

Hemlockfest Results!

Thank you everyone for a wonderful Hemlockfest experience! We had great weather and an easy crowd! We had some incredibly devoted and hardworking folks/Coalitioners come together to continue the momentum forward in our efforts to help save the Hemlock trees, and to join those efforts with a fun experience. And it takes all of us to make this happen! Some of you gave your precious time, energy, and various skills.. others of you offered financial support.. some of you were able to do both. We even had volunteers travel here from states like Virginia, Texas, Memphis, and Florida to help out and take part! That is absolutely Amazing! It is a wonderful feeling to be amongst such generous human beings who are willing to be part of an effort that reaches outside of their immediate bubble.. who care about a bigger space enough to get involved!

I think we can take into account amped up promotional efforts, the momentum of word-of-mouth & return fest goers, the good weather, the choice music, the community backing, the growing kid's village attraction, the many activities provided, the expert hemlock info panel, the budget needs/expenditures, the beautiful venue and time of year, the great food and beer, the college and all other volunteers, the awesome silent auction, the exhibitors, the vendors, the peace patrol, the sponsors and everyone reading this e-mail when we consider the results of this year's fest. Thank you to all who contributed!

This is our best year yet! And it seems we have hopped to another level!

We have doubled our donation amount from previous years!

This year we are able to donate **\$30,000** from the festival and still roll over our startup money for next year!

(An interesting side note: near the beginning of the year **Bob Quigley** set the goal of increasing our income by \$15,000! Thank you Bob for setting that goal.. We reached it!)

A shout out to some extraordinary local support!

Shenanigans Irish Pub and **Bourban Street Grill**. As food vendors at the fest they are asked to donate 10% of profits to the cause. They instead opt to bring on board their employees who agree to volunteer their time and then they donate 100% of their profits to the cause. As if this were not enough.. This year the owners made a significant personal donation as well! All this came out to **\$2,800!** Wow! Talk about a community oriented business!

And there is **Appalachian Outfitters** who donates their vans, canoes, and time to the fest!

And **Nix Tank Co.** who gives us an incredible discount and then takes great care of us!

And to **Starbridge Chiropractic & Sanctuary** for the use of the fantastic venue!

And **Byrds Mini Storage** who offer us a very kind discount on our units.

And **B&M Metals** for providing the parking space.

And **Medicine Bow** wilderness living skills school, a serious friend of the hemlocks

And **Mill Creek Environmental Services** who engages 100% in all ways useful!

And to the **local shops and artists** who provide items for the silent auction and assistance in projects and services, and for displaying our posters/rack cards!

And to **local musicians** who offer their talents!

And to **local groups** who come exhibit and help inform the public!

And to **the college** for their support and supplying of student volunteers!

And to the **Chamber** for their support.

And to **KC Fuller & Associates** for doing our taxes.

And to **Amiclola State Park** for bringing out their various Birds and Snakes for folks to see and learn about

We are lucky to be in Dahlonega!

I would also like to give a big thanks to:
Chattahoochee River Keepers, Ga. Chapter Sierra Club, and Terrapin Beer Co. for their continued support!
And **Treesound Studios** for continuing to give us an enormous discount on their services!

And Companies like **Cosatron, CareerPro Resumes & Career Development** and **Birding Adventures** for being sponsors of the event and supporting the cause!

And Foundations like that of **Sally and Pete Parsonson** for continued annual support.

And to the **Forest Service, The Ga. Forestry Commission**, companies like **Adelrid**, and the **area Universities** for taking part in the festival.

Also of significant note:

A donation was made in memory of **Caleb Sorohan** .. with a message to help keep us all safe:

'Don't Text and Drive!'

Ok everyone, I will let you know as soon as we figure out which labs (UNC, YHC, UGA) get how much money and in what ways it may be directly used to help them increase their ability to help the hemlocks. They have been tasked with coordinating the best use and division of the funds. I Hope you all have a wonderful Holiday season! And remember to mark your calendars for the first full weekend in Nov. 2013!

So the hemlocks may live...

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Please visit:
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Ps: We also had a great Afterfest potluck gathering! Thank you to those who made it and for continuing the tradition of fantastic food offerings!..