciated to help keep some focus on the hemlocks and deepen the concept of the interconnected web of existence.

We are considering a '**question and answer**' sheet to help encourage folks to visit each exhibit. In case we follow through with this idea, please send a question we could use for your exhibit.

We ask that you **attend your exhibit** for most of the festival day:

Fri- 3:00pm-5:00pm

Sat- 10:00am-5:00pm

Sun-10:00am-3:00pm

You may bring a couple of **helpers** (**We will need all names-first & last-for check-in at gate**) to switch out with or you may have folks come and go from the festival take shifts. It will be best if we know your plan ahead of time.

Thank you so much for coming and being part of Hemlockfest and adding to the experience for everyone!

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## **Accomplishments:**

Hemlockfest has so far been able to directly donate over \$75,000 to the Beetle rearing and research labs at UGA, YHC, and NGCSU. Many more funds have found their way to these labs as a direct result of our efforts to raise awareness of, and funds for the issue of the Hemlock trees' demise. We have also developed a program that addresses home/landowner's options for saving their own hemlock trees.

## **Urgency:**

November 2-4 of this year (2012) marks Hemlockfest's eighth year of production and Lumpkin Coalition would love to have your involvement in the continued effort to help save the hemlock trees from the invasive hemlock woolly adelgid. Most of Georgia's hemlock range is now

infested and the clock is ticking down as we are in our final years of being able to save these keystone trees, some of whom are centuries old.

## Why is this an Important Effort?

This effort goes far beyond just the concern for the hemlock trees themselves, but reaches into the many aspects of the ecosystem that will be affected by their loss.

- ~We could see massive erosion issues and temperature changes in our streams and rivers which will negatively affect our fish and invertebrate populations;
- ~This in turn affects all the wildlife that depend on these healthy populations as food source;
- ~There are over 90 bird species associated with the hemlock trees;
- ~many mammals use the hemlock trees for cover during the winter months;
- ~Tourist areas, National forests, & State Parks could lose much of their attraction and become unsafe due to falling dead giants;
- ~This leads to a depression in the economy of areas and businesses that depend on visitors, tourists, and outdoor adventurers.
- ~Property values decline with the loss of hemlock trees.
- ~The air itself is affected because these trees act as huge air conditioners during the summer months and as year round air filters.

As you start to imagine the hypothetical scenarios that may follow the loss of the hemlock trees you also start to realize that **no one can really escape being touched** by the results. This is why we need to all work together to help support the efforts to save these magnificent keystone trees.

Please let me know if you would like to participate in the effort by exhibiting, disseminating information, and/or being a sponsor of the event.

Thanks so much for taking an interest in the natural world of which we are a part.. and on which we rely..

So the hemlocks may live...

Forest Hilyer  
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Please visit:  
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